

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**Alaina R. Spiers**

**1. Personal Information**

Alaina Spiers  
Jack J. Valenti School of Communication, teaching fellow  
University of Houston

**Education**

M.A., University of Houston, 2019  
Major: Mass communication  
GPA: 4.0  
B.A., University of Houston, 2017  
Major: Integrated communication  
GPA: 4.0

**Employment**

*Research Assistant*, Jack J. Valenti School of Communication, University of Houston, Houston, TX. January 2018 – Present.

*Copy Editor*, The Houston Chronicle, Houston, TX. December 2016 – Present

*Teaching Assistant*, Jack J. Valenti School of Communication, University of Houston, Houston, TX. August 2017 – December 2018.

*Tutor*, The Tutoring Club, League City, TX. January 2016 – August 2017.

*Supplemental Instructor*, Department of Mathematics and Natural Science, College of the Mainland, Texas City, TX. January 2015 – August 2015.

**2. Research and Scholarly Activities**

**Manuscripts Under Review**

Spiers, A., Vardeman-Winter, J., Antosh, D., & Muir, T. Perceptions of Pelvic Floor Disorder Treatments in Community-Dwelling Women. (*Sent for review to Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery.*)

Vardeman-Winter, J., & Spiers, A. Women's perceptions of communication about pelvic floor disorders: An evaluation of the "Voices for PFD" campaign. (*Sent for review to Health Communication.*)

#### Manuscripts in Progress

Spiers, A., (manuscript in progress). PR & Journalism: A Homological Alliance. (Intended publication: *Journal of Public Relations Research*). (The manuscript is completed and is being reviewed by faculty at The University of Houston before being sent for review).

Spiers, A., Vardeman-Winter, J., Gabriel, F., & Little, B. (manuscript in progress). Stigma Management for Pelvic Floor Disorders. (Intended publication: *Journal of Applied Communication Research*. (A content analysis and interview and focus group data are being used for this study; 100% of data have been analyzed, and 60% of the manuscript is written.)

Spiers, A., & Vardeman-Winter, J. (manuscript in progress). Are Kegels good for sex or for preventing incontinence? Different media frames of women's pelvic floor issues. (Intended publication: *Feminist Media Studies*.) (All media content for this study are collected; we are currently in data analysis of this study; about 40% of the data are analyzed to date.)

#### Studies in Progress

Vardeman-Winter, J., Spiers, A., Antosh, D., & Muir, T. (2<sup>nd</sup> phase of study in progress). *Women's perceptions of information about pelvic floor disorders.*

#### Awards & Fellowships

Spiers, A. (2019-2022). Graduate Diversity Excellence Fellowship, Texas A&M (\$18,000 per year).

Spiers, A. (2019-2023). Doctoral Studies Fellowship, Texas A&M (\$18,000 per year).

Spiers, A. (2017-2019). Graduate Assistant Communication Studies Fellowship, Jack J. Valenti School of Communication, University of Houston (\$12,000 per year).

Spiers, A. (2018). Richard Martin Uray Graduate Scholarship (\$3,700).

Spiers, A. (2018). Martha Haun Phi Beta Award (\$500).

Spiers, A. (2018) Graduate Research Travel Grant (\$350), Jack J. Valenti School of Communication, University of Houston.

Spiers, A. (2018). Graduate Thesis Research Grant (\$200), Jack J. Valenti School of Communication, University of Houston.

Spiers, A. (2015-2018). Dean's List Recipient, University of Houston.

### Conferences

Vardeman, J., Spiers, A., Antosh, D., & Muir, T. (2018, October). *Perceptions of Pelvic Floor Disorders in Community-Dwelling Women*. Paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the American Urogynecologic Society, Chicago.

Vardeman, J., Spiers, A., Antosh, D., & Muir, T. (2018, June). *Perceptions of Pelvic Floor Disorders in Community-Dwelling Women*. Paper presented to the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the International Urogynecological Association, Vienna, Austria.

Spiers, A. (2018, March). *PR & Journalism: A Homological Alliance*. Paper presented to the AEJMC Midwinter Conference, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.

### **3. Teaching**

#### Teaching Assistant: University of Houston

COMM3356 (Business and Professional Communication): (Online instructor)  
Communication activities in business and professional settings with emphasis on oral presentations, interviews, negotiations, and group processes. (Fall 2017 – Fall 2018)  
Responsibilities: Evaluating student work and redesigning course curriculum

COMM1332 (Principles of Public Speaking): (Instructor) Beginning theory and practice of informative and persuasive communication. (Fall 2017)  
Responsibilities: Designing course lectures, lecturing, and evaluating student work

COMM4357 (Intercultural Communication and Organizations): (Grader) Theory and practice of intercultural communication as it affects organizational behavior. (Fall 2017)  
Responsibilities: Grading tests and papers

## Guest Lectures

COMM4331 (Persuasion): Theories, methods, and ethics of persuasion and social influence. (Fall 2017)

Lecture: *Motivational Appeals: Jump Starting an Individual's Drive*

COMM3331 (Communication in the Family): Theories and research covering communication in the development of the family with an emphasis on parent-child and sibling communication. (Fall 2017)

Lecture: *Telling Stories and Making Meaning*

COMM4338 (The Family in Popular Culture): Portrayal of family in popular media, including comics, radio, movies, television, and music, and how those popular images influence the expectations that audiences construct about family life and family relations. (Fall 2017)

Lecture: *How to Effectively Design and Present a Group Project*