

## **JENNIFER MARKS, Ph.D.**

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### **Education**

- Ph.D. in Theatre and Performance Studies from University of Georgia—2023
- M.A. in English from Florida Gulf Coast University—2012
- B.A. in English Literature with minor in Creative Writing from Florida Gulf Coast University—2010
- A.S. degree in Business Administration and Management from Edison State College—1993

### **Statement of Teaching and Research Interests**

As a theatre and performance studies scholar, my teaching and research explore the intersections of performance, identity, medicine, and communication.

Within simulated patient/client education, I train both experienced and novice actors to create and perform specific physical, psychological and emotional affects, maintaining their character role with consistency from encounter to encounter while also responding specifically to each student learner. I encourage our actors to recognize and reflect on spatial awareness, embodied knowledge, listening, and responsiveness as they interact with student learners and share specific and actionable feedback with them. This approach supports health and life science learners in developing patient- and relationship-centered communication, clinical reasoning, and care.

Through applied theatre techniques, I work with professional students to develop their communication and clinical skills as well as their professional identities. I use improvisation and co-design and facilitate interactive performance experiences. Both require participants to interpret narrative as well as character actions and affect in real time, mirroring the complexity and immediacy of clinical work. My goal is for these learners to understand patients and clients from a holistic perspective, understanding how their lived social and emotional experience is shaped by context, power, and identity, thus fostering empathy and compassion in care.

### **Relevant Work History**

*Communication Simulation Coordinator (Summer 2025-Present)*  
*UGA Colleges of Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine*

When UGA's Franklin College decided not to renew the faculty managing director position for ACTR, two of our central partners, UGA's college of veterinary medicine and college of pharmacy, created a full-time faculty position for me to continue the work I had been doing. Currently, this is a two-year limited-term position.

- Featured in article on UGA College of Pharmacy Website. “News: Dr. Jennifer Marks Leads Communication Simulations for Colleges of Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine,” Sept. 24, 2025, accessed Nov. 12, 2025, <https://rx.uga.edu/jennifer-marks-leads-communication-simulations/>
- Create weekly training lesson plans and tools for training standardized and simulated patient/clients for the pharmacy, veterinary, and other departments/units/schools
- Train SPs and SCs in physical, emotional, and psychological affects for live encounters with students at pharmacy, veterinary, and other departments/units/schools.
- Trains SPs and SCs to also give communications feedback to students in pharmacy, veterinary, and other departments/units/schools
- Act as simulated or standardized patient/client when needed
- Recruit SPs and SCs to accommodate expanding program.
- Evaluate SP/SC performance and feedback skills with vet and pharmacy to improve training and develop specific training workshops outside of regular case training.
- Create communication workshop and improv lesson plans for training veterinary students (twice per semester).
- Develop communication skills of veterinary and pharmacy students
- Create undergraduate veterinary communications training course curriculum to give pre-professionals a head with learning how to define their professional selves in build their communication skills.
- Continue outreach to strengthen relationships with potential new partners across campus (law, social work, kinesiology, family and consumer science, Archway Partnership) continuing the work begun in 2023.
- Co-develop cases with pharmacy and veterinary medicine faculty.
- Perform various administrative duties regarding hiring, scheduling, and paying SPs and SCs for the veterinary and pharmacy schools.
- Meet with veterinary and pharmacy faculty to assess needs and create a plan to grow their simulated patient/client encounter programs.
- Enhance SP/SC skills through development of new SP orientation, SP training handbook, SP policy handbook, and communications/feedback workshops

*ACTR Program Managing Director (former title Standardized Patient/Client Training Program Coordinator), University of Georgia, Fall 2014-Summer 2025*

I began as graduate assistant when the theatre department had partnered solely with the medical school to work with standardized patients (SPs) and simulated clients (SCs). I have helped grow the program to now include pharmacy, veterinary medicine, and social work and continue this work in a full-time three-year limited-term faculty position, which began in Fall 2022.

- Featured in articles by Alan Flurry
  - “Art and Science Converge to Bolster Communication Skills for Veterinary Medicine Students,” published in UGA College of Veterinary Medicine’s *Aesculapian* in 2025, accessed Nov. 12, 2025, <https://mag.vet.uga.edu/article/art-and-science-converge-to-bolster-communication-skills-for-veterinary-medicine-students/>
  - “Healthcare Training—a Partnership of Science, Art, and Communications, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences’ *Chronicles*, Sept. 10, 2024, accessed Nov. 12, 2025, <https://franklin.uga.edu/news/stories/2024/healthcare-training-partnership-science-art-and-communications>

*As Managing Director/Coordinator (2016-present):*

**As Training Facilitator:**

- Create weekly training lesson plans and tools with graduate assistants for training standardized and simulated patient/clients for the medical, pharmacy, veterinary, and social work schools.
- Train SPs and SCs in physical, emotional, and psychological affects for live encounters with students at medical, pharmacy, veterinary, and social work schools
- Trains SPs and SCs to also give communications feedback to students at medical, pharmacy, veterinary, and social work schools
- Prepare MFA Acting and PhD Graduate Assistants to train SPs and SCs.
- Act as simulated or standardized patient/client for medical, pharmacy, veterinary, and social work schools when needed.
- Recruit for theatre course for training undergraduates and graduate students as standardized patients/clients.
- Created curriculum for standardized patients/clients
- Evaluate SP/SC performance and feedback skills with vet and social work and more to improve training and develop specific training workshops outside of regular case training.
- Create communication workshop lesson plans for training veterinary students (twice per semester).
- Train veterinary students to communicate with clients.

**As Director:**

- Developing proposal for SP/SC Certificate Program for students interested in getting certified as to do standardized/simulated encounters as a lucrative side career.
- Work on ACTR Program outreach to continue growing program. In 2023-2024
  - Developed working relationship with IPPE faculty Dr. Tim Brown to use SPs in his projects.
  - Met successfully with the School of Social Work to begin supplying SCs an developing role-play cases and learning opportunities for students
  - Made contact with faculty in School of Law to supply actors as witnesses.
  - Scheduled seminar for Fall 2024 Annual PSO Staff Professional Development Conference, which will share ACTR's mission with a wider university and community audience.
  - Began developing ideas with Anthony Marotta to expand his work with teaching graduate students effective communications skills and professional identity formation and the Graduate School.
- Work with other coordinators and program directors at the individual UGA schools to assess their training needs.
- Perform various administrative duties regarding hiring, scheduling, and paying SPs and SCs for the veterinary and pharmacy schools.
- Meet with veterinary school to assess needs and create a plan to grow their simulated client encounter program. Summer of 2023, they built 6 new communications rooms on strength of relationship with ACTR and my managing director duties.
- Co-develop cases for veterinary medicine with veterinary faculty.
- Work with Pharmacy School to develop their program. Active development will begin after their reaccreditation next year.
- Worked with department's marketing person to promote the ACTR Program through building a webpage and other promotional materials
- Drafted and submitted course proposal for THEA 4900: Performance and Simulation course that trains undergraduate acting students as standardized and simulated patients/clients.
  - Course replaces the general THEA 5580: Special Topics in Theatre version of the SP/SC course

- Coordinated new marketing of the course with a clearer approach beginning in Fall.
- Successful launch of the THEA 4900: Performance and Simulation course brought numbers in the course up from 0 the previous year to 12/16 in Spring 2024. This is the **highest number of students enrolled** in at least 8 years.
- Spring 2025: added **additional opportunities for students** in the THEA 4900 course. As part of developing a relationship with the UGA School of Law, students performed a scenario for a lost student midterm. We also worked with the UGA archway partnership on a Vaping Prevention/Cessation project for Colquitt County Schools. We worked in conjunction with Dr. Holly Gallagher's science writing class.
- Co-led communications workshops for SPs at Medical Partnership.
- Co-authored several grants, including a **successful \$1,000 Mellon Grant** submission for *Malady Mystery Project*, project is a partnership between medical school and theatre and explores the intersection between the rise of modern medicine and the rise of the mystery genre through development of an interactive dinner-theatre-style mystery. Special focus on women and disability. 2024-2025 academic year.
- Co-authored **successful \$12,500 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Interdisciplinary Grant**. This project works with theatre, social work, and veterinary medicine to research implicit bias in client care. Fall 2020-present.
- Partnered with Dr. David Saltz to generate materials, such as letters to deans, course proposals, and job duty descriptions in ongoing effort to ensure funding for the continuation of the program.
- Created budget codes for managing graduate assistant weekly hours.

#### Other Duties:

- Developed syllabus and curriculum for undergraduate Disability Theatre History, taught in Fall 2023
- Teaching THEA 2010: Intro to Acting for Non-Majors, *Fall 2024*

#### As Graduate Assistant (2014-2016):

- Contacted professional acting faculty at other higher learning institutions to solicit aid in reviewing videos for a joint experiment between the Dept. of Theatre and Film Studies and the Medical School.
- Handled paperwork for payment of these experts.
- Co-trained SPs for pharmacy school program.

#### Service

- 2025-2026 Academic Year: ASPE Conference Abstract Reviewer for 2026 ASPE Conference
- 2025-2026 Academic Year: Disability Theatre and Performance (DTaP) Theatre Focus Group ATHE Secretary
- 2025-2026 Academic Year: Co-Facilitator for Faculty Learning Community "Improvisation for Teaching and Learning"
- October 2025: Dr. Amy Baldwin (UGA School of Medicine), Dr. Gabrielle Sinclair Compton (UGA Theatre) and I Co-Taught at a four-part mystery writing workshop that combines writing and improvisation techniques at UGA's OLLI

- September 2025: Kay Brooks, Dr. Nock Castillo (UGA College of Pharmacy), Dr. Cindy Dixon (UGA College of Veterinary Medicine) and I co-Presented at UGA's OLLI on the College of Pharmacy and College of Veterinary Medicine's SP/SC Program.
- Fall 2025: Guest Speaker in Improvisation FYO. Demonstrated how improv is used in live role play simulations.
- Spring 2025: Worked with UGA's Archway Partnership to develop materials for Colquitt County Schools to use to discuss vaping with middle and high school students. Undergraduate students in my THEA 4900: Performance and Simulation course worked with students in Dr. Holly Gallagher's Science Writing Course to research and develop materials as part of their final projects that were then incorporated into a package of resources for schools.
- 2024-Present: Member of UGA's Arts and Health Interdisciplinary Committee

### Academic and Professional Development

- Spring 2025: Guest-Lecturer for two sections of WMST 1110 taught by Alexis Lygoumenos. Co-teaching with Amy Baldwin and Gabrielle Sinclair Compton on improvisation and healthcare communication.
- November 2025: Walgreens Pharmacy Academic Seminar, Virtual Broadcast. Nov. 7, 2025.
- *Malady Mystery Project*—Spring 2024-present: Partnership between medical school and theatre, led by me, Dr. Amy Baldwin, and Dr. Gabrielle Sinclair Compton, and explores the intersection between the rise of modern medicine and the rise of the mystery genre through development of an interactive dinner-theatre-style mystery. Special focus on women and disability:
  - Fall 2025:
    - Co-presenter on workshop using murder mystery and medical themes for the AIN Virtual Conference
    - Co-developed and co-taught Murder Mystery Writing series for OLLI.
    - Media coverage of work: Clay Chastain, "Medicine Meets Mystery: UGA's Malady Mystery Project Blends Theatre and Science," *Dept. of Theatre and Film News*, accessed Nov. 12, 2025, <https://www.drama.uga.edu/news/stories/2025/medicine-meets-mystery-ugas-malady-mystery-project-blends-theatre-and-science>
    - KNN Conference re-presentation for UGA Arts Collaborative
    - Co-author on presentation, led by medical students for Kern National Network (KNN) for Flourishing in Health Conference, Minneapolis, MN.
  - Spring 2025: Introductory performance to a select audience supported by an Arts Collaborative mini grant
  - Fall 2024: Devising sessions and first writing workshop supported by a Building Southern Future Mellon mini grant
- 2025-2026 Academic Year: Co-Facilitator for Faculty Learning Community "Improvisation for Teaching and Learning"
- Fall 2025: UGA College of Pharmacy *2025 Catalyst Curriculum Summit*

- Summer 2025: Completed 36 hours of continuing education credit through the Veterinary Healthcare Communication Train the Trainer Course at Texas A&M, which prepared me to train and assist vet students with their communication skills develop feedback skills for SPs and SCs across disciplines and professions.
- Spring 2025: Institute for Women Studies, Friday Speaker Series: Co-presented with Dr. Amy Baldwin, the Director of Humanism and Medicine at the AU/UGA Medical Partnership. We presented on the importance of simulated patient/client work and the use of improv in training medical students.
- Fall 2020-present: UGA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Interdisciplinary Grant:
  - Working with theatre, social work and veterinary medicine on research project about implicit bias in client care.
  - Presented research at 2025 AAVMC Conference in Washington, D.C.: Sherry Clouser, EdD, Jeremy Gibbs, MSW, PhD, David Saltz, PhD, Jennifer Marks, PhD, MA, and Susan Williams, DVM, PhD, ACPV “Multicultural Simulated Clients: How Race Affects Vet Students’ Case Perceptions.”
  - Abstract for conference published in “2025 AAVMC Catalyze and Iverson Bell Symposium Abstracts,” *Journal of Veterinary Medicine Education*, vol 52, no. 2 April 2025: 277 and 287. doi:10.3138/jvme-52-2-Abstracts
- 2024-2025 Academic Year: Was a member of the UGA Dept. of Theatre and Film’s Outreach Committee, which was formed to support undergraduate recruitment and outreach in the community. Make connection with UGA’s Archway Partnership and JW Fanning Institute to use theater to help support educational growth and solve community issues.
- UGA’s Franklin College or Arts and Sciences Faculty Mixer, November 2024: Presented on ACTR Program and *Malady Mystery Project*
- Torrance Center Mini-Conference—October 2024: Presented on *Malady Mystery Project* with co-researchers Gabrielle Sinclair Compton and Dr. Amy Baldwin.
- Invited by Institute for Healthcare Communications to serve on program development and outreach committee before it was dissolved in 2023
- Panel presenter at Association for Theatre in Higher Education (ATHE)—Summer 2020: Presented on the standardized patient program at UGA.
- Presenter at the University of Georgia Spotlight on the Arts’ 4’33” Competition—Fall 2016: Presented on nostalgia in interactive murder mystery performances.
- Sanibel Island Writers Conference
  - Attended solo—2010-2013
  - Attended in 2009 as student in FGCU Sanibel Island Writers Conference class.
  - Attended on own in 2008
- *Mangrove Review*
  - *Executive Editor*—2011-2012
  - Editorial Staff—reader for prose and poetry for 2011 issue—2010-2011
  - Editorial Staff—reader prose, art, and poetry for 2010 issue—2009-2010
- Circle of Friends

- Epistolary Pals—shared letters with fourth grade child reading under grade level—2010-2011
- Reading/Writing Tutor—kindergarten, second grade, and third grade—2009-2010
- Sigma Tau Delta (International English Honor Society)
  - Featured Speaker 2012 Literary Conference, spoke about women and Iranian Cinema
  - Presented paper on women and Iranian Cinema at the annual *Sigma Tau Delta International Convention* in New Orleans—29 February-3 March 2012.
  - President 2011
  - Historian/Treasurer—2009-2010
- Summer Writing Institute
  - Attended 2012—teaching concepts of revision
  - Attended 2011—integrating multimedia assignments into the Composition classroom.
- Attended literary/teaching conference at Edison State College—2009

## Memberships

- AIN (Applied Improvisation Network)—joined 2025
- ASPE (Association of Standardized Patient Educators)—joined 2025
- ATHE (Association of Theatre in Higher Education)—joined 2021,
  - Joined the board of the DTaP (Disability Theatre and Performance) focus group as Secretary in Fall 2025
- Society of Children’s Writers and Illustrators Critique Group in S.W. Florida—joined 2009
  - Assumed co-leadership responsibilities in Summer 2010-Summer 2011
- Sigma Tau Delta
  - Elected president for FGCU chapter in Spring 2011—chosen after current president decided to step down for personal reasons.
- Phi Theta Kappa

## Publication Credits

- December 2025: “Reflecting on the Process: Devising and Interactive Murder Mystery Using Medical Improv,” *Etudes* vol. 10, no. 1 (2025), <http://www.etudesonline.com/dec2025marks.html>.
- Fall 2025: Nolan, Lisa. K, Richard Lamb, Jennifer Marks, and Amy Carter (corresponding author), “Innovation in the Curriculum Hones Clinical Skills” in *AVMA Publications*, accessed Nov. 12, 2025, <https://avmajournals.avma.org/view/journals/javma/263/10/javma.25.08.0528.xml>
- Co-authored abstract for conference presentation published in “2025 AAVMC Catalyze and Iverson Bell Symposium Abstracts,” *Journal of Veterinary Medicine Education*, vol 52, no. 2 April 2025: 277 and 287. doi:10.3138/jvme-52-2-Abstracts

- Mangrove Review 2013
  - “Ding How”—creative non-fiction
  - “Florida Gothic”—photographic art
- Panache Desai—Inspirational Contemporary Speaker—September-October 2011
  - Edited and refined product descriptions for MP3 downloads for *Igniting Boundless Receiving* program.
  - Ghost wrote article about abundance for November 2011 issue of *Evolving Magazine*.
- FGCU Writing Center—2011
  - Wrote, recorded and edited podcast on comma splices for their webpage—Summer 2011.
  - Wrote and recorded podcast on creative writing entitled “A Place to Write” for their webpage—Spring 2011.
- *èBella*—Editorial Intern Spring 2011—Pitched and wrote articles and participated in the selection process of feature articles for this local women’s magazine.
  - August/September 2011
    - “Confessions of a Nickelodeon Junkie”—Pitched and wrote this two-page memoir-style article about connecting with our inner child for the monthly *Perspectives* column.
      - Article received cover space.
      - Received positive feedback email from a longtime reader.
    - “It Takes a Village”—In partnership with the editor, called local community organizations to write monthly column asking readers to help local organizations with their non-monetary needs.
  - July 2011
    - “It Takes a Village”—called local community organizations to write monthly column asking readers to help local organizations with their non-monetary needs.
    - “Transformation with Honors”—Pitched and interviewed students to write a two-page article about two FGCU honor students who created and run two community organizations. Includes photo credit.
    - “Home-Style Innovation” and “Green Innovation”—Pitched, researched and wrote two-part, 700-word article for the monthly *Bella Casa* column.
  - June 2011
    - “Autism Speaks”—Researched and interviewed representatives to write 400-word piece on this featured non-profit organization.
    - “Art of the Olympians”—Researched and interviewed representatives to write 400-word piece on this featured non-profit organization.
    - “Bosom Buddies”—Researched and interviewed representatives to write 400-word piece on this featured non-profit organization.
    - “Making Room for Him”—Pitched, researched and wrote 500-word article for the monthly *Bella Casa* column.
    - “It Takes a Village”—called local community organizations to write monthly column asking readers to help local organizations with their non-monetary needs.
  - May 2011
    - “Fighting Frizz”—Interviewed several salon owners and stylists to write two-page article about fighting frizz in the SW Florida humidity.
    - “Imaginarium”—Interviewed local science museum for 400-word piece on this featured non-profit organization.
    - “It Takes a Village”—called local community organizations to write monthly column asking readers to help local organizations with their non-monetary needs.
  - April 2011

- “Jumping into the Pages”—Interviewed attending author and conference organizer to write two-page article about the Naples Writers’ Conference and Authors and Books Festival.
  - “It Takes a Village”—called local community organizations to write monthly column asking readers to help local organizations with their non-monetary needs.
  - “S’more New Friends”—Researched summer camps and interviewed camp expert to write four-page article about finding the right summer camp for your child.
  - Victoria Stilwell—Attended press conference for Animal Planet’s presenter of *It’s Me or the Dog* at local Humane Society shelter and wrote small blurb for larger article about the benefit she hosted to benefit the shelter. Also functioned as photographer for the press conference.
  - “Tablescapes”—Pitched and wrote this 300-word article for monthly *Bella Casa* column.
- *Mangrove Review*—2010
    - “Coloring Heroes”—poem
    - “Constant Companions”—poem
    - “The Picnic”—poem
  - *Tea: A Magazine*. “Friendship over Gold: The Art of Persian Tea”—Autumn 2010
  - Interviewed about my poetry on *Gulf Coast Live Arts Edition*—WGCU/NPR Radio—1 April 2010.
  - *Mangrove Review*—2009
    - “Survival”—short-story
    - “Nancy Drew is a Bitch?”—poem
    - “Pompeii”—poem
    - “And God Created *Tabaqueras*”—poem
  - *Griffin Gazette*—Modern Steps School of Dance Newsletter—2004-2008—wrote the majority of copy, edited, and created the layout for the monthly newsletter—discontinued for budget reasons.

### Other Work History

- Florida Gulf Coast University
  - Ten-plus years of experience teaching professional writing (asynchronous online).
  - Four-plus years teaching in-person English Composition I and II as well and serving as a Writing Lab tutor
- Twenty-plus years in the retail and service industry, including several management roles.