FAC Committee Bios

Name: Renee Bourdeaux

Committee Position: President

Education background: M.A. - University of North Dakota, 2001 - Communication B.A. - University of North Dakota, 1997 - Communication

Year & program at NDSU: 2nd year Ph.D. Student in Interpersonal Communication

Research Interests: I am in love with Interpersonal Communication, specifically marital communication. I am currently looking at how the couples use relational maintenance to address short-term stressors in successful marriages. Other projects I am currently involved in explore interpersonal crises in residence hall roommate relationships, the detrimental effects of fast pace of life on relational maintenance strategies, the expectations and experiences of nontraditional students in online environments, and college students’ mediated connections with family members while away at college.

Favorite Theory: I love the diversity of Relational Maintenance and how it takes into account the many facets of relationships. I am additionally intrigued by the diverse areas using Expectancy Violations Theory to explain life.

Books you would recommend reading (for fun ☺ ):

* BEST BOOK EVER FOR GRADUATE STUDENT! Luker, K. (2008). Salsa dancing into the social sciences. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP. **Seriously, read it!**
* Relationships 101 by John C. Maxwell – short and reminds me why I love interpersonal relationships
* The Hunger Games series – I am always up for a good series
* Bossy Pants by Tina Fey – for when you need a lot of laughs!
* Catching Fireflies: Teaching Your Heart to See God's Light Everywhere by Patsy Clairmont – super short chapters (a must for fun reading in Grad school) that remind me what is REALLY important

Favorite music: To me, Christian music is so motivational. My favorite artists are Casting Crowns, Britt Nicole (Gold is my FAVORITE song!), Toby Mac, Mandisa, Laura Story, and Newsboys.

Movie you can watch over and over: Sweet Home Alabama, Pretty Woman, Chasing Amy, Better Off Dead, So I Married an Axe Murderer, Avatar, the ORIGINAL Planet of the Apes and any of the Twilight movies.

Favorite restaurant(s) in Fargo-Moorhead: India Palace, Santa Lucia, Osaka, LeeLa Thai Cuisine, Drunken Noodle, WF Maxwells, China King, Paradiso, The Pita Pit, and any place with sushi

If you could have any superpower, it would be: I would love to fly. It would totally ROCK to just jump in the air and take off.

Favorite quotation/words to live by: If you can dream it, you can do it! – Walt Disney

Happiness resides not in possessions and not in gold; the feeling of happiness dwells in the soul. – Democritus

You cannot dream yourself into a character: you must hammer and forge yourself into one. - Henry D. Thoreau

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm. - Ralph Waldo Emerson