

Aimee A. Sorensen

Lecturer and Director of the Interpersonal for Professionals Course

Academic Vitae

Department of Communication Studies
University of South Dakota
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315 Dakota Hall
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Vermillion, South Dakota 57069

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Vermillion, South Dakota 57069

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EDUCATION

MA in Communication Studies

University of South Dakota

4.0 GPA

May 2005

Master's Thesis: Baltezare-Sorensen, Aimee A. (2005). Balancing the equation: an analysis of the videostyles in female versus female U.S. Senate, House, and gubernatorial races between 1986 through 2002.

BS in Communication Studies

Minor in Business Administration

University of South Dakota

August 2002

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Director of the Interpersonal for Professionals Course

Department of Communication Studies

University of South Dakota

August 2023- Present

- Developing content to meet the objectives of a new course collaboration with the Beacom School of Business
- Instructing a five-five load of these courses
- Maintaining a vision of the course which serves the students and programs
- Maintain leadership of the course, with other faculty and adjunct instructors
- Implementing assessment measures in collaboration with the Beacom School of Business

Director of the Basic Course

Department of Communication Studies

University of South Dakota

2007-2010; 2012-Present

- Developed custom content for the basic public speaking course
- Instructed the course online, face-to-face and Honors-only sections
- Directed assessment and content for the basic course
- Worked collaboratively with other faculty to adapt to a changing student demographic

- Worked with multiple campus stakeholders in developing a viable course with an interdisciplinary perspective reaching out to disability services, other campus departments and an increasingly diverse student population
- Adapted the basic course to signature academic programming (summer Bridge programming Trio, Upward Bound, Honor's and MSIP).
- Pioneered new teaching technologies in the classroom
- Designed and conducted pre-semester workshop training and orientation for incoming and returning graduate teaching assistants
- Provided the supervision and direction for graduate teaching assistants, successfully delivering the 101 course each semester to OVER 500 students

Lecturer

2021-Present

Department of Communication Studies
University of South Dakota

- A promotion in rank to lecturer was referred, recommended and approved by the South Dakota Board of Regents. The duties and responsibilities remain the same as my Instructor position.

Instructor

Department of Communication Studies
University of South Dakota

2007-2021

- Instructor of record for introductory and foundational communication courses including:
 - CMST/SPCM 101, U820T, UHON 101: Fundamentals of Speech
 - CMST/SPCM 201: Interpersonal Communication
 - CMST/SPCM 203: Communication Signs, Symbols & Society
 - CSMT/SPCM 210: Interpersonal Communication for Business & Professions
 - CMST/SPCM 215: Advanced Public Speaking
 - CMST/SPCM 315: Business & Professional Speaking
 - CMST/SPCM 320: Communication in Interviewing
 - CMST/SPCM 390: Relational Technologies
- Responsible for the course content and facilitation of these stand-alone courses.
- Provided access to many professional networks, connections, and opportunities for students following strategic course planning. Opportunities included: dinner interviews, professional panel interviews, guided self-critiques, resume workshops, career fair and conference attendance and peer observations.

Adjunct Faculty

Department of Communication Studies
University of South Dakota

2005-2007

- Instructed introductory and foundational communication courses
- Co-developed the inaugural offerings of the CMST/SPCM 101/U820T online course at the University of South Dakota with Dr. Clark Callahan
- Developed and fostered a harmonious relationship with the Division of Continuing Education, to meet the unique demands of online course delivery.

- Communicated with the IT team to arrange the encoding service of HOURS of speech content to a main server, thus giving the entire class access to peer speeches (this required effective interpersonal communication, personal thank you notes and visits to the transcription room).
- Guided the course through the transition to the current digital delivery platform- eliminating the need for submitted VHS, 8 MM and other antiquated film sources.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Communication Studies

University of South Dakota

2002-2005

- Instructor of record for two stand-alone public speaking courses - 25 students each
- Instructor of record for the online course-delivery
- Redesigned basic course curriculum
- Redesigned course assessment tools, custom textbook material and presentation content
- Maintained consistently high student evaluations (IDEA evaluations)

SPECIAL HONORS and RECOGNITIONS

Lambda Chi Teaching Award 2018

Chapter Advisor of the Year, Lambda Pi Eta

National Communication Association 2017

Outstanding Instructor Award

College of Arts & Sciences

2016

Melissa Beall Top Panel Award

Central States Communication Association

2015, 2016, 2019

Professor of the Year

USD Swingout Greek Awards

2008

ADVISING

A. Graduate Student Mentoring

Benjamin Connors (2018) Master's Comprehensive Exam Committee member

Dakota Navrkal (2019) Master's Comprehensive Exam Committee member

Jennifer VonEhWegen (2015) Central States Communication Association, Annual Conference, Faculty Sponsorship, "Converging Identities: Life as an Assistant Basic Course Director and a Graduate Student."

B. Undergraduate Student Mentoring

Lambda Pi Eta

Chapter Advisor

2015-2018

Communication Bridges: The upper Midwest regional undergraduate research conference

Coordinator and Conference Planner

2016-2017

Bogdan Anton (2017) Honor's Thesis Committee member

National Society for Collegiate Scholars
Chapter Advisor
The University of South Dakota

2009-2011

C. Non-Classroom Teaching

Supervised Internships

Andra Varney (Corporate Communication Intern, Disneyworld)
Shania Koops (Physician Recruiter Intern, Sanford Health)
Ashley Moberg (Claims Intern, Risk Administration Services, Inc.)
Maria Potratz (Strategic Communication Intern, Lost and Found Organization)
Sadie Swier (Digital Marketing Intern, Downtown Sioux Falls DTFS)
Riley Fritz (Communication Strategist Intern, Targeted Victory)
Marley Hanson (Digital Media Strategist, Vermillion Area Dance Organization)
TyAnn Hart (Attorney Assistant, Matter Law Office)

Undergraduate Conference Attendance and Sponsored Students

Nebraska Undergraduate Communication Research Conference
(Avery Askey, Shannon Billie, Aaron Tennyson, Kelsey Lindskov)
University of Nebraska-Omaha

April 2014

D. Undergraduate Advising

Regularly advise 5-8 undergraduate students

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Brushing Up on Professional Clinical Communication- Invited lecture for Senior Dental Hygiene students. Department of Dental Hygiene.

The University of South Dakota

2015-Present

Professional team communication- Invited lecture for inducted members. Delta Sigma Pi.
Beacom School of Business.

The University of South Dakota

2016

Effective communication in teams and groups- Invited lecture for REL 371: Growth, death & dying. A classroom consult requested by Professor Steve Miller.

The University of South Dakota

2015-2017

Business Professional Communication in Clinical Settings- Invited lecture for DCOM
Enrichment Series. Department of Communication Disorders.

The University of South Dakota

2011-Present

Effective Communication and Study Habits- Invited lecture for USD Student Athlete Orientation
The University of South Dakota

2011-2013

20th Annual USD Scholarship Awards Ceremony, Keynote Speaker

The University of South Dakota

2010

Golden Key Induction Ceremony, Keynote Speaker
The University of South Dakota 2010

Effective Group and Team Leadership- Invited lecture for Alternative Week of Learning
 (AWOL). *The University of South Dakota* 2009

Pi Delta Kappa, Scholarship Dinner, Keynote Speaker 2009

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Speed conversing as a means to enrich dialogue and reduce communication apprehension” with
 Diana Humble, GTA. G.I.F.T.S. (Great Ideas for Teaching Speech) Session. Central States
 Communication Association Conference, Madison, WI April 2022

“Textbooks, Verbal Disfluencies, and Humor” Basic Course Interest Group, Respondent.
 Central States Communication Association Conference, Madison, WI April 2022

“Together Alone: A reflection support for instructors of SPCM 101 during the 2020 COVID
 Pandemic.” A roundtable discussion for the annual conference, representing a collaboration of
 South Dakota institutions in the regental system. *Speech Communication of South Dakota*
Conference, Virtual Zoom Conference. August 2020

“Administrivia Trifecta: Basic Course Dialogue Perspectives.” Melissa Beall Top Panel Award.
 Basic Course Interest Group, a roundtable discussion for the annual conference, *Central States*
Communication Association, Omaha, NE April 2019

“An Exchange of Ideas: A Dialogue on the State of the Basic Course.” Basic Course Interest
 Group, a roundtable discussion for the annual conference, *Central States Communication*
Association, Omaha, NE April 2019

“It’s Not All in My Head: Dialoguing about Student Mental Health Issues on our Campuses.”
 Basic Course Interest Group, a roundtable discussion for the annual conference, *Central States*
Communication Association, Omaha, NE April 2019

“Assessment of the Basic Course: Past, Present and Future.” Melissa Beall Top Panel Award,
 Basic Course Interest Group, a panel presentation for the annual conference, *Central States*
Communication Association, Minneapolis, MN April 2017

“Creating Community in the Basic Course Classroom.” Basic Course Interest Group, a panel
 presentation for the annual conference, *Central States Communication Association, Minneapolis,*
 MN April 2017

“Creative Opportunities and Innovation in the Honor’s Basic Communication Course.” Basic Course Interest Group, a panel presentation for the annual conference, *Central States Communication Association*, Minneapolis, MN April 2017

“Balancing for a Firm Foundation: The Role of the Basic Course Director in the Management of Diverse Course Offerings.” Melissa Beall Top Panel Award. Basic Course Interest Group, a roundtable discussion for the annual conference, *Central States Communication Association*, Grand Rapids, MI April 2016

“Beyond the Front Porch: Strengthening the Foundation of the Basic Course.” Basic Course Interest Group, a roundtable discussion for the annual conference, *Central States Communication Association*, Grand Rapids, MI April 2016

“Training and Mentoring International GTAs in the Basic Course.” Basic Course Division, a roundtable discussion for the annual conference, *National Communication Association*, Philadelphia, PA November 2016

“Teaching and Performing Democracy in the Basic Course: Challenges and Opportunities.” Basic Course Division, a roundtable discussion for the annual conference, *National Communication Association*, Philadelphia, PA November 2016

“Mentoring as Civic Action: Building Community and Confidence Among GTAs.” Basic Course Division, a roundtable discussion for the annual conference, *National Communication Association*, Philadelphia, PA November 2016

“The Campus Speaker Festival.” Melissa Beall Top Panel Award, Basic Course Interest Group, a roundtable discussion for the annual conference, *Central States Communication Association*, Madison, WI April 2015

“Teaching Basic Course Instructors: Convergence of Quality in the Basic Course.” Basic Course Interest Group, a roundtable discussion for the annual conference, *Central States Communication Association*, Madison, WI April 2015

“Converging on the Front Porch: Strengthening the Foundation of the Basic Course.” Basic Course Interest Group, a roundtable discussion for the annual conference, *Central States Communication Association*, Madison, WI April 2015

“Engaging Jon Hess: An Opportunity to Locate Risks and Rewards Common to Department Chairs and Basic Course Directors.” Basic Course Division, a roundtable discussion for the annual conference, *National Communication Association*, Las Vegas, NV November 2015

“One Size Does Not Fit All: Directing the Basic Course to Enhance Learning Outcomes for Students with Disabilities.” A panel presentation for the annual conference, *National Communication Association*, Chicago, IL November 2014

“The Power of Pause: A Pedagogical Teaching Activity.” A GIFT (Great Ideas For Teaching) presentation, Basic Course Interest Group, *Central States Communication Association* annual conference. Minneapolis, MN April 2014

“Planting the Seeds of Service: An Interdisciplinary Experience at the University of South Dakota.” A panel presentation for the annual conference, *Central States Communication Association*, Madison, WI April 2008

GRANTS

Sustainable Rivers: Integrating Earth Science and Sustainability Across the Curriculum, Supporting Faculty Member, National Science Foundation.
The University of South Dakota 2015-2016

Center for Teaching & Learning Course Design Fellowship
The University of South Dakota 2012

SERVICE ACTIVITY

A. Departmental Service

Faculty Advisor, Alpha Delta Pi Chapter, Lambda Pi Eta Honor’s Society, National Communication Association. *Department of Communication Studies* 2015-2018

Co-Coordinator, Speaker’s Night, a showcase of top SPCM 101 student speakers. 2008-2019

Co-Coordinator, Department of Communication Studies Showcase 2008-Present

Faculty Search Committee member, Assistant Professor 2022

Faculty Search Chairperson, Lecturer position (two separate searches) 2022-2023

B. University Service

Faculty Search Committee member, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology 2022-2023

Council of Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship, Committee member 2022-2023

Dean’s Advisory Council, Faculty Representative, Internship Task Force Coordinator
College of Arts & Science 2018-2020

Advisory Board Faculty Representative
The University of South Dakota Student Counseling Center 2012-Present

Objective Structured Clinical Evaluation (OSCE) Evaluator
The University of South Dakota Lee Medical School 2010-Present

Inter-group Dialogue Facilitator, Voices of Discovery Program
The University of South Dakota 2012-2014

SDBOR Mobile Technology Initiative Committee

The University of Dakota 2009

C. External Service

1. National

Faculty Board Member, Lambda Pi Eta
National Communication Association 2016-2019

Conference co-planner, Basic Course Director's Conference, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Basic Course Division, *National Communication Association* 2019

Nominating Committee Member, Basic Course Interest Group
National Communication Association 2015-2016

Site Coordinator, Basic Course Director's Institute, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Basic Course Division, *National Communication Association* 2014

Reviewer, Basic Course Division, *National Communication Association* 2013-Present

2. Regional

Chair and Unit Planner, Basic Course Interest Division
Central States Communication Association 2016-2017

Vice-Chair, Basic Course Interest Division
Central States Communication Association 2015-2016

Secretary, Basic Course Interest Division
Central States Communication Association 2014-2015

Reviewer, Basic Course Interest Division,
Central States Communication Association 2014-Present

3. State

Faculty Evaluator, SD LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopment & Related
Disabilities) Conference. Virtual Zoom Conference Competition. 2020- Present

4. Local

Co-Coordinator, Thrive in 605: Diversity Day Zoom Conference, a collaboration between
Vermillion High School and the USD Basic Communication Course.
Vermillion, South Dakota 2020

Community Advisory Board Member.
First Bank & Trust 2019-Present

Clay County 4H Public Speaking Judge 2009, 2011, 2013, 2018

D. Consulting

Effective Demonstrations and Illustrated Talks- Invited consultation for Clay County 4H.
Clay County, South Dakota 2019

Dialoguing to Enhance Communication Strengths- Invited consultation for the USD Foundation.
The University of South Dakota 2015

Boosting Inter-office and Interpersonal Communication- Invited consultation for SESDAQ
Vermillion, South Dakota 2013

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

National Communication Association, 2002-2020

Basic Course Director's Association, 2007-present

Central States Communication Association, 2002-present

South Dakota Speech Association, 2013- 2020

Women's Professional Rodeo Association, 1995-present