



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES

College of Communication

August 2009

Greeting to Potential Graduate Students

On behalf of the faculty and students of Texas Christian University, welcome to the Department of Communication Studies. Pursuing a graduate degree is a big decision, and we look forward to answering any questions or inquiries you might have. Choosing the right graduate program typically involves thinking about the program's emphases, faculty mentors, research and teaching opportunities, departmental climate, location, and cost. With these considerations in mind, let me introduce our department to you in this letter.

TCU's mission is to educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in a global community. In our graduate program, we hope to further the university's mission statement by offering a close working and mentoring community. We focus intensely on a small number of in-residence graduate students, and our students develop fundamental understandings of communication theory and research. We offer a Master of Science degree in Communication Studies, with emphases in interpersonal and family communication, organizational communication, and instructional communication. For a list of graduate courses, see http://catalog.tcu.edu/graduate/page.asp?page=1_3_106#anchcourses We are committed to the integration of these areas of study, and our students develop both the content knowledge and the research tools necessary for conducting independent research projects (e.g., a publishable academic study, a well-designed corporate attitude survey, or a communication audit).

All full-time faculty in Communication Studies are active in research, teaching, and service activities. For example, in a 2004 issue of *Communication Quarterly*, the Department was one of only 3 Masters-level programs ranked among the top programs (including Doctoral programs) in the nation in research productivity. Combined, the Communication Studies faculty have published well over 200 articles, books, and book chapters. In recent years, faculty members have received numerous research and teaching awards, some of which include the International Listening Association's Research Award (2009), the Southern States Communication Association's Communication Theory Award (2008), the Central States Communication Association's Outstanding New Teacher Award (2006), and more than 20 Top Paper Awards from the National Communication Association and other regional associations. Most important, the faculty have established a tradition of teaching excellence and a departmental climate conducive to mentoring graduate students.

Our graduates are qualified to pursue further study toward advanced academic and professional degrees, or to take advantage of a wide variety of professional opportunities in business and communication industries, including human resources, training and development, and managerial positions. Some of our graduates also continue their education in well-established Ph.D. programs.

Most of our graduate students pay no tuition. We offer Graduate Teaching Assistantships that will pay tuition costs and, depending upon the award, a monthly stipend to help students with other expenses. Our GTAs are provided with office space, a computer lab, wireless internet access, and the opportunity to work in either our basic or our business and professional communication courses.

Fort Worth, Texas is a wonderfully vibrant place to live. It is the 17th-largest city in the United States and one of “America’s Most Livable Communities.” From the Historic Stockyards, to remarkable museums, to the famous Sundance Square which includes an array of shops and restaurants and is located less than 15 minutes from campus, Fort Worth is large enough to provide the amenities of a thriving metropolitan area, yet not so large that it loses its Texas charm and neighborly feel. Other entertainment and employment opportunities abound in the remaining cities located within the Fort Worth/Dallas metroplex, including a variety of theatres, museums, professional sports, shopping, and media outlets. For more information, check out: <http://www.fortworth.com/>

To complete the application process, apply to the College of Communication’s graduate program http://www.communication.tcu.edu/graduate_admissions.asp. The deadline for fall enrollment is March 1st, though assistantships are awarded as they are approved, so early applications are encouraged. Applications for admission should include an application form, a non-refundable application fee of \$50.00, official transcripts, official GRE test scores, an academic/professional objectives statement, and three letters of recommendation. *We look forward to hearing from you! Please feel free to contact me or other TCU faculty members for information.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Schrodtd".

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