



# Catch Up with Communication Studies

April 2025

Monthly E-Newsletter

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## What is Communication?



As many other instructors have eloquently stated, communication is all about creating, interpreting, and shared meaning. Of course, this is a complex process! In my classes, we use critical thinking skills and academic research to explore questions like: How do we develop and maintain relationships? How do we present ourselves when we meet a potential employer, a professor, a teammate, a first date, or the parents of our new significant other? How are self-presentation strategies different based on the medium? How can we craft our ideas in a way that is competent, engaging, and persuasive? How are we influenced by the behavior of others and by the messages we receive from family, friends, strangers, celebrities, politicians, and media actors? Approaching those questions with a theory-to-practice mindset helps us to become competent communicators in any situation, whether personal, professional, or civic.

*-Dr. Anne-Bennett Smithson, JD*



## Courses Spotlight

### Undergraduate Course

#### COMS 3383 Small Group Communication



Students will examine the task and relational components associated with small group communication such as: group member socialization, role acquisition, and leadership development. This course provides opportunities to develop and practice problem-solving, decision-making, listening, and conflict resolution skills within a group setting. We'll use a variety of hands-on group activities and projects to help you learn how to apply these skills in both informal and formal settings so that you and your group can succeed, whether it is for your next game night or with your work team.

Interested in this course? Message instructor Allyzah Allene D. Cabugao at [adc080@shsu.edu](mailto:adc080@shsu.edu) to learn more about it!

## Graduate Course

### COMS 5382 Dark Side of Family Communication



The communication behaviors we use in our family relationships can vary in the extent to which they are morally (un)acceptable or functionally productive (or destructive). For example, some messages can be morally acceptable yet relatively destructive, whereas others can be morally unacceptable yet relatively productive. In this course, we will explore the dark (and light) side of communication people use in their family relationships.

Interested in this course? Message Dr. Colton Krawietz at [cek043@shsu.edu](mailto:cek043@shsu.edu) to learn more about it!

**Want to see what else we offer?**

[Undergraduate Course Catalog](#)

[Graduate and Professional Course Catalog](#)



## Faculty Spotlight

**Dr. Caleb G. Hubbard, Assistant Professor**



I love teaching and engaging with students—it runs in my family. My mom was a teacher, and her dad was a teacher, so it's in my blood. I found my way to communication after exploring multiple majors and stumbling into a professor's office. After a conversation about TV shows and pop culture, I knew I had found my field. Now, I study pop culture and teach courses on visual messaging, humor, and media influence. These topics are everywhere, shaping our world in ways we often don't realize. My favorite part of teaching is making connections

with students and creating an immersive learning experience. My goal is that after taking my class, students can't unsee what they've learned—whether watching TV, scrolling online, or chatting with friends, they'll recognize the concepts we explored together.

I teach Communication and Pop Culture, Interpreting Visual Messages, and Humor in Communication.

## Michesha Washington, MA, Lecturer



The purpose of education is to enhance your knowledge in a particular area to be utilized to make a positive impact in the world in which we live. I live, breathe, and advocate for this purpose. I chose to teach the art of communication to enhance people's well-being and instill a confidence in them that using the power of expression in words or writing can help them overcome some of their most damning challenges in life. My favorite quote compels me everyday in my classroom, "We are stronger when we listen and smarter when we

share." - Rania Al Abdullah

I'm currently teaching Communication in Sport and Public Speaking.

One fun fact about me is that I own a photobooth party rental company. It is a new and growing passion of mine to help others create memories to last a lifetime.



## Student Spotlight

### Izabella Urbani, Graduate Student



I am pursuing my Master of Arts in Communication Studies. Currently, I am a personal assistant, student, and a Graduate Assistant to Dr. Lisa Dahlgren in the Communication Studies program!

There are many reasons why I love being a Communication Studies major, but one of the biggest is learning from well-educated professors. I appreciate their expertise and the passion they bring to their lectures, which truly shines through in the way they teach. My education at SHSU has truly shaped who I am today, and it brings me such great joy to be continuing my education!

### Adaah Wysinger, Undergraduate Student



I am a Communication Studies Major with a Minor in Interior Design and American Sign Language. As a Communication Studies major, I love how our professors engage students with the material they teach. I can easily apply what I've learned in class to my everyday life. It's truly been a joy to learn, and every faculty member I've met has made me feel welcomed and appreciated.



## Student Organizations

### Lambda Pi Eta



Lambda Pi Eta will be inducting 18 new members this month! Congratulations and welcome to the Spring 2025 Inductees:

Karis Barrett  
Christi Biggers  
Kayla Boyd  
Tristan Brown  
Savannah Capehart  
Nadia Duarte  
Zoey Giles  
Hannah Herring  
Kendra Hutchison

Holle Knight  
Meghan Makthepharack  
McKenna Manthey  
Breanne Matheson  
Vangogh Jovan Rucker  
Kaylee Scott  
Lily Temple-Dozier  
Izabella Urbani  
Addison Westerby

### CommuniKats



Do you want to improve your communication skills or connect with like-minded students interested in communication? Connect with CommuniKats!

CommuniKats is open to new members, all students welcome.

Contact current CommuniKats president Kylee Patterson at [kmp118@shsu.edu](mailto:kmp118@shsu.edu) or follow on Instagram at @CommuniKats for more information and updates!



## Celebrations and Success

### “Beyond the Classroom: Expert Insight into Careers with a Communication Degree”: Lambda Pi Eta

Last month, Lambda Pi Eta hosted a guest panel with experts in the Communication Studies field! A huge thank you to Lambda Pi Eta members, the Department of Communication Studies, and guest experts Lisa Pinto (VP of Public Relations & Corporate Communications at SWBC (Financial Service Company)), Tyler Schievelbein (Marketing & Communications Major at Habitat for Humanity - Montgomery County), and Rachel Drody (Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at Harper Grayson Communications).

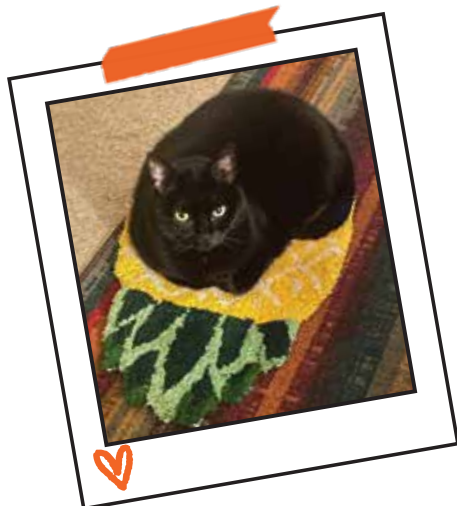


Pictured, left-to-right:  
Dr. Colton Krawietz; Xander Cook, LPH President; Bentley; Stephanie Berry, LPH Vice President of Internal Affairs; Lisa Pinto; Rachel Drody; Tyler Schievelbein; Macey Schank, LPH Vice President of External Affairs; Dr. Caleb G. Hubbard



## Pet Spotlight

### Dr. Rebekah M. Chiasson's PAWsome Pet!



**Cammi**  
**Major in Treats**  
**Minor in Adventures**  
**Honorary Degree in Communication Studies**



# Important Upcoming Dates

## April

### Friday, April 18th

University Holiday / Reading Day - No Classes

## May

### Thursday, May 1st

Last Day of Class / Last Day to Resign

### Friday, May 2nd

University Holiday / Reading Day - No Classes

### Monday, May 5th - Thursday, May 8th

Finals Week

### Saturday, May 10th

Commencement for College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum, 9:30 AM

### Sunday, May 11th

Residence Halls Close at 12:00 PM

### Monday, May 12th

Deadline for Filing Grades



## Want to be Featured?

Join the conversation and use the form below to help us tell your stories!

**Newsletter  
Submission Form**



## Contact Us

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