

Yonina (Nina) R. Witman

Graduate Teaching Assistant
College of Communication & Information Sciences
The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
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Education

M.A., Communication Studies (May 2024) *Interpersonal Communication*

The University of Alabama, GPA: 4.0

Thesis – *EXPLORING THE EFFECT OF GROUP EXERCISE INSTRUCTORS’ IMMEDIACY BEHAVIORS ON PARTICIPANT MOTIVATION IN GROUP EXERCISE*

Advisor: Darrin J. Griffin

B.S., Communication Studies (May 2018)

The University of Alabama, GPA: 3.98

Secondary Major: Political Science

Teaching Experience

Graduate Teaching Assistant: The University of Alabama (August 2022- present)

- **COM 123 Public Speaking (Fall 2022- present).** Lab instructor for up to three performance labs under Program Director, Dr. Adam Brooks and Assistant Director, Ms. Angela Billings. Responsible for developing student activities, fostering dynamic classroom environments, and grading all assignments, projects, and speaking presentations.
- **COM 100 Rhetoric in Society (Fall 2022).** Teaching assistant for a large lecture section under Mr. Brent Mitchell. Responsible for grading papers and assignments, creating and facilitating attendance quizzes, providing administrative support, proctoring exams, and responding to emails from students regarding class work and other relevant concerns.
- **COM 320 Truth, Ethics & Deception (Spring 2023).** Teaching assistant for a large lecture section under Mr. Brent Mitchell. Responsible for grading papers and assignments, creating and facilitating attendance quizzes, providing administrative support, proctoring exams, and responding to emails from students regarding class work and other relevant concerns.

Guest Lecturer (August 2022- present)

- **COM 320 Truth, Ethics & Deception**
 - “Assisted Lie Detection – Polygraphs” (March 2023)
- **COM 100 Rhetoric in Society**
 - “The Rhetorical Capacity of Thanksgiving” (November 2022)

- “Rhetoric in the Contemporary Political Landscape” (November 2023)

Instructor of Record: The University of Alabama (June- July)

- **COM 123 Public Speaking (Summer 2023 and 2024).** Introduction to principles, theory, and practice of public speaking with an emphasis on the presentational and compositional aspects of communication in formal speaking and presentation situations. Responsible for all facets of course implementation, syllabi creation, activities, and assignments, as well as grading of class projects and speaking presentations.

Conference Submissions

Witman, Y. (2022). *Truth in disguise: Confronting the effects and implications of aversive racism in trial jury selection and decision making.* – Accepted (Did not present). Southern States Communication Association, 2024.

Manuscripts in Progress

None currently.

Honors and Awards

- 2023 Outstanding Teaching by a Master’s Student Award, Department of Communication Studies, The University of Alabama (2023)
- 2023 Outstanding Teaching by a Master’s Student Award, College of Communication and Information Sciences, The University of Alabama (2023)
- Capstone Communication Society Memorial Endowed Scholarship, College of Communication and Information Sciences, The University of Alabama (2017)
- Samuel Claubaugh Scholarship, Political Science Department, The University of Alabama (2016)
- Outstanding Sophomore Award, College of Arts and Sciences, The University of Alabama (2016)

Academic Service and Community Involvement

- **Academic and Education Advisor, Kappa Alpha Theta (2022- present).** Serves as an education advisor for the Delta Omicron chapter, working in conjunction with chapter officers and fellow advisory board committee members.
- **Judge, Holle Competition for Persuasive Speech (2023- present).** Selected to serve as a judge for an undergraduate level persuasive speaking competition.
- **Judge, Oscar Newton Speak Off (2022- present).** Selected to serve as a judge for the annual Oscar Newton Speak Off, an informative speaking competition.

- **Judge, Alabama Forensics Classic (2023).** Selected to serve as a judge for competitive collegiate forensics invitational.
 - **Member, Junior League of the Golden Isles (2019-2021).** Served as a general member, participated in local service projects including community facility restoration and literacy initiatives.
 - **President, Lambda Pi Eta (2017-2018).** Served as a liaison between the students of the Communication Studies Department and the University faculty, worked with the C&IS Student Executive Council and served as a leading council member. Ran and coordinated bi-weekly meetings, service events and the end of year banquet/ induction ceremony.
 - **Chief Operating Officer, Kappa Alpha Theta (2016-2017).** Supervised risk management procedures and facilitated the Membership Development Committee, serving a chapter body over 400 members.
 - **Student Ambassador, College of Communication and Information Sciences (2015-2016).** Served as a student representative of the College, attended board meetings, and interacted with potential students and parents.
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Professional Experience

Yoga & Cycle Instructor, University of Alabama Recreation Center, *Tuscaloosa, AL*
January 2023- present

- Collaborates with fellow instructors and group fitness managers to create and execute cycle and yoga courses.
- Teaches up to 2 cycle classes and up to 2 yoga classes a week.
- Creates special event fitness classes for university student organizations and Tuscaloosa community groups.
- Works with UAUREC administrators and staff to incorporate findings from contemporary fitness research to improve cueing and instructor performance.

Yoga Instructor, Indian Hills Country Club, *Tuscaloosa, AL*
September 2022- present

- Works with the Director of Fitness and General Manager to create and execute a well-rounded fitness schedule.
- Teaches up to 3 yoga classes a week accommodating a variety of different fitness levels and physical abilities.
- Collaborates with a team of instructors to promote and classes and community events.

Cycle, Yoga and Certified Group Fitness Instructor, OMCORE Yoga and Body, *St. Simons Island, GA* - *January 2020- December 2020*

- Instructor, worked with team of ten instructors, to provide an array of challenging cycling and yoga fitness classes.
- Developed schedules and outline of course instructions. Taught five classes per week.
- Promoted studio classes and events through community groups and social media.
- Participated in and helped facilitate community wide events.

Development and Membership Coordinator, Coastal Georgia Historical Society, St. Simons Island, GA - August 2018- December 2020

- Developed, executed, and evaluated fundraising strategies, working closely with the Executive Director and the Board of Directors.
- Assisted in managing a \$3.8 million capital campaign for the World War II Home Front Museum, St. Simons Island.
- Maintained relationships and communicated regularly with 950 Historical Society memberships and program sponsors.
- Composed and edited membership renewal notices and ‘thank you’ letters on a weekly basis.
- Researched grant and funding opportunities for historic restoration and museum special projects.
- Composed grant applications and grant reports on a variety of sponsored projects and programs.
- Worked regularly with DonorPerfect database, running reports, and tracking donations, pledge and membership payments.
- Wrote quarterly newsletter articles on Society programs and membership updates.
- Assisted with a variety of Historical Society events, including concert and lecture series, and Board of Directors meetings.
- Planned and executed donor events including Society receptions and private donor parties.
- Planned and implemented donor recruitment events and programs.

Development & Grants/Membership Intern, Birmingham Museum of Art, Birmingham, AL January 2018–July 2018

- Developed donor recruitment and retention strategies and implementation plans for museum membership, in collaboration with museum development officers.
- Organized and edited grant applications.
- Drafted correspondence on behalf of the Development Office for members of the board and the Birmingham community.
- Created membership reports and works in Blackbaud database to ensure an organized and efficient system.
- Worked with Development Events staff on planning and execution of major events, including the Museum Ball and *Art on the Rocks*.
- Assisted office staff with a diverse array of administrative duties.

Team Member, Capstone Men and Women, The University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL January 2016–May 2018

- Served as an official ambassador for The University of Alabama.
- Worked regularly with the University President, the UA administrative collective, the President’s Cabinet, and the Board of Trustees.
- Collaborated with the offices of University Advancement and Strategic Communications on an ongoing basis to help implement the university master plan and scholastic mission.
- Participated in student recruitment trips and events as a university student representative.

- Led tours of campus for prospective students, alumni, and guests of the President.
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Professional Affiliations

- Southern States Communication Association – *Interpersonal Communication Division*
 - Alpha Kappa Psi – Business Student Honor Society
 - Lambda Pi Eta – Communication Honor Society
 - Mortar Board Honor Society
 - Blue Key Honor Society
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References

- **Dr. Darrin J. Griffin, Ph.D.**
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Director, Communication and Applied Theory Research Laboratory
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- **Dr. Adam S. Brooks, Ph.D.**
Associate Professor - Department of Communication Studies
Director, The Speaking Studio
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