

**Maria Blevins, PhD**  
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### **Education**

**University of Utah** Salt Lake City, UT  
**Ph.D. Communication Studies** May 2015

Advisor: Connie Bullis, Ph.D.

Areas of Study: Organizational Communication, Conflict, Environmental Communication

**University of Montana** Missoula, MT  
**M.A. Organizational Communication Studies** December 2007

Magna cum Laude

Advisor: Betsy Bach, Ph.D.

Area of Study: Training and Development

Professional Paper: The Socialization of the Seasonal Employee

**University of Montana** Missoula, MT  
**Graduate Certificate in Natural Resources Alternative  
Dispute Resolution** December 2007

**University of Maine at Machias** Machias, ME  
**B.S. Recreation Management** May 1998

Area of Study: Park Interpretation  
Magna cum Laude

### **Teaching Experience**

**Utah Valley University**  
**Assistant Professor, Communication Department,** August 2014-Present  
Lecturer, Communication Department August 2013-July 2014  
Orem, UT

### **Courses Taught:**

COMM 1020 Principles of Public Speaking  
COMM 2120 Small Group Communication and Decision Making in person and online  
COMM 350R Communicating in Environments  
COMM 350 R Communicating Happiness  
COMM 3020 Communication Methods  
COMM 3050 Theories of Communication and Culture  
COMM 4170 Advanced Organizational Communication  
COMM 4930 Communication Senior Capstone

**Graduate Instructor, Communication Department,  
University of Utah**

Salt Lake City, UT  
June 2010-August 2013

**Courses Taught:**

COMM 1020 Principles of Public Speaking  
COMM 3170 Organizational Communication  
COMM 3330 Conflict Negotiation and Interviewing  
COMM 5370 Environmental Conflict

**CLEAR Instructor, School of Engineering,  
University of Utah**

Salt Lake City, UT  
August 2009- May 2012

Furthering the goals of the Communication, Leadership, Ethics, and Research program, I collaborated with engineering professors to design and implement innovative communication curriculum to assist engineers with communication. I provided students with personalized feedback regarding writing, public speaking, and working in teams. I also created and conducted a workshop for civil engineers that built skills in facilitating public meetings.

**Courses Facilitated:**

CVEN1000 Introduction to Civil Engineering  
MCEN4000 Mechanical Engineering Senior Design  
CS 6904 Teaching Introductory Computer Science  
BIOEN 3801/4801 Biomedical Engineering Design I  
BIOEN 6061 Scientific Presentations  
MCEN 7960 Communicating Technical Information: Principles and Techniques

**Adjunct Instructor  
University of Utah, School Of Business**

Salt Lake City, UT  
Summer, 2011

**Course Taught:**

MGT 3680 Human Behavior in Organizations

**Graduate Teaching Instructor,  
Missoula, MT  
University of Montana**

August 2005- May 2007

**Course Taught:**

Public Speaking

**Instructor, Presidential Leadership Program,  
Mindon, WV  
Christopher Newport University**

August 2003, August 2004

Created and implemented curriculum integrating leadership theory with experiential education activities utilizing whitewater rafting, challenge ropes courses, rock climbing, mountain biking, and orienteering

**Experiential Education Coordinator,  
ACE Adventure Center**

Mindon, WV  
May 2002- October 2004

Coordinated and facilitated corporate retreats and outdoor leadership workshops for companies, colleges, and non-profit organizations, utilizing whitewater rafting, challenge ropes courses, rock climbing, mountain biking, and orienteering. Designed and implemented innovative training utilizing comprehensive training models.

**Research Interests**

As the population grows and global climate change ushers in unprecedented changes to human/environment interactions, I am interested in the ways organizations involved with disputes concerning natural resource are communicating and how organizational identities effect that communication. Through research I hope to gain knowledge that will facilitate changes in organizations and institutions to support a more sustainable mode of functioning. The study of organizational communication theory offers a lens to investigate how organizations perform as actors in environmental conflicts. In addition, I hope to be a skilled facilitator in alternative dispute resolution for contentious issues regarding the environment. I hope to research and teach skills in communication and conflict resolution to help individuals who act within organizations to navigate conflicts in a changing world.

**Publications**

**Journal Articles**

Canary, H. E., Blevins, M., & Ghorbani, S. S. (2015). Organizational Policy Communication Research: Challenges, Discoveries, and Future Directions. *Communication Reports*, 28(1), 48–64. <http://doi.org/10.1080/08934215.2013.865063>

**Book Chapters**

Blevins M.D. & Blevins T.B. (2016) Using empathy in conflict, in Kellett, P.M. & Matyok, T.G. (Ed's). *Transforming conflict through communication: Personal to working relationships*. New York: Lexington (In Press)

Blevins, M.D. (2016) Participant observation in SAGE encyclopeda of communication research methods. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. (In Press)

**Submitted for Publication**

Blevins, M. & Brunner, E.. Complicateing the Bianaries in Christo's Arkansa River Project submitted to the journal of Environmental Hummanites August, 2016

### **Manuscripts in Progress**

Blevins, M.. Cloistered Advicocy predicated to be submitted for publication by November, 2016.

Blevins, M.. Calling on action for climate change: Utilizing structuration theory to enact change in organizatiaonl practies, predicted to be submitted for publication by March, 2017

Blevins, M.D. The Big Branch Mine Disaster: An Analysis of Silence Surrounding Global Climate Change. Predicted to be submitted for publication July, 2017.

### **Peer Reviewed Published Conference Proceedings**

Blevins, M.D. & Burien, S. (2012). Analysis of the Sustainability Culture in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Mechanical Engineering Programs. Presented at the American Society of Engineering Education annual meeting, San Antonio, TX.

Kedrowicz, A. & Blevins, M.D. (2012). Renewable and Efficient? Mechanical Engineering Students' Conceptions of Sustainability and Engineering Presented at the American Society of Engineering Education annual meeting, San Antonio, TX.

Blevins, M. D. (2011) Training Civil Engineers to Effectively Lead Public Meetings. Presented at the American Society of Engineering Education annual meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Burian, S. J., Barbanell, E. M., & Blevins, M. D. (2011). Avoiding Another Tower of Babel: Bridging Communication Barriers Among Students and Instructors from Civil Engineering, Humanities, and Other Disciplines in a Multidisciplinary Course. Presented at the American Society of Engineering Education annual meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia.

Kedrowicz, A., Blevins, M.D. & Light, E. (2011). 100 Freshman Civil Engineers: A Model for Integrating Communication and Teamwork in Large Engineering Courses. Presented at the American Society of Engineering Education annual meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia.

### **Academic Presentations**

Blevins, M. (2016). Calling on action for climate change: Utilizing structuration theory to enact change in organizational practices. Competititly selected paper presented at the National Communication Associaiton annual convention, Philidelphia, PA.

Blevins, M. (2016).My research has got me down: A collaborate roundtable discussion of the importance of considering the emotional impact of research in reflexivity. Cometitive Panel Presentation at Western States CommunicationAssociation annual convention, San Diego, CA.

Blevins, M. (2016). Emerging trends in the communication discipline. Cometitive Panel Presentation at Western States CommunicationAssociation annual convention, San Diego, CA.

- Blevins, M. (2015). Cloistered Advicocat. Competitively selected paper presented at Western States Communication Association annual convention, Spokane, WA.
- Blevins, M. (2015). Protect Our Winters: Collaborative Innovation to Combat Climate Change Competitive Panel Presentation at Western States Communication Association annual convention, Spokane, WA.
- Blevins, M. (2015). Water in the West. Chair. Competitive Panel Presentation at Western States Communication Association annual convention, Spokane, WA.
- Tobler, N, Colvin, J., Blevins, M., Patterson, S., & Lindsay, R. (2014). Panel Presentation: Teaching public speaking in the present while respecting our past: Maintaining curricular integrity in the online public speaking course. National Communication Association Annual Convention: Chicago, Illinois. Nov. 19-21.
- Blevins, M. (2013) Successful Natural Resource Management Planning in Springdale, Utah and Zion National Park: A Case Study in Successful Collaboration. Paper to be presented at the National Communication Association Conference, Washington D.C. **(Recipient of a Top Four Paper Award).**
- Blevins, M., Greenwood, J, Al-Temimi, M., Strickland, K. & Porucznik, C. (2013). Medical Students' Perspective On The Importance of Public Health Communication. Paper presented at The Society of Teachers of Family Medicine annual meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- Blevins, M. & Brunner, E. (2013) Over the River Under Examination: An Analysis of Space, Voice, and Binarisms in Christo's Arkansas River Project. Paper presented at the University of Utah Humanities Symposium on Space and Place, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Blevins, M. (2013). The Challenges of Creating a Network Between Disciplines: How Communication Scholars are Uniquely Qualified to Facilitate Interdisciplinary Classes to Solve Global Problems. Paper presented at Western States Communication Association annual convention, Reno, NV.
- Blevins, M. (2013). Connecting Organizational Communication Theory and Research to Applied Research Opportunities: Organizing Sustainable Design: How Organizational Communication will be Part of the Green Revolution. Competitive Panel Presentation at Western States Communication Association annual convention, Reno, NV.
- Ghorbani, S., Blevins, M. D., & Canary, H. E. (2012). Just Telling Stories? A Review of Policy, Organizations, and Communication Research 2001-2010. Paper presented at the Western States Communication Association annual convention, Albuquerque, NM. (Recipient of a Top Four Paper Award).
- Blevins, M.D. (2012). Obstacles and the Power to Overcome: Sustainability Education in Mechanical Engineering Programs. Paper presented at the Western States Communication Association annual convention, Albuquerque, NM.

- Blevins, M.D. (2011). The Big Branch Mine Disaster: An Analysis of Silence Surrounding Global Climate Change. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- Bullis, C. & Blevins, M.D.. (2011). Varieties of Recognition in the Workplace: Does Type of Recognition Make a Difference? Paper presented at the Western States Communication Association annual Convention, Monterey, CA.
- Blevins, M.D. (2010). Tim DeChristopher, A Failed Metaphor of Monkeywrencher. Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Blevins, M.D. (2010). The Socialization of the Seasonal Employee. Paper presented at the Western States Communication Association annual convention, Anchorage, AK.
- Blevins, M., Gale, M. (2007). Institutionalized and Individualized Socialization in Perennial Seasonal Employment Organizations: A Study of Socialization in the National Ski Patrol. Paper presented at the Western States Communication Association annual convention, Seattle, WA.

### **Media Apperinces**

- January 22, 2015 ). Right to Burn or Right to Breathe? Utahns Outraged by Wood Burning Ban. *Utah Public Radio*.

### **Published Papers (Non Academic)**

- Blevins, M.D. (2012). A Sustainable Collaboration. CLEAR Faculty Newsletter.
- Blevins, M.D. (2011). Engineers Engaging in Sustainable Design. CLEAR Faculty Newsletter.
- Blevins, M.D. (2011). Employee Spotlight. CLEAR Faculty Newsletter.
- Blevins, M.D. (2011). Mechanical Engineers and Sustainable Design Practices. CLEAR Student Newsletter.
- Blevins, M.D. (2010). Reducing Anxiety When Public Speaking. CLEAR Student Newsletter.
- Blevins, M.D. (2010). Question and Answer for Visual Aids. CLEAR Student Newsletter.
- Blevins, M.D. (2009). The Stages of Group Development. CLEAR Faculty Newsletter.
- Blevins, M.D. (2010). RMS Southwest Chapter Float-Colorado River: Since When Does the NPS Run Commercial Rafting Trips? *River Management Society Journal*, 23(3), 25.
- Blevins, M.D. (2008). Madison River Special Recreation Permit. Montana, Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.

### **Invited Lectures**

- Happiness and Communicaion (2015) Communicaion Club, Utah Valley Univeristy Orem, UT
- Creating a path in the field of recreation management (2015) Sentior Capstone Class, Recreation Management Utah Valley Univeristy Orem, UT
- Teamwork and Conflict Mitigation. (2012). Workshop presented at Bioengineering Graduate Seminar, Salt Lake City, UT.

Comprehensive Training for Seasonal Employees. (2008). Workshop presented at the Montana Parks and Recreation Association, Helena, MT, (with Jamie Saitta).

Professional Communication, Interviewing Skills. (2007). Guest Lecture in COMM 220 Professional Communication, Missoula, MT.

### **Consultant Work**

University of Utah Medical School, Presentation on Communication for Medical Students, Spring 2011, 2012.

Eii International (engineering firm), Consultation on Teamwork and Group Communication, Fall 2010.

### **Professional Development**

Ex-officio Game Warden Training,  
Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks May 2008

How to Manage the NEPA Process and Write Effective NEPA Documents,  
The Shippley Group February 2008

Effectively Facilitating a Meeting,  
University of Montana March 2007

### **Professional Organizations**

National Communication Association  
Western States Communication Association

### **Professional Service**

Panel Chair, Western States Communication Association, Organizational Communication Interest Group, 2016

Panel Chair, Western States Communication Association, Environmental Communication Interest Group, 2016

Capitol Reef Field Station Advisory Committee (2014-present) Utah Valley University

Chair of Environmental Interest Group, Western States Communication Association, 2015

Club Advisor (2013), National Communication Association Student Section, Utah Valley University

Manuscript Reviewer, Western States Communication Association, Organizational Communication, 2015

Secretary of Organizational Communication Interest Group, Western States Communication Association, 2013-2015

Manuscript Reviewer, Western States Communication Association, Organizational Communication, 2014

Manuscript Reviewer, National Communication Association, Environmental Division, 2013

Panel Chair, Western States Communication Association, Organizational Communication Interest Group, 2013

Manuscript Reviewer, National Communication Association, Environmental Division, 2012

Manuscript Reviewer, Western States Communication Association, Environmental Interest Group, 2012

Student Representative to the National Communication Association, Environmental Division Leadership Team, 2011-2012

Graduate Student Representative on the Sustainable Campus Initiative Fund Allocation Committee, University of Utah. 2011-2013

Student Representative to the National Communication Association Environmental Communication Division

Representative, Department of Communication Studies, Graduate Student Association, University of Utah, Fall 2010-Spring 2011

Graduate Student Representative, Water as a Human Right Water Conference Planning Committee, University of Utah, February 2011

Graduate Student Representative from the University of Utah to the Rocky Mountain Sustainability Summit, February, 2011

Representative, Department of Communication Studies, Graduate Student Association, University of Montana, Fall 2006- Spring 2007

Student Senate President, University of Maine, Machias, 1996-1997

Student Senate Representative and Secretary, Glendale Community College, Glendale, AZ, 1995-1996

### **Honors and Awards**

Recipient of the Floyd O'Neil Scholarship 2013

Selected to attend the NCA Doctoral Honors Seminar, Summer 2013



Recipient of the Marriner S. Eccles Graduate Fellowship, University of Utah, 2013

Funded Graduate Teaching Assistantship, University of Utah, 2009-2013.

Travel Stipend, Granted by the University of Utah Graduate School and Department of Communication 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013.

Summer research funding through the Department of Engineering at the University of Utah, 2010.

Travel Stipend, Granted by the Department of Communication Studies, University of Montana, November 2005, 2007.

Funded Graduate Teaching Assistantship, University of Montana, Department of Communication 2005-2007.

University of Maine at Machias Academic Scholarship, 1996-1998.

Glendale Community College Academic Scholarship, 1995-1996.

National Community College Symposium, Student Representative of Glendale Community College, Washington DC, March 1996.

### **Professional Experience**

**Whitewater Rafting Guide,**  
Ace Adventure Center/Snake River Park/  
Lewis and Clark Rafting

Oak Hill, WV/Jackson, WY  
March 2001-August 2012  
Summer Employment

Inspired teams of paddlers to navigate class I-V whitewater on the Snake River, the New River, and the Gauley River. Taught guests to paddle and encouraged them to work cooperatively while maintaining safety. Provided exceptional customer service.

**Madison River Manager,**  
Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

Bozeman, MT  
October 2007-September 2008

Designed and implemented a Special Recreation Permit in conjunction with Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks and the Bureau of Land Management. Facilitated community meetings in which stakeholders on the Madison River were able to collaborate on river management issues. Collaborated with the Headwaters Institute, The Sun Ranch Institute and The Madison River Foundation to host the first Madison River Guide event to enhance a sense of community on the Madison River. Communicated with public and other agencies during the September 2008 Hebgen Dam emergency.

**Program Executive/ Resident Camp Director,**  
Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine Council

Prescott, AZ  
May 1998- January 2001

Created cutting-edge programs and events for girls and adult volunteers to build skills in outdoor

leadership, group dynamics, and team building. Facilitated community interaction between schools, businesses, girls, media, and adult volunteers to help girls gain life skills and self-esteem. Recruited, hired, trained, and performed human resources role for an on-site staff of 50.