

# Fall 2017 Grad Newsletter



## A MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE DIRECTOR

I would like to introduce our first annual Grad Newsletter. My hope is that this beginning-of-the-year newsletter will help graduate students prepare for the upcoming year and assist faculty in supporting our graduate students. This newsletter will keep graduate students informed of important events, resources, and opportunities that can directly affect them.

This first issue summarizes the Department's efforts this past year to provide additional resources for its graduate students, introduces our 2017 cohort of graduate students, requests graduate students (and faculty) to notify me of grad accomplishments throughout the year, and offers a detailed timeline of this upcoming academic year that includes key dates for grad-related events and deadlines.

I wish everyone a wonderful 2017-2018 academic year.

—Jennifer Kam, Graduate Director, [jkam@comm.ucsb.edu](mailto:jkam@comm.ucsb.edu)

 **UC SANTA BARBARA** DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

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# A Review of 2016-2017

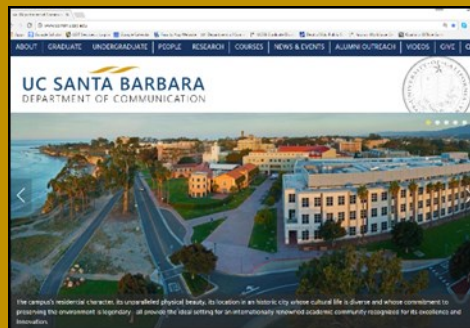
The Grad Committee's goals in the 2016-2017 academic year were: (1) to market the Department and its graduate program, (2) to increase the Department's financial assistance to graduate students, (3) to increase the Department's professional mentoring of graduate students, and (4) to promote inclusion and diversity. The following section summarizes last year's accomplishments in these areas.

## MARKETING THE DEPARTMENT AND THE PROGRAM



To increase our marketing efforts, we developed a new brochure for recruiting graduate students. We had 125 copies professionally printed and distributed to prospective students. We sent stacks of our brochures to communication programs at 10 different Cal State Universities, e-mailed the brochure to communication faculty at various universities throughout the nation, and distributed the brochure at the NCA's Graduate Open House. We will annually update the brochure and distribute it.

We also redesigned our website by giving it an entirely new appearance, re-organizing its content, and changing some of its information. We also updated nearly all the faculty and graduate students' profile photos, and we created several videos that showcase the graduate program.



Since then, we have received a lot of positive feedback on our marketing efforts. For example, several prospective graduate students at NCA informed faculty without solicitation that our website was the easiest to navigate and one of the best looking websites among communication graduate programs. Furthermore, the Chair of UCSB's Black Studies Department asked the College's Web Specialist to "make mine look as good as that." On several occasions the Web Specialist has informed us (unsolicited) that ours has become a model website for numerous departments and work groups within the College.

## Graduate

View these Videos to Learn about the Communication Graduate Program at UCSB



We need everyone's help this coming year to make sure the site remains up-to-date and representative of the great things graduate students and faculty are accomplishing. ■

# A Review of 2016-2017

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GRADUATE STUDENTS



Another goal this past year was to find a way to offer graduate students more financial assistance. This goal was a challenge to meet because of university budget restrictions. Nevertheless, the Graduate Committee used the following strategies to increase funds available to graduate students.

First, in managing the budget, we ensured that all graduate students who were on-time-to-degree received a \$3,000 spring stipend. We gave students the stipend as early as possible (April), so that they could use the money for the International Communication Association conference or other expenses. This saved some students from having to pay for a large portion of the conference up front and out of pocket.

Second, we allocated enough money for the upcoming 2017-2018 academic year to provide a similar spring stipend for all grad students on time-to-degree.

Third, we were able to give our graduate students some extra money for assisting with the Graduate Open House. Although we cannot guarantee such financial offerings every year, we will do our best to set aside money to give back to our graduate students who volunteer to make our Graduate Open House successful. We have already set aside money in the 2017-2018 year for this purpose.

Fourth, we allocated \$1,700 to create a new internal grant to support graduate students' research endeavors. We will have another call for research proposals this fall 2017.

Fifth, we are working with the Chair to allocate more summer funds for graduate student teaching. We are optimistic that the Department will be able to increase its summer teaching assistant or associate opportunities in summer 2018, IF we receive a summer school budget that is similar to the one of summer 2017. ■

## PROFESSIONAL MENTORING TO GRADUATE STUDENTS



Another goal for this academic year was to provide more professional mentoring to graduate students. We began by organizing the Imposter Syndrome workshop with Ryan Sims from Graduate Counseling Services. We also worked with the GSACC All-Grad Representative (Nicole Zamanzadeh) to propose a professional development series for graduate students. Faculty were enthusiastic about the idea and agreed to take turns leading an information panel within the series. ■

# The Proposed Professional Development Series for 2017-2018

## What is the purpose of this series?

This series focuses on the professional development of graduate students, so that they have the resources to successfully navigate academia. The information panels provide a foundation for graduate students to become independent scholars and competitive job applicants who can make a smooth transition into professor or industry positions.

## When will seminar meetings take place?

We will host 3 information panels per quarter. We will do our best to find a day/time when most graduate students do not have teaching obligations and are not in seminar.

## Who will manage the seminar?

For each information panel, a different faculty member will be in charge of organizing the panel, securing guest speakers, and advertising the panel to the entire department.

## Is attendance mandatory?

No, it is optional; however, first-year graduate students are strongly encouraged to attend.

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

**PANEL 1: *Constructing a Job Talk*** (e.g., Describe the components of a strong job talk, the organization of a job talk, creating professional slides, how to prepare for the Q&A), **October 6<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:00 PM, SSMS 3145, Facilitator: Dr. Jennifer Kam, Guest Speakers: Dr. Dana Mastro & Dr. Andy Merolla**

**PANEL 2: *Conference Participation*** (e.g., Reasons for attending conferences, professional behavior at conferences, how to network, how to make the most out of a conference, what papers should be submitted to a regional vs. national vs. international conference? Purpose of topic-specific conferences? When should one attend to these conferences—1st year? Every year?), **October 13<sup>th</sup>, 3:00-4:00 PM, SSMS 3145, Facilitator: Dr. Karen Myers, Guest Speakers: TBD**

**PANEL 3: *Scholarly Writing*** (e.g., Strategies for conducting a literature search, reviewing different sections of a journal article, distinguishing between a theory paper and an empirical paper, dos and don'ts for good writing, establishing co-authorship and co-authorship order), **November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 3:00-4:00 PM, SSMS 3145, Facilitator: Dr. Miriam Metzger, Guest Speakers: TBD**

More panels are on the next page.

# The Proposed Professional Development Series for 2017-2018

## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE CONTINUED

**PANEL 4: *Expectations for a Thesis or Dissertation*** (e.g., Offer examples of past thesis and dissertation ideas, discuss what makes a good thesis or dissertation project, review sample timelines for a thesis or dissertation)

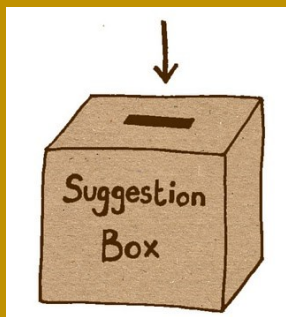
**PANEL 5: *CV Construction*** (e.g., Provide sample CVs, discuss how to organize a CV, describe what information should go on a CV)

**PANEL 6: *Choosing a Journal for Submission & Conducting Journal Reviews*** (e.g., How to decide what journal to submit to, what reviewers are looking for in a strong paper, the role of a journal editor, how to review a journal article)

**PANEL 7: *Job Opportunities*** (e.g., Distinguishing between R1-, R2-, teaching-, industry-focused positions; describing what work life might be like as a first-year assistant professor, an advanced assistant professor, an associate professor, or a full professor; discuss expectations for different levels)

**PANEL 8: *Going on the Job Market*** (e.g., Timeline, application process, interview process, creating strong research and teaching statements, how to make the best of conferences when on the job market, questions to ask when on the interview, negotiating offers)

**PANEL 9: *Time Management*** (e.g., Strategies for managing teaching, research, service, and life outside of grad school) ■



**Note:** If you have ideas for other informational panels, please e-mail your ideas to the GSACC All-Grad Representative and the Graduate Director. Your ideas are welcomed and appreciated.



# Promoting Inclusion and Diversity in the Department

The Department of **Black Studies**

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

Home

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Programs

Administration

Give



Department of Black Studies  
University of California, Santa Barbara



## Announcements

The Young Scholar Lecture Series of the UC Consortium for Black Studies, at UC Irvine



The work of scholarship is often pushed to the background, in the contemporary configuration of the

## Faculty Spotlight



Vilna Bashi Treitler is Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Department of Black Studies at the University of California Santa Barbara. In January 2017 she was named "Sociologist of the Month" by *Current Sociology* (the Journal of the International Sociological Association).

## INTERDISCIPLINARY PH.D. EMPHASIS IN BLACK STUDIES

### Graduate

#### Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Black Studies

General Requirements: Students are required to successfully complete five (5) courses, designed to develop a critical and analytical understanding of racial theory and pedagogy as well as the study of Black people in local and global contexts.

The Black Studies Department at the University of California at Santa Barbara has launched the Black Studies Emphasis (BSE) for students enrolled in doctoral programs in the departments of Communications, History, Feminist Studies, Political Science, Sociology, and Chicana and Chicano Studies (in the College of Letters and Science), and the department of Education (in the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education). Faculties in these units routinely work together exchanging scholarly perspectives, launching interdisciplinary projects, and

In Spring 2017, the faculty worked with the Department of Black Studies to become affiliated with their Interdisciplinary Ph.D. Emphasis in Black Studies.

Starting in the 2017-2018 academic year, doctoral students can earn an emphasis in Black Studies by taking seminars relat-

ed to race/ethnicity and social justice in other affiliated departments. Starting in the 2018-2019 academic year, the Department of Communication also will offer one seminar a year that will count toward this emphasis. ■

# Grad Support: Meet the Grad Committee

## 2016-2017 Grad Committee



**JENNIFER KAM, KAREN MYERS, WALID AFIFI, ROBIN NABI, DAN LINZ**

Thank you to last year's Graduate Committee members for their service to the Department. We particularly appreciate Dan Linz for his 2 years of service on the committee.



# UC SANTA BARBARA

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

## 2017-2018 Grad Committee



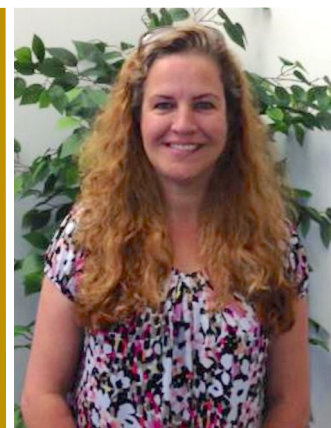
**JENNIFER KAM, KAREN MYERS, WALID AFIFI, ROBIN NABI, MIRIAM METZGER**



# Grad Support: Meet the Staff

## TRICIA TAYLOR ~ GRAD PROGRAM ADVISOR AND UNDERGRAD ADVISOR

Tricia is the Graduate Program Advisor (GPA), the staff member who works with the Graduate Program Director to ensure students are receiving clear and timely advising on administrative processes. For example, she keeps track of grad students' progress in the program (fulfilling course requirements and milestones), creates the annual grad office assignments, and hosts many of the grad events.



## TANIA DUNSON ~ BUSINESS OFFICER

As Business Officer, Tania is responsible for the administrative management of the program. She works with the Chair and Tricia on the summer TA assignments. You can also go to Tania for a key to your office. Tania also manages employment visas, office needs (furniture that needs moving, devices that aren't working), events planning, and much, much more!



## MICHELLE FREDRICH ~ FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

As the Financial Assistant for the Department, you can turn to Michelle for questions about managing your grant funding. She approves expenditures and reimbursements. Like Tania, Michelle also has keys to the Department offices, and she specializes in the Department's events planning. She and Tania cater many of the Department events for which we are extremely grateful!



## JENNIFER REINUS ~ UNDERGRAD ADVISOR

Jennifer is one of our Undergraduate Advisors, but she also schedules room or lab space. You can reserve a room or lab space by completing the form on the Department website. Jennifer also maintains a list of TA office hours, and she provides add codes to your undergrad research assistants who want course credit. When your undergrads have advising, DSP, or add/waitlist questions, send them to her.





# Grad Support: Meet the Grad TA Supervisor

## DOLLY MULLIN ~ GRAD TA SUPERVISOR

As the Grad TA Supervisor, Dolly provides pedagogical leadership and support to graduate students. Each quarter, she has the challenging task of working through graduate students' busy schedules and assigning them as teaching assistants (TAs) to our undergraduate courses. Dolly also teaches COMM 500 in the fall, which offers graduate students tools to develop their pedagogical skills. She works closely with many of our graduate students who TA the introductory communication courses that she teaches. She also is a long-standing member of the Awards Committee and often manages the Schoell Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching. ■



# Grad Support: Meet the Grad Diversity Officer

## WALID AFIFI ~ GRAD DIVERSITY OFFICER

Each department at UCSB has a faculty member who serves as a Graduate Diversity Officer. We thank Walid for serving as ours this upcoming year. His role will be to “take the lead on outreach, recruitment, and the support of graduate students from underserved populations” within the Department. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions pertaining to inclusion and diversity within the Department, please share them with Walid. We want to improve our inclusion and diversity efforts and create a supportive environment. Students also are welcome to contact the Chair, Grad Director, Grad Program Advisor, Vice Chair, their faculty advisor, and other faculty members. ■



# Welcome, 2017 Grad Cohort!

This past year, we recruited another group of stellar graduate students. Our new students bring unique perspectives to communication with wide-ranging experiences and academic interests. Let's get to know our 2017 grad cohort and welcome its members to the Department and city.



## ALEX AUNE

I received my BA in Communication from the University of Arizona, and my MA in Communicology from the University of Hawaii. My research interests include an evolutionary perspective on human communication, as well as examining online, team-based, competitive video games as a unique intergroup communication medium. I look forward to pursuing those interests at UC Santa Barbara. In my free time, I enjoy playing video games and playing board games with friends.

## KRISTIN BRANDT

I received my BA in Communication with a secondary major in Psychology from Michigan State University this past spring. Having lived in Michigan my whole life, I'm looking forward to expanding my horizons at UCSB! I'm interested in researching how illness affects communication in interpersonal relationships and how this knowledge can be used to improve relational satisfaction and health outcomes. When I'm not studying, I can usually be found either traveling with my fiancé, spoiling my cat, or drinking wine.



## MONICA CORNEJO

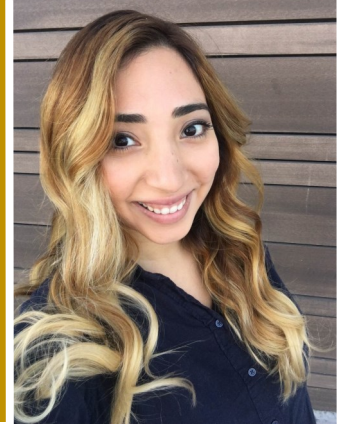
I received my BA in Psychology and a minor in Queer Studies from Sonoma State University where I conducted research on undocumented students in higher education. I am excited to continue this work at UCSB where I plan to study how the pressure of systematic discrimination towards marginalized groups of people affect their interpersonal relationships. I also look forward to exploring the local cuisine and sightseeing in Santa Barbara.



# Welcome, 2017 Grad Cohort!

## AFSOON HANSIA

Hi everyone! I'm very much looking forward to joining the department this Fall. I received my BA from UC Berkeley and MA from the University of New Mexico, both in linguistics. I am interested in combining my sociolinguistics background with communication theories, specifically focusing on evolution and language attitudes. In my free time, I love cooking, reading, traveling, and spending time with my family.

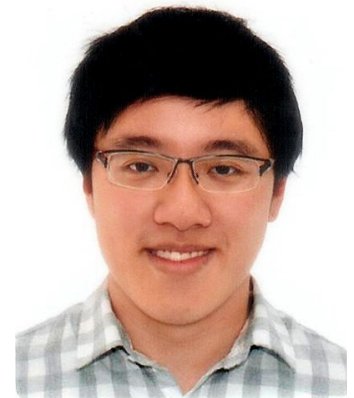


## GAVIN KIRKWOOD

I received my BA in Communication Studies at Biola University and an MA in Organizational Communication from Western Kentucky University. I will be joining UCSB to study collective action, resistance, and dissent in queer communities and online. In my free time I like to binge watch "The Golden Girls", do yoga, peruse used bookstores, and watch independent films.

## ZI JIAN LEW

I do research in warranting theory, credibility, and interpersonal communication, investigating how people decide who and what to trust when they are online. I received my BA in communication from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, and I am currently earning my MA degree in communication from the same university. In my free time, I play soccer, foosball, and billiards.



## NEEKAAN OSHIDARY

I earned my BA in psychology and MS in symbolic systems (cognitive science) from Stanford. I then worked in hi-tech and enjoyed the experience, but grew more certain my calling was in academia. I'm looking forward to joining UCSB to study media effects and well-being, design ethics, and living wisely with technology. In my free time, I enjoy swimming, going on long walks, and listening to podcasts.



# Congrats to our Recent PhDs!

Congratulations to our impressive graduate students for earning their PhDs and securing positions. We are excited to recognize their accomplishments. Please feel free to reach out to our grad alum.

**Aubrie Adams** (2017), Assistant Professor of Communication, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

**Scott Banghart** (2017), Assistant Professor of Communication, University of Amsterdam

**Melissa Bator** (2017), Program Coordinator, Center for Information Technology & Society, UC Santa Barbara

**Becky Ford** (2017), Post-doctoral Fellow in Communication, UC Santa Barbara

**Katlyn Gangi** (2017), ONTRAPORT, Santa Barbara, CA

**Kristin Hocevar** (2017), Lecturer in Public Health, University of California at Merced

**Lauren Keblusek** (2017), UC Santa Barbara

**Samantha Powers** (2017), Assistant Professor of Communication, Howard University

**DaJung Woo** (2017), Assistant Professor of Communication, The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

**Eric Zackrison** (2017), Zackrison Consulting, Santa Barbara, CA

## 2017 PhDs Conferred by the Department of Communication at UCSB



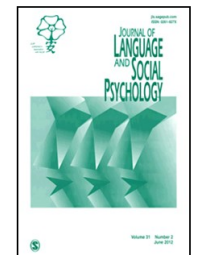
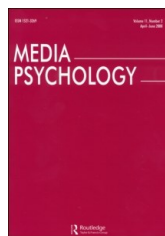


# Get your News Out!



## GRADUATE STUDENTS

Periodically, the Graduate Director or Graduate Program Advisor will send out e-mails, asking students to share their good news (e.g., *upcoming conference presentations, journal article acceptances, fellowship awards, community involvement*). In between such e-mails, students are encouraged to notify the Graduate Director or Graduate Program Advisor when they have these kinds of accomplishments. We want to celebrate your successes by posting them on our department website, Facebook page, and listserv! ■



## FACULTY

When faculty members learn of a graduate student accomplishment (e.g., *upcoming conference presentations, journal article acceptances, fellowship awards, community involvement*), please notify the Graduate Director or Graduate Program Advisor. We want to celebrate our students' successes by posting their accomplishments on our department website, Facebook page, and listserv! Please also nominate graduate students for awards and fellowships within and outside the department. ■

# Important Dates for the Academic Year

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**(9:00 AM—4:15 PM)**

FALL DEPARTMENT ORIENTATION  
FOR THE 2017 GRAD COHORT

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**(12:00 PM—3:00 PM)**

DEPARTMENT WELCOME BACK BBQ  
AT GOLETA BEACH  
(BUDDIES WILL INTRODUCE THE  
NEW GRAD STUDENTS)

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

MANDATORY GRADUATE STUDENT  
ONLINE SEXUAL HARASSMENT  
TRAINING IS DUE

**FEBRUARY 22<sup>ND</sup>, 23<sup>RD</sup>, 24<sup>TH</sup>**

GRADUATE OPEN HOUSE FOR NEW  
RECRUITS

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>**

CLASSES BEGIN

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**(3:30 PM)**

BRADAC LECTURE,  
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

**NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>-19<sup>TH</sup>**

NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSO-  
CIATION CONVENTION, DALLAS, TX

# Important Dates for the Academic Year

**AROUND MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**(3:30 PM)**

LAMBDA PI ETA LECTURE,  
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

**FRIDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**(3:00 PM)**

McCUNE DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE DUE TO THE GRAD DIRECTOR

**FRIDAY, MARCH 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**(3:00 PM)**

NOMINATIONS FOR THE GRAD DIVISION'S CONTINUING FELLOWSHIPS ARE DUE TO THE GRAD DIRECTOR

**MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**(4:00 PM)**

DEPARTMENT'S CONTINUING FELLOWSHIP NOMINATIONS ARE DUE TO THE GRADUATE DIVISION (SUBMITTED BY GRAD ADVISOR)

**FRIDAY, APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>**

**(4:00 PM)**

NOMINATIONS FOR DEPARTMENT GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS ARE DUE TO THE AWARDS CHAIR

**FRIDAY, MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**(12:00 PM)**

GRAD STUDENTS' MUST SUBMIT ALL REQUESTED ANNUAL REVIEW MATERIALS TO THE GRAD ADVISOR AND COMPLETE THE PLO SURVEY BY THIS DATE AND TIME

# Important Dates for the Academic Year

**MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>-28<sup>TH</sup>**

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION  
ASSOCIATION CONVENTION,  
PRAGUE

**FRIDAY, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**(9:00 AM—12:30 PM)**

GRAD ANNUAL REVIEW  
(FACULTY ATTENDANCE ONLY)

**FRIDAY, JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
**(1:30 PM—4:00 PM)**

SENIOR HONORS THESIS  
PRESENTATIONS

**FRIDAY, JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>**  
**(4:30 PM—7:00 PM)**

DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL END-OF-  
THE-YEAR AWARDS CEREMONY

**FRIDAY, JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>**

SPRING QUARTER ENDS

**SATURDAY, JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup> OR**  
**SUNDAY, JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>**

GRADUATION COMMENCEMENT  
AND DEPARTMENT RECEPTION

**MONDAY, JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>**

🎵 **SCHOOL'S OUT FOR  
SUMMER** 🎵



**Have a wonderful 2017-  
2018 academic year!**



**UC SANTA BARBARA**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION