

Andrew Sachs

Adjunct Assistant Professor

Profile

Classically trained Rhetorician and Communication Generalist with forty-two years of experience whose teaching is informed by a variety of disciplines and practices including Rhetorical Theory and Criticism, Argumentation Theory, European and American Public Address, Comparative Literature, English Composition, Political Campaign Communication, Theatre Arts, Newspaper and Radio Journalism and Business Communication.

Contact

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Skills

Creative energetic mindset, lesson planning, writing, speaking, and diplomacy skills make me adept at working with a variety of students to prepare them for professional success. Knowledge of various educational philosophies and experience in professional consultancy, public service and business roles promote the best overall experience of students, support each student's potential for learning and enhance the educational offerings of this institution.

This year, two of my Teaching Assistants have been accepted to law school, another to a graduate dental program, and two others to graduate schools specializing in medical technology and education respectively.

Education

Ph.D. Rhetoric, University of Wisconsin-Madison

1986—1992

Dissertation: The Imperial Style of Henry Cabot Lodge

Master of Arts in Communication, University at Memphis

1984—1986

Graduated summa cum laude.

Bachelor of Arts, University of Alabama at Birmingham**1980—1982**

Graduated with high honors.

Recent Employment History**Adjunct Assistant Professor of Communication, full time, SUNY Buffalo****2002—2026****Mission**

- Designing and implementing an inspiring curriculum that effectively introduces students to the world of Public Speaking and Written Communication
- Working with diverse student profiles while contributing to the department's mission:

To understand and improve human communication.

- Assembling a **Success Team** from among over 150 Teaching Assistants that each semester dedicates itself to supporting student success in all courses.
- Supervising over 150 students who seek outside Independent Study opportunities.
- Writing over 200 letters of reference for inspired students seeking acceptance to law school, graduate programs, private research institutions, foreign study programs, internships and jobs in communication and media.
- Mentoring students with emotional and academic issues so that they can be successful too.
- Improving the literacy level, critical thinking, and rhetorical skill of students through training in formal speaking and writing.
- Helping students write over 15,000 expository essays and deliver over 15,000 public speeches.
- Grading and evaluating over 30,000 expository essays and public speeches.

- Challenging students to think critically and productively about the ethical, philosophical, and practical implications of new media and Artificial Intelligence systems.

Courses

Public Speaking COM 326, SUNY Buffalo

Written Communication COM 326, SUNY Buffalo

Independent Study COM 499, SUNY Buffalo

Instructional Assistantships COM 495, SUNY Buffalo

Teaching Load

Four courses required per semester. At my discretion, each semester I also supervise up to four additional Independent Studies and eight Instructional Assistant positions.

Extra-Curricular Activities, Community Service, and Consultancy

Union Representative, UUP, Department of Communication

Mary Cassata Scholarship Award Committee, Department of Communication 2025

Creative Director, Red Barn Playhouse and Theatre, Washington Island, WI

Best Director Award of 2013, debut. Theater Association of New York State

Of Mice and Men, by John Steinbeck

Scheduled to direct **The Belle of Amherst** at SUNY Niagara, fall 2026

List of Business Consultancies available upon request

Chairperson, Editorial Committee, Washington Island Observer Newspaper

The Observer serves a rural community dominated by a radically conservative majority. However, as Editorial Chair for the past seven years, I have sought to curate a liberal, progressive viewpoint that is open to all. In so doing, much to my surprise, both subscriptions and reader editorials have increased 30% during my tenure.

As both rhetorician and news editor, I share my experience with my students in Public Speaking and Written Communication. I help them see the classroom as a microcosm of the outside world. That is, like a newspaper, their work in class is always editorial and rhetorical too. If done according to sound principles of rhetoric that inform research-based formal speaking and writing, we can distinguish truth from falsehood, be open to different views as well as persuade others of our own.

Given the close connection between news media and public education, this year I have stewarded the newspaper to strengthen this relationship in two ways. 1) We are transitioning from being a for-profit organization to being a not-for-profit organization. 2) To showcase this relationship and to make it possible for us to apply for public funding, I have created a junior version of the newspaper. Entitled the **Junior Observer**, this publication will be devoted exclusively to school news and will appear with the Observer as a mini newspaper. Launch is scheduled for fall, 2026.

Other creative works in process:

Think Big Think Buffalo, a marketing project designed around building a gigantic buffalo knee high to the Statue of Liberty on the outer harbor of Buffalo.

Found Notes at the Godot, an artistic project featuring handwritten notes found on the streets of Allentown, Buffalo from 2005 and beyond.

Tennis Coach and USTA Certified Teaching Professional

As a former professional tennis player, I have long enjoyed playing and helping others learn to play. Before I became a full-time faculty member for SUNY Buffalo, I was a part-time adjunct teacher in both the Department of English and Department of Communication while I served as assistant coach for both the men's and women's team. I am most proud that as women's assistant coach, in 2003, I helped procure not only SUNY Buffalo's first tennis MAC championship, but our school's **first ever** MAC team championship in **any** sport.

References

Available upon request