

McKenzie M. (Pittman) Vorpahl

Curriculum Vitae

320J Baldy Hall, University at Buffalo, Buffalo NY 14260 (Office)
pittman6@buffalo.edu (Email)

Education

- Ph.D. in Communication, University at Buffalo, SUNY Fall 2014 – Fall 2018
Concentration: Health and Interpersonal Communication
Minor: Psychology
Dissertation: *Observer's perceptions of nonclinical touch during physician-patient interaction*, chaired by Drs. Lance Rintamaki, Janet Z. Yang, Thomas H. Feeley
- M.A. in Communication Studies, Kent State University Fall 2012 – Summer 2014
Concentration: Health and Interpersonal Communication
Final project: *Social support in skilled nursing and rehabilitation*, advised by Dr. Nichole Egbert
- B.A. Communication Studies, Kent State University Fall 2008 – Winter 2011
Concentration: Public Communication
With honors: Cum laude graduate
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Employment History

- Clinical Associate Professor, University at Buffalo, SUNY, Buffalo NY 2024 – Present
- Clinical Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo, SUNY, Buffalo, NY 2018 – Promotion
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, University at Buffalo, SUNY, Buffalo, NY 2014 – 2018
- Tutor, Huntington Learning Center, Williamsville, NY Summer 2016 – Winter 2016
- Research Assistant, University at Buffalo, SUNY, Buffalo, NY Summer 2015
Ebola Grant Research supported by the NSF, grantee: Dr. Janet Z. Yang
- Intern, Legacy Health Services, Parma, OH Summer 2014
Position: Patient satisfaction coordinator, corporate intern
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, Kent State University 2012 – 2014
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Teaching Experience

Clinical Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo, SUNY

Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Spring 2026
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Spring 2026
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Spring 2026
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Spring 2026
Undergraduate Supervised Teaching (COM 495)	Spring 2026
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Fall 2025
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Fall 2025
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Fall 2025
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Fall 2025
Undergraduate Supervised Teaching (COM 495)	Fall 2025
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Spring 2025
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Spring 2025
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Spring 2025
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Spring 2025
Principles of Persuasion (COM 231), online	Winter 2025
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Fall 2024
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Fall 2024
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Summer 2024
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Summer 2024
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Spring 2024
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Spring 2024
Principles of Persuasion (COM 231), online	Spring 2024
Undergraduate Supervised Teaching (COM 495)	Spring 2024
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Fall 2023
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Fall 2023
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Fall 2023
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Summer 2023
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Summer 2023
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Spring 2023
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Spring 2023
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Spring 2023
Undergraduate Supervised Teaching (COM 495), online	Spring 2023
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Winter 2022
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Fall 2022
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Fall 2022
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Fall 2022
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225)	Summer 2022
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225)	Spring 2022
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225)	Spring 2022
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Spring 2022
Principles of Persuasion (COM 231)	Winter 2022
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), remote	Fall 2021
Communication Theory (COM 337), remote	Fall 2021
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Summer 2021

Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Spring 2021
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Spring 2021
Undergraduate Supervised Teaching (COM 495), online	Spring 2021
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Fall 2020
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Fall 2020
Principles of Persuasion (COM 231), online	Fall 2020
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Summer 2020
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), partially online	Spring 2020
Communication Theory (COM 337), partially online	Spring 2020
Undergraduate Supervised Teaching (COM 495), partially online	Spring 2020
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), online	Winter 2020
Public Speaking (COM 326)	Fall 2019
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225)	Fall 2019
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Fall 2019
Independent Study Advisor (COM 499)	Fall 2019
Communication Theory (COM 337), online	Summer 2019
Principles of Persuasion (COM 231)	Spring 2019
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225)	Spring 2019
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225)	Spring 2019
Undergraduate Supervised Teaching (COM 495)	Spring 2019
Communication Theory (COM 337)	Fall 2018
Communication Theory (COM 337)	Fall 2018
Communication Theory (COM 337)	Fall 2018
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225)	Fall 2018

Graduate Instructor, University at Buffalo, SUNY

Public Speaking (COM 326)	Spring 2018
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225)	Fall 2017
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225)	Spring 2017
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225)	Fall 2016
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225)	Spring 2016

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University at Buffalo, SUNY

Sexual Communication (COM 268), assistant in large lecture class	Fall 2015
Interpersonal Communication (COM 225), assistant in large lecture class	Fall 2015
Principles of Communication (COM 101), assistant in large lecture class	Spring 2015
<i>Primary responsibilities:</i> Head research teaching assistant	
Principles of Communication (COM 101), assistant in large lecture class	Fall 2014
<i>Primary responsibilities:</i> Head research teaching assistant	

Invited Guest Lecturer, Kent, OH

August 2013

Public speaking for young scientists. Presentation for the Upward Bound Summer Outreach program, Kent, OH.

Supervisor of Interns, Kent State University

Spring 2013 – Spring 2014

Personalized System of Instruction (PSI), Introduction to Human Communication

Graduate Instructor, Kent State University

- Introduction to Human Communication (COMM 15000), online Summer 2014
Online: 100% online introductory course with all cyber classroom and grading responsibilities
- Introduction to Human Communication (COMM 15000) Spring 2014
 Responsible for teaching three standalone sections per semester
Hybrid: Traditional face-to-face with an online component; introductory course with all classroom and grading responsibilities
- Introduction to Human Communication (COMM 15000) Fall 2013
 Responsible for teaching three standalone sections per semester
Hybrid: Traditional face-to-face with an online component; introductory course with all classroom and grading responsibilities
- Introduction to Human Communication (COMM 15000) Summer 2013
Hybrid: Traditional face-to-face with an online component; introductory course with all classroom and grading responsibilities
- Introduction to Human Communication (COMM 15000) Spring 2013
 Responsible for teaching three standalone sections per semester
Hybrid: Traditional face-to-face with an online component; introductory course with all classroom and grading responsibilities
- Introduction to Human Communication (COMM 15000) Fall 2012
 Responsible for teaching three standalone sections per semester
Hybrid: Traditional face-to-face with an online component; introductory course with all classroom and grading responsibilities

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Kent State University Fall 2011
 Personalized System of Instruction (PSI), Introduction to Human Communication undergraduate teaching assistant

Published Manuscripts & Professional Postings

- Vorpahl, M. M.** (2025, September 5). Creating Engagement in Online Classrooms. *SUNY Online Teaching*. <https://online.suny.edu/onlineteaching/2025/09/05/creating-engagement-in-online-classrooms/>
- Vorpahl, M. M., & Yang, Z. J.** (2017). Who is to blame? Framing HPV to influence vaccination intentions among college students. *Health Communication*. DOI 10.1080/10410236.2017.1289436
- Yang, Z. J., & Pittman, M. M.** (2016). The silver lining of shame: Framing HPV to influence vaccination intentions. *Health Communication*. DOI 10.1080/10410236.2016.1196420

Peer Reviewed Conference Papers and Presentations

D.C. Health Communication Conference, Fairfax, VA May 2025

Neurohr, M., Leong, Y. Y., & **Vorpahl, M.** (2025, May). *Exploring patient disclosure and communication discourses in healthcare setting*. Poster presented at the D. C. Health Communication conference.

National Communication Association Convention, New Orleans, LA November 2022
Lattimer, T. A., Tenzek, K. E., Neurohr, M., Lapan, E., **Vorpahl, M.**, & Heneveld, K. (2022). *“Typically, I will get blackout drunk”: Exploring mediated depictions of health in the popular television drama, This is Us*. Paper presented to the Health Communication division at the National Communication Association convention.

National Communication Association Convention, Seattle, WA November 2021
Rintamaki, L., **Vorpahl, M.**, Heneveld, K., Vuich, A., Dobmeier, C., Lyons Gillis, S., Vollmer, M., & Shornick, J. (2021). *The forms, frequencies, and effectiveness of online social support solicitation strategies for weight loss*. Paper presented to the Technology and Health Communication division at the National Communication Association convention.

Celebration of Academic Excellence, Buffalo, NY April 2021
Heneveld, K., Vuich, A., Volmer, M., Shornick, J., Gillis, S., Dobmeier, C., **Vorpahl, M.**, and Rintamaki, L. (2021). *The forms, frequencies, and effectiveness of online social support solicitation strategies for weight loss*. Competitive poster presented at the annual Celebration of Academic Excellence.

D.C. Health Communication Conference, Fairfax, VA April 2017
Vorpahl, M. M., O’Mally, A., Przysinda, W., & Rintamaki, L. S. (2017, April). *Let’s lose together: Social support solicitation and provision in an online weight management group*. Paper presented at the D. C. Health Communication conference.

National Communication Association Convention, Philadelphia, PA November 2016
Pittman, M. M., & Yang, Z. J. (2016, November). *Who is to blame? Framing HPV to influence vaccination intentions among college students*. Paper submitted to the Health Communication division at the National Communication Association convention.

National Communication Association Convention, Philadelphia, PA November 2016
Rintamaki, L., Karras, E., Peek, D., Przysinda, W., **Pittman, M.**, Murszewski, S., Thompson, K., & Liu, S. (2016, November). *Damaging interactions: Communicative events that disrupt the therapeutic alliance between Deaf patients and their physicians*. Top paper presentation for the Disability Issues Caucus at the National Communication Association convention.

National Communication Association Convention, Philadelphia, PA November 2016
Rintamaki, L., **Pittman, M.**, Karras, E., Kosenko, K., & Peek, D. (2016, November). *The HIV ally: Self-presentation strategies for healthcare providers working with HIV-positive patients*. Paper submitted to the Nonverbal Communication division at the National Communication Association convention.

- National Communication Association Convention, Philadelphia, PA November 2016
 Rintamaki, L., **Pittman, M.**, O'Mally, A., Peek, D. Przysinda, W., Chameli, J., Murszewski, S., Liu, S., & Thompson, K. (2016, November). *Patient preferences for discussing sexual health with physicians: A two-nation comparison*. Paper submitted to the Health Communication division at the National Communication Association convention.
- International Communication Association Conference, Fukuoka, Japan June 2016
 Yang, Z. J., & **Pittman, M.** (2015, May). *The silver lining of shame: Framing HPV to influence disclosure and vaccination*. Paper submitted to the Health Communication Division at the International Communication Association's Annual convention.
- National Communication Association Convention, Las Vegas, NV November 2015
 Rintamaki, L. S., Moskowitz, D., Reiger, G., & Seal, D. (2015, November). *Patient-reported problematic interactions: The intersection of sexual orientation and race*. Paper submitted to the Health Communication division at the National Communication Association convention.
- D.C. Health Communication Conference, Fairfax, VA April 2015
 Rintamaki, L. S., **Pittman, M.**, O'Mally, A., Murszewski, S., Przysinda, W., & Chameli, J. (2015, April). *Gender concordance preferences among patients discussing sexual health with physicians: A two-nation comparison*. Paper presented at the D. C. Health Communication conference.
- National Communication Association Convention, Washington, DC November 2013
Pittman, M., & Meluch, A. (2013, November). *Analyzing supportive communication in an online support group for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder*. Paper presented at the National Communication Association convention.
- Graduate Research Symposium, Kent, OH April 2013
Pittman, M., & Meluch, A. (2012, April). *Online social support behaviors of veterans with PTSD*. Paper presented at the Kent State University Graduate Research Symposium.

Professional Workshops and Training

- Vorpahl, M. M.** & Tinnesz, C. (2026, April 14). *Creating Engagement in Online Classrooms* [Webinar]. SUNY Online Teaching. URL pending.
- Vorpahl, M. M.** & Tinnesz, C. (2025, October 9). *Strategies for Active Engagement: Evidence-Based Teaching Practices* [Workshop session]. Department of Communication, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY.
- SUNY Online Teaching Webinar April 2025
 Events attended: *AI assignments for students: Examples from a community of practice*

SUNY Online Summit 2025

February 2025

Events attended: *SUNY Welcome and opening session; Supporting online coaching at SUNY; Effective online practices showcase 2025; Accelerated online learning: Insights from faculty, staff & students; Adapting to innovation*

Honored: Recognized as a 2025 Online Teaching Ambassador on February 27, 2025

Lumens Circle Fellowship

Spring 2023

Certification completion in Effective Teaching Practice in Teaching with Active Learning following a nine-week intensive training program

Best Practices for Conducting Diverse Searches to Hire Faculty & Staff

January 27, 2023

Certification completion in recruitment, advertisement, evaluation and communication for diverse faculty hires

Digital Teaching Symposium, Blackboard Global Events

November 10, 2022

Events attended: *How to use bite-sized e-learning activities to increase engagement and performance*

“Fall” Into Teaching, UB Curriculum, Assessment and Teaching Transformation

August 2022

Events attended: *Technology and building visual learning communities; Engaging and motivating students; Promoting and protecting academic integrity; Evaluating teaching effectiveness; Leveraging UB technologies to solve common teaching problems; Adults as Learners: Yes, they can be engaged in learning*

Love Attitudes: Myths and Maintenance, Macmillan Learning Webinar

February 7, 2022

Digital Teaching Symposium, Blackboard Global Events

April 16, 2021

Events attended: *Meeting the moment: Bringing forward innovations in in-person, blended, and online learning and support; Engaging learners in online classes; Making asynchronous content interactive; Effective practices for integrating group work into online classes; Using reflective discussion and automated feedback to increase engagement*

Streamlining Assessment, UB Educational Design Collaborative (UB EDC)

January 25, 2021

Engaging Students in Large Classes (Faculty Panel), UB EDC

January 29, 2021

Professional Services and Associations

Representative, New Hire Committee for Starpoint Central School District

May 2026

Note: Special Education Program Hiring for 8:1:1 Behavior Class

Undergraduate Education Committee

Present

Undergraduate Judiciary Committee

Present

Mentor, UB Communication Department Graduate Teaching Initiative	Present
Communication Specialist, <i>Oncology Brothers</i> (podcast)	Spring 2023 – Present
Member, New Hire Committee	Spring 2023
Member, Wellness Center Implementation Communications Subcommittee	Fall 2021
Invited journal reviewer, <i>Health Communication</i>	Spring 2018 – Present
Member, National Communication Association	2011 – Present
President, Communication Graduate Student Association	Spring 2013 – Spring 2014
Member, Communication Graduate Student Association	Fall 2012 – Spring 2013

Honors and Awards

SUNY Online Teaching Community Leader – Recognition by SUNY Online, badge issued May 2026.

SUNY Online Teaching Fellow: Experienced Online Practitioner – Recognition by SUNY Online, badge issued June 2025.

SUNY Online Summit – Recognition by SUNY Online, badge issued June 2025.

SUNY Online Teaching Ambassador – Selected as a SUNY online teaching ambassador for 2025 following a campus nomination for exemplary online educators who are enthusiastic and effective in online teaching. Awarded in February 2025.

Lumens Faculty Fellow – Training completed in effective teaching practices, certificate of completion awarded April 2023.

Inspirational Person – Honoree, selected by a student athlete as a leader who inspired achievement and personal growth, Buffalo, NY, May 2018.

Top Paper Award – Recipient, awarded by the Disability Issues Caucus at the National Communication Association convention, Philadelphia, PA, November 2016.

Dr. Dominic Infante Communication Scholarship – Inaugural scholarship recipient, awarded October 2013.

Domestic Travel Award – Recipient, awarded by Kent State University's Graduate Student Senate for fall 2013.

Special Recognition in Teaching – Recipient, given for mentoring an undergraduate Hyde Park Speaking competition winner, awarded April 2013.

National Honors Society, Lambda Pi Eta – Invited member, awarded in 2011.