

A year of transitions ahead for SSCA

Two important changes will take place in the association over the next year. The first change involves the renewal of our affiliation agreement with the National Communication Association (NCA). While this would appear to be a relatively straightforward matter, the new process for affiliation has involved some discussion and debate among members of the Administrative Committee and the Executive Council. The criteria recently adopted by NCA for affiliates mandates that affiliated organizations be legally incorporated nonprofit organizations.

As many of you are aware, SSCA has been exploring the process of incorporation for the past two years and has been in regular contact with NCA regarding this matter. Incorporating SSCA would seem to be a simple matter but it is more complicated since we are not starting from scratch. Rather than an uncomplicated process, various forms of legal gymnastics would be required to tie the



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current organization to a newly incorporated entity. Members of the Executive Committee have been working closely with Executive Director Carl Cates to address NCA's affiliation concerns while maintaining SSCA's current structure. This summer we provided NCA with application materials to renew our affiliation, and I'm pleased to report that we received very positive feedback about our submission. The application will be reviewed by the NCA Legislative Assembly in November at the annual conference. Once approved,

the new affiliation agreement will take effect in January 2015.

The second important change will involve a transition with the Executive Director position. Changing Executive Directors is among the biggest challenges an association faces in governance and day-to-day management. SSCA is truly fortunate to have two outstanding leaders involved in this transition. Carl Cates, SSCA Executive Director, will begin to transition out of that position over the next year. Jerry Hale, the incoming Executive Director, will shadow Carl over the next twelve months to become well-versed in the operations of the Association.

Having worked closely with Carl for the past several years, I am keenly aware of most (but not all!) of the things that he does for the membership. The SSCA family owes Carl a huge thank you for all that he has done to advance the association and protect its interests. Well done Carl!

SSCA officer nominations sought

The SSCA Nominating Committee seeks self or other nominations for two separate offices.

First, the Vice President-Elect, who will oversee the Theodore H. Clevenger, Jr. Undergraduate Honors Conference in Austin, TX, in 2016, followed by serving as convention planner for the 87th Annual SSCA Convention in Greenville, SC, in 2017. The next year, the person serves as President of SSCA.

Second, the committee seeks candidates to serve as K-12 SSCA Representative to the National Communication Association

Legislative Council for a three-year term, beginning in April, 2015. This person also will be a member of the Executive Council of SSCA and represent the interests of High School association members.

Initially, the committee is interested in names of interested parties. Eventually, candidates will be expected to submit a current vita along with a 300-word platform statement exploring a desire to serve SSCA and reasons for their election to the office sought. For further information or to suggest nomi-



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nations, please contact John Meyer at the University of Southern Mississippi at John.Meyer@usm.edu (601-266-4280).

Members with interests needed

In the two years since the launch of the new website the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. One of the best indicators of its success is the sharp reduction in the number of requests by members for assistance in managing membership and registration. However, within this transition an unintended consequence has emerged partly from improved site navigation and the streamlined membership process. One of the membership options we may select when managing our membership has become problematic. While it has always been true that members joining via the paper form have been able to forego selections regarding divisions and interest groups, we did not anticipate the problem this would create with the online process. In the governing documents of SSCA, members are entitled to pick two division affiliations and two interest group affiliations. Many of you have expressed appreciation for the freedom of choice embodied by not choosing those affiliations. Currently, almost 40% of SSCA's members have one or no divisional and interest group preferences.

The difficulty presented by foregoing affiliation preferences involves program slots for



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our annual convention. The number of program slots for our annual convention is based in part on the percentage of membership affiliated with each division and interest group. This begs the question: How does the convention planner award slots in that vacuum? You will notice when you renew your membership that the process has been changed to require selection of divisions and interest groups so that SSCA is better able to reflect the interests of the membership in the convention planning. I encourage you to visit division and interest group pages for clarity regarding the scope of their scholarly interests or to email the chairs of the respective groups.

Looking forward to Tampa!

85th Annual SSCA Convention April 8-12, 2015

Marriott Waterside Hotel and Marina
Tampa, Florida

Communication as Art and Craft

Deadline for all submissions is September 12, 2014.

Future SSCA Convention Sites

2016
Hyatt Regency
Austin, TX
April 6-9

2017
Hyatt Regency
Greenville, SC
April 5-9

2018
Sheraton Downtown
Nashville, TN
April 4-8

CONNECTIONS

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SOUTHERN NOTE

January in Slavery: An Oral Narrative of the South (CreateSpace, 2013) by Cal M. Logue, Josiah Meigs professor emeritus and SSCA past president, University of Georgia, received bronze (3rd place) recognition for Creative Non-Fiction from eLit Electronic Book Awards (elitawards.com), and tie for bronze for Best Southeast Non-Fiction from Independent Publisher Book Awards (independentpublisher.com/article.php?page=1791).

Ragsdale reflects on term as *SCJ* editor

I have concluded my three-year term as Editor of the *Southern Communication Journal* with the acceptance of the final article for Volume 79 (05). Except for my much earlier service as Vice-President and President of SSCA, this editorship has been my most satisfying association experience. I have been very pleased with the journal during my term, but I cannot take all of the credit for what I consider to be its excellence. That credit goes foremost to the authors of the articles themselves. Virtually all of these scholars were honored to have their work appear in *SCJ* and expressed this to me, but actually it was they who honored the association and the journal by the quality of their work. More credit than my own goes to my truly distinguished Editorial Board. The Board worked patiently and conscientiously and was also kind and supportive to the prospective authors. So, I thank the authors and the Board for making Volumes 77-79 so exemplary, and I thank SSCA in general for the opportunity afforded me to be the Editor of *SCJ*.



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Rose B. Johnson was the founding Editor of *SCJ*. I have not met any SSCA member today who remembers Miss Johnson, but as I have told some of you I do. She was the “speech teacher” at Woodlawn High School in Birmingham, Alabama, when I was a student there. I had no idea of the distinguished reputation she had. I only knew that male students in her public speaking classes were required to dress in suit and tie and follow the practices of the elocutionary school of delivery. Miss Johnson was a formidable woman. I never saw her in anything but a long black dress and with her hair done in a tight bun. I was sufficiently intimidated and signed up for gym instead of speech! Having served, like Miss Johnson, as Editor of *SCJ*, I am now prompted to wonder what might have become of me had I taken one of her classes. I can only speculate what Miss Johnson would think of my following in her footsteps were she still around to be aware of it!

Celebrating a quarter century of undergraduate scholarship

This coming year marks the 25th annual Undergraduate Honors Conference sponsored by the Southern States Communication Association. That is certainly an anniversary worthy of celebration!

The 2015 Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference (UHC) will continue the tradition of providing a forum during our annual conference where outstanding undergraduate communication scholars present their research, exchange ideas, and interact with communication faculty and professionals. The UHC brings together undergraduate students and communication teachers/scholars to celebrate excellence, share research projects, and exchange ideas about the future direction of communication studies. These panels often are some of the liveliest and most insightful, as these students enrich the conversation at the SSCA meeting with their cutting edge ideas and fresh insights, while the communication faculty who interact with them are energized anew by their excitement about research.

Any student who currently is an undergraduate can submit a paper for consideration, and all methods, theories, and



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topics within the communication discipline are welcome. Past conferences have featured a wide range of areas within the field, including rhetorical, cultural, humanistic, social science, and performance studies. These students have represented a diverse group of colleges and universities within the Southern region and beyond.

The 25th UHC will be held during our SSCA meeting in Tampa, Florida, April 8-12. The undergraduate paper panels likely will be programmed Friday, April 10 and Saturday, April 11. All UHC presenters will receive a certificate of recognition, are invited to the UHC breakfast and the Osborn Reception, and can attend other SSCA conference panels and events. In addition to the rich experience of the

SSCA meeting, the city of Tampa offers a variety of attractions, including the nearby Florida Aquarium, the Museum of Art, and historic Ybor City.

For many of us who pursued academic careers in the communication discipline, attendance at our first academic conference was a key formative experience—we remember the mentoring, the excitement of ideas, and the thrill of meeting scholars whose articles we had read in class. Please encourage your students to send in their scholarship to the UHC so that we can continue this rich tradition of fostering younger scholars and enriching our discipline with excellent new insights.

The deadline for submitting papers is December 14, 2014. Complete details regarding submission will be available on the SSCA website, and also please feel free to email me at rm07@txstate.edu with any questions you or your students have. I look forward to receiving the very best of undergraduate student scholarship, and celebrating our 25th year of UHC excellence with you in Tampa in April of 2015!



Photo by Matthew Paulson/CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Tampa's offerings abound for 2015 convention

I hope you are planning to join us in Tampa, April 8-12, 2015, for the annual SSCA convention! The convention takes place at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel and Marina, a 3-star luxury hotel in the Channelside District of Tampa, FL. The hotel features a waterfront patio, two restaurants, a lobby bar, a rooftop pool, a spa, a patio with fire pits, and a 32 slip full-service marina. Adjacent to the hotel is Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park, a great place for walking, jogging, or relaxing. A short walk through the park brings you to the Tampa History Museum. If you continue a little farther (about a half-mile from the hotel), you will arrive at The Florida Aquarium. Other travel options include the Tampa trolley, which takes you to stops throughout Tampa—including historic Ybor City, and the electric boats (eboatstampa.com), which are accessed just steps away from the hotel. You may captain your own eboat or arrange for a guided tour. Tampa has so many options



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for entertainment and education, in addition to the dynamic panels and interactive programs that will be happening at SSCA. Foodies—it's worth the trip just to check out Bern's Steak House in Tampa and The Columbia restaurant in Ybor City.

The theme of the 2015 convention is "Communication as Art and Craft." The division planners and I encourage you to submit your completed papers and panel ideas to the planners by the deadline of September 12. (Thanks to those of you who have already

contacted us with your ideas!) Participants are encouraged to celebrate or critique the art and craft of communication, and to be creative in panel design and content. I'm excited about seeing the ways presenters explore the concepts of artistry and skill as they apply to the diverse areas of our discipline. The call for papers is located on the SSCA website (SSCA.net). If you click "Convention" from the main page, you will find the link to the "Call for Papers," "Call by Divisions," and "Proposal Submission Form." The general and specific calls can also be accessed directly from the main SSCA page. The "Call by Divisions" lists the specific requests, interests, and requirements for each Division and Interest Group.

Please contact me if you have questions about the convention theme and submission process, the convention hotel, or the Tampa area.

I look forward to seeing you in Tampa!

SCJ open for business following smooth transition

Tempus fugit—2015 got here a lot quicker than I thought. I was honored to be named the 2015-2017 Editor for the *Southern Communication Journal*. I didn't fully realize that 2015 meant I would be assuming the editor duties in June, 2014.

The transition was smooth thanks to outgoing editor J. D. Ragsdale. I want to thank him for the advice he provided and the time he spent explaining the inner workings of the journal. A big thank you also goes to Mary Stuckey, J. D.'s predecessor, who gave me insight into how she handled her editorship.

It is also a pleasure to introduce the journal's new Book Review Editor, Belinda Stillion Southard from the University of Georgia. I'll let her provide her vision for the book review section: "The *Southern Communication Journal* seeks to publish book reviews that benefit scholars, teachers, and practitioners of communication. Reviews of recent book-length studies across topics, methods, and theories are welcome, so long as they establish the significance of the study to our understanding of human communication processes. Of special interest are reviews of books that are



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relevant to the membership of Southern States Communication Association."

I'd also like to thank many of the returning Editorial Board members, and to thank the new members who have agreed to join the Board. I appreciate all the incredible scholars who are bringing their expertise to maintaining the quality of the journal. The Editorial Board membership represents a diversity of methodologies and content areas from across the discipline.

The journal likewise has a new editorial assistant, J. R. Briscoe, a doctoral student at the University of Memphis. He will handle the initial intake for manuscripts.

Finally, I would like to receive suggestions from you for a special issue devoted to a single topic of interest. I'm planning one special issue for each year of my editorship. That special issue would be guest-edited by an accomplished scholar who would oversee the selection of important essays that would illuminate the communication dynamics of that topic. Please send me your suggestions for a special issue at lgdorsey@memphis.edu.

UHC Call for Papers

85th Annual SSCA Convention – April 8-12, 2015 – Marriot Waterside Hotel & Marina Tampa, Florida

Undergraduate students are welcome to submit papers for the UHC on any topic relevant to the study of human communication. Past conference participants represent a wide range of colleges and universities that extends beyond the southern states region. The topics of papers presented also have been diverse, including rhetorical, social science, humanistic, critical, and performance-oriented approaches to the study of communication.

Any student who is currently enrolled as an undergraduate is eligible to submit a paper, but only ONE submission is permitted per student. In the case of multiple-authored papers, one student must be designated as the submitting/presenting author of each paper, and no student may present more than one paper. Submissions from anyone other than the author(s) will disqualify the paper from review. Please note that submission of a paper implies the author's commitment to attend the conference if selected.

Papers must be double-spaced in 12-point font and formatted with one-inch minimum margins. Submissions should not exceed 25 pages (including all references, figures, tables, and appendices), should avoid sexist language, and should include an abstract of 100-150 words. The identity of the author or institution should not ap-

pear anywhere in the paper. All submissions must be original and cannot have been previously presented at an SSCA Undergraduate Honors Conference.

The deadline for submission to the UHC is December 14, 2014. Papers should be submitted by the author(s) in MS Word or PDF format to Dr. Roseann Mandziuk, Texas State University, as an email attachment at rm07@txstate.edu. The subject line of the email should contain the phrase "UHC Paper Submission." The email message should have two files attached:

File #1:

A submission letter requesting review of the UHC paper that includes the title of the paper, name(s) of the author(s), institutional affiliations, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses. If the paper addresses the convention theme (Communication as Art and Craft), please note this in the submission letter.

File #2:

Your paper, beginning with the title/abstract as page one. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Roseann Mandziuk at rm07@txstate.edu or (512) 245-3136.

We look forward to seeing you in Tampa!

SSCA DIVISIONS AND INTEREST GROUPS

SSCA DIVISIONS

- Applied Communication
- Communication Theory
- Community College
- Freedom of Speech
- Gender Studies
- Instructional Development
- Intercultural Communication
- Interpersonal Communication
- Language and Social Interaction
- Mass Communication
- Performance Studies
- Political Communication
- Popular Communication
- Public Relations
- Rhetoric and Public Address
- Southern Argumentation and Forensics

INTEREST GROUPS

- Association for Communication Administrators (ACA)
- American Society for the History of Rhetoric
- Ethnography
- Kenneth Burke Society
- Philosophy & Ethics of Communication

Don't forget to visit the SSCA website at www.scca.net!



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