

Brandi J. Lawless

Education

- University of New Mexico
Ph.D. Communication
Expected Graduation May 2012
- San Francisco State University
M.A. Communication Studies
Thesis: "Moving Up in Class? A Study on College Students' Transition to Academia"
May 2009
- California State University, Northridge
B.A. Communication Studies
Magna Cum Laude
May 2007

Teaching Experience

- San Francisco State University
Graduate Teaching Associate: COMM 150: Fundamentals of Oral Communication
August 2007-July 2009
- San Francisco State University
SFSU Forensic Speech and Debate Coach
August 2007-June 2009
- San Francisco State University
Co-Instructor: AU101: Introduction to First Year Experience
Fall 2008
- Education Unlimited
Summer Camp Speech Instructor
June 2007-July 2007

Academic Experience

- San Francisco State University
Research Assistant – Worked with Dr. Victoria Chen on projects including published chapters, research books, and book reviews.
May 2009-August 2009
- San Francisco State University
Graduate Assistant for Living Learning Communities - Worked with the program coordinator to manage and approve residential programming, train residential advisors on diversity and leadership, and build a relationship between residential life and college deans.
April 2008-August 2009
- Forensic Speech and Debate Competitor
President Fall 2006-Spring 2007
Secretary Fall 2005-Spring 2006
Outstanding Team member award 2006
August 2004-May 2007
- California State University, Northridge
Writing Tutor - Worked in the Pan African Studies writing lab to tutor a diverse group of students who were enrolled in developmental English to develop and maintain academic writing skills.
October 2006- December 2006

Academic Service

- San Francisco State University
Graduate Student Mentor – Supporting incoming graduate students in the Communication Studies Department by providing housing arrangements, outside of class meetings, and email contact.
July 2008-June 2009

- San Francisco State University Residence Hall Association September 2008-June 2009
Co-Advisor – Providing academic support to an executive board of seven students and a governing board of over thirty students. Also worked to strengthen this team’s leadership skills.
- James Logan High School Spring 2007-June 2009
Volunteer Judge – Traveling with the team to judge Individual Events, Public Forum Debate, and Parliamentary Debate at local, state level, and national forensics speech and debate tournaments.
- City College of San Francisco September 2008-May 2009
Volunteer Speech Coach- Worked with students who compete in Individual Events on the CCSF forensics speech and debate team to develop speech and delivery skills.
- Northern California Forensics Association April 2009
“Spring Fling” Tournament Director – Will be managing and organizing the annual novice tournament for forensics competitors in the Northern California region.
- American Forensics Association District 1 March 2008-March 2009
District Committee Member– Helping to organize and execute the annual district tournament by running tabulation and doing intake at the ballot table.
- National Communication Association November 2008
Convention Volunteer – Helping convention officials to prepare and run registration.

Conference Presentations

- Lawless, B. J. “After dinner speaking: Problems, causes, and still no solutions.” Paper to be presented at the Western States Communication Association Annual Conference, Phoenix, February 2009. (Top paper).
- Lawless, B. J. “Can I get a witness? ‘Saving’ ourselves from the first church of critical dogma.” Performance panel to be presented at the Western States Communication Association Annual Conference, Phoenix, February 2009.
- Lawless, B. J. “Social class as a context to study cultural identity.” Paper presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, San Diego, November 2008.
- Lawless, B. J. “Moving up in social class?: A study on college students’ transition to academic culture.” Paper presented at the National Communication Association Annual Convention, San Diego, November 2008.
- Lawless, B. J. “After dinner speaking: Problems, causes, and still no solutions.” Paper Presented at the National Developmental Conference on Individual Events, Peoria, IL, July 2008.
***This was a working conference. A revised version of this paper was later presented.*

Works in Progress

- “More than white: Locating an invisible class identity.” Book chapter submitted to *Our voices: Essays in culture, ethnicity, and communication*. (5th ed.). Gonzalez, A., M. Houston, & V. Chen (Eds.), Oxford Press.
- “Guiding class consciousness in first-generation college students: A pragmatic approach to classism in the academy.” (Tentative title). Book chapter submitted to *First generation college students reader*. Housel, T. H. (Ed.).

Scholarships and Awards

Outstanding Graduate Student of Distinguished Achievement, 2009
Graduate Equity Fellowship, 2008
San Francisco State University Foundation Scholarship, 2008
Outstanding Communicator, 2007
Outstanding Graduating Senior, 2007
James R. Simpson Scholarship, 2006, 2007
Richard B. Aronstam Outstanding Undergraduate, 2006, 2007
Pacific Southern California Forensic Association All Conference Academic Team, 2006, 2007
Lambda Pi Eta Communication Honor Society, 2006
President's Associate Scholarship, 2004, 2005, 2006

Professional Organization Memberships

National Communication Association	2007-Present
Western States Communication Association	2007-Present
Northern California Forensics Association	2007-Present
American Forensics Association	2004-Present
National Association of College and University Residence Halls	2004-2009
Pacific Southern California Forensic Association	2004-2007

Work Experience

The Reading Place	July 2009
<i>Business Consultant</i> – Helped owners to establish merchandising techniques, ordering processes, hiring profiles, and customer service techniques.	
Borders Books	October 2006- September 2008
<i>Book Seller</i> - Responsible for maintaining a high standard of customer service by making book recommendations to customers. Was also in charge of cross merchandising for the entire store.	
Jamba Juice	December 2005-November 2006
<i>General Manager</i> - Hired and developed a team of 16-22 employees, focused on driving sales to meet a challenging budget, and implemented an inventory management system.	
Starbucks	October 2003-December 2006
<i>Assistant Store Manager</i> – Hired and developed a team of 20-25 employees, drove record sales of whole beans and merchandise, organized monthly employee open mic nights, and earned status as a “Certified Coffee Master.”	