

CURRICULUM VITAE: DR. MELANIE S. CONRAD
Senior Lecturer and Assistant Dean

Contact Information:

Email: mconrad@westga.edu
Address: School of Communication, Film, and Media
University of West Georgia Carrollton, GA 30118

Phone: 678.839.4930

Education:

Ph. D Wayne State University, 1998
Major: Rhetorical Theory
Minors: Interpersonal and Small Group Communication
Dissertation: "Listening to Native American voices from Wounded Knee, 1973, the Black Hills International Survival Gathering, and the Tlingit Banishment."
Advisor: Dr. Jack Kay

M.A. Mankato State University, 1993
Major: Speech Communication
Minors: History, Ethnic Studies
Thesis: "Russell Means and the Native American Rights Movement: A Rhetorical Analysis of a Social Movement Leader
Advisor: Dr. Douglas NanCarrow

B.A. University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 1990 Major: Speech Communication Minors:
History, Political Science Advisor: Dr. Jack Kay

Teaching Appointments:

Senior Lecturer and Assistant Dean, School of Communication, Film, and Media, Aug. 2021-present. Duties include managing all student-oriented initiatives in addition to teaching Communication Studies courses.

Senior Lecturer, Department of Mass Communication, University of West Georgia, 2020-present. Duties include teaching public speaking courses and participating in departmental functions. Director of Communication Studies.

Lecturer, Department of Mass Communication, University of West Georgia, 2013-2019. Duties include teaching public speaking courses and participating in departmental functions. Served as Acting Director of Communication, Spring 2017.

Visiting Assistant Professor/Assistant Director of Forensics, Berry College, 2007-2012. Duties include teaching public speaking courses, assisting with departmental functions, coaching and traveling with the speech team.

BCC Instructor, Berry College, 2009-2011. Taught incoming freshmen the skills they needed to succeed in college both academically and personally.

Assistant Professor, Midwestern State University, 2003 to 2007. Duties include teaching a wide variety of communication courses (including organizational, persuasion, argumentation, oral interpretation, and public speaking), serving as an advisor to students and participating in departmental functions.

Assistant Professor/Lecturer, University of Nebraska-Kearney, 1995 to 2003. Duties included teaching a wide variety of communication courses (including public speaking, business and professional speaking, persuasion, gender communication, small group communication, interpersonal communication, logic, argumentation and reasoning, and forensic and debate classes), serving as an advisor to students, and participating in departmental functions.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Wayne State University, Department of Communication, 1992 to 1995. Duties included teaching the basic speech course, oral interpretation, and participating in departmental functions.

Instructor, Center for Creative Studies, Detroit, Michigan, 1993 to 1995. Duties included teaching public speaking.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Mankato State University, Department of Speech Communication, 1990 to 1992. Duties included teaching public speaking and assisting with the forensics team.

Courses Taught:

Advanced Communication Skills	Oral Interpretation
Argumentation and Debate	Organizational Communication
Business and Professional Speaking	Forensics
Interpersonal Communication	Communication Theory
Persuasion	Public Speaking
Small Group Communication	Rhetoric and Social Influence

Professional Experience:

Certified QPR Instructor, 2021.

eCore Certification, 2018

Assistant Director of Forensics, Berry College 2007-2012. Coached National Quarter, Semi, and Finalists at national tournaments, including National Champion at Interstate Oratorical Association National Tournament, 2009.

Director of Forensics, University of Nebraska-Kearney, 1995 to 2003. Coached National Finalist in Informative Speaking, 1996; National Quarter-finalist in After Dinner Speaking, 2000; National Quarter-finalist in Impromptu, 2001. Coached National Championship Team (President's Division III), 2001.

Co-host, Nebraska State High School Speech Tournament, 1999-2003.

Forensic Assistant, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, January-May 1995.

Forensic Coach, Seaholm High School, Birmingham, Michigan, January-June, 1993.

Forensic Assistant, Mankato State University, Mankato, Minnesota, 1990-1992.

Director, Mankato State University High School Forensic Tournament, Mankato, Minnesota, 1992.

Research Interests:

Native American Discourse
Forensics
Communication Pedagogy

Conference Papers/ Reviews:

Reviewer, Exploring Group Communication, (1st Edition), 2019

Reviewer, Speak Well/Speaking Matters by Liz O'Brien, 2011

Reviewer, Public Speaking: Strategies for Success (5th Edition), 2008.

"The Black Hills-American Revolution Analog: A study in experiential rhetorical criticism." Paper submitted to the Texas Speech Communication Journal, 2004.

Reviewer, The Speaker's Guidebook (3rd Edition), 2004.

"This cookie won't cut: An examination of rhetorical criticism from the classroom to competition." Paper presented at the National Communication Association Convention, 2003.

"Listening to Native American voices from the Black Hills International Survival Gathering: A case study in experiential rhetorical criticism." Paper presented at the Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery, Ninth Annual Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, 1999.

“Assessing the unique challenges of forensic coaches in non-urban environments.” Paper presented at the 1998 Central States Speech Convention, Chicago, IL.

Reviewer, Business Communication in a Changing World, 1996.

"Critical Thinking and the At-Risk Student: Strategies for the Public Speaking Classroom." Paper presented at the 1994 Speech Communication Association National Convention, New Orleans, LA.

Research Assistant to Dr. Jack Kay, Presidential/Vice-Presidential Focus Group Project, under a grant from the Commission on Presidential Debates. Research results published in The 1992 Presidential Debates in Focus, Diana B. Carlin and Mitchell S. McKinney, Editors, Westport, CT: Praeger, 1994.

Reviewer, Principles of Speech Communication (Twelfth Brief Edition), 1993.

Grants:

College of Social Sciences Grant for Course Redesign Initiative, Summer 2019.

College of Social Sciences Grant for Advanced Online Training, Summer 2017.

College of Social Sciences Grant for Online Course Development, Summer 2015.

Honors/Awards:

Visionary Leadership Award for Department of Communications, 2017.

USG Regent’s Teaching Excellence Award (Departmental Award), 2017.

Coach, Interstate Oratorical Association National Champion, 2009.

Coached National Championship Team (President’s Division III), National Forensics Association National Tournament, 2001.

Recipient, Merit Pay for Excellence in Teaching, University of Nebraska-Kearney, 2000, 2003.

Nominee, Pratt-Heins award for excellence in teaching, University of Nebraska-Kearney, 1999.

Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha (National Speech Honor Society), University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chapter (Secretary/Treasurer, 1988).

Recipient, Donald Olson Award for outstanding contribution to Cornhusker Forensics, 1990.

National Semi-Finalist, Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha Forensics Tournament (Persuasion), 1990.

National Forensics Association National Tournament Quarter Finalist (Persuasion), 1990.

Professional Memberships:

National Communication Association.

Nebraska Intercollegiate Forensic Association, 1995-2003.

Impromptu Topics Committee, National Forensics Association, 1998-2003.

Service: University/Academia

Media Day Executive Committee, 2017-2019.

Associate Editor, Communication and Theater Association of Minnesota, 2015-2016.

UWG Grade Appeal Committee, 2015-2017.

Co-creator (with Dr. Misty Wilson) of Communications 3330: Advanced Communication Skills for USG's eMajor, 2016.

College of Social Sciences Research Day Committee, 2013-2016.

Presenter (with Wendy Dahlgren), "Healthy Eating Tips on a Budget" for Berry College's Gate of Opportunity Students. June, September 2011.

Committee Member, Evans School Green Committee, 2008-2012.

Committee Member, Academic Appeals Committee, Midwestern State University, 2005- 2007.

Committee Member, Who's Who Committee, Midwestern State University, 2005-2007.

Instrumental in bringing Sean Covell, Executive Producer of "Napoleon Dynamite," to Midwestern State University, September 2005.

Committee Member, ad Hoc Committee to assess teaching evaluation instruments, Midwestern State University. January to October, 2005.

Judge, Seymour High School Speech Contest, 2004.

Director, UNK Summer Forensics Workshop, July 2002.

Member, UNK Faculty Senate, April 2000-2003.

Member, UNK College of Fine Arts and Humanities Educational Policy Committee, 1999-2001.

Seminar Instructor, "Presentations that Deliver," Nebraska Plains Higher Education Center, August, 2001.

Executive Secretary, Nebraska Intercollegiate Forensics Association, 1999-2001.

Volunteer, University of Nebraska-Kearney freshman orientation, 1999.

Vice-President, Mid-America Forensic League, 1997-98.

Treasurer, Nebraska Intercollegiate Forensics Association, 1997-1999.

Faculty Advisor, Pi Kappa Delta Forensic Honor Society, University of Nebraska- Kearney, 1995-2003.

Seminar Instructor, "Diversity in the Work Place," Lincoln Parks and Recreation 1996 Training Conference, January, 1996.

Seminar Instructor, "How to Write an Educationally Sound Debate Ballot, Nebraska School Activities Association, October, 1995.

Community

Chair, Floyd County Board of Elections, January-November 2021.

Board Member, Floyd County Board of Elections, 2018-2020.

President, Parent Teacher Organization, Rome Middle School, 2017-2018.

Parent Involvement Committee, Rome City Schools, 2016.

Parent Member, Rome City Schools Health Curriculum Committee, 2016.

President, Parent Teacher Organization, East Central Elementary, Rome, Georgia, 2012- 2013.

President-Elect, Parent Teacher Organization, East Central Elementary, Rome, Georgia. 2011-2012.

Volunteer, Accelerated Reading Program, East Central Elementary, Rome, Georgia, 2007-2011.

Creator/Leader of Fit Club. This a free after school club for elementary students teaching them the importance of fitness and nutrition. 2011-2012.

Fundraising Chair for Fall Fundraiser at East Central Elementary. Fall 2010.

Blogger, bethesnowflake.com. This is a blog created to advocate for the improvement of childhood nutrition both in and outside of school. May 2010-12.

Vice-President, Parent-Teacher Organization, East Central Elementary, 2010-2011.
Judge, Modern Woodmen of America Speaking Contest, May 2009.

Secretary, Parent Teacher Organization East Central Elementary, Rome, Georgia, 2009- 2010.