



Amanda Fountain

Upper Arlington High School teacher named an Ohio University Communication Fellow

By Sarah Roush

ATHENS, Ohio — Amanda Fountain, a language arts and communications teacher at Upper Arlington High School, was one of the nine teachers selected for the third annual Communication Fellows program in Ohio University's Scripps College of Communication. Focusing on curriculum development in communication across PK-12 levels of instruction, the program provides funding and mentorship support. Participants develop and implement a communication-related classroom project over the one-year course of their fellowship.

"It is a vital goal of our college to foster communication education among the state's youth and support teachers in innovative and dynamic projects relating to communication. My hope for the Communication Fellows program is to increase our impact on the state by bolstering the communication expertise of PK-12 teachers and enriching the education of their students," said Scripps College of Communication Dean Scott Titsworth.

Fountain graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from Ohio State University where she also earned a Master of Education in secondary integrated language arts. She has been teaching broadcast and communication courses at Upper Arlington High School for 15 years.

Having participated in Ohio University's High School Journalism Workshop a few years ago, Fountain said she appreciated the fellowship it provided high school advisors and the direct connections with Ohio University's faculty.

"I witnessed firsthand all of the learning possibilities for students, and it also provided valuable insights that helped me see why Ohio University has a widely recognized reputation for its communication related areas of study," Fountain said. "I was excited to learn about the Communication Fellows program and the possibilities it offered K-12 educators to connect with professors while enabling me to pursue a communication passion project that will ultimately enhance student learning at my school."

Communication Fellows attend a half-week summer residential experience at Ohio University's main campus in Athens and receive free tuition for a graduate-level online course, a \$1500 stipend and \$1000 classroom stipend. Fellows also work with college faculty mentors and college leadership to achieve their project proposals. *The COVID-19 crisis may necessitate adjustments to the residential experience for the 2020 cohort.*

Fountain's project involves learning how social media is being leveraged as an effective communication tool among media professionals so students can intentionally harness its capabilities to support newsgathering, reporting and audience research.

"Students will have the understanding, tools, and connections to navigate the modern media as consumers and producers. Students will be college and career ready with skills that support cooperation, interdisciplinary human connections, grit, resilience, and success," Fountain wrote in her project proposal.

Each year, up to 10 fellows are named, with five from rural Appalachian districts and five from urban districts in the state of Ohio. This program was established as part of the Scripps College of Communication's 50th anniversary in 2018.

Fountain said the possibilities to develop progressive and relevant learning experiences for her students under the guidance and leadership of OHIO's Scripps College of Communication is "a dream."

"It is invigorating as an educator to imagine possibilities and then have direct support to develop these aspirations into a tangible outcome that benefits students," she said. "I can't wait to learn, connect, research, develop a deeper understanding, and implement strategies that enhance my abilities as a communication educator."

For more information about the Communication Fellows Program, [visit the program's webpage](#). The Scripps College of Communication at Ohio University consists of five schools, each offering a variety of majors and programs for students who want to pursue communication-related careers. For more information, [visit our website](#).

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