

# Fall 2022 Grad Newsletter



## A MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE DIRECTOR

Hi all! I am thrilled to be the new Graduate Director. Working with graduate students is one of the most rewarding and fulfilling aspects of my work, and I look forward to getting to know you all and helping you succeed in the program. Some fun facts about me: I grew up in St. Louis, Missouri and have lived in Los Angeles, New Jersey, and Prague. I love giraffes and enjoy playing piano and being a soccer mom. This year my goals for the graduate program are to focus on mental health and building community. During the pandemic we all became experts in remote work and Zoom teaching and learning, but now it is time to work on re-connecting in person.

The newsletter guides graduate students about important events, resources, and beneficial opportunities. This issue introduces our new 2022 cohort, highlights resources for graduate students, and provides a detailed timeline for the upcoming academic year with key dates for grad-related events. I wish everyone a wonderful 2022-2023 academic year.

Dr. Jenn Gibbs, gibbs@ucsb.edu

 **UC SANTA BARBARA** DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

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# Welcome, 2022 Grad Cohort!

*This past year, we recruited another group of stellar graduate students. Our new students bring unique perspectives to communication with wide-ranging experiences and academic interests. Let's get to know our 2022 grad cohort and welcome its members to the department and community.*



## KYUNGIN KIM

After receiving my BA in International Political Economy from the University of Puget Sound in 2017, I worked as a Trust and Safety Specialist and a market researcher at Airbnb, as well as a bilingual kindergarten teacher for 4–5-year-olds. In 2021, I received an Ed.M. in Prevention Science and Practice from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and worked as a researcher at a government educational lab in Korea. At UCSB, I'm excited to pursue my research interests on promotive factors that cultivate resilience and positive psychosocial outcomes among immigrant youth and families – drawing from research in interpersonal, intercultural, and health communication. Outside of academics, I love painting (while watching Bob Ross in Joy of Painting), going to karaoke, baking, rollerblading, babysitting, and eating anything spicy or fried!

## STEVEN KUBITZA

I received my BS in Sport Management from Bowling Green State University in 2016 and graduated with an MA in Journalism and Mass Communication from Kent State University in 2019. My current research interests begin in the fields of political and mass communication and focus on topics such as media framing, media effects, and political tolerance. In addition, I study the intersection between professional sports and politics. My professional experience is mainly in digital media and sportswriting, where I have served as an editor of multiple news websites. I also published a young adult novel as the culmination of my undergraduate honors project. Outside of school and work, I enjoy exploring the outdoors and spending time with my dog Louie.



## HYOJIN "JAMIE" LEE

I received my BAs in Culture Design Management and Economics from Yonsei University. After graduating, I worked at Naver, Ralph Lauren Korea, and was a YouTuber. Channeling my experiences in new media, I decided to pursue my graduate studies in Communication to study media psychology to reform Korean adolescents' perceptions of taboo topics like sexual and mental health. My master's thesis analyzed the moderating effect of interdependent self-construal on social norming and behavioral intention in the context of condom use health campaigns. My interest in taboo topic awareness has shifted to the family setting, which plays an important role in shaping values and attitudes. I plan to research how family communication on taboo health topics occurs and what we can do to improve adolescent health and happiness. In my free time, I love going to farmer's markets, admiring designer fashion, and Facetiming my cat, Sally.

# Welcome, 2022 Grad Cohort!

## SOVANNIE LEN

I received my MA in Research and Experimental Psychology at San Jose State University and am excited to start a new journey in the field of Communication at UCSB. Broadly, my interest lies in examining culture (both globally and within an individual) and media effects. I have previously explored multicultural identification, microaggressions, and cultural intelligence in my research but that has since expanded to stereotypes/representation in media, fostering intercultural communication, and developing cultural intelligence using media effects. In my free time, I love exploring new worlds through reading and writing, drinking boba, and sharing meals with friends.



## MINGHUI WANG

I received my BA in Communication from Wuhan University and my Master of Communication Management from the University of Southern California. After that, I worked as a research assistant at Shenzhen University for a year, focusing on the perceived risks of online medical consultation and social media usage in HIV intervention. My research interest lies at the intersection of media psychology and health communication. For me, health communication means more than persuading people to adopt certain behaviors. It also involves fostering a tolerant and caring environment where individuals can make informed and rational health-related decisions. I enjoy cooking, traveling, watching films, and spending time with my eight-year-old poodle.



**UC SANTA BARBARA**  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION

# Welcome, 2022 Grad Cohort!

## BRITTANY WHEELER

I received my MS in Psychology from Arizona State University (ASU) in 2022 with an emphasis on social psychology. During my time at ASU, I developed and expanded my interest in cyberbullying and online harassment. Currently, I am interested in expanding on these interests to understand the connections between online harassment, morality, and deception. In my free time, I enjoy learning to cook, watching anime, and completing paint-by-numbers.



## VERONICA WILSON

I received my bachelor's degree in Interpersonal Communication from Sacramento State University and my master's degree in Communication Management from University of Southern California. I primarily investigate psychosocial determinants of well-being and how these factors influence life outcomes for vulnerable populations. More specifically, my research focuses on mental health and indicators of wellness such as stress appraisal, emotion regulation, social support, resilience and thriving. I enjoy being active in nature and I love activities like hiking, kayaking, disc golf and paddleboarding. My favorite video game of all time is Super Smash Bros and I love playing board games like backgammon.



Photo by Alison Schwartz

# Congrats to our Recent PhDs!

*Congratulations to our impressive graduate students for earning their PhDs and securing career positions. We are excited to recognize their accomplishments. Please feel free to reach out to our graduate alumni.*

## 2022 PhD Grads

**Dr. Monica Cornejo, Cornell University**

**Dr. Matt Giles, Ringling College of Art & Design**

**Dr. Lew Zi Jian, Nanyang Technological University**

**Dr. Debora Pérez Torres, CSU San Bernadino**

**Dr. Stephenson Brooks Whitestone, Santa Clara University**

## 2021 PhD Grads

**Dr. Camille Endacott, University of North Carolina, Charlotte**

**Dr. Afsoon Hansia, OMNI Institute**

**Dr. Frederic Hopp, University of Amsterdam**

**Dr. Gavin Kirkwood, Technology Consultant**

**Dr. Chelsea Lonergan, Fors Marsh Group**

**Dr. Roselia Mendez Murillo, University of Texas at Austin**

**Dr. Yoo Ri Yang, Baruch College**



## FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Hello! It's so nice to be back this year in person and with more certainty! If you are new to the program, I look forward to getting to know you. Please stop by my office to say hello! For now, you should know that I am from a farm in Minnesota, and love animals, children, sweets, art, a good blazer with jeans, and laughing. I also absolutely love our graduate students and want to make sure your graduate experience is the best it can be. Once a quarter I have a feedback session where you can share your opinions on what is going well and what our department can improve upon. One of my goals as Chair has been to make some important structural changes in our department related to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Last year this included things like overhauling our hiring practices, including graduate student representatives on each of our committees, and reconsidering the GRE and providing additional training on equity-based graduate admissions processes. This year we are discussing the undergraduate GPA requirement and brainstorming potential solutions that are more equitable. My other goals have been to build a stronger sense of community amidst the lingering effects of COVID-19, fostering community-engaged research, and bringing attention to mental health challenges. I also continue to push the importance of a cost of living adjustment for graduate students (and staff) with our administration every chance I can get. Finally, I wanted to say thank you to all of you for being so understanding as we have been working through the staffing shortages the past year. I am hopeful that we will be able to hire a graduate staff advisor soon. In the meantime, please let Jenn and I know how we can help you. I hope you have a wonderful year!!

**Tammy Afifi, Professor and Department Chair**

## CAMPUS WRITING RESOURCES

Improve and Become a More  
Productive Writer!

### Graduate Writer's Room

The Graduate Writer's Room is a quiet space located in the Student Resource Building's Conference Room (SRB 1103). On Tuesdays from 1-4 pm and Wednesdays 10-1 pm, graduate students can work on their writing in peace—complete with all the coffee and snacks they need! Arrive and leave as you need. Great for any student looking for a space to write without distractions.

### Writing Consultations

Students may request a one-on-one writing consultation with the university's Graduate Writing Specialist. Writing can be in any stage of development, from any discipline, and belong to any context. To schedule an appointment, please send an e-mail to [robby.nadler@graddiv.ucsb.edu](mailto:robby.nadler@graddiv.ucsb.edu). Please note that this is not a proofreading/editing service.

### Editors for Hire

The Graduate Division now posts a list of editors for hire. This is a third-party service to connect students with potential editors: we do not officially endorse the quality or services of anyone on this list, nor do we receive compensation of any kind for business that transpires through this list. Information about editing experiences, rates, and contact information can be found at <http://www.gradpost.ucsb.edu/writing/editing-resource-list>.

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[comminfo@comm.ucsb.edu](mailto:comminfo@comm.ucsb.edu)**

**Graduate Director: Jennifer Gibbs**

# Updated Research Grant and Travel Grant Policies

Update! We have revised our policies for graduate research and travel grants with the goal of being more equitable.

## ***Research Grant Policy***

The previous policy required grant submissions in fall and spring, that were evaluated by the Graduate Committee and either funded or not funded. Under the new policy, all grad students who apply will automatically receive a research grant **in their second year**. An application and follow-up report are still required. Application deadline: December 2, 2022.

## ***Travel Grant Policy***

All grads are eligible for travel funding, if you have attended and presented or participated in a conference. You may be reimbursed for air travel, lodging, food, and transportation and will need to submit original receipts. Funds will be distributed equitably, depending on conference location (domestic or international). The application deadline will be near the end of the spring quarter.

## Professional Development Workshop Series 2022-2023

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We will host one information panel per quarter this academic year. GSACC officers will facilitate the information panels, so they can tailor the workshop to meet the graduate students' needs.

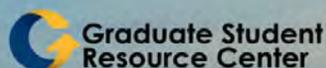
### ***Work-Life Balance and Setting Boundaries***

Our fall professional development workshop was on time management, managing stress and mental health, and learning how and when to say "no". Our graduate panelists included Chantel Haughton, Jesse King, Allison Mazur, and Nan Wilkenfeld.

Stay tuned for the winter and spring workshops. Each is held on the third Friday of the quarter at 3:00 pm in SSMS 1009. If you have ideas for information panels, please send them to GSACC All-Grad Representative, Cynthia McLeod ([cynthiamcleod@ucsb.edu](mailto:cynthiamcleod@ucsb.edu)) and Graduate Director, Dr. Jenn Gibbs ([gibbs@ucsb.edu](mailto:gibbs@ucsb.edu)). Your ideas are welcomed and appreciated.

In addition, we plan to have several job searches this year that will require time from faculty and graduate students; these too are outstanding opportunities for our graduate students to learn about job searches in academia.

# Campus Resources



## Fall 2022 Programming

### FUNDING & FINANCES

Finding Funding for Graduate Students | Oct 11 & Nov 15\*, 10-11a  
 Finding Funding for International Graduate Students | Oct 4 & Nov 8\*, 10-11a

### PUBLIC SPEAKING PREPARATION

Grad Slam 101 | Oct 14, 12-1p  
 Crafting Your Elevator Pitch (STEM Students)\* | Nov 7, 10a-12p  
 Crafting Your Elevator Pitch (SHEF Students)\* | Nov 15, 2-4p

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Pumpkin Decorating Party\* | Oct 26, 4-6p  
 International Education Week Community Potluck\* | Nov 17, 6-8p

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

Welcome to Campus: LGBTQ+ Grad Student Coffee Hour (RCSGD)\* | Oct 3, 10a-12p  
 Lunch & Learn\* | Oct 7 & Nov 18, 12-1:15p  
 Individualized Professional Skills Program Meet & Eats\* | Oct 13 & Nov 3, 12-1p  
 Graduate Student Association (GSA) Mosher Hall Takeover\* | Oct 17  
 Stories for Social Change (special workshop with Bri McWhorter)\* | Nov 7, 1:30-3p  
 Motivating through Meetings (special workshop with Bri McWhorter)\* | Nov 15, 11a-12:30p  
 Grad Student IdentiTEA (RCSGD)\* | Nov 16, 6:30-8p

### DIVERSITY, EQUALITY, & INCLUSION

Escape Room Workshop\* | Oct 19 & 20, Time TBD  
 Bagel and Hobby Hour with the GSA\* | Date & Time TBD  
 Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Mixer\* | Date & Time TBD  
 Graduate Scholars Program Multimedia Club\* | Date & Time TBD

[Check out  
Shoreline for full  
event details and  
to RSVP](#)

\*Note:  
In-person events  
are marked with  
an asterisk

# GSACC Leadership

## ALL-GRAD



CYNTHIA MCLEOD

## ABD



SANDI MOXLEY

## PHD



ALLISON MAZUR

## MA



CARMEN CHAN

## FIRST YEAR



QING HUANG

## TA LIAISONS



NANCY MOLINA-ROGERS

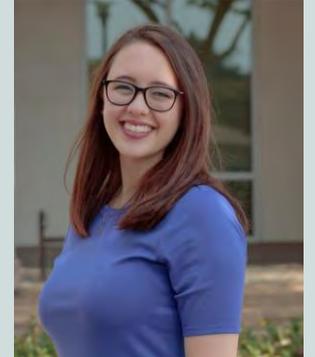


CHANTEL HAUGHTON

## OFFICE REPRESENTATIVES



KYLIE WOODMAN



JESSE KING

## COMM CHAIR



LINDSAY MILLER

## EXTERNAL OUTREACH



LAURENT WANG

## KNOWLEDGE BASE COORDINATOR



NITZAN NAVICK

## DEPT'L CLIMATE CHAIR



NANCY MOLINA-ROGERS

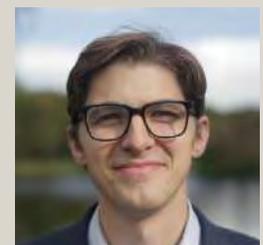
## DEI GRAD REP



JADE SALMON

## Graduate Diversity Advocate

Dr. Dan Lane will serve as this year's Graduate Diversity Officer for our Department. Each academic department on the UCSB campus selects a faculty member to serve as their Graduate Diversity Officer. As the Graduate Diversity Officer, Dan will take the lead in supporting graduate student interests related to diversity, equity, and inclusion within our Department. He encourages graduate students who have questions, concerns, or suggestions related to DEI to contact him at [dlane@ucsb.edu](mailto:dlane@ucsb.edu).



Dr. Dan Lane

# Grad Support: Meet the Graduate Committee

## 2022-2023 Graduate Committee



DR. NORAH DUNBAR,  
DR. JENNIFER GIBBS  
(GRADUATE DIRECTOR),  
DR. MIRIAM METZGER,  
DR. KAREN MYERS,  
DR. MUNIBA SALEEM,  
DR. MICHAEL STOHL

## Grad Support: Grad TA Coordinator

### DR. DOLLY MULLIN

Dr. Dolly Mullin provides pedagogical leadership and support to graduate students. Each quarter, she has the challenging task of working through graduate students' busy schedules and assigning them as teaching assistants (TAs) to our undergraduate courses. Dolly also teaches COMM 500 every fall quarter, which offers graduate students tools to develop their pedagogical skills. She works closely with many of our graduate students who TA the introductory communication courses that she also teaches.



# Grad Support: Meet the Staff



## CASEY HANKEY ~ BUSINESS OFFICER

As Business Officer, Casey provides management support to the Chair, and establishes and implements administrative objectives and policies for the department. Her responsibilities include academic administration and support, purchasing and financial management, staff oversight, and facilities management. She works with Dolly on the summer TA assignments.

## MICHELLE FREDRICH ~ FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

As the Financial Assistant for the Department, you can turn to Michelle for questions about financial issues and Department supplies. She also approves expenditures and reimbursements. Along with Casey, Michelle also has keys to the Department offices.



## MANDY CZARNECKI ~ ACADEMIC PERSONNEL & OFFICE COORDINATOR

Mandy provides administrative support for recruitment, appointment, and advancement for faculty and academic appointees, and also works with faculty to collect materials for their merit reviews and promotions. Additionally, Mandy processes payroll for both faculty and graduate students, manages course evaluations and places textbook orders.

# Undergraduate Support

**AUDREY FRANCIS ~  
STUDENT OFFICE ASSISTANT**



**ALISON SCHWARTZ ~  
LEAD SOCIAL MEDIA INTERN**



**FRANCESCA PALERMINO ~  
SR. UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR**



Francesca advises undergraduates in the pre- and Communication major. She also maintains a list of TA office hours, and provides add codes to undergrad research assistants for course credit. When your undergrads have advising, DSP, or add/waitlist questions, send them to the Undergraduate Advising Office.

**SAL GONZALEZ GARCIA ~  
UNDERGRADUATE ADVISOR**

Sal is a recent graduate from UCSB and now advises undergraduates in the Pre-Communication and Communication majors.



# Important Dates for the Academic Year

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1**

(10:00 AM—4:00 PM)

**FALL DEPARTMENT ORIENTATION  
FOR THE 2022 GRAD COHORT**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8**

(12:00 PM—3:00 PM)

DEPARTMENT **WELCOME BACK  
POTLUCK** AT GOLETA BEACH  
(BUDDIES INTRODUCE THE  
NEW GRAD STUDENTS)

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21**

21 (12 PM & 3:30 PM)

**BROWN BAG W/ DENISE SOLOMONE  
DR. SOLOMON - BRADAC LECTURE**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28**

(TIME TBA)

**GRAD FALL  
RECRUITMENT EVENT  
(ONLINE)**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

**CLASSES BEGIN**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14**

(3:00-4:00 PM)

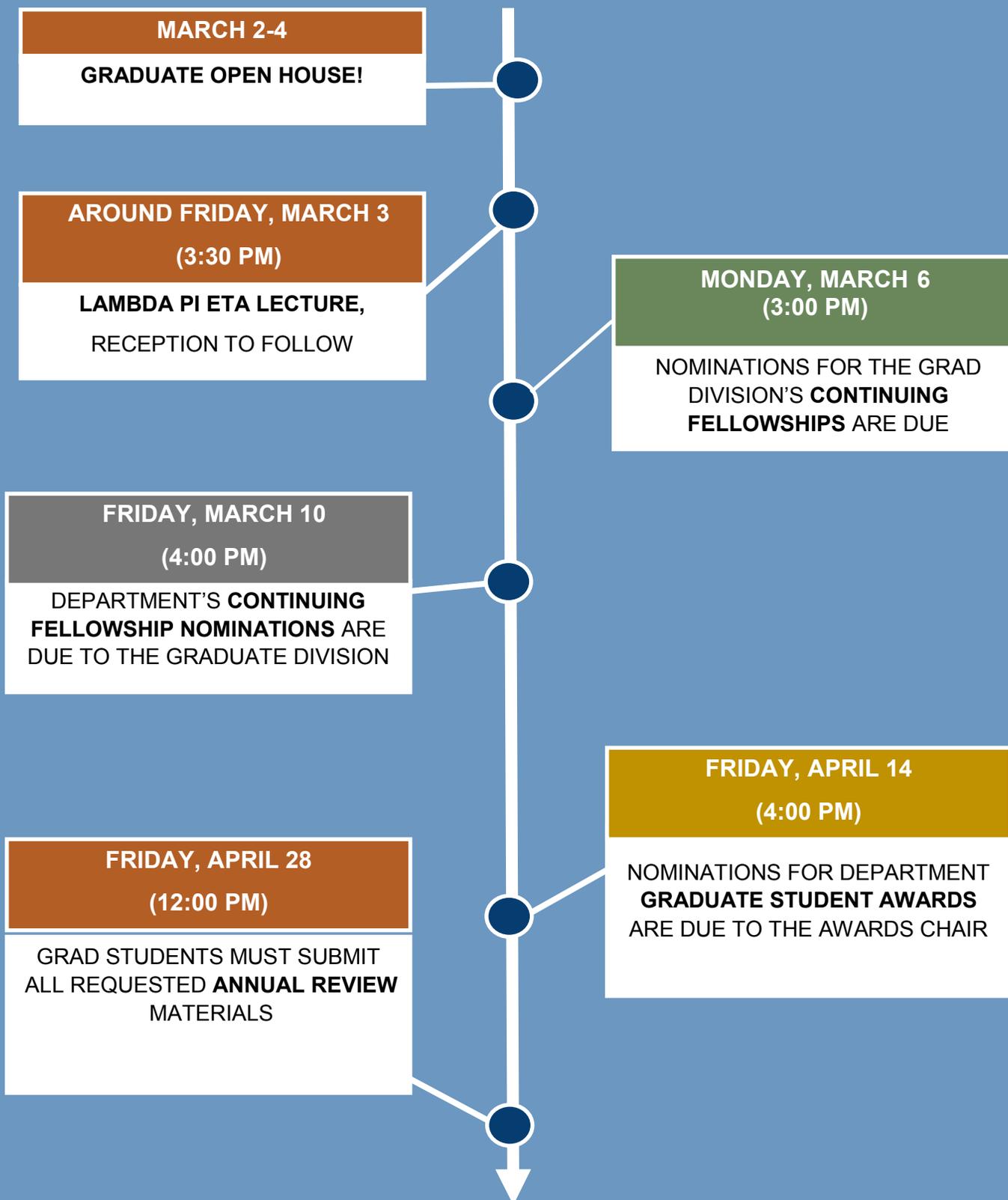
**PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP  
ON "WORK-LIFE BALANCE"**

**NOVEMBER 17-20**

**NATIONAL COMMUNICATION  
ASSOCIATION CONVENTION**

NEW ORLEANS, LA

# Important Dates for the Academic Year



# Important Dates for the Academic Year

**FRIDAY, MAY 19**  
(9:00 AM—12:30 PM)

**GRAD ANNUAL REVIEW**  
(FACULTY ATTENDANCE ONLY)

**FRIDAY, JUNE 2**  
(1:00 PM—3:30 PM)

**UNDERGRAD SENIOR HONORS**  
**THESIS PRESENTATIONS**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 2**  
(4:00 PM—6:30 PM)

DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL END-OF-  
THE-YEAR **AWARDS CEREMONY**

**MAY 25-29**

**INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION**  
**ASSOCIATION CONVENTION**  
TORONTO, CANADA

**SATURDAY, JUNE 17**

**GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18**

**UNDERGRAD COMMENCEMENT**  
AND DEPARTMENT **RECEPTION**

**MONDAY, JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>**

**SCHOOL'S OUT FOR**  
**SUMMER**

## UCSB Department of Communication Ranked 5th in the World

*In its Academic Ranking of World Universities 2022 global ranking by academic subjects, the prestigious Shanghai Ranking places UC Santa Barbara at #5 in the field of Communication. UC Santa Barbara is the only California institution in the top 15 for Communication, rising from #8 in 2018 and #13 in 2017.*

The Department of Communication was founded in 1985 when Professors James Bradac, Anthony Mulac, and John Wiemann separated from the Department of Speech and Hearing to establish a Communication Studies Program. When the PhD program was approved in 1990, there were nine full time faculty in Communication. Presently there are 24 full time ladder or senate faculty members, 2 emeriti faculty, 4 non-senate faculty, and 7 affiliated faculty from political science, sociology, technology management, and brain and psychological sciences. For a detailed timeline and history, see <http://www.comm.ucsb.edu/about/history>

### Faculty

Gordon Abra, Continuing Lecturer

Tamara Afifi, Professor

Walid Afifi, Professor

Norah Dunbar, Professor

Andrew Flanagan, Professor

Jennifer Gibbs, Professor

Howie Giles, Distinguished Research Prof.

Amy Gonzales, Associate Professor

Kristy Hamilton, Assistant Professor

Jennifer Kam, Professor

Young Ji Kim, Assistant Professor

Dan Lane, Assistant Professor

Dan Linz, Professor

Kenneth Harwood, Adjunct Professor

Dana Mastro, Professor & Associate

Vice Chancellor for Academic Personnel

Andy Merolla, Associate Professor

Miriam Metzger, Professor

Dolly Mullen, Sr. Continuing Lecturer

Karen Myers, Professor

Robin Nabi, Professor

W. James Potter, Professor

Linda Putnam, Distinguished Research Prof.

Scott Reid, Professor

Ronald E. Rice, Distinguished Professor

Muniba Saleem, Associate Professor

Cynthia Stohl, Distinguished Professor

Michael Stohl, Distinguished Professor

Nikki Truscelli, Lecturer

Joseph Walther, Distinguished Professor

René Weber, Professor



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