

What is the Communication Department Reading, Watching, and Listening to?

by Jana Clark

This past year has been stressful and unprecedented to say the least, and everyone has found their own form of relaxation to help make the realities of daily life more bearable. A popular pastime with students and faculty in the Communication Department is curling up with their favorite book, listening to a podcast during their daily commute, or ending the night with a few episodes of their favorite show.

After interviewing different faculty and students from the department, revisiting old favorites, like *Modern Family*, seems to be a common trend. Sophomore John O'Connor said, "my roommate and I have been watching so many throwback movies like *John Tucker Must Die*, *Pitch Perfect*" and more.

Following is a list of popular forms of entertainment communication department faculty and students have been consuming lately. Let it inspire you the next time you find yourself stumped on what to watch or listen to!

Current Student Favorites

TV Shows:

1. *Modern Family* first aired on September 23, 2009 and ran for 11 seasons until its finale on April 8, 2020. This is a feel-good show that takes a hilarious perspective on family life.

2. *One Tree Hill*: The American drama series seems to be a favorite with communication department students. If you are into fiction stories that involve family drama, then *One Tree Hill* might be the show for you.

3. *Gilmore Girls* is a girl's journey with her single mother as they face the realities of life together.

4. *The Vampire Diaries* is a drama about what it is like being a teenage vampire in a small town.

5. *Tiny Pretty Things* Another drama series, *Tiny Pretty Things* focuses on the life of a star student at a ballet school who, after an attack, is brought down by a replacement who sucks her into a world of lies, betrayal, and competition.

Movies:

1. *Operation Varsity Blues: The College Admissions Scandal*

At this point, just about everyone has heard about the college admissions scandals involving rich and famous families who get their children admitted into some of the best universities in the country through scandal and fraud. If not, watch this documentary directed by Chris Smith to learn everything you need to know about it.





2. *John Tucker Must Die*

Released in 2006, *John Tucker Must Die* is a classic high school flick about relationship drama and how three girls from different groups band together to get back at one guy. Check out this American teen romantic comedy if you feel like having a good laugh while reminiscing about high school.

3. *Pitch Perfect*

The first *Pitch Perfect* still remains a popular favorite film with students. You can never go wrong with it if you are looking for a feel-good movie about a woman in college trying to find her place at a new school.

4. *Seaspiracy*

A documentary about the impact of fishing on the environment, *Seaspiracy* is both educational and entertaining.

5. *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*

For the last of the student-favorite movies, *To All the Boys I've Loved Before* needed to be included because this is a movie series that just about anyone can enjoy. Yes, it might be a little (or a lot) cheesy, but you can't help but fall in love with characters who are trying to figure out love for themselves.

Music & Podcasts:

Upbeat indie pop– check out [this](#) suggested playlist from sophomore, Jilleen Barrett, on Spotify!

Top artists that are popular with students at the moment include Dua Lipa, Justin Bieber's new album, "Justice", SZA, and Lana del Rey.

For all you barstool fans, one of the top recommended podcasts from students was *Call Her Daddy*, hosted by Alexandra Cooper. There seemed to be a mix of genres when it came to podcasts that

communication students are listening to, some of which include *Anything Goes* hosted by Emma Chamberlain, *True Crime Daily The Podcast* by Ana Garcia, *Lower Your Expectations* hosted by Marcus Butler, and *Take the Cake* hosted by Kate Noel.

Anyone who loves Ruth Bader Ginsburg needs to read *Conversations with RBG: Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Life, Love, Liberty, and Law* by Jeffrey Rosen. For \$25.00 on Amazon, you can get an intimate look into RBG's life and career through an extraordinary series of conversations with the head of the National Constitution Center.

Now that we have discussed what students are currently listening to and watching, let's take a look at what professors are reading and watching! It was interesting to discover both similarities and differences in the kind of content each of these different groups were consuming.





Professor Favorites

Professors' favorite shows ranged across genres. Their fondness for shows like *Hannibal*, *WandaVision*, and *The Umbrella Academy* was pleasantly surprising. Other shows like *Kvodo*, *Unorthodox*, and *Lovecraft Country* were a bit more obscure and off the beaten track.

Movies did not seem to be as popular with professors, but a few recommendations included *Enola Holmes*, *There Will Be Blood*, *Sorry to Bother You*, and *Judas and the Black Messiah*. If you are into mystery, epic period dramas, or comedies, these movies might be worth checking out.

When it came to books the professors were currently reading, the list seemed to go on compared to any other recommendations they made. Following is a list of books that vary in genre and style, but may be worth checking out if you are looking to add a new book to your collection.

1. *The Warmth of Other Suns*, is a biography and epic historical story of America's Great Migration as told by Isabel Wilkerson.
2. *The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark* by Ann Druyan and Carl Sagan is a book which explains the scientific method to laypeople and encourages them to learn critical and skeptical thinking.
3. *The Boys on the Bus* by Timothy Crouse is a non-fiction book detailing life on the road for reporters covering the 1972 United States presidential campaign.
4. *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72* by Hunter S. Thompson is a biography that recounts and analyzes the 1972 presidential campaign in which Richard Nixon was re-elected President of the United States.
5. *His Truth is Marching On: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* by John Meachum is a biography and #1 NYTimes bestseller recounting the intimate story of a civil rights icon and longtime U.S. Congressman, John Lewis, and his fight for justice.

I hope this detailed account of what kinds of entertainment communication professors and students have been consuming lately, will prove useful to you in your search for what to watch or listen to next!