

**MELISSA MCNELIS**  
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## **EDUCATION**

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- Ph.D. The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona** **Anticipated May 2017**  
The Department of Communication  
Minor: Family Studies and Human Development  
*Dissertation:* Exploring Gray Divorce Through Attachment, Communication, and  
Repartnering  
*Committee Members:* Dr. Chris Segrin, Dr. Maggie Pitts, Dr. Joe Bonito
- M.A. Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama** **Spring 2013**  
Communication and Journalism Department  
*Thesis:* Relational Deception: 'Til Facebook Do Us Part  
*Committee Members:* Dr. Susan Waters, Dr. Robert Agne, Dr. Mary Helen Brown
- B.A. James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Virginia** **Spring 2011**  
Major: Communication Studies, Organizational Communication Concentration  
Major: Modern Foreign Language, Spanish  
Minor: Medical Spanish
- Study Abroad Program** in Salamanca, Spain - 6 week Semester **May 2010**  
Lived with host family and participated in total Spanish immersion program.  
Enrolled in 3 Spanish Literature classes taken at the Universidad de Salamanca.  
Traveled with classmates on educational and social excursions to various locations in Spain  
and Portugal.

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## **EMPLOYMENT**

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### **THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA** **DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION**

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- Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Chris Segrin** **Fall 2013-present**
- Graduate Teaching Associate** **Spring 2014-present**

**Communication and Public Relations, (Fall 2016):** This is an upper-level stand-alone online course taught to approximately 37 students for 1.5 hours twice a week. The course provides a foundation for the understanding and practice of public relations with theory and principles that guide its practice, and apply coursework to public relations projects and build a public relations portfolio.

**Communication and Public Relations (online), (Summer 2016):** This is an upper-level stand-alone online course taught to approximately 37 students five days per week for five weeks. The course provides a foundation for the understanding and practice of public relations with theory and principles that guide its practice, and apply coursework to public relations projects and build a public relations portfolio.

**Applied Organizational Communication, (Spring 2016):** This is an upper division stand-alone lecture that occurs once per week for 2.5 hours with 35 students. Students analyze organizational communication processes, and develop interpersonal, presentational, and group communication skills that are useful in business, governmental, and professional organizations.

**Communication Theory, (Fall 2015):** This is an upper division stand-alone lecture that occurs once per week for 2.5 hours with 35 students. This course is one of three classes required for undergraduate admission to the Communication major. The course focuses on the origin and development of basic concepts in communication theory and research, survey, and analysis of theories and models in research.

**Communication and Public Relations (online), (Summer 2015):** This is an upper-level stand-alone online course taught to approximately 30 students five days per week for five weeks. The course provides a foundation for the understanding and practice of public relations with theory and principles that guide its practice, and apply coursework to public relations projects and build a public relations portfolio.

**Introduction to Interpersonal Communication, (Spring 2015):** This is an introductory course stand-alone lecture that occurs three times a week taught to 37 students. Students gain knowledge of basic interpersonal communication principles and apply principles in everyday interpersonal settings. Students involved in the FOCUS program with interpersonal skills and learning disabilities audited the course.

**Introduction to Small Group Communication, (Spring 2014, Fall 2014):** This is an introductory stand-alone lecture that met three times a week with approximately 30 students. The course is designed to explore how communication functions in small groups. In this course communication concepts are applied to actual situations as students participate in small groups throughout the semester.

#### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

**Fall 2013**

**Communication Theory:** Responsibilities included shadowing an instructor for group lectures twice a week and holding four discussion labs once a week for 120 students total. Additional tasks involved grading in-class activities, exams, and papers, holding office hours, and discussion lab preparation.

#### **AUBURN UNIVERSITY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION AND JOURNALISM**

**Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Robert Agne**

**Fall 2011-Spring 2013**

**Graduate Teaching Associate**

**Fall 2012-Spring 2013**

**Public Speaking:** This is a university required introductory course to public speaking. This consisted of a teaching a 2-3-course load of 30 undergraduate students each. The fall (2012) involved two public speaking sections, while the spring (2013) comprised three sections. Responsibilities included lesson plans, teaching three times per week, holding office hours, grading in-class assignments and exams, and evaluating five speeches per student.

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**

**Fall 2011-Spring 2012**

**Public Speaking:** This is a university required introductory course to public speaking. Duties involved shadowing 2 instructors per semester, for 2 semesters. Responsibilities included grading, evaluating, and teaching eight lessons in total.

**Student-Athlete Tutor, Public Speaking**

**Fall 2012-Spring 2013**

Assisted 4 students per semester (approximately 25 hours per week) write and present five speeches per student, compiling study guides, and holding group and individual review sessions for exams.

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**PUBLICATIONS**

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Segrin, C., **McNelis, M.**, Swiatkowski, P. (2016). Social skills, social support, and psychological distress: A test of the social skills deficit vulnerability model. *Human Communication Research*. 42, 122-137.

Segrin, C., **McNelis, M.**, Swiatkowski, P. (2016). Social support indirectly effects problem drinking through reduced psychological distress. *Substance Use and Misuse*, 51, 608-615.

Badger, T., Segrin, C., Swiatkowski, P., **McNelis, M.**, Weihs, K., Lopez, A. (2016). Why Latinas with breast cancer select specific informal caregivers to participate with them in psychosocial interventions. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing*, 1-7. DOI: 10.1177/1043659616656391

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**CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS**

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**McNelis, M.** (2016 & 2015, August). *Effective listening*. Presentation given at the annual meeting for Psychology honors undergraduates who serve as peer mentors. The University of Arizona.

**McNelis, M.** (2015, November). *Celebrity magazine cover headlines: A content analysis comparing gender, infidelity, and dominant thematic frames*. Paper will be presented in the Mass Communication Division at the annual meeting of The National Communication Association, Las Vegas, NV.

Segrin, C., **McNelis, M.**, Swiatkowski, P. (2015, November). *Social skills, social support, and psychological distress: A test of the social skills deficit vulnerability model*. Paper will be presented in the Interpersonal Communication Division at the annual meeting of The National Communication Association, Las Vegas, NV.

Segrin, C., McNelis, M., Swiatkowski, P. (2015, November). *Social support indirectly effects problem drinking through reduced psychological distress*. Paper will be presented in the Health Communication Division at the annual meeting of The National Communication Association, Las Vegas, NV.

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## AWARDS

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**The Department of Communication Dissertation Award, \$700** **2016**

This award recognizes excellence in graduate student performance based on superior performance in scholarship, research activity, and promise of successful completion of dissertation work that will yield a meaningful contribution to the discipline. To be eligible, students must have successfully completed comprehensive exams and be working in residence on their dissertation for the entire academic year.

**Travel Grant, \$700** **2015**

Funding awarded from *The Department of Communication* at The University of Arizona to travel to the annual meeting of The National Communication Association, Las Vegas, NV.

**Bradley Graduate Award, Auburn University** **2013**

The most prestigious monetary scholarship award given to the graduate student with a high GPA, who does outstanding teaching and research, and who provides a great overall commitment and service to Auburn's Communication and Journalism Program.

**First Place Award in Public Relations Competition** **Spring 2012**

Internship with Edventure Partners, America's Natural Gas Lines (ANGA), Auburn University Member of Research Team that developed pre- and post-event survey and analyzed data through Qualtrics. Created a statistical analysis presentation on a limited budget. The team placed first in national Public Relations competition against 9 other universities in Washington, D.C.

**Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Commissioner's Academic Award** **2009-2010**

Recognizes student-athletes with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher each semester for that academic year.

**JMU Athletic Director Scholar-Athlete Award** **2009-2010**

Recognizes those student-athletes who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher each semester.

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## SERVICE

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**Graduate Faculty Liaison** **Fall 2015-Spring 2017**

Attended to potential hires interaction with graduate students at The University of Arizona. Reported feedback to faculty regarding comments and concerns surrounding graduate student experiences.

**Graduate Student Liaison** **Fall 2013-Spring 2014**

Provided insight on graduate student responsibilities and experiences to incoming or potential graduate students to ease the transition into the graduate program at The University of Arizona.

**Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), *Fundraising Committee* Spring & Fall 2010**  
Committee consisting of student-athletes, who provide insight on student-athlete experience, offers input on rules, regulations, and policies.

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## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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**Edventure Partners, America's Natural Gas Lines (ANGA) Internship Spring 2012**  
Member of Research Team that developed pre- and post-event survey and analyzed data through Qualtrics. Created a statistical analysis presentation on a limited budget. The team placed first in national Public Relations competition against 9 other universities in Washington, D.C.

**Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, PA Summer 2010**  
Intern for Jon Larrabee, Senior Strategic Planner: attended brainstorming sessions, meetings for construction plans, public relations and media. Shadowed an EMS paramedic network employee for the MedEvac flight crew. Set up and ran the network's stand at a local community fair offering promotional items. Additional duties included reviewing meeting minutes, planning agendas for future meetings, playing a "Secret Shopper" role to analyze network competition, and entering 1100 contacts into the Moselem Database file for future Public Relation use.

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## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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**National Communication Association (NCA) Current Member**

**The Association for Women in Communications (AWC) 2009-2010**

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## **GRADUATE COURSEWORK**

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*Dissertation:* Exploring Gray Divorce Through Attachment, Communication & Repartnering  
Committee Members: Dr. Chris Segrin, Dr. Maggie Pitts, Dr. Joe Bonito

### **Theoretical Coursework**

Independent Study, Dr. Chris Segrin

Interpersonal Theory, Dr. Margret Pitts

Nonverbal Communication, Dr. Chris Segrin

Theories of Social Influence, Dr. Kyle Tusing

Advanced Mass Communication Theory, Dr. Jennifer Aubrey-Stevens

Mass Media, Dr. Jennifer Aubrey-Stevens

Introduction to Graduate Studies, Dr. Jake Harwood

### **Family Studies and Human Development**

Independent Study, Dr. Melissa Curran

Theory of Human Development, Dr. Melissa Barnett  
Interpersonal and Family Theories, Dr. Melissa Curran  
Family Communication, Dr. Chris Segrin

### **Research Methods**

Multi-Level Modeling and APIM, Dr. Joe Bonito  
Structural Equation Modeling, Dr. Joe Bonito  
Statistical Methods in Psychology Research, Dr. Aurelio José Figueredo  
Research Methodologies I, Dr. Kate Kenski  
Research Methodologies II, Dr. Jake Harwood

### **Masters Coursework**

*Thesis:* Relational Deception: 'Til Facebook Do Us Part

*Committee Members:* Dr. Susan Waters, Dr. Robert Agne, Dr. Mary Helen Brown

Independent Study, Dr. Susan Waters  
Communication Theory, Dr. Mary-Helen Brown  
Quantitative Methods, Dr. Susan Waters  
Qualitative Communication, Dr. Overpeck  
Public Relations Theory & Case Studies, Dr. Brigitte Brunner  
Public Relations Campaigns, Dr. Brigitte Brunner  
Studies in Popular Culture & Mass Communication, Dr. George Plasketes  
Visual Communication, Kevin Smith