

Benjamin Robert Gaddis

Education

Bradley University, Peoria, IL

Bachelor of Science in Communication and Political Science (double major), expected May 2013

Research Interests

Rhetorical studies; political rhetoric; humor; presidential rhetoric; the rhetoric of the Supreme Court and its ancillary members.

Research

Conference Panel Presentations

Gaddis, B (2012). "Great Job, Congrats! Here's a 5': Student Perceptions of Ballot Comments and Forensic COMMunity."

- Presented at the 2012 National Communication Association (NCA) convention.
- Research paper outlining how a breakdown in the communication on the ballot can lead to the dismissal of ballot information, when the ballot was intended to be a tool for future competition.
- A cross-examination of ballots from various forensic programs was paired with an in-depth analysis of survey results from individual events competitors in the forensics community in order to gain insight on the messages received from ballots.
- Evaluated the role of student feedback in per personal improvement
- Utilized Qualtrics.

In Process

Saturday Night Live and the Republican Debates

- Study examining how SNL framed the Republican Primary debates to not only highlight the separation within the party, but also the numerous candidates and their own personalities.
- Researching effect that candidate portrayals had on the electorate and political process.
- Utilized research from multiple journals, indexes, and databases.
- Part of senior capstone project, working to submit for future conference presentation

Teaching

Youth Instructor, *American Red Cross*, Peoria IL 2012-Present

- Instruct a variety of health and safety classes for the American Red Cross.
- Works closely with educators and fellow instructors to help create effective lesson plans designed to be engaging and educational.
- Works hand in hand with local hospitals and health departments to disseminate positive health messages.

After Dinner Speaking Coordinator, *Bradley Speech*, Peoria IL 2010-Present

- Head peer coach for After Dinner Speaking.
- Educate freshman on the power of humor as a rhetorical device.
- Design lesson plans to educate all participating members of the event on rhetorical practices, joke crafting and delivery.

Instructor, *Bradley Summer Forensics Institute*, Peoria IL

July 2012, 2011, 2009

- Built a program for students to progress their public speaking skills through daily lesson plans.
- Developed multiple forms of teaching to cater to various learning styles and disciplines.
- Taught lessons on organization, writing, persuasion, and the power of voice.
- Demonstrated the skills of effective public speaking for students to gain insight on collegiate competition.

Work Experience

Intern, *Stage773 Theatre*, Chicago IL May 2010-August 2009

- Handled social media accounts to connect publics with our events and operations.
- Helped assist and plan a two-week festival to encourage new audiences into the theatre.

Docent, *St. Charles Heritage Center*, St. Charles IL May 2009-August 2009

- Engaged 30-40 tourists on a 45-minute educational tour through the museum.
- Was responsible for the security, set-up, and administration of tours on a daily basis.
- Worked on creating new promotional materials and expanding foot traffic.
- Researched and documented histories in order to answer various questions of guests, and updated records concerning protocol.

Board Member, *Elgin Choral Union*, Elgin IL April 2008-August 2009

- Shaped Choral Union's policies by working and editing the bylaws.

Service

Department

The Bradley University Speech Team

- Served as the Team Secretary, organizing team functions and instructional activities.
- Actively planned and produced tournaments of national distinction: The L.E. Norton, Hell Froze Over, The George Armstrong invitational
- Collaborated in the research and writing process of numerous materials, topics including LGBT movements, political advocacy, processes of civic engagement and women's health.

Discipline

National Forensic Association, National Student Representative

- Served as the voice of the collective student body of the National Forensic Association.
- Attended frequent meetings conference calls to strengthen communication channels between students and executive leadership.

Community

Event Chair, *American Cancer Society's Relay for Life*, Kane County IL May 2009

- Was integral in raising over \$48,000 for the American Cancer Society by engaging a board of 15 members to success.
- Worked to engross the communities of the Kane County Area.

Relevant Coursework

COM 300	Communication Theory
COM 315	Intercultural Communication
COM 400	Communication Research
COM 417	Issues and Perspectives in Communication (Media Literacy)
PLS 301	Women in Politics
PLS 308	Modern Political Philosophy
PLS 360	Judicial Politics
PLS 493	Diversity & Citizenship

Awards

Quarterfinalist After Dinner Speaking (NFA)	2012
Quarterfinalist Prose Interpretation (AFA)	2012
Quarterfinalist After Dinner Speaking (NFA)	2011
Quarterfinalist Extemporaneous Speaking (NFA)	2011
Quarterfinalist Prose Interpretation (NFA)	2010
Deans List, Bradley University	2009
Nationwide Youth Heart of Relay Survivor/Caregiver Engagement Award, American Cancer Society	2009
AP SCHOLAR	2009
Eagle Scout	2008

Memberships

National Communication Association	2011-Present
American Forensics Association	2009-Present
National Forensic Association	2009-Present

References

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