

Vita
Richard Steven Bello
Associate Professor of Speech Communication
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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Louisiana State University, 1973-1977, Political Science major, Speech minor, Bachelor of Arts (GPA: 3.7)

Louisiana State University, 1977-1979, Speech Communication major, Master of Arts (GPA: 3.9)

Louisiana State University, 1992-1999, Speech Communication major, Doctor of Philosophy (GPA: 4.0)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Speech Communication, Fall 2003-present, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX

Associate Professor of Speech Communication, 2000-2003, Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA

Assistant Professor of Speech Communication, 1984-2000, Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA

Instructor of Speech Communication, 1983-1984, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX

Computer Programmer, 1983, Management Information Services (State of Louisiana), Baton Rouge, LA

Manager, 1982, Folmar and Associates, Thibodaux, LA

Instructor of Speech Communication, 1981, Nicholls State University, Thibodaux, LA

Training Officer, 1980-1981, Southeast Louisiana State Hospital, Mandeville, LA

Counselor, 1979-1980, Job Corps Center, Brunswick, GA

Graduate Assistant in Speech, 1977-1979, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

COURSES TAUGHT

Sam Houston State University

Interpersonal Communication
Speech Communication for Business and the Professions

Nicholls State University

Interpersonal Communication
Fundamentals of Public Speaking
Honors Public Speaking
Oral Business Communication
Independent Study in Speech Communication

Texas A&M University

Public Speaking
Composition and Rhetoric

Louisiana State University

Public Speaking
Small Group Communication

Southeast Louisiana State Hospital

Management Workshop on Effective Communication
Orientation to Employment
Improving Job Performance
Crisis Control of Disturbed Patients
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation

TEACHING HIGHLIGHTS

Designated as meritorious in teaching for every year evaluated at Nicholls State University

Nominated for Presidential Award for Teaching Excellence, Nicholls State University, 2002

Have attended all Faculty Development Institutes on teaching at Nicholls State University

Emphasize student participation in my classes through focus on issue discussion and experimental learning exercises

Consistently rated highly on student evaluation of classroom instruction

Recently developed and had approved a syllabus for new Speech 105 (Honors Public Speaking) course at Nicholls State University

Place strong emphasis on teaching innovations within courses from year to year

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AWARDS

National Communication Association

Southern States Communication Association

Student Affairs Recognition Award from Office of Student Affairs, Nicholls State University, 2000

Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society, 1999

Alpha Psi Omega, Honorary Dramatic Fraternity, 1988

Nicholls Players, 1987

Mu Sigma Rho, General Academic Honors, 1977

Pi Sigma Alpha, Political Science Honors, 1976

Interdisciplinary Honors Program, Louisiana State University, 1973

PUBLICATIONS/RESEARCH

My research interests are focused on language behavior in interpersonal and public communication, as well as on the interpretation of messages in interpersonal contexts. Currently, I am most interested in both the causes of interpersonal equivocation and how equivocation plays a role in the perception and evaluation of messages and message sources.

Refereed Journal Articles

"Toward an Alternate Approach to the Teaching of Intercultural Exchange and Negotiation: The Application of Universal Communication Axioms" (with Frances Brandau-Brown, J. Donald Ragsdale, and Terry Thibodeaux), *Competition Forum*, Volume 2(1), 2004

"Interpretations of Messages: The Influence of Various Forms of Equivocation, Face Concerns, and Sex Differences" (with Renee Edwards from Louisiana State University), *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, accepted September 2004, in press

"Interpretations of Messages: The Influence of Equivocation, Face Concerns, and Ego-Involvement" (with Renee Edwards from Louisiana State University), *Human Communication Research*, Volume 27(4), October 2001

"The Effects of Loneliness and Verbal Aggressiveness on Message Interpretation" (with colleagues from Louisiana State University), *The Southern Communication Journal*, Volume 66(2), Winter 2001

"Determinants of Equivocation: The Influence of Situational Formality, Interaction Phase, and Ambiguity Tolerance," *Communication Research*, Volume 27(2), April 2000

"Judicial Tests for Distinguishing Statements of Fact From Statements of Opinion: An Empirical Examination" (with James Stewart and Erik Stilling), *The Southwestern Mass Communication Journal*, Volume 15(1), 1999

"The Contemporary Rise of Louisiana Voices and Other Neo-Chautauquas: A Return to Oral Performance," *Text and Performance Quarterly*, Volume 17(2), April 1997

"A Burkeian Analysis of the 'Political Correctness' Confrontation in Higher Education," *The Southern Communication Journal*, Volume 61(3), Spring 1996

"Freedom of Speech and William Shockley: A Look Back," *Texas Speech Communication Journal*, Volume XIII, 1988

"Biosocial Man and Significant Symbol: George Herbert Mead's Theory of Language," *Texas Speech Communication Journal*, Volume X, 1985

Refereed Papers Presented at Professional Meetings

"The Role of Leadership in Civic Education and Advancement" (with Frances E. Brandau-Brown, Terry Thibodeaux, Brian R. Chapman, and J. Donald Ragsdale), Alliance of Universities for Democracy, November 2004, Pecs, Hungary.

"Integrating Environmental Education and Biodiversity into the University Curriculum" (with Brian R. Chapman, J. Donald Ragsdale, Frances E. Brandau-Brown, and Terry Thibodeaux), Alliance of Universities for Democracy, November 2004, Pecs, Hungary

Instituting Communication Training in Business and Technical Education (with Frances E. Brandau-Brown, J. Donald Ragsdale, and Terry Thibodeaux), Alliance of Universities for Democracy, November 2004, Pecs, Hungary.

"Toward an Alternate Approach to the Teaching of Intercultural Exchange and Negotiation: The Application of Universal Communication Axioms" (with Frances E. Brandau-Brown, J. Donald Ragsdale, and Terry Thibodeaux), American Society for Competitiveness (ASC) Annual Conference, October 2004, Washington, DC

"Cultural Perceptions of Equivocation and Directness: Dimensional or Unique?" International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies (IAICS), July 2004, Guadalajara, Mexico

"Did You Just Say What I Think You Said? Interpretations of Equivocal Messages in Satisfied and Dissatisfied Marriages," Southern States Communication Association, April 2004, Tampa, FL

"Interpretations of Messages: The Influence of Various Forms of Equivocation, Face Concerns, and Sex Differences," (with Renee Edwards), National Communication Association, November 2003, Miami, FL

"Research in Interpersonal/Family Communication: Sam Houston State University's Graduate Program," Panel presentation, Louisiana Communication Association, September 2003, Lake Charles, LA

"Abuse in American Families: An Analysis of Public Discourse," Top Three Award in Language and Social Interaction Division, Southern States Communication Association, April 2003, Birmingham, AL

"Ethics and Equivocation: Are They Mutually Exclusive?" Invited panel presentation, Interpersonal Communication Division, Southern States Communication Association, April 2003, Birmingham, AL

"Is Avoidance-Avoidance Conflict the Necessary and Sufficient Cause of Interpersonal Equivocation?" Top Four Award in Interpersonal Communication Division, Southern States Communication Association, April 2002, Winston-Salem, NC

"The Relationships Among Communication Competence, Politeness, and Honesty as a Function of Equivocation, Face Concerns, and Ego-Involvement" (with Renee Edwards), National Communication Association, November 2001, Atlanta, GA

"The Influence of Equivocation, Face Concerns, and Ego-Involvement on Message Interpretation, II" (with Renee Edwards), Southern States Communication Association, April 2001, Lexington, KY

"Interpretations of Messages: The Influence of Equivocation, Face Concerns, and Ego-Involvement" (with Renee Edwards), National Communication Association, November 2000, Seattle, WA

"Development and Validation of a New Method for Measuring Equivocation" (with Renee Edwards), National Communication Association, November 1999, Chicago, IL

"Causes and Psycholinguistic Correlates of Interpersonal Equivocation," National Communication Association, November 1998, New York, NY (Accepted for ERIC Database)

"The Effects of Loneliness, Machiavellianism, and Verbal Aggressiveness on Message Interpretation" (with colleagues from Louisiana State University), National Communication Association, November 1998, New York, NY

"Connections Among Relational Root Metaphors, Relationship History, and the Use of Marriage Market Intermediaries," Top Five Award in Communication Theory Division, Southern States Communication Association, April 1998, San Antonio, TX

"The Rhetorical Epistemologies of Kenneth Burke and the Sophists," Southern States Communication Association, April 1998, San Antonio, TX

"Personality and Gender Influence the Interpretation of Messages" (with colleagues from Louisiana State University), Top Four Award in Communication Theory Division, Southern States Communication Association, April 1997, Savannah, GA

"The Contemporary Rise of Louisiana Voices and Other Neo-Chautauquas: A Return to Oral Performance," Top Four Award In Performance Studies Division, Speech Communication Association, November 1996, San Diego, CA

"Determinants of Equivocation: The Influence of Situational Formality, Interaction Phase, and Ambiguity Tolerance," Top Three Award in Language and Social Interaction Division, Speech Communication Association, November 1995, San Antonio, TX (Accepted for ERIC Database)

"Toward a Synthesis of Theological and Scientific Approaches to Language," Speech Communication Association, November 1995, San Antonio, TX

"Public Speaking Apprehension and Gender as Predictors of Speech Competence," Southern States Communication Association convention, April 1995, New Orleans, LA (Accepted for ERIC Database)

"A Burkeian Analysis of the Ongoing 'Political Correctness' Debate in Higher Education," Southern States Communication Association convention, April 1995, New Orleans, LA (Accepted for ERIC Database)

"Biosocial Man and Significant Symbol: George Herbert Mead's Theory of Language," Southern Speech Communication Association convention, spring of 1984, Baton Rouge, LA

Funded Grant Projects

Co-investigator for project awarded \$3150 in 1995 by the Nicholls State University Research Council: "Fact v. Opinion: A Test of Judicial Assumptions Regarding Reader Perceptions."

Co-investigator for project awarded \$30,000 in 1997 by the state of Louisiana's Education Quality Support Fund: "A Proposal for Enhancing Student Speech Learning Using the Visual Modality."

Other

Research published on message interpretation and equivocation (from *Southern Communication Journal*, 2001 and *Human Communication Research*, 2001—see above) referenced and discussed as sidebar in 9th edition of *Interplay*, a popular textbook on interpersonal communication.

Research on political correctness movement (from *Southern Communication Journal*, 1996—see above) cited as exemplar of textual analysis studies in the textbook *Investigating Communication: An Introduction to Research Methods*.

CONTRIBUTED CONSULTING AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES

University

Chair of Search Committee for Assistant Professor Position, Department of Speech Communication, Sam Houston State University, Fall 2004-present

Service on Courses and Curricula Committee, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sam Houston State University, Fall 2004-present

Chair of Course Offerings Committee, Department of Speech Communication, Sam Houston State University, Spring 2004

Service on Graduate Program Planning Committee, Department of Speech Communication, Sam Houston State University, Fall 2003

Service on Faculty Peer Evaluation Committee, Department of Speech Communication, Sam Houston State University, Fall 2003

Judge and moderator for high school Academic Challenge Competition, Sam Houston State University, November 15, 2003

Faculty Reader at Nicholls State University commencement exercises and service on University Commencement Committee, Fall 2000-2003

President of the Nicholls State University chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, 2001-2002

Service on Arts and Sciences Awards Banquet Committee, Fall 2002

Originator, coordinator, and occasional moderator of Nicholls State University Forums (audience participation debates), 1981 and 1984-2003

Presentation on overcoming fear of public speaking to Emerging Leaders Program, Nicholls State University, April 1999

Service on Honors Task Force for purpose of initiating and developing Honors Program at Nicholls State University, 1998; in process, developed syllabus for new Speech 105 Honors course

Faculty Sponsor for Minds Meeting Discussion Club, Nicholls State University, 1998

Service on Scholarship Committee, Nicholls State University, 1995-1996

House Manager for Nicholls State University theater productions held every semester, 1981 and 1984-1996

Presentation on small group problem solving to Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity, Nicholls State University, 1996

Interviewed prospective Nicholls State University students for Scholars' Day, 1996

Service on departmental Computer Printer Networking Committee, Nicholls State University, 1993-1994

Judge for Original Oratory event at District Literary Rally, Nicholls State University, 1984-1996, 1998-2000

Presentation on interviewing to Management Society, Nicholls State University, 1987

Vice President of Faculty Senate, Nicholls State University, 1987

Faculty Senator, Nicholls State University, 1986-1987

Presentation on interviewing to Society for Personnel Administration, Nicholls State University, 1984

Graduate Student Council Arts and Sciences Representative, Louisiana State University, 1978-1979

Researcher and writer for Public Relations Committee, Catholic Student Center, Louisiana State University, 1977

Moderator of Free Speech Alley sponsored by Student Government Association, Louisiana State University, 1975-1977

Professional

Chair and respondent for research panel on speech anxiety and communication traits, meeting of Southern States Communication Association, April 2004, Tampa, FL

Chair of Communication Theory Division of Southern States Communication Association, 2003-2004

Manuscript reviewer/referee for the *Southern Communication Journal*, 2003-2004

Vice-Chair and Program Planner, Communication Theory Division of Southern States Communication Association, 2002-2003

Associate Editor, *Quarterly Journal of Speech*, 1998-2001

Paper reviewer and respondent for Southern States Communication Association's Undergraduate Honors Conference, 1996, 2003

Community

Participant in National Audubon Society sponsored Christmas Bird Count, Huntsville, TX, 2003-2004 season

Conducted lector training seminar (along with two colleagues) for St. John's Episcopal Church, Thibodaux, LA, Feb. 2002

Presentation to local chapter of American Business Women's Association on improving public speaking skills, Thibodaux, LA, 2000

Conducted seminar on enhancing communication skills at regional church leadership training conference near Hot Springs, Arkansas, 1992, 1994, 1995

Compiled bibliography on test-taking skills for Chapter I Reading Recovery Program of Coteau-Bayou Blue Elementary School, 1995

Judge for American Legion Oratorical Contest, Thibodaux, LA, 1991, 1993-1996

Judge for Veterans of Foreign Wars Radio Speaking Contest, Thibodaux, LA, 1989

Compiler and leader of National Audubon Society sponsored Christmas Bird Count, Thibodaux, LA, 1987-2003

Taught bird honor course to Pathfinders Club in Houma (LA) 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994

Presentation on amateur ornithology at statewide Pathfinders honors conference, Alexandria, LA, 1989

President of Lafourche SPCA, 1988

Presenter at Resume Writing and Interviewing Workshop sponsored by First United Methodist Church, Thibodaux, LA, 1986

Assisted with production of teaching aid video on argumentation and debate for South Lafourche High School, 1986

Judge for Jaycee "Speak Up" Speech Contest, Thibodaux, LA, 1984

OTHER CONSULTING

Individual instruction in interviewing skills for area businessperson, Houma, LA, 1996

Instructor of public speaking course through Continuing Education at Nicholls State University, 1991, Thibodaux, LA

Communication consultant and speech writer (for area business executives), 1987, Thibodaux, LA

Communication (listening) consultant, Lafourche Parish Library System, 1985, Raceland, LA

Communication consultant, 1979, Midsouth Management Conference, Baton Rouge, LA