

Selected Spring 2017 MA Graduate Profiles



Madison Krall has focused her research on the rhetorics of health and medicine, with an emphasis in the areas of reproductive health, and more recently, fat studies. Madison's early work led her to partner with the Colorado School of Public Health and multiple community groups to create an original public service announcement, "Promoting Safe Sleep," for African American families in the Denver area. Additional accomplishments Madison is proud of include working as a media research intern for *Fattitude* the film and participating in local and national communication conferences where she has volunteered and shared her work on social justice issues including reproductive rights and body oppression. A winner of the Waveland Press Scholarship and the Rocky Mountain Communication Association Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, Madison will be attending The University of Utah this fall to pursue a Ph.D. in Communication Studies.



During her time in the MA program, **Kiki Miller** conducted a one-year project that included ethnography, interviews, and a campus-wide survey about millennials and the ways in which social media influences their political participation. She presented her findings each year at CU Denver's Research and Creative Activities Symposium. She was selected as a CU Denver representative of the National Millennial Community. She helped coach the Business School's Daniels Fund Ethics team to a 3rd place win in a regional case competition. This is Kiki's second master's degree (which she chose to begin after 5 years of working in politics), and she will be starting her Ph.D. this fall in Rhetoric and Political Communication at the University of Texas at Austin, where she will also be coaching college debate.



Laura Peuquet entered our program as a linguist and cognitive scientist pursuing a career shift. In the last year and a half as a Commgrad, Laura brought her work to four major conferences, worked with the Rocky Mountain PBS show *Cooking in the Dark*, motivated CU Denver to reestablish their Fulbright Committee to send scholars abroad, and traveled to Korea, Spain, and Italy for her research in food as communication under the guidance of Dr. E.J. Yoder. Laura will continue serving as a board member of the Theory and Research interest group for the Western States Communication Association. She currently provides public relations strategy and communication for small family farms and urban food justice initiatives and is developing the U.S.-based operations of Foodisms, a Barcelona-based urban scavenger hunt program.



Ashley Powell has focused mainly on organizational and interpersonal communication. She will continue to research conflict and boundary issues within National Parks with Dr. Larry Erbert. Her studies have also encouraged Ashley to pursue an internship with Rocky Mountain Center for Positive Change, an organizational consulting company in Golden, CO. She plans on seeking a job related to organizational

change and consulting.



Austin Sinclair Pride followed his critical senses through the fields of rhetoric, organizational communication, media studies, and health communication. As a staff member in the CLAS Media Learning Lab, he demonstrated exceptional patience and a willingness to share knowledge as a Creative Consultant, where he and his counterparts

saved many students from themselves. As a teaching assistant, he used his listening skills to learn exceptional teaching habits from experienced leaders of the Department who provided guidance inside and out of the classroom. Aside from his positions on campus, Austin also spent the semester as a Digital Design Intern with The GrowHaus, a food justice action center in Denver. Austin will begin the summer as an interim production assistant for the History Colorado Center, writing scripts and editing content for televised broadcasts, as he carves out his niche in our ever-increasingly mediated world.



Erin Sullivan focused on interpersonal and organizational communication, specifically looking at stress in organizations and how mindfulness practice can be utilized as a practical tactic to increase employee well-being. Erin served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant for one year assisting with Introduction to Media Studies and teaching

Business and Professional Speaking. She studied for a Maymester in China. Erin hopes to continue the mission of the Department by getting connected in the Denver non-profit sector working for a youth organization either in volunteer management, community outreach, or in strategic (crisis) communication.



After becoming involved with the prison teaching program Democratic Communication Workshop, **Sarah Sunderlin** became increasingly interested in family communication in incarcerated contexts. During her time at CU Denver, she was a Puksta Scholar, Waveland Press Scholarship winner, a winner of the Lael Porter Award for Community

Service, and the winner of the inaugural Dean's Graduate Student Service Award from the CU Denver Graduate School. Sarah is a Life Skills Educator and Job Coach at the Center for Employment Opportunities helping formerly incarcerated transition into post-incarcerated life.