Fall, 2019

**August 12-23:** COMS Teacher Training Academy (First Year Cohort and individuals on a first-time GTA appointment) SCHN 508 (All Day)

**August 23:** COMS Fourth Year Doctoral Students meeting—Boase Room--10:30-11:30 a.m.

**August 23:** COMS Welcome Lunch (All members of our COMS community are encouraged to attend.) Baker Center 1804 Lounge--12-1 p.m.

**August 23:** COMS Doctoral Program Retreat: This year’s theme is Professional Life-Professional Branding. During the retreat, we will be joined by **Dr. Michaela D. E. Meyer** (see bio below). We will also engage in some fun and meaningful activities and craft collective and individual visions for the new academic year. Baker Center 231--1:30-4:30 p.m.

(Please note: The COMS Doctoral Program Retreat is required for all COMS Doctoral students. If a student opts not to attend, that individual is not eligible for travel funding for the 2019-2020 academic year, per the revised Travel Grant Policy approved by the faculty on March 6, 2019.)

In preparation for the retreat, please be sure to read our 2019 Common Read selection:

**Berg, M., & Seeber, B. K. (2017).** *The slow professor: Challenging the culture of speed in the academy.* Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

**Dr. Michaela D. E. Meyer** (Ph.D, Ohio University) is a Full Professor of Communication and Academic Director of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity at Christopher Newport University in Virginia. She is an identity scholar primarily interested in the intersections between communication, culture, media and interpersonal relationships. In particular, her work interrogates the complicated and complex interactions between media representation and audience reception. Dr. Meyer’s scholarship has received recognition from the National Communication Association’s LGBTQ Division and Ethnography Division, the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender, and the Modern Language Association. In 2013, she received the Randy Majors Memorial Award recognizing outstanding scholarly contributions to lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and transgender scholarship in communication. She is the author of over 50 academic publications appearing in outlets such as *Sexuality & Culture, The Journal of Bisexuality, Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal, Feminist Media Studies, Review of Communication, Communication Quarterly, Communication Studies,* and *The International and Intercultural Communication Annual.*

**August 24:** Kick Off Event (All members of our COMS community are invited to attend.) Stroud’s Run State Park Bobcat Shelter (1-5 p.m.)

**August 26:** First Day of OU Courses—Fall, 2019
August 30: COMS Performance Hour—6-8 p.m., Athens Community Center

September 1: Western States Communication Association convention deadline

September 2: Labor Day Holiday (University closed)

September 6: Research Brainstorming Session: Attend this session to discuss research interests and envision potential collaborations with faculty members and other graduate students. (All COMS faculty and doctoral students are encouraged to attend.) LOCATION: SCHN 508 -- 9:45-11 a.m.

September 6: Southern States Communication Association deadline

September 25: Wrestling with Imposter Syndrome—Dr. Stephanie Tikkanen (All COMS doctoral students are encouraged to attend.) LOCATION: SCHN 380--9:45-11 a.m.

October 4: Fall Break (Classes not in session; offices open.)

October 11: Central States Communication Association deadline

October 14: Alumni Spotlight—We will be joined via Zoom by Dr. Anna Wolfe (see bio below). (All COMS doctoral students are strongly encouraged to attend.) LOCATION: SCHN 380--9:45-11 a.m.

Dr. Anna Wolfe (Ph.D, Ohio University) is an Assistant Professor of Communication at Texas A&M University. Dr. Wolfe’s research is centrally concerned with understanding how we can disagree with each other without being violently disagreeable. In pursuit of this goal, she has investigated how individuals use language to form collective identities with and against others, how leaders use narratives to mobilize those collectivities for action, and how processes of dialogue and deliberation can build bridges between oppositional stakeholders to facilitate the achievement of deeper shared understandings and more democratic public decisions. Her work has been published in journals such as Qualitative Research, Management Communication Quarterly, Journal of Applied Communication Research, and Journal of Public Deliberation. She is also a member of the planning team for the Aspen Conference, a community of engaged organizational communication scholars focused on developing practical theory and collaborative research that bridge academic-practitioner interests. Consistent with the commitments of engaged organizational communication research, much of Dr. Wolfe’s current work is conducted in collaboration with community partners, especially local governments, to use communication theory in the service of addressing everyday problems of living in a pluralistic society.

October 15: Eastern Communication Association deadline

October 23: Small Group Communication Workshop—Dr. Laura Black (Doctoral students who are interested in learning more about how to instruct Small Group Communication should plan to attend.) SCHN 508 (9:30-11:30 a.m.)
November 4: Making the Most of Conventions—Faculty panelists (Dr. Christie Beck and Dr. Angela Hosek) will share tips on networking, professionalism, and goals for maximizing benefits from conventions. (All COMS doctoral students interested in developing convention networking skills should plan to attend.) SCHN 380--9:45-11 a.m.

November 11: Veteran’s Day (OU closed)

November 14-17: National Communication Association convention (Baltimore, MD)

November 27-December 1: Thanksgiving holiday (OU closed)

December 6: Holiday Dessert Reception LOCATION: SCHN-- 3-4 p.m.

December 7: Last Day of Fall, 2019

December 14: Fall Commencement

Spring, 2020

January 13: First Day of OU Courses—Spring, 2020

January 17: Spring Alumni Spotlight Panel, featuring COMS alumni who will join us via
Zoom to share their respective experiences in the academy, particularly with regard to their work in administration. (This event is REQUIRED for all COMS doctoral students.) LOCATION—TBA (2-4 p.m.) Confirmed panelists include Dr. Timothy Brown, Dr. Jennifer Scott Mobley, and Dr. Matthew Smith (see bios below). (One other panelist might be joining the panel, but I am awaiting confirmation from that individual.)

**Dr. Timothy J. Brown** (Ph.D, Ohio University) is the dean of the James L. Knight School of Communication and professor of Media and Communication at Queens University of Charlotte where he oversees the school’s curriculum, policies, program development and resource allocation. Prior to his appointment at Queens, Dr. Brown was a professor of communication at West Chester University, where he chaired the Department of Communication Studies for 10 years. He has held numerous other leadership positions at W.C.U. including special assistant to the provost and chair of the council of chairs. Dr. Brown is a rhetorical scholar whose research, teaching and consulting focus on the intersection of culture, communication, and identity. His recent publications include being a co-author of the textbook *Public Speaking for Success: Strategies for Diverse Audiences and Occasions*, second author of the textbook *Argumentation and Debate: A Public Speaking Approach*, and the author of “Public Memory as Contested Site: The Struggle for Existence at the National Museum of African American History and Culture,” published in the book, *U.S. Public Memory, Rhetoric, and the National Mall*. On the national level, Dr. Brown has been a motivational speaker and workshop presenter on leadership skills for the Federal government’s Leadership Assessment Program. Moreover, Dr. Brown served on the National Communication Association’s Learning Outcome’s Project to create student learning outcomes for the discipline of communication studies. Recently, he was appointed to the advisory council for the School of Communication Studies at Ohio University.

**Dr. J. Dean Farmer** (Ph.D., Ohio University) is the Chairman and Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Campbell University. Dr. J. Dean Farmer (Chair and Associate Professor) received his Ph.D. from Ohio University in 1999. He has been published in Southern States Communication Journal. He has given conference presentations at National Communication Association, Eastern Communication Association, Carolinas Communication Association, Southern States Communication Association, and at the International Conference of Learning and Teaching, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Professional career includes being a writer, producer, videographer, and editor in broadcast and non-broadcast television in video production. He teaches Organizational Communication, Communication Theory, Health Communication, Public Relations, Communication Internship, and Traditional Broadcasting courses.

**Dr. Jennifer Scott Mobley** (Ph.D, Ohio University) is a Professor of Communication Studies and Assistant Dean for Service Learning at Grove City College. Her teaching, research, and consulting work center on the nexus between organizational communication and visual communication. In her teaching, scholarship, and service, she works collaboratively to build strong college-community partnerships anchored in scholarship and reciprocity. As a Christian teacher-scholar, she has a proven commitment to teaching courses that connect theory with practice, conducting community-based research, and providing real world opportunities to help my students pursue their vocations. Dr. Mobley views this work as an expression of what she envisions as our primary calling: to love God and our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39). She has substantive professional experiences in career counseling, public relations, communication consulting, and applied research. She has worked as an event planner for a professional association, an associate director for a career services office, a project manager for a humanities center, and a freelance writer and continues to serve as a consultant for numerous businesses and non-profit organizations on a variety of communication issues. She has served as
the director of several grant initiatives totaling over $125,000 which has promoted experiential learning and community engagement at the College. Her work has also been recognized by the Jenzabar Foundation for creating an outstanding innovative curricular model for student leadership and civic engagement in 2009. In addition to multiple publications, she has served as a senior adviser to the president of the National Communication Association as well as an editorial board member for Management Communication Quarterly, International Journal of Business Communication, Kaleidoscope: A Graduate Journal of Qualitative Research, and Partnerships: A Journal of Service Learning and Civic Engagement.

Dr. Matthew Smith serves as Professor in the School of Communication as well as Interim Dean of the College of Humanities and Behavioral Sciences at Radford University. He earned his bachelor’s degree in English from West Liberty State College and his master’s in English and doctorate in Interpersonal Communication from Ohio University. He is the co-editor, along with Randy Duncan, of the Routledge Advances in Comics Studies Series. In collaboration with Duncan and Paul Levitz, he is co-author of The Power of Comics: History, Form and Culture, 2nd Edition. Smith’s previous collaborations include It Happens at Comic-Con: Ethnographic Essays on a Pop Culture Phenomenon and the Eisner-nominated Critical Approaches to Comics: Theories and Methods. Each summer, he leads the Experience at Comic-Con, with details at www.powerofcomics.com/fieldstudy. Previously, he was chair of the Department of Communication and Director of Cinema Studies at Wittenberg University in Ohio.

January 17: Back to School Happy Hour at Jackie O’s (4-5 p.m.) (Appetizers provided; all COMS faculty and doctoral students are invited to attend.)

January 17: COMS Graduate Student Annual Report and Awards Applications Due by 5 p.m. (Please note: All COMS doctoral students are required to submit an annual report, whether or not they want to be considered for any of our departmental awards. If a student does not submit an annual report by this deadline, that individual is not eligible for travel grant funding in the subsequent academic year, per the Revised Travel Grant Policy, approved by the faculty on March 6, 2019.)

February 12: Designing an Effective Course: Faculty members (Dr. Roger Aden, Dr. Lynn Harter, and Dr. Angela Hosek) will share tips on how to create a course (e.g., defining course objectives, selecting a textbook, planning activities, etc.) as well as examples of courses that they have designed. LOCATION: TBA (9:45-11 a.m.)

February 22-24: Western States Communication Association convention (Denver, CO)

February 28-29: COMS Admitted Students Welcome Weekend

February 28: Faculty Research Spotlight, featuring Dr. Lynn Harter. (All COMS doctoral students are strongly encouraged to attend.) Location TBA-- 9:45-11 a.m.

March 8-14: Spring Break

March 18: Dissertation Research Spotlight (All COMS doctoral students are strongly encouraged to attend.)—Location TBA (9:45-11 a.m.)

March 25: NCA deadline (Likely)
April 1-5: Southern States Communication Association convention (Frisco, TX)
April 1-5: Eastern Communication Association convention (Baltimore, MD)

April 8: Dissertation Research Spotlight (All COMS doctoral students are strongly encouraged to attend.) — Location TBA (9:45-11 a.m.)

April 14-19: Central States Communication Association convention (Chicago, IL)

April 24: COMS Awards Reception and Ceremony — Location TBA (4-6 p.m.)