

Vita  
Richard Steven Bello  
Associate Professor of Speech Communication  
Sam Houston State University  
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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
- Public Speaking
- Introduction to Communication Theory
- Persuasion
- 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

High student and departmental evaluations of teaching effectiveness for each year evaluated at Sam Houston State University

First to teach new course at Sam Houston State University, SCM 231, Introduction to Communication Theory and Research

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

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

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

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

Outstanding Departmental Researcher Award, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Sam Houston State University, 2005-2006

International Communication Association

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

Bello, R. S., Brandau-Brown, F. E., & Ragsdale, J. D. (in press). Attachment style, marital satisfaction, commitment, and communal strength effects on relational repair message interpretation among remarrieds. *Communication Quarterly*.

Ragsdale, J. D., Bello, R. S., Brandau-Brown, F., Thibodeaux, T. M., & Chapman, B. R. (2007) European museums as visual persuasion: A typological approach. *Intercultural Communication Studies, XVI*, 145-157.

Bello, R. (2006). Causes and paralinguistic correlates of interpersonal equivocation. *Journal of Pragmatics, 38*(9), 1430-1441.

Bello, R., Ragsdale, J. D., Thibodeaux, T. M., & Brandau-Brown, F. E. (2006). Cultural perceptions of equivocation and directness: Dimensional or unique? *Intercultural Communication Studies, XV*, 180-188.

Bello, R., Ragsdale, J. D., Brandau-Brown, F. E., & Thibodeaux, T. (2006). Cultural perceptions of equivocation and directness II: A replication and extension of the dimensional hypothesis. *Intercultural Communication Studies, XV*(2), 23-32.

Brandau-Brown, F. E., Ragsdale, J. D., Bello, R. S., Thibodeaux, T., & Chapman, B. R. (in press). The role of leadership in civic education and advancement. *Perspectives in Higher Education Reform, 13-14*.

Chapman, B. R., Ragsdale, J. D., Brandau-Brown, F. E., Bello, R. S., & Thibodeaux, T. (in press). Integrating environmental education and biodiversity into the university curriculum. *Perspectives in Higher Education Reform, 13-14*.

- Ragsdale, J. D., Bello, R. S., Brandau-Brown, F. E., & Thibodeaux, T. (in press). Instituting communication training in business and technical education. *Perspectives in Higher Education Reform*, 13-14.
- Bello, R. (2005). Situational formality, personality, and avoidance-avoidance conflict as causes of interpersonal equivocation. *The Southern Communication Journal*, 70, 285-300.
- Bello, R., & Edwards, R. (2005). Interpretations of messages: The influence of various forms of equivocation, face concerns, and sex differences. *Journal of Language and Social Psychology*, 24, 160-181.
- Bello, R., Brandau-Brown, F. E., Ragsdale, J. D., & Thibodeaux, T. (2004). Toward an alternate approach to the teaching of intercultural exchange and negotiation: The application of universal communication axioms. *Competition Forum*, 2(1), 571-582.
- Edwards, R., & Bello, R. (2001). Interpretations of messages: The influence of equivocation, face concerns, and ego-involvement. *Human Communication Research*, 27(4), 597-631.
- Edwards, R., Bello, R., Brandau-Brown, F., & Hollems, D. (2001). The effects of loneliness and verbal aggressiveness on message interpretation. *The Southern Communication Journal*, 66(2), 139-150.
- Bello, R. (2000). Determinants of equivocation: The influence of situational formality, interaction phase, and ambiguity tolerance. *Communication Research*, 27(2), 161-193.
- Bello, R., Stewart, J., & Stilling, E. (1999). Judicial tests for distinguishing statements of fact from statements of opinion: An empirical examination. *The Southwestern Mass Communication Journal*, 15(1), 39-46.
- Bello, R. (1997). The contemporary rise of Louisiana Voices and other neo-Chautauquas: A return to oral performance. *Text and Performance Quarterly*, 17(2), 182-196.
- Bello, R. (1996). A Burkeian analysis of the 'political correctness' confrontation in higher education. *The Southern Communication Journal*, 61(3), 243-252.
- Bello, R. (1988). Freedom of speech and William Shockley: A look back. *Texas Speech Communication Journal*, XIII, 48-53.
- Bello, R. (1985). Biosocial man and significant symbol: George Herbert Mead's theory

of language. *Texas Speech Communication Journal*, X, 13-24, 1985.

### Articles Under Review

Bello, R.S., Brandau-Brown, F.E., & Ragsdale, J.D. (2007). *What do you mean by that?": Relational repair message interpretation as a function of equivocation level and marital satisfaction among the remarried*. Manuscript submitted for publication to *Communication Reports*.

Bello, R.S., Brandau-Brown, F.E., & Ragsdale, J.D. (2007). *Information manipulation strategies in boundary turbulence management: The effects of privacy level, relationship type, and key dispositions*. Manuscript submitted for publication to *Communication Research*.

### Convention Presentations

Ragsdale, J. D., Brandau-Brown, F. E., & Bello, R. S. (2007, March). Implications of differences between long-term married and remarried persons in the use of relational repair strategies. Southern States Communication Association, Louisville, KY.

Ragsdale, J. D., Brandau-Brown, F. E., & Bello, R. (2006, November). "How do we fix it?": Comparing Long-term married and remarried couples in their choices of relational repair strategies. National Communication Association, San Antonio, TX.

Ragsdale, J. D., Bello, R. S., Brandau-Brown, F. E., Thibodeaux, T., & Chapman, B. R. (2006, August). European museums as visual persuasion: A typological approach. International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies, San Antonio, TX.

Bello, R., Brandau-Brown, F. E., & Ragsdale, J. D. (2006, April). "What do you mean by that?": Interpretation of relational repair messages as a function of equivocation level and marital satisfaction. Top Paper Award in Communication Theory Division, Southern States Communication Association, Dallas-Addison, TX.

Bello, R., Brandau-Brown, F. E., & Ragsdale, J. D. (2006, June). Attachment style, marital satisfaction, commitment, and communal strength effects on relational repair message interpretation. Top Ten Award—Interactive Paper Session,

International Communication Association, Dresden, Germany.

Ragsdale, J. D., Brandau-Brown, F. E., & Bello, R. (2006, June). Who are the restorers?: Attachment style, gender, and relational repair among the remarried. International Communication Association, Dresden, Germany.

Ragsdale, J. D., Bello, R., Brandau-Brown, F. E., Thibodeaux, T., & Chapman, B. R. (2006, June). The museum as visual persuasion: A theoretical analysis and illustrative typology. International Communication Association, Dresden, Germany.

Bello, R., Ragsdale, J. D., Brandau-Brown, F. E., & Thibodeaux, T. (2005, July). Cultural perceptions of equivocation and directness II: A replication and extension of the dimensional hypothesis. International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies, Taipei, Taiwan.

Brandau-Brown, F. E., Ragsdale, J. D., Bello, R. S., Thibodeaux, T., & Chapman, B. R. (2004, November). The role of leadership in civic education and advancement. Alliance of Universities for Democracy, Pecs, Hungary.

Chapman, B. R., Ragsdale, J. D., Brandau-Brown, F. E., Bello, R. S., & Thibodeaux, T. (2004, November). Integrating environmental education and biodiversity into the university curriculum. Alliance of Universities for Democracy, Pecs, Hungary.

Ragsdale, J. D., Bello, R. S., Brandau-Brown, F. E., & Thibodeaux, T. (2004, November). Instituting communication training in business and technical education. Alliance of Universities for Democracy, Pecs, Hungary.

Bello, R., Brandau-Brown, F. E., Ragsdale, J. D., & Thibodeaux, T. (2004, October). Toward an alternate approach to the teaching of intercultural exchange and negotiation: The application of universal communication axioms. American Society for Competitiveness (ASC) Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

Bello, R., Ragsdale, J. D., Brandau-Brown, J. D., & Thibodeaux, T. (2004, July). Cultural perceptions of equivocation and directness: Dimensional or unique? International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies (IAICS), Guadalajara, Mexico.

Bello, R. (2004, April). "Did you just say what I think you said?": Interpretations of equivocal messages in satisfied and dissatisfied marriages. Southern States Communication Association, Tampa, FL.

Edwards R., & Bello, R. (2003, November). Interpretations of messages: The influence of various forms of equivocation, face concerns, and sex differences. National

Communication Association, Miami, FL.

- Brandau-Brown, F. E., Thibodeaux, T., & Bello, R. (2003, September). Research in interpersonal/family communication: Sam Houston State University's graduate program. Panel presentation, Louisiana Communication Association, Lake Charles, LA.
- Bello, R. (2003, April). Abuse in American families: An analysis of public discourse. Top Three Award in Language and Social Interaction Division, Southern States Communication Association, Birmingham, AL.
- Bello, R. (2003, April). Ethics and equivocation: Are they mutually exclusive? Invited panel presentation, Interpersonal Communication Division, Southern States Communication Association, Birmingham, AL.
- Bello, R. (2002, April). Is avoidance-avoidance conflict the necessary and sufficient cause of interpersonal equivocation? Top Four Award in Interpersonal Communication Division, Southern States Communication Association, Winston-Salem, NC.
- Edwards, R., & Bello, R. (2001, November). The relationships among communication competence, politeness, and honesty as a function of equivocation, face concerns, and ego-involvement. National Communication Association, Atlanta, GA.
- Edwards, R., & Bello, R. (2001, April). The influence of equivocation, face concerns, and ego-involvement on message interpretation, II. Southern States Communication Association, Lexington, KY.
- Edwards, R., & Bello, R. (2000, November). Interpretations of messages: The influence of equivocation, face concerns, and ego-involvement. National Communication Association, Seattle, WA.
- Bello, R., & Edwards, R. (1999, November). Development and validation of a new method for measuring equivocation, National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.
- Bello, R. (1998, November). Causes and psycholinguistic correlates of interpersonal equivocation. National Communication Association, New York, NY. (Accepted for ERIC Database.)
- Edwards, R., Bello, R., Brandau-Brown, F. E., & Hollems, M. D. (1998, November.) The effects of loneliness, Machiavellianism, and verbal aggressiveness on message interpretation. National Communication Association, New York, NY.

- Bello, R. (1998, April). 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, San Antonio, TX.
- Bello, R. (1998, April). The rhetorical epistemologies of Kenneth Burke and the Sophists. Southern States Communication Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Edwards, R., Bello, R., Brandau-Brown, F., Futch, A., Hollems, D., & Kirtley, M. D. (1997, April). Personality and gender influence the interpretation of messages. Top Four Award in Communication Theory Division, Southern States Communication Association, Savannah, GA.
- Bello, R. (1996, November). 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, San Diego, CA.
- Bello, R. (1995, November). 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, San Antonio, TX. (Accepted for ERIC Database.)
- Bello, R. (1995, November). Toward a synthesis of theological and scientific approaches to language. Speech Communication Association, San Antonio, TX.
- Bello, R. (1995, April.) Public speaking apprehension and gender as predictors of speech competence. Southern States Communication Association, New Orleans, LA. (Accepted for ERIC Database.)
- Bello, R. (1995, April). A Burkeian analysis of the ongoing 'political correctness' debate in higher education. Southern States Communication Association, New Orleans, LA. (Accepted for ERIC Database.)
- Bello, R. (1984, April). Biosocial man and significant symbol: George Herbert Mead's theory of language. Southern Speech Communication Association, 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

Service on Dean's Distinguished Advisory Committee on Research/Scholarship, Fall 2006-present

Invited guest presenter on public speaking skills to multiple sections of SAM 136 classes, Spring and Fall 2006

Volunteer, Hurricane Rita relief effort on Sam Houston State University campus, October 2005

Service on University Faculty Research Committee, Sam Houston State University, Fall 2005-Spring 2006

Faculty member of Team Blue in Can You Beat Ken Jennings? Competition, President's Speaker Series, November 15, 2005

Instructor for area Boy Scout Merit Badge University, Communications Merit Badge, Sam Houston State University, February 12, 2005

Chair of Search Committee for Assistant/Associate Professor Positions, 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

Co-leader of group discussion on team approach to research at College of Humanities and Social Sciences conference on August 23, 2004

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

Service on Constitution Committee, Southern States Communication Association, October 2005-present

Service on Nominating Committee, Southern States Communication Association, April 2006-present

*Southern Communication Journal* Editorial Board member, June 2005-present

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

Instructor for district Boy Scout Communication Merit Badge, Sam Houston State University, February 12, 2005

Participant in National Audubon Society sponsored Christmas Bird Count, Huntsville, TX, 2003-2007 seasons

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