

Joy Melody Woods Bennett

Ph.D. Student, Department of Communication Studies
University of Texas at Austin
300 West Dean Keeton Street
Austin, Texas 78712
Email: joymelodywoods@utexas.edu

Education

Ph.D., Communication Studies, University of Texas at Austin, Ant. 2023
Area: Interpersonal Communication
Concentration: Health Communication
Dissertation Title: *“At the Mouth of My Grave, While Tending My Garden: Fear of death and hope for life in Black Women’s conversations about reproductive and maternal health”*
Advisor: Erin Donovan, Ph.D.

M.A., Sociology of Education, The University of Iowa, 2019
Advisor: Brian An, PhD.

B.S., Political Science, Texas Wesleyan University, 2015
Concentration: Pre-law

Academic Appointments**Rutgers University, Graduate School of Education**

Visiting Scholar, Samuel Dewitt Proctor Institute, 2021-present

Stanford University

Fellow, Brainstorm Mental Health Innovation Lab, 2020-Present

University of Texas at Austin

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Communication Studies, 2020-Present
Doctoral Fellow, Center for Health Communication, 2019-2020
Graduate Mentoring Fellowship, 2019-2020

The University of Iowa

American College Testing (ACT *endowed) Scholarship, 2017-2019
Graduate Diversity Summer Fellowship, Graduate College, 2018
Graduate Research Assistant, Iowa Institute for Public Health & Research Policy, College of Public Health, The University of Iowa, 2016-2017

Academic Leadership and Service**Health Policy Researcher, Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce, Dallas, Texas**

(May 2022- present)

- Developed workshops, trainings, and interventions for creating healthy workplaces
- Collaboratively worked with local nonprofits on a citywide HIV/AIDS grant funded campaign
- Planned and Designed programming with our key stakeholders
- Maintained and built new relationships with our donors and potential donors
- Engaged in emerging economic policy and health policy

* = Conference/Talk cancelled due to COVID-19.

Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Health Communication, University of Texas at Austin
(October 2021-January 2022)

- Managed a small research team on a **6 million dollar grant** funded research project
- Studied human behavior for understanding and solutions regarding stress and coping
- Strategically planned a roadmap for the subareas of the research project
- **Strategically planned a statewide public health campaign** to reduce substance abuse disorder in Texas family.

Doctoral Student Intern (May 2021- December) University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

Duties include:

- Working directly with Project Coordinator on collecting data relevant to the building of a new medical clinic within the metroplex.
- Designing and planning health campaigns and interventions for new medical clinic
- Assisting in the completion of *Diversity and Inclusion* annual report
- Communicating with multiple departments within the Medical Research Center to schedule interviews; partake and highlight their research; and lead D&I trainings

Health Communication Advisor to the Associate Dean for Health Equity (2020-2021)
Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin

Duties Included:

- Work directly with the Associate Dean for Health Equity in designing health equity messaging regarding programs and initiatives being supported by the institution.
- Lead the design, implementation and monitoring of health communication initiatives and activities with clear behavioral objectives and outcomes. This includes mass media, social media, and interpersonal communication.

Diversity Intern, National Collegiate Athletic Association Big 10 Conference (2018-2019)

****Placed within Student Academic Services, The University of Iowa Athletics***

Duties Included:

- Assigned to a caseload of student-athletes to meet with each week to monitor their academic progress.
- Work collaboratively with the Director for Student-Athlete Retention on the development and implementation of Engagement Initiatives.
- Design and implement programming to increase mental health resource use for minorities.

Program Assistant, Summer Health Professionals Education Program (SHPEP), The University of Iowa (Summer 2018)

Duties Included:

- Organized and manage the SHPEP Student Government Board.
- Worked directly with SHPEP RAs to help plan and coordinate weeknight and weekend optional activities.
- Create and deliver all introductions for guest speakers.
- Organized and distributed student materials.
- Planned and organized SHPEP welcome and graduation ceremonies.

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Major Committees and University Service

- Faculty Search Committee, Graduate Student Representative, Communication Studies, University of Texas at Austin, 2020-present
- Steering Committee, Center for Health Communication, Moody College of Communication, University of Texas at Austin, 2020-present
- Safety and Wellness Taskforce, The University of Texas at Austin, 2020
- Student Advisory Committee, Counseling and Mental Health Center, University of Texas at Austin, 2019-2020
- Diversity Catalyst Award Selection Committee, The University of Iowa, 2018
- Black History Month Planning Committee, The University of Iowa, 2018

Additional Policy Experience

United States Congressional Intern, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation (Summer 2014)

Duties Included:

- Conducted research on upcoming legislation for Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson.
- Worked directly with health policy legislative assistant
- Constituent correspondence through phone calls, emails, and walk-in appointments.
- Note taking in all hearings Member attended.

Academic Scholarship**Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

Tierney, W. M., Auzenne, D., Cook, L., Jones, B. L., Mackert, M., Paydarfar, D., Ding, X., **Woods, J. M.**, & Kahlon, M. (2021). Importance of Community Impact as the Fourth Academic Mission: A Qualitative Study. *Population health management*, 24(5), 610–615. <https://doi.org/10.1089/pop.2021.0004>

Bennett, L. K., Scruggs, X., & **Woods, J. M.** (2020). Surprise, hurt, and anger as emotional responses to expectancy violations following feedback events. *Communication Research Reports*. 37(1-2), 22-33 doi:10.1080/08824096.2020.1737000.

M. Mackert , B. Table , J. Yang , L. Bouchacourt , **J. M. Woods** ,J. M. Bernhardt & J. Hughes Wagner (2020): Applying Best Practices from Health Communication to Support a University’s Response to COVID-19, *Health Communication*, DOI:10.1080/10410236.2020.1839204

Manuscripts in progress

Woods, J.M. (in progress). *I Can’t Know My Health History if We Don’t Acknowledge America’s History: Family health history, the Black family, and America’s [History of] Medical Racism.*

Woods, J.M. (in progress). *Black Mothers, Breastfeeding, and Its Cost: On time and temporality of the decision-making process behind the choice to breastfeed*

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Convention Activity

Woods, J.M. (2022) *Black Women as Experts in Grief, Loss, and Mourning*. Paper Panel Presentation at National Communication Association. New Orleans, LA.

Whitmore, A., **Woods, J. M.**, Stringfield, R., & Griffin, A. (2020) *The Rise of Black Content Creators in Academia*. SXSW EDU. Austin, Texas.*

Woods, J. M. (2018) *Weather Delay: Addressing the Mental Health Consequences of the Physical Demands and Racism that African American Athletes Face*. Pre-Conference Paper Panel Presentation at National Communication Association. Salt Lake City, Utah.

Woods, J. M. (2017). *RelaxHER: Using African American Beauty Salons to Break Depression Stigma*. Poster presentation at International Conference on Diversity in Organizations, Communities, and Nations. Toronto, Canada

Woods, J. M. (2017) *When bodies and money collide: How institutional demands of NCAA football collide with the Health of players in the documentary Business of Amateurs*. Paper accepted to the Midwest Popular Culture Association Conference. St. Louis, MO.

Woods, J. M. (2015). *Pregnant and High: Infant Mortality and Illicit Drug Use in the Russian Federation*. Poster presented at University of Iowa.

Teaching Expertise**Major Courses as Adjunct/Teaching Assistant**

Trends in Healthcare, Widener University
 Nonverbal Communication, University of Texas at Austin
 Digital Communications, University of Texas at Austin
 Health Decision-Making, University of Texas at Austin
 Interpersonal Health Communication, University of Texas at Austin

Relevant Courses

Managing Health Information
 Race & Medicine
 Health Communication
 Qualitative Research Methods (in communication)
 Qualitative Research Methods (in education)
 Communication, Cognition, and Emotion
 Quantitative Research Methods
 Race & Gender by Design
 On Time & Temporality

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Honors and Awards

- **Health Equity and Communication Fellowship.** Fellowship awarded by the Office of the Associate Dean for Health Equity at Dell Medical School for excellence in health communication campaigns - \$15,000 stipend, 2020.
- **Center for Health Communication (CHC) Travel Grant.** Travel grant awarded to CHC Fellows to present research at academic and professional conferences - \$500, 2019.
- **National Communication Association (NCA) Travel Grant.** Travel grant awarded to NCA students to present research at academic and professional conferences - \$100, 2017.
- **Graduate Student Senate Travel Award, The University of Iowa.** Travel grant awarded to graduate students to present research at academic and professional conferences - \$600, 2017.
- **Graduate Diversity Summer Fellowship.** Fellowship awarded by the Graduate College at The University of Iowa to conduct research during summer session - \$4,500 stipend, 2017.
- **Graduate Institute on Engagement and the Academy Fellowship.** Selected fellowship recipient for research interests in engaged academic scholarship through the Obermann Center for Advanced Studies at the University of Iowa, 2019.

Campus Talks*Invited Discussion Panelist*

Woods, J. M. (2020, April). *Weathering the Storm: the issue of framing Black women's health concerns as anger.* Health Equity and Leadership (HEAL) Conference. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, Boston, MA. *

Woods, J. M. (2020, June). *Free Speech & Black Lives on Campus.* An invited panel presentation to PEN America.

Woods, J. M. (2020). *BlackLivesMatter: When governments and institutions are silent.* An invited panel presentation to the Paul H. O'Neill School of Public & Environmental Affairs, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

Professional Service and Civic Engagement

Steering Committee, Center for Health Communication, The University of Texas at Austin, 2020-present

Student Advisory Committee, Counseling and Mental Health Center, The University of Texas at Austin, 2019-2020

Graduate Student Mentor, The Afro-Cultural Center, The University of Iowa, 2016-2019

President, Society for Black Graduate and Professional Students, The University of Iowa, 2018-2019

Reading Tutor, United Action for Youth, Iowa City, IA, 2017-2018

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Selected Media Coverage

- *Nature*: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-01741-7>
- *The Chronicle of Higher Education*: https://www.chronicle.com/article/I-Was-Fed-Up-How/248955?cid=wcontentgrid_6_4grid_2
- *NBC News*: <https://www.nbcnews.com/pop-culture/pop-culture-news/black-women-create-blackintheivory-publishingpaidme-reveal-inequity-academia-publishing-n1227626>
- *The Verge*: <https://www.theverge.com/21286924/science-racism-strike-stem-black-lives-matter-protests>

Association Memberships

American Association for Bioethics
National Communication Association
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

