

Communication

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Bryan Carr Joins Communication Department

The Communication faculty is pleased to welcome Bryan Carr to the department. He is a doctoral candidate at the University of Oklahoma and has been teaching various courses since 2009. At the University of Oklahoma, he co-teaches a course on Race, Gender, and the Media, and created his own course on video games. Next fall, he will join the Communication department at UW-Green Bay. We sat down with Professor Carr to discuss his role in the Communication department.



What is the focus of your Ph.D. program? I am doing my doctorate in the media arts field. It's mainly about how media are created, but also focuses on the cultural aspects of media. I am doing my work on issues of race and gender in popular culture and new media and how the issues are represented and how the people behind them are reflected.

What non-academic experiences have prepared you for becoming a professor? I did a lot of work in broadcasting. The whole time I was in college, I had a job working in radio. I've basically done everything you can do at a radio station -- on-air broadcasting, production, sales, promotions -- I've even swept and mopped occasionally. Short of actually running the place, I've done everything you can do (he laughs). I've had my own podcasting network since 2006, and I've also worked in television, doing behind-the-scenes work.

What courses will you be teaching at UW-Green Bay? I'll be teaching Introduction to Communication, Electronic Media Advertising Campaigns, Radio Broadcasting, and Information, Media, and Society.

What are your expectations for your students? My expectation for the students is to not only learn the material by taking tests and doing assignments, but really look at the issues that get brought up in class. I want students to learn how analyzing these issues can help them in their lives and in their future careers. I want my students to think about the world around them and how communication and mass communication are a part of that. My expectation for myself is to be wonderful for the students, and I want them to be wonderful, as well.

What is your teaching philosophy? I generally tell students that all of the different ideas we talk about in classes and different disciplines eventually come back in other forms. If you can understand certain things, you can understand other things. You can keep building on that and

learn a little bit of everything as you go through your program. I try to connect everything. I also really believe that you learn by doing. I value student input and I try to get conversations going and engage them in class to contribute their experiences and their ideas.

As you know, there have been many recent changes to the Communication department.

What do you see as your role in the department? My role as I see it is to use the skills, knowledge and experience I have to support and strengthen the overall department. I think what they have done with redesigning the curriculum is wonderful. My goal is to use the skills I have to expand upon it and really get students involved and engaged.

What do you like to do in your spare time? In whatever free time I do have, which has been increasingly little lately, I like to take my dog for walks. I'm kind of a homebody, so I like to play video games for fun and to unwind. I also enjoy going to the movies and reading.

What excites you about coming to UW-Green Bay? The students. When I came to the university for the first time the thing that struck me was how engaged and interested the students were. **I see a lot of bright, very wonderful students with a lot of potential.** I also had the chance to meet all of the communication faculty; I think they are great people, very warm and welcoming. Everybody at the university seems very friendly, welcoming, and willing to help. I'm really excited about having the chance to teach. It's one of my favorite things to do in the world. I really can't imagine doing anything else.

Interview conducted by Communication Department PR Representatives Megan Tappa and Rachel Veldt