

Erin E. Blocher

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Academic Background

Masters of Arts in Communication Studies, University of Kansas, May 2007

- Areas of Study: Leadership Studies, Organizational Communication, Emotional Intelligence, Presidential Rhetoric, American Public Address, Political Communication, Mass Media
- Master's Thesis: *The Role of Emotional Intelligence in Political Candidate Image*
- Thesis completed under the direction of Dr. Mary Banwart, Advisor
- Cumulative GPA 4.00

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of Kansas, May 2003

- Minor in History
- Areas of Study: American Politics, Comparative Politics, Developing Nations, Terrorism, History of the American West, History of the Great Depression
- Cumulative GPA 3.88
- Graduated with Academic Distinction, Magna Cum Laude

Teaching Experience

**Instructor, Business Communication, Bloch School of Business and Public Administration
University of Missouri-Kansas City** (August 2007-May 2009)

- Faculty instructor for three undergraduate courses per semester in the department of Organizational Leadership and Marketing
- Designed and implemented new business communication curriculum and coordinated with the Dean of Academic Programs, University Career Services, and AACSB Assurance of Learning
- Crafted Executive Education Workshops on business communication topics
- Course taught listed below:
 - **MGT 301: Effective Business Communication** (F 07; Sp 08; Su 08; F08; Sp 09)
 - A writing-intensive Junior and Senior level course covering strategic business writing, business presentations, and business communication
 - Topics covered included proper format for business letters, memos, and long and short reports, audience analysis, message medium selection, and tone strategies for negative and positive messages
 - The course stressed public speaking and presentation skills, effective use of Power Point, and general business etiquette and professionalism
 - The class also addressed building an effective resume, interview skills, and career exploration

**Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Communication Studies
University of Kansas (August 2005-May 2007)**

- Instructor for two undergraduate courses per semester, with an enrolment of 24 students per course, while completing my Masters Program and Thesis in two years
- Received consistently high student evaluations for quality instruction and positive teaching style
- Taught all levels of undergraduate students and non-traditional students
- Courses taught include those listed below:

- **Coms 330: Effective Business Communication (F 2006; Sp 2007)**
 - Served as instructor for a writing-intensive Junior and Senior level course covering strategic business writing, business presentations, and business communication
 - Topics covered included proper format for business letters, memos, and long and short reports, audience analysis, message medium selection, and tone strategies for negative and positive messages
 - The course stressed public speaking and presentation skills, effective use of Power Point, and general business etiquette and professionalism
 - The class also addressed building an effective resume, interview skills, and career exploration
- **Coms 131: Honors Speaker-Audience Communication (Spring 2007)**
 - Selected to teach the Honors section for the KU Honors Program based on strong evaluations from the Basic Course Director and strong student evaluations
 - The course covered public speaking strategies, the use of audience analysis, speaker ethos, and research skills
 - The course included units on writing and organizing informative speeches and persuasive speeches, effective delivery, and overcoming speaking anxiety
 - Honors section also included a unit on invitational speaking
- **Coms 130: Speaker-Audience Communication (Fall 2005; Spring, Summer, Fall 2006)**
 - The course covered public speaking strategies, the use of audience analysis, speaker ethos, and research skills
 - The course included units on writing and organizing informative speeches and persuasive speeches, effective delivery, and overcoming speaking anxiety
 - Selected to teach for the summer session based on positive teaching evaluations

Kansas Youth Leadership Academy, Guest Facilitator (January 2007)

- Served as facilitator for leadership activities
- Day-long conference included middle school students from across Eastern Kansas

Service and Leadership

Coordinator, Bloch Communication Center (August 2007- May 2009)

- Center conducted over 200 per semester, offering help with written and oral professional communication including: editing, proofreading, brainstorming, and presentations
- Oversaw Peer Coach staff, marketing efforts, and communication with faculty
- Developed budget, floor plan, and planning time line

Bloch School Communication Curriculum Oversight (August 2007-May 2009)

- Coordinated syllabus content and sequencing for MGT 301 and 302 courses
- Oversaw hiring of adjunct instructors for MGT 301 courses
- Liaison to text book company, bookstore, and UMKC Career Services regarding course
- Invited to serve as a speaker and presenter for several University events regarding business communication and careers

Vice Chair of the Central States Communication Association Political Communication Division (2008-2011 term)

- Produced division news letters on a semester basis
- Involved in running division business meetings
- Preparing to serve as 2009 conference planner for the division

Member, Bloch Marketing Advising Committee (Summer 2008)

Served as writing consultant to the Bloch EMBA Program (Fall 2008-Spring 2009)

Presentation to the Bloch Advisory Council (March 2008)

Presentation to the Bloch Accounting Advisory Council (December 2007)

Facilitator, Kansas City Chamber of Commerce Business Brain Food (November 2007)

Presenter, UMKC Conservatory Alumni Association Resume and Cover Letter Panel (October 2007)

Invited Facilitator, UMKC Career Services and Women's Center Effective Business Communication Forum (February 2008)

Emcee, UMKC Career Services and Women's Center Professional Dress Fashion Show (February 2008)

B.B.A. Marshal, Bloch School Graduation (December 2008)

Faculty Advisor, Beta Sigma Phi, UMKC Sorority (since Fall 2008)

Served as Judge, UMKC Student Employee of the Year Contest (March 2009)

Submission Reviewer, Central States Communication Association Conference (Oct 2008)

Workshops and Executive Education Presentations

Effective Business Communication Workshop (July 2008)

- Presented a 2 day workshop to Preservation Housing Management, Kansas City, MO
- Session included all 18 people on staff, from a variety of positions, including administrative staff, accountants, customer relations associates, managers, and the Chief Executive Officer
- Topics covered included personal communication styles, business document formats, message strategies, communication concepts, the revising process, a grammar review, group communication, and customer service

Academic Writing Workshop (January 2009)

- Presented a 2 hour workshop to 40 students in the Bloch School of Business Executive MBA Class
- Topics covered included the writing process, the elements of writing, organization, thesis development, a grammar review, and Bloom's Taxonomy of Higher Order Thinking

Research Activities

2006 Midterm Election Research Team (August 2006-December 2006)

- Collected data on political advertisements, candidate websites, and races across the nation
- Collaborated with Dr. Mary Banwart, Principal Investigator, and group of undergraduate research assistants at the University of Kansas
- Research conducted in conjunction with multiple Universities

Political Debate Research Assistant (May and June 2007)

- Served as research assistant for Dr. Mary Banwart, Principal Investigator
- Watched and coded political debate footage for content analysis research

Conference Paper Presentations

Crossing Over in Political Communication: Making Links with Other Communication Contexts, a panel Co-Sponsored by Political Communication and Organizational and Professional Communication, featuring "The Role of Emotional Intelligence in Voter Perception of Political Candidates," a paper presented at the Central States Communication Association Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 28-April 1, 2007

Making and Breaking the Mold: Political Communication by Influential Leaders, a Political Communication Panel, featuring "The Rhetoric of Realism in Washington's Atlanta Exposition Address: Acknowledging Black's Personhood in the New South," a paper presented at the Central States Communication Association Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota, March 28-April 1, 2007

Defining and Framing in the War on Terrorism: The Transformative Rhetoric of George W. Bush, a Public Address Panel, featuring “Weaving the War into America’s Story: George W. Bush’s Moral Justification of the War on Terrorism,” a paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference, San Antonio, Texas, November 16-19, 2006

Political Message Dissemination: Examining the Role of Media in U.S. Politics, a Political Communication Panel, featuring “Who’s Setting the Agenda? A look at White House Press Briefings and their use in Mainstream Newspapers,” a paper co-authored with Abbie P. Hodgson and Justin E. Mackey, presented at the Central States Communication Association Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, April 5-6, 2006

Educational Honors and Awards

Phi Beta Kappa: National Academic Honor Society (May 2003 inductee)

-Recognized for strong academic achievement while pursuing a breadth and depth of studies and a rigorous curriculum in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Kansas

University of Kansas Honors Program (Fall 1999-Spring 2003)

-Completed 27 honors credits from a variety of disciplines, graduated from the Honors Program

University Scholars Program, University of Kansas (Spring Term 2001)

-Among 20 top KU Honors students chosen annually to participate in a special seminar class
-Awarded monetary scholarship and a faculty mentor in Political Science

Mt. Oread Scholar, University of Kansas (Fall 1999-Spring 2000)

- Selected for program as an academically promising Freshman student
- Program designed to give special academic advising and networking opportunities with other scholars

Pi Sigma Alpha: National Political Science Honor Society

- Inducted as a 2002 KU Chapter Member for academic excellence and a high GPA in Political Science course work

Phi Kappa Phi: National Academic Honor Society

-Inducted as a 2002 KU Chapter Member for standing within the top 6% of senior class

Awarded Nelson Scholarship by the KU Political Science Department (Spring 2002)

-For academic excellence and outstanding undergraduate work in Political Science

Higher Education Experience

Orientation Assistant, University of Kansas (March 2001-March 2002)

- One of 16 KU students hired to lead thirty comprehensive day-long orientation programs to acquaint new students and their families with University policies, programs, and services
- Responsible for interacting positively and openly with 500 students and guests per day
- Presenter and resource person on social, personal, and academic issues
- Focused on working with a diverse student population, including non-traditional students

Spencer Research Library, University of Kansas (June-August 2002, June-August 2003)

- Supported the Special Collections Librarian at the regional history, archival, rare books, and manuscript library located at the University of Kansas, trained in minor conservation practices
- Cataloged and handled rare books and documents dating back to the 15th Century

Internship, Dole Institute of Politics, University of Kansas (Spring 2003)

- Coordinated volunteer efforts for Institute speakers and events, assisted staff with office tasks

Other Professional and Business Experience

Fundraising Coordinator, Agriculture Council of America (October 1, 2004-March 1, 2005)

- Solicited companies and associations within the agriculture industry to raise funds for the organization's primary event, National Agriculture Day
- Communicated with potential donors through personal meetings, direct mail, and the telephone
- Performed additional duties for the organization's parent association, the National Agri-Marketing Association, including membership analysis and recruitment and event support

Field Director, Taff for Congress (October 1, 2003-August 13, 2004)

- Coordinated staff, volunteers, logistics, and materials for large campaign events, parades, candidate's public appearances, and "meet and greet" events
- Assisted the Finance Director with fundraising events
- Managed literature distribution, "Get Out The Vote" phone banks, and yard sign distribution
- Maintained candidate's schedule, staffed candidate during public appearances and travel

Internship, Kansas Speaker of the House, Kent Glasscock (Spring 2002)

- Performed office duties and supported the Speaker's Communications Director and Legislative Director as an intern for the 2002 Legislative Session