

## SSCA Vice-President-Elect Report 11/18/2005

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### 1. Theodore Clevenger, Jr. Undergraduate Honors Conference

- a. Call for Papers issued with a deadline of **12/16/5**
- b. Electronic submissions only, to [sscauhc@social.chass.ncsu.edu](mailto:sscauhc@social.chass.ncsu.edu)
- c. 1,000 flyers for distribution at NCA; will also be posted on the SSCA web site and e-mailed to members for campus posting.
- d. Opportunities remain for reader/reviewers
- e. I want the acceptance of a paper to be a ticket of entry into an intriguing intellectual encounter. I have also turned to my college daughters (one of whom is a psychology honors student) and my honors students for reactions.

i. Instead of a formal reception, I anticipate dinners at Dallas restaurants followed by a pool area dessert social (Operation Dessert Storm?). It would be great if local schools' honoraries would be our guides, as they are better predictors of student appetites than am I.

ii. I am less concerned with filling all panel slots than I am with bringing to Dallas a cohort of intellectually engaged students. Every time I think about the conference I recall the SSCA member who told our Task Force on convention participation, "Panels are fine, but the really interesting conversations happen in the restaurants, hallways, elevators and bars." I therefore anticipate having conferees participate in two off-paper programs. One would be an exploration of Communication dimensions of a significant social issue (our preparedness for, and responsiveness to, disasters seems appropriate). The other would be a discussion of a significant, currently popular book with implications for human communication (Blink and The World is Flat are frontrunners at the moment).

### 2. Tentative 2007 Convention Theme: "Regional Associations in the Digital Age"

- a. Professional associations of academics such as SSCA are exercises in communication. Not all of the challenges we face are unique, although some may be.
- b. Thematic programs will explore (a) the functions of the regional professional association in the changing technological world of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, (b) the challenges and solutions explored by the other regional Communication associations, and (c) the challenges and solutions explored by the other academic associations in the South.
- c. Suggestions and comments about the tentative topic are welcome at [ca.smith@ncsu.edu](mailto:ca.smith@ncsu.edu)