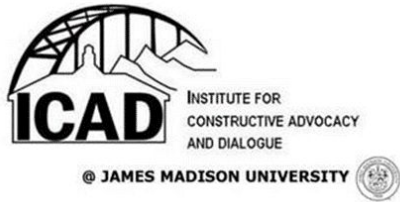


JMU Institute for Constructive Advocacy and Dialogue



ICAD Year-End Report 2018-2019

Co-Director, Lori L. Britt, Communication Studies, MSC 2106,
brittll@jmu.edu

Co-Director, Rob Alexander, Political Science, MSC 7705,
alexanrw@jmu.edu

www.jmu.edu/icad

twitter: @icadjmu

Facebook: ICADJMU

Vision

We seek to create a world that engages in dialogue and deliberation across differences as a cultural norm and as an effective tool for addressing the challenges and opportunities of civic life.

Mission

To inspire dialogue and deliberation that shapes engaged and inclusive communities and informs sound policies.

We do this by:

- creating spaces where exploring values and tensions can transform communities for collaborative public problem solving;
- training students, campus, and community members to build capacity for productive talk; and,
- grounding this work in and seeking to add to theory and best practices.

ICAD is housed in the School of Communication Studies, and while grounded in theories and research of communication, is multidisciplinary in nature and enjoys the robust support of the Department of Political Science and the College of Arts and Letters. Dr. Britt rechartered ICAD at JMU in 2012 and Dr. Alexander joined ICAD in 2013. Working with an ad-hoc Advisory Board, ICAD subsequently developed a new vision and mission. ICAD reports to Eric Fife, Academic Unit Head for the School of Communication Studies, and has been submitting annual reports to the School of Communication Studies and the College of Arts and Letters Dean's Office.

ICAD Personnel and Reach

Co-Director, Lori L. Britt, PhD, Associate Professor, Communication Studies

Co-Director, Robert Alexander, PhD, Political Science

Faculty Affiliate, Katie Lese, MA, Communication Studies

Community Affiliate, Kara Dillard, PhD

Community Affiliate, Tim Ruebke, MA, The Fairfield Center



Creating conversations that

Engage
Connect
Sustain

Faculty Affiliate, Sean McCarthy, PhD, Associate Professor, Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication

The ICAD Facilitator Affiliates

This group of JMU student, JMU employee, and community-based facilitator practitioners provide the backbone of ICAD’s engagement service. ICAD Affiliates have completed one or more of the following ICAD-based trainings (SCOM 447, SCOM/PUAD 627, non-credit ICAD workshop) or have chosen to affiliate with ICAD based upon their own professional experiences.

ICAD AY 2018-2019 Reach by the Numbers

14	Graduate Students enrolled in the facilitation theory and training course SCOM/PUAD 627, Spring 2019
24	SCOM undergrad students in the facilitation theory and training course SCOM 447, Fall 2018
6	ICAD Student Affiliates and Interns earning credit for ICAD engagement
11	ICAD Facilitator Affiliates actively providing professional services to community clients
9	Campus Facilitated Forums (<i>see descriptions below</i>)
3	Campus Facilitated Organizational Processes (<i>see descriptions below</i>)
5	Community Facilitated Forums (<i>see descriptions below</i>)
6	Community Facilitated Processes (<i>see descriptions below</i>)

ICAD Goals for 2019-2020

- *Engaged Service:* We will continue to provide professional facilitation services for campus and community groups who have a need to shape spaces for productive talk and collaborative action. In addition, we will offer a set of non-credit community-based training workshops to respond to growing interest and inquiries. Accompanying these workshops will be a full year Brown Bag series (*see descriptions below*) for campus and community members interested in advancing their knowledge and practice of facilitation.
- *Engaged Learning:* We will continue to expose students to the theory and practice of facilitation, dialogue, deliberation, and collaboration through the dedicated undergraduate course, SCOM 447, and the cross-listed graduate course, SCOM 627/PUAD 627, as well as exposing honors students to the skills of framing complex issues through the Honors curriculum focusing on deliberation in SCOM 123 Honors. We will also continue to provide opportunities for students to use their skills in designing and facilitating productive conversation through campus and community projects.
- *Engaged Scholarship:* We also continue to grow and manage a network of ICAD faculty, affiliates, and student and community facilitators to build sustainable capacity to meet growing campus and community needs through research and inquiry into the factors underlying successful

Research about the Practice of Dialogue and Deliberation

Publications

Britt, L. L., Alexander, R. (In press) *How the past shapes the present: Current narratives about public problem-solving and the past experiences that inform them.* Journal of Public Deliberation.



Creating conversations that

- Engage
- Connect
- Sustain

Research submitted for publication or presentation

Ball, T. C., & Britt, L. L. (2019). Deliberative communication about complex social issues: An innovative general education course for honors students. Manuscript submitted to *Journal of General Education*, March 1, 2019.

Ball, T. C., & Britt, L. L. (2019). Communicating about complex social issues: Innovative basic course assignments designed for honors students. Paper submitted to the 105th Convention of the National Communication Association's Basic Course Division on March 27, 2019.

Research in Progress

Madison Center for Civic Engagement (MCCE) Research on JMU Civic Climate – Dr. Britt, in part due to her role on the Advisory Committee for the MCCE, helped conduct focus groups and analyze data as part of JMU's participation in a collaborative research project with the American Democracy Project (ADP) and the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education (IDHE) to determine universities levels of political learning and democratic engagement. The analysis is continuing and the JMU research team intends to write publishable articles based on this research.

Learning about Citizen Decision-Making through the NIF Archives – Dr. Britt was invited to participate in a Kettering Foundation research exchange to consider what types of research might be conducted on the National Issues Forums archival material. Dr. Britt took graduate student Chase Dunn to Kettering for the meeting, and Dr. Britt and Mr. Dunn will now be conducting a funded research project that grew out of discussions at this meeting.

Conference Presentations

JMU Engagement for the Common Good conference (Nov. 2018). *Supporting Public Participation in Local Government Processes: A Campus and Local Government Partnership*. Dr. Britt, Dr. Alexander, and three JMU Graduate students presented along with Harrisonburg City staff about their collaboration on the Harrisonburg Comprehensive Planning Process and discuss campus and local governmental partnerships.

NCDD (Nov. 2018) *Democracy's Hubs: The Role of Local Centers in Building Capacity for Dialogue and Deliberation*. Dr. Britt served as a workshop presenter with Drs. Lisa-Marie Napoli and Martin Carcasson, at the biennial conference of the National Coalition of Dialogue and Deliberation.

NASPAA (Oct. 2018) *Facilitation and Dialogue: Teaching our students facilitation and dialogue skills in disruptive times*. Dr. Alexander served on a panel at the fall meeting of the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration (NASPAA) in Atlanta, GA. This panel, convened by Dr. Jane Hansberry of the University of Colorado at Denver, educated members about the current means for integrating facilitation training into Public Administration academic programs.

CLDE Conference (June, 2018) Britt, L. L., Eickoff, M., Napoli, L. M., Ramos, N., and Simonds, C. presented the workshop, *Transformation by Design: The Integration of Deliberative Talk to Transform Democracy*. 2018 Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement (CLDE) Meeting, Anaheim, CA.

Speaking Engagements



Creating conversations that

Engage
Connect
Sustain

Britt, L. L. (March, 2019) Gaining Civic Competence in/for a Culture of Democracy, Presentation to Lonestar Community College, Center for Leadership, Academic and Student Success (CLASS), Tomball, TX.

Britt, L. L. (May 2019) Civil Discourse: Now and in Jefferson's Time. Britt was a panelist in a Jeffersonian-inspired salon at Jefferson's villa, Poplar Forest, with Dr. Andrea Douglas, Meg Heubeck, moderated by Stephanie Roark Keener. The panel discussed the notion of civility in Jefferson's time, as well as the limits of civility in today's polarized political and social environments.

Workshops

ICAD Brown Bag Series – Dr. Alexander planned, convened, and implemented the pilot session for the ICAD Brown Bag Series. The topic of this event was 'Freeing Facilitation from Oppression' and workshop guest Jonathan McRay, M.A. focused on the ways by which Western culture-based facilitation process design and implementation reinforces oppressive cultural and race-based norms and power structures. The Brown Bag Series will run for a full year starting the fall of 2019.

Fairfield Center Continuing Education Workshop Leader – Drs. Alexander and Britt, and graduate student affiliate Chase Dunn co-led a training workshop on 'pop-up dialogue', or mediation and facilitation that occurs as events and crises unfold or soon after within public spaces. The workshop given to twenty mediators from across Virginia attending Fairfield training for continuing education credits.

United Way Emerging Leaders session on Systems Thinking and Design Thinking, Facilitated by Dr. Britt and Dr. McCarthy.

Facilitation Training for MYMOM, Make Your Mark on Madison – Dr. Britt helped members of the JMU leadership group learn how to facilitate talk to connect and explore. The MYMOM leaders will use these skills with their assigned small groups.

Grants/Fellowships

Interactivity Foundation, Development Team for Certificate Program for Deliberative Discussions, Lori L. Britt, \$500

Kettering Foundation, Faculty Fellowship, Advancing Initiatives for Democratic Practices, Lori L. Britt, \$7,500 (2018-2019)

Kettering Foundation, Joint Learning Agreement, to study critical shifts in deliberation. PI, Lori L. Britt, Co-PI R. Chase Dunn, \$9,000. (Funding to begin in June 2019)

Design and Facilitation of Campus Deliberative Spaces

Hacking JMU's Culture of Democratic Engagement – Students in Dr. Britt's graduate facilitation class, SCOM 627, designed and facilitated a dialogue for faculty and staff to consider the data gathered from the Madison Center for Civic Engagement focus groups on political talk and democratic engagement. Faculty were asked to consider barriers to this type of engagement and identify how to remove these barriers and increase this type of engagement across campus. A report from the event was shared with MCCE.



Creating conversations that

Engage
Connect
Sustain

It's No Joke: Democratic Talk at JMU – Students in Dr. Britt's graduate facilitation class, SCOM 627, designed and facilitated a dialogue for students to consider the data gathered from the Madison Center for Civic Engagement focus groups on political talk and democratic engagement. Students were asked to consider what factors promote and to consider barriers to this type of engagement and identify what would make them feel equipped to engage, particularly in discussions with others who hold different perspectives. A report from the event was shared with MCCE.

Deliberating Genetic Modification – Students completing an ICAD practicum designed and facilitated a deliberation about genetic modification in Dr. Kyle Seifert's graduate biology course. This is the second in what we hope is a strong connection with the sciences designed to help science students learn to discuss crucial issues in their field in ways that encourage them to see multiple perspectives of the issue. This will help prepare them to work with policy-makers, funders, and patients in their futures.

Labeling Our Landscape – Students completing an ICAD practicum designed a conversation for students to consider issues related to what we name things on campus, how these names reflect JMU's values, and what processes should be in place for decision-making. This conversation was hosted by the JMU History and Context Subcommittee of the JMU Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion. The notes from this forum will be included in the Committee's final report.

CFI Flash Discussion, Our Commemorative Landscape – Students completing an ICAD practicum designed a conversation for faculty and staff to consider issues related to what we name things on campus, how these names reflect JMU's values, and what processes should be in place for decision-making. This conversation was hosted by the JMU History and Context Subcommittee of the JMU Task Force on Diversity and Inclusion in conjunction with the Center for Faculty Innovation.

House Divided, NIF Forum – – Students completing an ICAD practicum hosted a deliberation for students focusing on the National Issues Forum guide, "A House Divided, How to get the political system we want" in partnership with the Madison Center for Civic Engagement.

Madison Center for Civic Engagement Tent Talks – Students in Dr. Britt's undergraduate course, SCOM 447, partnered with the Madison Center for Civic Engagement to host a Tent Talk that encouraged students to stop and learn and discuss their concerns about the National Debt.

Bioethics Discussion – Students in Dr. Britt's undergraduate course, SCOM 447, designed and facilitated a deliberative conversation with students in a graduate biology course about the issue of Translational Medicine. This was designed to help science students learn to discuss crucial issues in their field in ways that encourage them to see multiple perspectives of the issue. This will help prepare them to work with policy-makers, funders, and patients in their futures.

JMU's Legacy of Exclusion: Confronting our Past and Creating a Culture of Inclusion Dialogue – Students in Dr. Britt's undergraduate course, SCOM 447, designed and facilitated a dialogue to help educate students about JMU's history regarding race and issues of diversity and inclusion and understand their perspectives on this history. The hope was that understanding the institution's past will help all members of the university community recognize structures and practices that we may have inherited that keep JMU from being as diverse and inclusive as it would like to be.



Creating conversations that

Engage
Connect
Sustain

Design and Facilitation of Campus Organizational Processes

JMU History Faculty Values in Action process— Dr. Britt worked with JMU History faculty to conduct an input survey and use the results of this survey to design a process to engage the faculty in collaborative discussion about values and how those values can be put into action and inform various structures in the department.

Academic Institute and Center (AIC) Directors Working Group – Dr. Alexander convened 24 AIC Directors (i.e. CISR, Madison Center for Community Development, etc.) to collect data regarding AICs at JMU and to generate strategic ideas to inform the reimagining of Research and Scholarship underway this academic year. As convener and steering group member, Dr. Alexander developed a process design for the initial full group meeting, co-designed an AIC data collection instrument analyzed the data, and presented the group’s work to the Task Force the Provost convened to look at how to redesign Research and Scholarship.

JMU Engagement for the Public Good Conference Breakfast Roundtables – ICAD Affiliate facilitators planned and implemented small group conversations at the conference to encourage engagement with some big questions and themes related to engagement.

Design and Facilitation of Community Forums

City Council Candidate Forums – Dr. Britt worked with the Shenandoah Bicycle Coalition and the Harrisonburg Association of Realtors, to collaboratively design a City Council candidates’ public forum. Dr. Britt then moderated the forum, assisted by ICAD intern Lauren Rowell.

Harrisonburg/Rockingham Bike-Walk Summit – ICAD continued its longitudinal support of this annual Summit, a collaborative effort by the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition and the Central Shenandoah Valley Planning District Commission to bring together key decision-makers, public administrators, university actors, and bicycling/walking enthusiasts to discuss ways to improve biking and walking in the City and the County. This commitment starts in January and continues through November when the Summit occurs. Dr. Alexander designed the process and worked with four SCOM undergraduate students, two MPA students, and three ICAD Affiliates to train them into the process design.

First Step – Students in Dr. Britt’s undergraduate course, SCOM 447, designed and facilitated a deliberative conversation with staff and members of the board of First Step, an area domestic violence shelter, to aid in their decision-making about potential expansion and relocation options.

Amnesty for Aging Inmates – Undergraduate students in Dr. Britt’s undergraduate course, SCOM 447, helped design and facilitate small group conversations at a workshop convened by the Shenandoah Valley Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign.

Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Walk-Bike Forum – Building on the success of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Bike-Walk Forum, ICAD affiliate Kara Dillard worked with the SAW organizing committee to design and moderate the first Staunton-Augusta-Waynesboro Walk-Bike Summit held at Augusta Health. ICAD provided affiliate facilitators for the event.



Creating conversations that

Engage
Connect
Sustain

Design and Facilitation of Community Organizational Processes

Way2Go Strategic Planning – ICAD Affiliates designed and implemented a strategic planning process for the Way2Go board.

Harrisonburg Rockingham Historic Society – Dr. Britt and ICAD intern Lauren Rowell designed and facilitated a three-part Mission, Vision and Strategic Planning Process.

Virginia Social Studies Leadership Consortium – Dr. Britt and MPA Graduate Student Nahla Aboutabl designed and facilitated a Vision, Mission and Values process to help the group focus its advocacy efforts.

Town of Woodstock Rails to Trails Committee – Dr. Alexander continued serving as the planning facilitator for the Town of Woodstock Rails to Trails Committee. Each month, Dr. Alexander consulted with the Committee Chair to discuss objectives for the next meeting, designed a process for meeting those objectives, and then facilitated these processes. Subsequent report generation ensued. At various points in this work, several JMU students were involved with process design and facilitation.

Northern Shenandoah Valley Rails to Trails Project – Dr. Alexander served as the process designer and lead facilitator for the new evolution of the Town of Woodstock Rails to Trails Committee starting in February 2019. This Committee is now a Valley-wide coalition involving two counties, two Planning District Commissions, fifteen towns, and a five non-profit stakeholders.

City of Harrisonburg Department of Parks and Recreation Strategic Planning – Dr. Alexander and two ICAD Affiliates completed an internal strategic plan for the City of Harrisonburg's Parks and Recreation Department. The purpose of this plan was to guide internal shifts of both operational and cultural changes. The planning process included:

- Multiple meetings with the Department's Strategic Planning Committee to develop process design and engage in data analysis
- Analysis of strategic issue brainstorm
- Crafting draft and final versions of an internal plan that includes internal goals, objectives, and action items.



Creating conversations that

Engage
Connect
Sustain