ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Bachelor of Arts in Communication requires 36 credits in Communication courses with 18 of those credits being upper division. There are five track options including General Communication, Organizational & Strategic Communication, Leadership Communication, Media Studies, and Digital Filmmaking & Media Arts.

Students pursuing a degree in Communication prepare themselves for a broad range of employment opportunities in both the public and private sectors. An internship for advanced students with a 3.0 GPA is available in certain tracks. Internships are not available for students minoring in Communication.

The General Communication track allows students to prepare for a career in communication with courses tailored to the individual student’s interests and career objectives.

Alumni Profiles

Laurel Harris
BA in Communication – Recording Arts, Class of 1997
Laurel is a well-known actress and director in Denver. Laurel has been seen in many local, regional, and national TV commercials. She is best known for her roles in Odd Thomas (2013), Milk Sugar Cream & Air (2006), Grass (2011), and The Creep Behind the Camera (2014).

Kevin Mauch
BA in Communication – Recording Arts, Class of 1998
Kevin is the owner of KDM Productions in Denver, CO. He works on projects that range from small to medium budgets. He produces, directs, and edits projects from corporate/industrial videos to TV broadcast projects.

Kevin J. Beechwood
BA in Communication – Digital Filmmaking, Minor in VAPA-Film Studies, Class of 2011
Kevin is a Colorado-based cinematographer/producer who has fallen drawn to a career in the visual arts since his formative years. Kevin produced The Last Bogatyr (2009), a short film set in WWII, which was nominated for a 2010 Student Academy Award. He has recently completed helping with the production of The Creep Behind the Camera (2014). Over the course of the past several years, Kevin has established himself in the Colorado independent film community with a myriad of award-winning music videos and documentaries. In addition to his work as a film producer, Kevin lectures at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs and plans to continue to develop his cinematic vision by pursuing a Master’s in Film Production.

Mark Paglia
BA in Sociology, Class of 1980
Mark is an honorary alum of the Communication Department. He is a member of the Comm. Department’s Community Advisory Board and has worked with many Digital Filmmaking students on their projects, as well as using them on many of his projects when he was senior producer at Windsor Studios. He also provided internship opportunities for a number of Communication Students through the years. He consulted on both The Lady and The Phantom and The Bluffs TV Series. He has been one of the pre-eminent producers of commercials, films and TV programs in Colorado for the past several decades. He is a loyal and great friend to the University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

Kevin J. Beechwood
BA in Communication – Digital Filmmaking, Minor in VAPA-Film Studies, Class of 2011
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Media Studies/Digital Filmmaking & Media Arts

Department of Communication
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www.uccs.edu/comm/index.html
Sheryl Benko          BA in Communication  
Class of 1992

Sheryl is best known for her work on Inglourious Basterds (2009) as Post-Production Coordinator. She was also Post-Production Coordinator on Thor (2011), Himmel (2008), Fred Clause (2007), and The Duke of Hazzard Movie (2005). Sheryl was the Post-Production Supervisor for Chef (2014), Angels Sing (2013), Savannah (2012), and she was the Associate Producer for the movie Scooby Doo (2002).

Sarah Lofti          BA in Communication – Digital Filmmaking  
BA in VAPA – Film Studies, Class of 2012

Sarah began her career as a filmmaker while still at UCCS. In 2009 she helped launch the Intersections Film Festival featuring women filmmakers from the Middle East. Her film The Last Bogotay was named a regional winner and national finalist in the 37th Student Academy Awards in 2010. For her internship in Communication, Sarah was accepted to the extremely competitive Emmy Foundation’s National College TV Internship where she went to L.A. and worked on the HBO film Cinema Ventra. She is the writer/director of the award-winning German-language WWII film on disability, Menschen.

Adam Grumbo          BA in Communication, Class of 2006

Adam is a writer/director/producer based out of Los Angeles, CA. He is an award-winning writer/director/producer working in independent and commercial film production. Some of his notable projects include: 

- The Creep (2013)
- Thor (2011)
- The Scribe (2009)
- The Lady and the Phantom (2005)

Since graduating, Gabriel has been doing commercial and personal work locally. This includes grip work, freelance projects for local schools and musicians, and Kickstarter pitch videos for film projects and video game start up companies. Last July he was the director of photography for the short film ‘Diary of a champion’. He has a 24 month’s he’s worked regularly as a director, writer, editor, camera operator, and one-time reluctant actor for Coldwire Productions, a group of young filmmakers and film students out to perfect their craft and have fun. Gabe continues to be ever vigilant for video work in the future, especially--but not limited to--the kind that pays.

John K. Bucher Jr.          BA in Communication, 1999  
MA in Communication 2002

John is a writer/director/producer based out of Los Angeles, CA. He is an award-winning writer with a passion for story. He has directed and produced film and television projects on five continents. In addition to his creative work, he is co-owner of Sideshow Media Group.

Wesley Barrett          BA in Communication – Media Management, Class of 1994

Wes is a two-time U.S. Olympic Team Member in the sport of weightlifting. In 2002 he became the Executive Director for the U.S. Weightlifting Federation. As the first Olympian and minority to hold the post, he exercised general management and oversight for the organization, in 2011 he was elected to the U.S. Olympic Committee where he currently works as the Team Leader for team sports in Colorado Springs, Pan American Games and Pan American Games program. He was recently inducted into the John McLendon Minority Athletics Administrators Hall of Fame.

Jen Mulson          BA in Communication  
Class of 1996

After graduating Jennifer went on to work in the media, including stints at KRDO-TV, the Monument H-Lakes Tribune and The Gazette, where she currently works. She’s spent about 10 years at the newspaper, and her most recent title is Arts and Entertainment Reporter. She also writes a column about yoga and health and wellness, and teaches yoga in the community.

John J. K. Bucher Jr.          BA in Communication, 1999  
MA in Communication 2002

John is a writer/director/producer based out of Los Angeles, CA. He is an award-winning writer with a passion for story. He has directed and produced film and television projects on five continents. In addition to his creative work, he is co-owner of Sideshow Media Group.

Josh Kefler          BA in Communication – Recording Arts, Class of 2008

Josh Kefler is an award-winning filmmaker and entrepreneur. His film production company, Am Grumbo, specializes in documentary, promotional and narrative projects. His films have taken him around the globe to shoot in places including Europe, South America and the Middle East. He was the director of photography and the editor for the documentary Bomber’s Moon which was broadcast on Rocky Mountain PBS.

Patty Spiers          BA in Communication – Recording Arts, Class of 1996, MA in History, 1999

Patty produced the 1998 children’s film The Trackers, an award winning short film directed by David Nelson. In 2003, Patty started an nonprofit organization From Mists of Time for the purpose of capturing history through storytelling, which resulted in the production of Bomber’s Moon: Girls Beneath the Bombs for Rocky Mountain PBS. It aired twice in 2003 and most recently was featured in The Indie Spirit Film Festival. Her Soul of the Delta documentary was shot in the Mississippi Delta Churches with choirs and congregations singing the old field hollers and spirituals. This show was featured in the Cannes Film Festival in the “Short Corner” as well as three other festivals including Denver International Film Festival.

Barry James Hickey          BA in Communication  
Class of 1982

While a student at UCCS, Barry was the editor of The Scribe. He worked his way through school as an actor doing TV commercials, local theater, and as the lead singer in a country band. He spent 16 years in Los Angeles acting, writing, producing, and directing documentaries that include Bridelights. He worked at Disney, Touchstone, Hollywood Pictures, and CBS Television. Upon returning to Colorado, he bought a 143 acre farm. He is finishing his sixth novel and his last one, The Water Lawyer has been optioned as a possible feature film.

Joshua Dunn          BA in Communication – Recording Arts, Class of 2003

Josh moved to Los Angeles after graduation and began his career as an assistant editor at a post-production facility. He worked his way up to an editor and was then offered a spot at Universal Pictures editing the movie The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Fast and Furious, Star Wars Rebels, and The Dark Knight Rises. He is currently employed at Disney, working on their line of tentpole releases for 2015.

Kenneth Woodburn          BA in Communication – Media Management, Class of 1992

After graduating, Ken was a post-production assistant on the film Things To Do in Denver When You’re Dead. He moved to Los Angeles and started editing on his own. He is currently an editor on a number of successful TV series including judging Amy, Joan of Arcadia, Criminal Minds, Modern Family, and Franklin and Bash to name just a few.

Rick Zahradnik          BA in Communication – Recording Arts, Class of 1986

Since graduating Rick Zahradnik has owned and operated Alpha Productions, producing commercials, documentaries, corporate industrials, network news and magazine shows, sportscasts and music videos. He also has helmed Bay the only working in independent and commercial film production. Some of his notable projects include: Being Evil (Connections Director, Academy Award winning director Daniel Jungel that just premiered at Sundance 2015. The Greep Behind the Camera (Producer), a Feature Film by Award winning director Pete Schuermann, 2011. And the music video 7 Chosen on YouTube by Sarah Barilles (Director of Photography). Aaron now teaches Digital Cinematography for the Communication Department and helped produce The Bluffs TV series.

Devra Ashby          BA in Communication – Recording Arts, Class of 1999

Devra leads a team of ten people in the communication department for the largest school district in Southern Colorado. From 2000 to 2002, Devra was a TV reporter and Weekend Anchor for KXTV and KRRM news.

Derrick David          BA in Communication – Recording Arts, Class of 2007

Derrick is an experienced art director, photographer, and visual storyteller. As an art director he has worked on 300 campaigns such as Heineken, Pringles, Pepperidge Farm, Liberty Mutual, and AARP. As a photographer he has been commissioned by publications such as The Washington Post, The Root, and various musicians, jewelry designers, and online fashion retailers.