

October Heffner

Ph.D. Student
Moody College of Communication
300 W. Dean Keeton
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Communication, University of Texas at Austin, 2025-Present

M.A. Communication (Rhetorical Studies), Baylor University, 2023-2025

Thesis: "From Father to Feminist: The Eras of *Call Her Daddy* and The Rhetorical Implications." Advisor: Dr. Jeff Nagel

B.A. Communication, Politics (Magna Cum Laude), Lake Forest College, 2019-2023

Minor in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

Thesis: "Analysis of Select Romantic Comedies from an Intersectional Feminist Lens."

Advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Benacka

Committee Members: Dr. Dave Park and Susan Long

PUBLICATIONS

Book Reviews

October Heffner (07 Feb 2024): Harris, Leslie J. *The Rhetoric of White Slavery and the Making of National Identity*, Women's Studies in Communication, DOI: 10.1080/07491409.2023.2297614

Work in Progress

"From Father to Feminist: Analyzing How Imperfect Feminist Rhetoric on *Call Her Daddy* Positively Impacts Activism," Master's Thesis at Baylor University, Completing February 2025

"Lady Bird Johnson's Rhetorical Use of Aesthetic as Political Leverage for Conservation," Article for Moody Grant, Completing February 2025

GRANTS AND AWARDS

NCA Student Caucus Travel Grant, November 2024

Baylor Communication Department Travel Grant, October 2024

Baylor Graduate School Travel Grant, August 2024

Moody Research Grant, LBJ Foundation, May 2024

Forget Me Not Grant, Alpha Phi Fraternity, January 2024

Senior Prize in Communication, Department of Communication, Lake Forest College, May 2023

Volunteer of the Month, USO Greatlakes Naval Station, April 2023

Coaches Award, Lake Forest College Football, January 2023

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

“Unromanticizing Romantic Comedies: The Harms of Patriarchy and Capitalism Represented in Early 2000’s Films,” “Top Student Papers in the Theatre, Film, and New Multi-Media Division, National Communication Association Annual Convention, November 2024 (New Orleans, LA)

“Analyzing Romantic Comedies from an Intersectional Feminist Lens,” Poster Presentation, Northeastern Modern Languages Association Conference, March 2023, (Buffalo, NY)

Symposiums

"Portrayals of What is 'Normal' Through Power Dynamics and Dominant Narratives," Panel, Student Symposium, April 2023, (Lake Forest College)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE IN ATHLETICS

Graduate Assistant, American Football Coaches Association, 2023-2024

Chief of Staff & Director of Football Operations, Lake Forest College, 2019-2023

Camp Program Director, Riding Instructor, Athlete, and Groom, John White Stables, 2011-2023

SERVICE

Reviewer, Lambda Pi Eta NCA, 2024

Reviewer, Undergraduate College and University Section NCA, 2024

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

National Communication Association, 2023-Present

Northeastern Modern Languages Association, 2023

National Coalition of Minority Football Coaches, 2023-Present

American Football Coaches Association, 2022-Present