
STEPHANIE M. RUHL

Department of Communication Studies
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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (June, 2014)

Ohio University, School of Communication Studies, Athens, OH

Areas of Specialization: Health Communication and Interpersonal Communication

Dissertation: *"Stories do the work" ... Pursuing an embodied and aesthetic orientation for hospice care*

Advisor: Lynn M. Harter

Committee members: William K. Rawlins
Raymie E. McKerrow
Joseph A. Bianco

Master of Arts (May, 2010)

Western Michigan University, School of Communication, Kalamazoo, MI

Major: Organizational Communication

Advisor: Julie Apker

Bachelor of Arts (February, 2006)

Spring Arbor University, Spring Arbor, MI

Major: Visual Communication

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching/Research

Assistant Professor (2014 – present)

Department of Communication Studies, Clemson University

Graduate Teaching Assistant (2010 – 2014)

School of Communication Studies, Ohio University

Graduate Teaching Assistant (2009 – 2010)

School of Communication, Western Michigan University

Graduate Teaching Assistant (2008 – 2010)

School of Communication, Western Michigan University

Administrative**Editorial Assistant, *Quarterly Journal of Speech* (2011 – 2013)**

Supervisor: Raymie E. McKerrow

- Reviewed editorial submissions
- Conducted ad hoc research
- Checked essay citations/endnotes for accuracy
- Edited Chicago formatting
- Kept records for annual report
- Corresponded with authors as needed

Practitioner**Community Relations Specialist, Jackson, MI (April 2006 – April 2008)**

Foote Health System, Marketing & Community Relations Department

- Created *Community Partners* and recruited 100+ community member participants to collaborate with system leadership and medical professionals in organizational development efforts, including the opening of a heart center, multi-specialty center, and community hospice home
- Developed partnership with the local Red Cross and maintained a 60-day open blood drive schedule for employees and community members
- Spoke to community organizations and service clubs about the health system and various topics/services of interest to the groups
- Organized system-sponsored events (i.e., community health race, health fairs, Relay for Life team, parades, Gift of Life Michigan donor registry weeks, etc.)
- Served as graphic designer and writer for promotional materials and newsletters

SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Guided by aesthetic, narrative, and pragmatist sensibilities, my scholarly agenda focuses on the relational dynamics of our communicative experiences in health, healing, and healthcare. Specifically, I am interested in interpersonal and organizational practices of cultivating community amidst vulnerability and engagement in significant experiences to achieve an enriched present in response to uncertain futures. The contexts of most interest to me are geriatrics, pediatrics, intergenerational family relationships, and friendships as broadly situated in the intersections of health, interpersonal, and organizational communication.

RESEARCH & CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Films

Ruhl, S. M. (Associate Producer). (In production). *A beautiful remedy*. Feature-length documentary produced by L. M. Harter & E. Shaw. Athens, OH: WOUB Center for Public Media. Part of *The Courage of Creativity* series that explores connections between art and well-being. *A Beautiful Remedy* profiles the Arts in Medicine program at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. Arts in Medicine offers pediatric, adolescent and young adult cancer patients opportunities to express themselves, connect with others, and transcend or transform their social realities. The documentary will be released in fall, 2014.

Articles, Books, and Book Chapters

- Beck, C. S., Chapman, S. A., Simmons, N., Tenzek, K., & **Ruhl, S. M.** (in press). *The role of celebrity health narratives in public health conversations*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland.
- Beck, C., Aubuchon, S., McKenna, T., **Ruhl, S. M.**, & Simmons, N. (2014). Blurring personal health and public priorities: An analysis of celebrity health narratives in the public sphere. *Health Communication, 29*, 244-256.
- Ruhl, S. M.** (2013). Dialogic moments and a wicked spin on aging. *Health Communication, 28*, 853-855.
- Ruhl, S. M.**, & Harter, L. M. (2013). Systems theory as scaffold for storytelling ... and other reflections on health care organizing. *Health Communication, 28*, 747-748.
- Harter, L. M., Quinlan, M. M., & **Ruhl, S. M.** (2013). The storytelling capacities of arts programming in healthcare contexts. In L. M. Harter's *Imagining new normals: A narrative framework for health communication* (pp. 29-50). Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt.
- Quinlan, M. M., **Ruhl, S. M.**, Torrens, A., & Harter, L. M. (2013). Sensing gender by coupling visual and verbal storytelling. *Communication Teacher, 27*, 45-49.
- Ruhl, S. M.** (2009). Health communication and community engagement. In C. Edwards, & A. E. Lyons (Eds.), *Communication and Community Engagement* (pp. 63-68). Dubuque, IA: Kendall Hunt.

Encyclopedia Entries

- Ruhl, S. M.** (forthcoming). Systems Theory. In T. L. Thompson and J. G. Golson (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Health Communication*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Ruhl, S. M.**, & Spence, P. R. (2011). People with Disabilities Communities. In G. A. Barnett (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Social Networks* (pp. 699-701). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Ruhl, S. M.**, & Spence, P. R. (2011). Income inequality and disaster relief. In K. B. Penuel and M. Statler (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Disaster Relief* (pp. 338-340). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Ruhl, S. M.**, & Spence, P. R. (2011). Real-time communications. In K. B. Penuel and M. Statler (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Disaster Relief* (pp. 544-546). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- Ruhl, S. M.**, & Spence, P. R. (2011). Thumb, MI Fire: 1881. In K. B. Penuel and M. Statler (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Disaster Relief* (pp. 677-679). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Manuscripts in Progress

- Ruhl, S. M.** (in progress). Possibility of presence: Re-envisioning dementia. To be submitted to *Journal of Medical Humanities*.

Ruhl, S. M. (in progress). "It's a half-ass game": Senior citizens make fun of aging on the court. To be submitted to *Journal of Aging Studies*.

Conference Presentations

Ruhl, S. M. (2013, November). *Hospice Action Network: Ethical Implications of Connecting with a "Personal Approach."* Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association in Washington, D. C. **** Ranked as a Top 4 Communication Ethics paper.**

Ruhl, S. M. (2013, November). *Creating Connections on the Court ... "It's a Half-Ass Game."* Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association in Washington, D. C. **** Ranked as a Top 4 Group Communication paper.**

Ruhl, S. M. (2013, November). *Remembering Illness Narratives and Attitude Frames: What is the Story of Alzheimer's Disease?* Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association in Washington, D. C.

Ruhl, S. M. (2013, November). *Ethnographically-Inspired Design: Creating, Experiencing, and Remembering Family through Embodied and Aesthetic Storytelling.* Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association in Washington, D. C.

Quinlan, M. M., **Ruhl, S. M.**, Torrens, A., & Harter, L. M. (2013, April). *Participatory photography: sensing gender by coupling visual and verbal storytelling.* Presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association in Kansas City, MO.

Beck, C., Aubuchon, S., McKenna, T., **Ruhl, S. M.**, & Simmons, N. (2012, March). *Blurring personal health and public priorities: An analysis of celebrity health narratives in the public sphere.* Presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association in Cleveland, OH. **** Ranked as a Top 3 Health Communication paper.**

Ruhl, S. M. (2012, March). *Communication issues at the intersection of health and organizational communication (spotlight panel).* Presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association in Cleveland, OH.

Ruhl, S. M. (2011, April). *Plagiarism in the basic course: Best practices for encouraging academic integrity (roundtable discussion).* Presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association in Milwaukee, WI.

Lachlan, K. A., Spence, P. R., & **Ruhl, S. M.** (2010, November). Unintentional learning processes associated with crisis and risk news. In K. Rowan's pre-conference, *Communicating Science in Routine, Recreational, Controversial, and Crisis Contexts: Theory, Research, Funding.* Presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association in San Francisco, CA.

Ruhl, S. M., Richmond, S. A., Evans, C., & Haywood, C. M. (2010, March). *Creating a public service announcement (PSA) for community issues: An alternative to the traditional persuasive speaking assignment (G.I.F.T.S. Presentation).* Presented at the annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association in Cincinnati, OH.

Creative Activities

Ruhl, S. M., Torrens, A., & Harter, L. M. (2012). *Theory, life, lenses: Seeing gender through students' theoretical and photographic lens*. Art exhibit in Lasher Hall, School of Communication Studies, Ohio University.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Clemson University

COMS 3010: Communication Theory
COMS 4700: Communication and Health

Ohio University

COMS 3400: Introduction to Health Communication (TA)
COMS 304: Interviewing (online facilitator; responsible for student interaction/grading)
COMS 2060: Communication in Interpersonal Relationships (instructor of record)
COMS 103: Public Speaking (instructor of record)
COMS 101: Fundamentals of Human Communication (co-instructor of record)

Western Michigan University

COM 2010: Communication Inquiry (TA for large lecture)
COM 1700: Interpersonal Communication (instructor of record)
COM 1700: Interpersonal Communication (TA for large lecture; led breakout classes)
COM 1000: Communication and Community Engagement (TA for large lecture; led breakout classes)

Curriculum Development

Online Course Developer. (2011-2012). Appointed to design and implement the introductory Interpersonal Communication course for the School of Communication Studies' online curriculum.

Teacher Training

Session Leader, New Graduate Student Orientation. (2011). Spoke with incoming graduate teaching assistants about "Communication Apprehension and Addressing the Needs of First Year Students."

Graduate Teaching Assistant Mentor. (2009-2010). Appointed to serve as Western Michigan University's School of Communication co-mentor for the incoming graduate assistants. Primary responsibilities included: organization of summer training sessions, participation in weekly group meetings, sharing teaching strategies and lesson plans, and meeting with TAs on a one-on-one basis as necessary.

SERVICE

Service to the Discipline

Chair, Graduate Student Caucus. (2012-2013). Central States Communication Association.

Vice-Chair, Graduate Student Caucus. (2011-2012). Central States Communication Association.

Secretary, Graduate Student Caucus. (2010-2011). Central States Communication Association

Reviewer. (2010, 2011). Paper and Panel Reviewer for the Graduate Caucus of the Central States Communication Association.

Reviewer. (2011). Paper Reviewer for the Issues in Disability Caucus of the National Communication Association.

Reviewer. (2010). Panel Reviewer for the Communication Education Division of the Central States Communication Association.

Service to the University

Ohio University

Proctor, Disability Services. (2011-present). Assisted Ohio University's Disability Services as proctor for undergraduate students in need of specialized testing accommodations.

Western Michigan University

Graduate Student Representative, Presidential University Sustainability Committee. (2009-2010). Selected to serve as a member of Western Michigan University's newly formed sustainability initiative.

School of Communication Representative, Graduate Student Advisory Committee. (2008-2010). Elected as the School of Communication's representative to serve on Western Michigan University's graduate student advisory committee.

Service to the School/Department

Clemson University, Department of Communication Studies

Graduate Committee. (2014 - present).

Ohio University, School of Communication Studies

Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Search Committee. (2012). Served as member of the search committee and coordinated graduate student involvement/feedback in the process of selecting a health communication scholar specializing in interpersonal/family contexts and quantitative methodologies.

Panel member, Goal Setting for First Year Graduate Students. (2012). Spoke with first-year graduate students about the importance of setting personally and professionally relevant and reachable goals throughout the each of the four years in the graduate program.

Secretary, GradCo. (2011-2012). Elected by peers to serve as a member of the School of Communication Studies graduate student organization.

Graduate Student Representative, Technology Committee. (2011-2012). Served as the school's student representative on the college technology committee.

Respondent, Inspiration Research Colloquium. (2011). Served as the graduate student respondent for the School of Communication Studies' annual winter research colloquium.

Western Michigan University, School of Communication

President, Communique. (2009-2010). Elected by peers to serve as president of the Western Michigan University School of Communication's graduate student organization.

Co-captain, WMU School of Communication Relay for Life. (2008-2010). Initiated and organized team development and fundraising events for the first-ever School of Communication Relay for Life team at Western Michigan University.

Service to the Community

Teen Counselor, Camp Weave-A-Hope Remembrance Retreat. (Summer 2013). Planned activities and served as co-facilitator of the teens' group during a weekend family bereavement camp provided by Allegiance Hospice.

Advocacy Intensive Participant, Hospice Action Network. (Summer 2012). Participated in a three-day advocacy training provided by the Hospice Action Network; engaged on Capitol Hill with senators and legislators from the State of Michigan to share my experiences as a hospice volunteer and family member of a patient; advocated for support of the HELP Hospice Act.

Volunteer, Hospice. (2011-present). Participate in home visits with Hospice patients served by the Appalachian Visiting Nurses Association, Arbor Hospice, and Allegiance Hospice.

Volunteer, Southeast Ohio Chair Volleyball Association. (2011-2012). Served as a fill-in practice player for the Athens Prime Time Players and Albany Rockin' Seniors throughout the year and refereed at the annual tournaments.

Bagels and Books. (2008-2009). Volunteered monthly as a reader partner for elementary students in the Kalamazoo Public School District.

American Red Cross. (2005-2008). Served as a blood donation advocate, spoke at various community events to recruit donors, and organized blood drives at the local health system.

Muscular Dystrophy Association. (2005-2008). Participated in the annual county telethon, performed vocal music for the live guests, interviewed people for the live broadcast, and answered the donation phone lines.

HONORS & AWARDS

Emmy Award. (2014). Awarded to “The Courage of Creativity” documentary series in the Arts and Entertainment category of the Ohio Valley Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

Outstanding Research Assistant Award. (2012). School of Communication Studies, Scripps College of Communication, Ohio University.

First-Year Fellowship. (2010). School of Communication Studies, Scripps College of Communication, Ohio University.

All-University Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Award. (2009-2010). Western Michigan University. Nominated by School of Communication and competitively selected among other nominations at the university level.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILITATIONS

National Communication Association (NCA)

Central States Communication Association (CSCA)

Memory Bridge Ambassador