

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**SYLVIA L. MIKUCKI-ENYART**

Division of Communication

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

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### EDUCATION

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- Ph. D.**      **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2012)**  
Communication  
Dissertation title: *The Transition to Extended Family: Examining the Links between Turbulence and In-laws' Goals, Communication, and Relational Outcomes.*  
Advisor: John P. Caughlin  
Committee: Leanne K. Knobloch, Marshall Scott Poole, Constance H. Shapiro
- M. S.**      **Illinois State University (2007)**  
Communication Studies  
Thesis: *'A Daughter's a Daughter the Rest of Her Life; A Son is a Son Until He Takes a Wife': Exploring the Experience and Expression of Jealousy within the Mother-in-Law/Daughter-in-Law Dyad.*  
Advisor: Sandra Metts
- B. A.**      **Illinois State University (2003)**  
Speech Communication, Creative Writing

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2012 – present**      **Assistant Professor**  
Division of Communication, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
- 2007- 2012**      **Graduate Teaching Assistant**  
Department of Communication, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2008**      **Graduate Research Assistant**  
Department of Communication, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2005-2007**      **Graduate Teaching Assistant**  
School of Communication, Illinois State University
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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- Interpersonal communication
- Family communication
- Health communication
- Message production and processing
- Relational turbulence
- Topic avoidance and self-disclosure
- Uncertainty and uncertainty management

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Caughlin, J. P., Vangelisti, A. L., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (in press). Conflict in dating and marital relationships. In J. G. Oetzel & S. Ting-Toomey (Eds), *The Sage handbook of conflict communication: Integrating theory, research, and practice*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Scott, A. M., Caughlin, J. P., Donovan-Kicken, E., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (in press). Do message features influence responses to depression disclosure? A message design logics perspective. *Western Journal of Communication*.
- Stone, A. M., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Middleton, A. V., Caughlin, J. P., & Brown, L. B. (2012). Caring for a parent with lung cancer: Caregiver's perspectives on the role of communication. *Qualitative Health Research*, 22, 957-970.
- Caughlin, J. P., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Middleton, A. V., Stone, A. M., & Brown, L. B. (2011). Being open without talking about it: A rhetorical/normative approach to understanding topic avoidance in families after a lung cancer diagnosis. *Communication Monographs*, 78, 409-436. [**Lead Article**]
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2011). Parent-in-law privacy management: An examination of the links among relational uncertainty, topic avoidance, in-group status, and in-law satisfaction. *Journal of Family Communication*, 11, 237-263.
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Caughlin, J. P., Middleton, A., Stone, A. M., & Brown, L. (2011). Being open without talking about it. *Communication Currents*, 6 (6).
- Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2010). Book review of *Communicating to manage health and illness* by Dale E. Brashers and Daena J. Goldsmith (Eds.). *Health Communication*, 25, 775-777.
- Metts, S., & **Mikucki, S. L.** (2009). Personal idioms. In H. T. Reis & S. Sprecher (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of human relationships*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Metts, S., & **Mikucki, S. L.** (2008). The emotional landscape of romantic relationship initiation. In S. Sprecher, A. Wenzel, & J. Harvey (Eds.), *Handbook of relationship initiation*. Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
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## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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Middleton, A.V., Stone, A.M., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Caughlin, J.P., Brown, L. B. (under review). *Communication and information challenges for adult children coping with a parent's lung cancer.*

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Caughlin, J. P., & Rittenour, C. E. (under review). *The content and relational implications of children-in-law's relational uncertainty during the transition to extended family.*

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Rittenour, C. L., Georgetanakis, K., & Ramsdell, A. (2012, November). "Does my future mother-in-law really like me or just tolerates me?": Children-in-law's relational uncertainty during the transition to extended family. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, Orlando, FL.

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.** (2012, July). Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the International Association on Relationship Research, Chicago, IL.

Middleton, A. V., Stone, A. M., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Caughlin, J. P., & Brown, L. B. (2011, November). Communication and information challenges in the context of adult children's coping with lung cancer: Implications for education, intervention and support for families. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, & Rittenour, C. M. (2011, November). The transition to extended family: Relational uncertainty within the parent- adult child dyad. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.

Stone, A. M., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Middleton, A., Brown, L., & Caughlin, J. P. (2011, May). *The role of communication in caregiving for adult children of lung cancer patients.* Paper presented at the International Communication Association, Boston, MA.

**Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Middleton, A. V., Stone, A. M., Brown, L. B., & Caughlin, J. P. (2010, November). "She knew she was dying, we all knew she was dying, but nobody would talk about it": A multiple goals perspective on topic avoidance after a lung cancer diagnosis. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA.

- Scott, A. M., Caughlin, J. P., **Mikucki-Enyart, S. L.**, Donovan-Kicken, E., & Satterlee, K. L. (2010, November). Managing multiple goals and evaluating communication sophistication: Responses to depression disclosure. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, San Francisco, CA.
- Stone, A. M., **Mikucki, S. L.**, Satterlee, K. Middleton, A., Brown, L., & Caughlin, J. P. (2010, April). *Communication and care among adult children of lung cancer patients*. Paper presented at the Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Lexington, KY.
- Mikucki, S. L.** (2009, November). Relational uncertainty and topic avoidance within the in-law triad. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL. **Top three student paper in the Family Communication Division.**
- Scott, A. M., Caughlin, J. P., **Mikucki, S. L.**, & Donovan-Kicken, E. (2009, November). The Message Design Logics of Responses to Depression Disclosure. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.
- Mikucki, S. L.** (2009, April). A mother-in-law's experience and expression of jealousy and relational uncertainty. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Saint Louis, MO.
- Mikucki, S. L.** (2008, November). A theoretical typology of mothers-in-law. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, San Diego, CA.
- Mikucki, S. L.** (2008, November). Relational uncertainty in in-law relationships. Competitive panel paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, San Diego, CA.
- Mikucki, S.L.** (2008, April). Mother-in-law jealousy: Experience and expression. Competitive panel paper presented at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Madison, WI. **Top panel in the Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Division.**
- Mikucki, S. L.** (2007, November). "Tug of War": Relational dialectics in the mother-in-law/daughter-in-law relationship—A qualitative analysis. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL.

**Mikucki, S. L.** (2007, March). Attack of the green-eyed mother-in-law: An exploratory investigation of jealousy experience and expression in the mother-in-law/daughter-in-law dyad. Competitive paper presented at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Minneapolis, MN.

Metts, S., **Mikucki, S. L.**, & Smith, A. C. (2007, March). The challenges and consequences of emotion expression in close relationships. Competitive panel paper presented at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Minneapolis, MN.

Hunt, S. K., Angelos, J. F., **Mikucki, S. L.**, & Wood, B. H. (2006, November). Critical thinking and communication pedagogy: Assessing students' critical thinking development in the basic communication course. Competitive paper presented at the annual National Communication Association convention, San Antonio, TX.

Metts, S. & **Mikucki, S. L.** (2006, April). Instructional Diamonds: Illustrating Course Concepts with Video. Presentation at the annual convention of the Central States Communication Association, Indianapolis, IN.

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

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Guest Speaker. (2009, November). *In-Law Relationships*. Presented in Dr. Susan Sprecher's "Personal Relationships" graduate seminar, Sociology Department, Illinois State University.

Guest Lecturer. (2007, June). *Jealousy*. Presented in Dr. Susan Sprecher's "Personal Relationships" undergraduate course, Sociology Department, Illinois State University.

Panelist. (2006, March). *Graduate School: Is it for Me?* COM WEEK at Illinois State University.

Presenter. (2006, August). *Communication and critical inquiry: An overview of the portfolio assignment*. Requested by Dr. Stephen K. Hunt & Dr. Cheri J. Simonds, School of Communication, Illinois State University. Guest speaker for the graduate teaching assistant summer training program, Illinois State University.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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### **RESEARCH**

Karl R. Wallace Award for Distinguished Scholarship, Department of Communication, University of Illinois, 2012

Top Three Student Papers Award, NCA Family Communication Division, 2009

Top Competitive Panel, CSCA Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Division,  
2008

Outstanding Master's Thesis Award, School of Communication, Illinois State University,  
2007

## **TEACHING**

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of  
Illinois, 2010

## **OTHER ACADEMIC AWARDS**

Graduated *magna cum laude*, Illinois State University, 2003

Dean's List Honors, Illinois State University, 1999-2003

Honors Program Scholar, Illinois State University, 1999-2003

## **RESEARCH SUPPORT**

Marion Morse Wood Graduate Fellowship, Graduate College, University of Illinois, 2012  
(\$7,000)

Summer Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Department of Communication, University  
of Illinois, 2011 (\$3,000)

Ruth Anne Clark Student Scholar Research Award, Department of Communication,  
University of Illinois, 2011 (\$500)

Graduate College Travel Award, University of Illinois, 2011 (\$175)

University of Illinois Research Board Beckman Grant to study adult children's  
communication and coping following a parent's lung cancer diagnosis, University  
of Illinois, 2009, (\$16,140). Role: Co-investigator

Elizabeth Winter Young Doctoral Fellowship, Department of Communication, University  
of Illinois, 2007 (\$3,000)

Friends of UIUC Communication Travel Grant, Department of Communication,  
University of Illinois, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 (\$300 each)

Grant-in-aid award for professional development, Graduate Student Association, Illinois  
State University, 2007 (\$250)

Grant-in-aid award to assist with thesis research, Graduate Student Association, Illinois State University, 2006 (\$250)

## **RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS**

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**2009**      **Graduate Research Assistant and Project Manager for John Caughlin**  
*Communication and coping among adult children of lung cancer patients.*  
 Project supported by University of Illinois Research Board, Beckman Grant.

## **TEACHING**

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### **University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Division of Communication**

Current Issues and Topics in Interpersonal Communication (graduate seminar)  
 Family Communication (undergraduate/graduate lecture)  
 Introduction to Interpersonal Communication (undergraduate lecture)  
 Marital Communication (undergraduate/graduate online course)  
 Relational Communication (undergraduate/graduate lecture)

### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Communication**

Introduction to Interpersonal Communication  
 Family Communication  
 Small Group Communication  
 Undergraduate Open Seminar, Preparing to Study Abroad  
 Independent Study, Special Topic: Communication Research

### **Illinois State University, School of Communication**

Communication and Critical Inquiry  
 Communication, Critical Inquiry, and Political Engagement  
 Introduction to Communication Theory  
 Introduction to Interpersonal Communication

## **ADVISING**

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### **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Department of Communication**

Director for 8 Undergraduate Independent Studies  
 Kourtnei Brooke (2012)  
 Katerina Georgiarentis, M. A. student (2012)  
 Amanda Ramsdell (2011)

Erin Schandelmeier (2011)  
 Brandi Marinko (2010, 2011)  
 Leondra Dennis (2010)  
 Jenna Bedard (2009)  
 Kelsey Brown (2009)

Supervisor for 4 James Scholar Honors Projects

Jenna Brayton (2010)  
 Jill Klein (2009)  
 Brandi Marinko (2009)  
 Andrea Pierce (2009)

## **SERVICE**

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### **DEPARTMENT**

Committee Member, Graduate Program Committee, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 2012

Incoming Graduate Student Mentor, University of Illinois, Fall 2009, 2010, 2011

“Graduate Student at a Distance,” Fall, 2009

Peer Mentor, Illinois State University, 2006

Department Representative, Graduate Student Association, Illinois State University, 2006-2007

Committee member, Programming Committee, Graduate Student Association, Illinois State University, 2006

### **COLLEGE**

Committee member, Student Research Fund, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, 2012-2013

Invited Respondent, Undergraduate Research Symposium, Illinois State University, 2006

### **DISCIPLINE**

Conference Paper Reader, National Communication Association, Spring 2011  
 Family Communication Division



Panel Chair, 2008. *(Un) Conventional Applications of Theories and Models in Family Communication*. National Communication Association, San Diego, CA.

Student Reviewer, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 2008- 2011.

Reviewer, *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 2012.

Conference Paper Reader, National Communication Association, 2008  
Student Division

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Central States Communication Association (CSCA)

International Association for Relationship Research (IARR)

International Communication Association (ICA)

National Communication Association (NCA)

National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)