

Looking back at Savannah conference

Planning a conference in Savannah is a Vice President's dream come true. Savannah is an enchanting city with diverse places and items of interest for conference-goers to experience in their down time during the convention.

The conference location, the size of the venue, and a lot of hard work by program planners helped make the 2007 conference the largest for which SSCA has records.

As I reflect on the conference there are three memories I will keep forever.

First, I will remember the screening of the award winning documentary film Darius Goes West (DGW). It was the first time I had seen the movie.

Unfortunately, the film screened at the same time as the NCAA basketball Final Four was being played. The audience was small, but very enthusiastic.

The movie chronicles a cross country trip by Darius Weems, a then 15-year-old boy from Athens, Ga., and a group of his friends. Weems suffers from Duchene Muscular



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Dystrophy, a 100 percent fatal form of muscular dystrophy, and the most common variety for children between the ages of 5 and 25.

The trip was taken ostensibly to get the MTV program "Pimp My Ride" to customize Weems' wheelchair. It was also taken to explore handicap accessibility at attractions, businesses and accommodations across the country.

The movie is a stunning example of the conference theme "Communicating to Change the Human Condition." It explores

issues related to mass communication, personal relationships and communication related to civil rights.

Money raised at screenings, through the sale of DVDs, and movie related items goes to Charley's Fund, a Duchene Muscular Dystrophy research fund.

I encourage you all to see the movie. You can buy a copy at www.dariusgoeswest.com. Of the \$20 for a DVD, \$17 goes directly to Charley's Fund and the remaining \$3 goes to produce additional copies of the DVD.

As an update, Darius Goes West has raised more than \$1 million for Charley's Fund. The new goal is to sell 1 million DVDs in the next year and raise more than \$17 million for DMD research.

Weems recently graduated from Clarke Central High School in Athens, Ga. Weems, Director Logan Smalley, and other members of the cast who came to the Savannah con-

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Past president highlights convention successes

A sure sign that someone is having a good convention is the question, "What are the prospects of coming back here in the near future?"

That question was on many lips in Savannah this year, the most I can recall hearing it since 1995 when we actually did rebook the Monteleone Hotel in New Orleans for our 2000 convention.

Our convention planner, Janet Fisher, once again helped the



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SSCA convention experience exceed most members' reasonable expectations. VP Jerry Hale and the Division Program Planners provided us with stimulating programs, and Executive Director Emmett Winn, Jennifer Johnson and their associates registered us, answered our questions and kept things moving forward.

Among the business items transacted at the convention there are three on which I would like to briefly comment.

We amended the Constitution to change the name of the Executive Committee to the Administrative Committee.

This amendment entails no change in membership or duties, so why did we do it? Prior to this vote we had both an Executive Committee and an Executive Council. That situation precluded acronyms (for example, "The EC is scheduled to meet at the same

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Are you ready for Va.?

It is only summer 2008, but I'm already thinking about April 2009 when we will all come together in Norfolk for our convention.

There's a lot to do and so I'm wondering "are we ready?"

Of course we are not completely ready, but we are ready to help you as you prepare.

Here's what's waiting for you on our Web site as you start thinking about next year's convention:

The complete call for papers is up and waiting for you to find the information you need to submit your competitive research papers, panels and town hall debates. The "Standard Panel and Town Hall Debate Submission Form" is there also.

The Undergraduate Honors Convention Call for Papers is waiting for you so you can incorporate that information into the Fall syllabi for your undergraduate research courses.



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Also waiting is the link to the Convention hotel reservation Web page so you can make your reservations early and avoid getting pushed into an overflow hotel when all of our rooms are booked at the beautiful Norfolk Marriott Waterside hotel.

We also have helpful information about Norfolk and the surrounding area.

And as an extra bonus — we add information regularly! So log on today to: www.ssca.net and start "getting" ready for a great time in Norfolk in April 2009.

Marketing director develops new initiatives

I can hardly believe that it is already time to plan the next convention. Savannah was wonderful, and I am so excited about the opportunity to see each of you in Norfolk, Va., in the spring.

As the new Marketing Director, we will expand the scope of the former Advertising Manager position to develop initiatives to strengthen and expand the association.

I am working in conjunction with Emmett Winn and the Executive Council to develop a variety of marketing activities for the coming months to spur membership and enable your voice to be heard.

The first project is to survey members regarding their thoughts on SSCA membership in general and the yearly conference specifically. We are interested in your thoughts as to how to enhance your membership in the Association, and on how to develop and retain new members.

The yearly conference is a critical component of your membership in both professional and pedagogical aspects.

In order to maximize your experience, the survey will provide you the opportuni-



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ty to suggest how to improve the conference to best meet your needs.

Remember, your feedback is critical. I encourage each of you to take a few minutes to complete the survey when it arrives in your inbox.

Specific member initiatives are under review as well.

Projects include a student-professor mentoring program, promotional materials for purchase, and ways to increase membership.

I welcome your comments and suggestions regarding the Association and specific ways that we can maximize your membership. I look forward to hearing from each of you soon.

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 Forensics

INTEREST GROUPS

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

CONNECTIONS

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Connections is the official newsletter of the Southern States Communication Association (SSCA). It is published two times a year by the Department of Communication and Journalism at Auburn University.

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Check out SSCA Web site for updated association information: www.ssca.net

Conference

Continued from page 1

ference, continue to travel the country to attend movie screenings, film festivals, and to participate in educational programs. The SSCA screening is mentioned in the Darius Goes West blog.

The SSCA screening also had an important unintended effect. One of the cast members is Andrew Carson, a student at Davidson University. Andrew's sister Eve Carson was the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill student body president whose life was senselessly taken in a robbery a few months ago.

The SSCA screening was Andrew's first DGW activity since his sister's death. He traveled to Savannah with several of Eve's closest friends. In a small way, our screening and conference contributed to the ongoing healing process for several people.

Second, I will remember the plenary session featuring Katherine Miller from Texas A&M University. Her presentation, entitled "Communication and Care: Tensions in Personal and Professional Life," was a deeply personal account of providing care to her father in the last days of his life.

It outlined a series of dialectics experienced by family members and care givers that will be instructive to members of the audience as they experience similar events in their own families or plan research agenda on related topics and issues.

The plenary sessions, begun by Charles Tardy when he was Vice President, are important to kickoff the intellectual components of our annual meetings. Miller's presentation prompted excellent audience response and participation.

Third, I will remember Rachel Holloway's keynote address entitled "Clarity Through Tragedy: Honoring Our Work." It was an emotive description of what it means to be a Hokie in the aftermath of the tragic shootings on the Virginia Tech campus shortly after the Louisville conference.

There were not many dry eyes when the luncheon concluded. Her stirring accounts of the role of communication in the identity of the Hokie community, and in the ongoing healing process were at the same time, chill-

ing, emotional, uplifting, and hopeful.

They were also instructive and conveyed a spirit of resilience. I mentioned in her introduction that I considered asking celebrities, popular authors, and other well known Georgians to deliver the keynote address. The Virginia Tech shootings led me to refocus my thinking.

In retrospect, I cannot imagine having a different keynote speaker. I know the speech was a difficult one for Rachel to deliver. I am deeply indebted to her for having the strength to share her thoughts and experiences with us.

The conference planned by each Vice President is likely to be memorable to her or him long after it is completed.

My deepest memories are of people who experienced loss and/or tragedy but persevered and taught us something useful from their experiences.

I have long been convinced that our field, perhaps more than any other, has the

ability to influence the human condition. That influence can be for better or worse.

In Weems, the cast of Darius Goes West, Miller, the members of the Miller family, Holloway, and other members of the Virginia Tech community, I am provided with stunning examples of communicating to change the human condition for the better. I am reminded by them why what we do, teach and study is important.

Finally, I would like to thank the officers, Executive Director, members of the Executive Council, and program planners for their efforts to make Savannah an excellent convention.

Special thanks to Janet Fisher of Conference Direct for her tireless work on behalf of SSCA related to the Savannah convention. Most of our members could not pick Janet out of a crowd. Hers is the never ending conference-related work that is done mostly behind the scenes.

She gathers important information for the Time and Place Committee regarding potential locations and venues for future conferences, works as a liaison between the Association and the hotel once contracts have been signed, and offers important assistance during on site visits and at the conference. Her work is invaluable to us and it mostly goes either unnoticed or unmentioned.

See you in Norfolk!

"I have long been convinced that our field, perhaps more than any other, has the ability to influence the human condition."

— Jerry Hale,
SSCA President

Call for Papers

79th Annual SSCA Convention
April 1-5, 2009
Marriott Norfolk Waterside
Norfolk, Va.

Crossing Ideologies:
Communication & Collaboration
in a Changing World

In our ever-increasingly diverse world, we are being called upon at an unprecedented rate to build connections among communities of scholars and practitioners within our own discipline as well as others.

While we may not all call traditional speech communication or communication departments home, we may study and teach related themes, utilize similar methodologies, ask common questions, confront many of the same obstacles and respond to shared challenges.

You are encouraged to submit papers and panels focused on the convention theme particularly those addressing communication issues from an interdisciplinary standpoint, those linking traditional with more contemporary approaches, and those integrating theory and praxis both inside and outside of academic contexts.

Divisions and interest groups are asked to submit at least one panel directed toward the theme of the convention.

Submissions co-sponsored by more than one division or interest group addressing the convention theme are strongly desired.

Creative options are to propose workshops or group sessions encouraging dialogue on collaboration of scholarly work crossing disciplinary or institutional lines addressing communication issues confronting persons in agencies such as educational, industrial, financial, corporate, healthcare, government and non-profit.

Other areas of interest to the Vice President are proposed opportunities for networking with professionals whose goals are to gain leadership skills within a variety of administrative levels and contexts, and enhancing mentoring opportunities for new faculty and graduate students.

Proposals for programs not directly tied to the convention theme or to particular divisions or interest groups may be submitted to the Vice President's Spotlight Series for review.

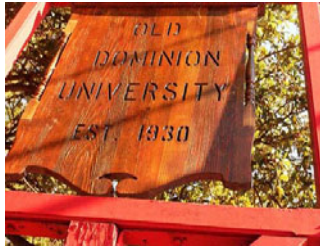
The complete call for papers for all divisions and interest groups may be found on SSCA's Web site: <http://www.sscanet.net>.

Paper and panel submissions should be sent to the program planner for the appropriate division or interest group.

Proposals to be considered for the Vice President's Spotlight Series are to be submitted to Dr. Patricia Amason, Department of Communication, University of Arkansas, at pamason@uark.edu.



Deck of USS Wisconsin



Norfolk Marriott Waterside

SSCA 2009, Norfolk, VA.

BY TOM SOCHA, SSCA VICE PRESIDENT ELECT, UHC PROGRAM PLANNER, AND CHAIR OF LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Norfolk, Virginia in April 1-5, 2009. As you experience SSCA's outstanding communication scholarship, I hope that you will also enjoy the many cultural, historical, entertainment, and shopping experiences in Norfolk as well as Virginia Beach. Please let us know how we can help with your trip: tsocha@odu.edu.

A City by the Sea

The City of Norfolk, Virginia is the **home of the world's largest Naval base**, has miles of sandy Chesapeake Bay beaches, a historic downtown district, a complex of waterfront shops and restaurants, a collection of cruise boats and ferries, and an excellent selection of museums. Norfolk truly has something for everyone.

Norfolk is centered on the **port of Hampton Roads**, one of the largest, naturally deep, ice-free harbors in the world. You can see tugs, barges, sailboats, commercial vessels, and navy ships moving in and out of the port through the Elizabeth River where the **USS Wisconsin** is berthed at the **Nauticus Maritime Museum**.

Norfolk's downtown waterfront area is located right on the banks of the Elizabeth River. The **Norfolk Waterside Marketplace**, a centerpiece of the waterfront district, offers dining and shopping. A short walk from the Norfolk Marriott Waterside Hotel, **MacArthur Center Mall** offers world-class shopping, dining, and more. Also within walking is **Harbor Park**, home **Norfolk Tides** (AAA team of the Baltimore Orioles) who open their season the first week each April.

The **Atlantic Ocean** and the **resort city of Virginia Beach** are only a short drive away. There you can walk the miles of beautiful beach, relax, and enjoy the freshest catches of the day (Ask Tom Socha about his favorite places).

Those interested in early American history will also appreciate **Colonial Williamsburg**, **Jamestown**, and the **College of William & Mary** (about a 40-minute drive from Norfolk).

Be sure to join us for scholarship, fellowship, and great fun (April 1-5, 2009)!



Old Dominion University

Located in historic Norfolk, Va., the 188 acres of the Old Dominion University campus stretch from the Elizabeth River to the Lafayette River. Although situated in a metropolitan setting, the University offers a small-college look and feel, with tree-lined walkways, a mix of old and new buildings, and colorful gardens and ponds. Founded in 1930 as a division of the College of William and Mary, Old Dominion has grown into its own over the years and is now one of only 101 public universities with a Carnegie/Doctoral Research-Extensive distinction



SCJ submissions rise, signal of journal's quality

As this newsletter is released I will be putting together my last issue. I have found it most rewarding to be exposed to and attempt to help along research from a great variety of areas of the communication field.

I appreciate all authors who shared their work with the Southern Communication Journal during my term as editor. I also developed more appreciation for the great need for help being an editor, and I am very thankful to all the reviewers who took the time to give feedback on manuscripts submitted — many very thoroughly. My thanks to them, as well, who are listed on each issue's title page.

I received 364 submissions, before beginning to pass manuscripts on to the new editor, Mary Stuckey of Georgia State University. Of those, 42 were accepted, and 4 for passed along for further review with the next editor. That makes for an effective acceptance rate of 12.6 percent.

Interest in submitting to special issues was also high, as 70 submissions were received of which 29 were published. (Combining all submissions gives an acceptance rate of 17.3 percent.)

The rising number of submissions and the quality of what we published both testify to the health of the communication field and the high regard in which our journal is held.

Along with the rewards of being part of facilitating and publishing developing research, an editor actually gets to give good news once in a while, such as the acceptance for publication of a manuscript or the annual Rose B. Johnson award, given each year by vote of the Editorial Board to an outstanding article in that volume of SCJ.

This year's winner was James J.



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Kimble of Seton Hall University, for his article, "My Enemy, My Brother: The Paradox of Peace and War in Abraham Lincoln's Rhetoric of Conciliation," published in the March 2007 issue (Vol. 72, No. 1).

Unfortunately, he could not be with us at the awards ceremony to receive his award in person, but he wrote a moving response to the association's recognition:

Dear friends and colleagues:

I don't know if anyone has done extensive research on the genre of acceptance speeches. If they have, I imagine that there are at least three stylistic requirements:

One: Be present for the ceremony.

Well, I'm in trouble from the start! I fear that I was already committed to giving two presentations in Nebraska this weekend.

If not for that commitment, I would have been excited to share this occasion with you, particularly in what I am certain must be a gorgeous Savannah spring. Please know that I am there with you in spirit.

Two: Don't stoop to clichés, such as "the competition was so great."

I have to be in trouble here as well. When Professor Meyer notified me that the Lincoln article was a finalist for the award, I did check out the other essays in the past year's issues. What I found con-

firmed that SCJ is publishing some of the most cutting edge, innovative and exciting research in the field.

Almost any one of them could have won this award. It is truly an honor to be included along with those other essays, let alone to be singled out among them.

Three: Make the acceptance short.

Three strikes and I'm out, I guess. Without taking up too much of your time, please allow me to say that although I have not yet had the privilege of attending an SSCA convention, I have the greatest respect for the organization.

One of my mentors in my Ph.D. work, Martha Watson (nee Solomon), was both an editor of SCJ as well as president of SSCA, both in the 1980s.

Although I met her in more northern climes — at the University of Maryland — she always spoke fondly of her service in the south ... and, indeed, passed that fondness along to her students. I am, you see, a big fan of SSCA.

Let me close by offering a special thanks to the journal editor, John Meyer, and the anonymous reviewers of this essay.

No published article is the product of a single individual, even if it sometimes appears that way. I am acutely aware of and thankful for the contributions to the essay made by these fine folks — if everyone here does not already know it, please let me say it publicly: you are being well served by your journal personnel!

And with that, I will let you get back to the business of conventioning.

Thank you, again, for this honor; it is something that I will cherish in the years to come.

Jim Kimble
Seton Hall University

Call for Nominations for SSCA Executive Director

The Southern States Communication Association seeks self- or other nominations for the position of Executive Director.

Experience with the management of budgets, membership rolls, mailing lists, financial statements, the ability to provide staff assistants and a personality characterized by efficiency, patience and good cheer are highly desirable. This is a volunteer position.

The Executive Director performs a wide range of duties for the association. Interested parties are strongly encouraged to contact the current Executive Director, Emmett Winn, for details concerning these duties.

This is a multiple year commitment beginning after the 2009 Norfolk convention as Executive Director-Elect for one year; taking over as

Executive Director on Aug. 1, 2010 and serving until July 31, 2015 at which time the Executive Director becomes the Immediate Past Executive Director for one year.

All nominees must submit a brief letter accepting the nomination and responsibilities, a vita, a vision statement, and a brief document outlining the candidate's experience that is relevant to the Executive Director's duties as specified explicitly and implicitly in the SSCA Constitution.

Electronic submissions of all materials are preferred. Please e-mail packets and address questions to Dr. J. Emmett Winn, SSCA Executive Director, at winnjoh@auburn.edu by Oct. 21, 2008.

Success

Continued from page 1

time as the EC”) and therefore resulted in unimaginable tedium. Moreover, because membership on both bodies rotates, some new members were unclear as to their assignments.

The new name is appropriate because the Administrative Committee consists of those leaders who implement the decisions of the Executive Council and the Association.

We authorized special issues of the *Southern Communication Journal* devoted to Qualitative Research in Communication. This was the culmination — but not the end — of two years of work by the Publication Committee and the Executive Council.

Briefly, the Publications Committee recommended that SSCA begin publication of a second journal, tentatively titled *Qualitative Research in Communication*. There was significant support for the new journal; but there were also many questions, most of which we had no way to answer at this time.

As discussion progressed, the Executive Council agreed that SSCA should not start a journal that we might later be compelled to abandon. By authorizing the special issues we will create an empirical record on which to base a decision in the future.

If the special issues are a major success, we can spin them off into a new journal. If they are successful but adequate (especially if we increase SCJ to five or six issues per year) we can simply continue those issues.

Finally, if response to the special issues is modest, they can be discontinued. In short, the eventual decision is in the hands of our authors, reviewers and readers.

We chose not to act on a request to create a Symposium on Southern Rhetoric on the first day of the convention. This decision was based solely on intricacies of convention scheduling and booking. The general proposal has much to offer the Association if it can be revamped in concert with the Executive Director and our professional convention planner.

— Craig Allen Smith,
SSCA Past President

“I believe SSCA came of age in an important way in our Savannah meetings.”

Overall, I was impressed by the tenor of discussions in our Savannah business meetings. I believe that SSCA came of age in an important way in our Savannah meetings.

In the old days, reports would often be approved even when some members held private reservations.

But all of us learned over the past few years what can happen when we fail to voice our policy reservations for fear that we might hurt or embarrass our colleagues — they can wind up hurt and embarrassed on a grand scale.

In the Savannah meetings we seemed to operate on a higher level of trust and partnership. Members voiced their concerns in helpful, constructive ways and those advancing the ideas wisely and creatively embraced those suggestions.

As a result the Executive Council improved the proposals, refined the reasons for adopting them and sent them to the Association Business Meeting ready for approval.

Whether in Savannah, Norfolk or Little Rock, those are the kind of meetings we can look forward to attending in the future.

Call for Papers

Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference in Communication

Deadline for Submission: Dec. 15, 2008.

Undergraduate students are encouraged to submit a paper to the 19th annual Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference (UHC) to be held in conjunction with the 79th annual convention of the Southern States Communication Association, April 1-5, 2009 at the Marriott Norfolk Waterside in Norfolk, Va.

Papers may address the spectrum of topics, theories, and methodologies of study in communication. It is not necessary, but papers may focus on the convention theme: Crossing Ideologies: Communication and Collaboration in a Changing World.

Students currently enrolled as undergraduates are eligible to submit a paper. Single and multiple-authored papers are welcome. In the case of multiple-authored papers, one student must be designated the lead/submitting author who will present the paper. Students may submit only ONE PAPER and students' professors are NOT to submit or present papers. The author(s) of the top-ranked UHC paper will receive a \$100 cash award and a plaque. All UHC participants will be recognized at a UHC Awards Breakfast on Saturday morning.

Submissions should not exceed 25 pages, be double-spaced, use one-inch minimum margins, and 12-point font. Page length includes an abstract, references, tables, figures and appendices. Authors should use language that respects diversity. Page 1 of the paper should contain the title of the paper and a 50-word abstract followed on page 2 by the body of the paper. Authors' names should NOT appear at any location in the paper.

NOTE: All UHC authors (not just the lead author) are expected to attend the convention. Submitting a paper implies that all authors intend to participate in the convention if the paper is accepted for presentation. All UHC participants are expected to support SSCA by paying the \$50 UHC fee and registering for the convention (the fee includes the convention registration fee, admittance to the UHC Awards Breakfast, an issue of *Southern Communication Journal*).

Submit your paper electronically as Word or PDF attachment to Dr. Tom Socha, Old Dominion University at tsocha@odu.edu. The subject line of the e-mail must contain the phrase: “UHC paper submission.”

The e-mail message should have two files attached: File #1 — A submission letter requesting review of the UHC paper that includes the paper's title, authors' names, institutional affiliations, mailing addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses (IMPORTANT NOTE: AV equipment will NOT be available), and File #2 — the paper that begins with a title/abstract on page 1. In the event the paper addresses the conference theme, please note this in the submission letter. SSCA reserves the right to disqualify any paper not meeting these requirements.

Please help us pass along this Call to our many talented communication students!

Contact: Dr. Tom Socha, SSCA VP-Elect, Old Dominion University at tsocha@odu.edu.

Call for SSCA officer nominations

The SSCA Nominating Committee seeks self- or other nominations for two important offices: (a) Vice President Elect, (b) SSCA's Representative to the NCA Legislative Assembly (K-12 Representative).

The Vice President Elect will plan the Theodore Clevenger, Jr. Undergraduate Honors Conference in 2010, then plan the 2011 annual convention as Vice President. As President until the 2012 convention this person will preside over the Administrative Committee, the Executive Council and all Association Business

Meetings, and chairs the Nominating Committee as past-President.

Candidates for the NCA Legislative Assembly should be committed to attending the NCA and SSCA conventions during the three-year term of this position, and this year's candidates must represent the K-12 community.

Send nominations to Craig Allen Smith (SSCA Immediate Past President and Nominating Committee Chair) by September 1 to: ca.smith@ncsu.edu.

SCJ transitions to online submission process

The SSCA as a whole and those of us lucky enough to be associated with the journal in particular owe John Meyer and his team a great deal.

His editorship has been marked by consistent professionalism and he has done a great deal to make the editorial transition an easy one.

Thanks also go to members of the editorial board — old, continuing, and new — who have been working hard and with great dispatch.

They've been kept very busy indeed, as we have had more than 60 submissions in the first four months of this calendar year alone. No editor could possibly succeed without the assistance of these people, and I'm grateful to them all.

In January, we shifted submissions and all aspects of journal management to Manuscript Central's Web site. The people at Taylor and Francis (thank you Angelina and Alex) have been very helpful, and the site is making managing the journal infinitely easier than it has been in the past.

Please continue to submit your good work to SCJ. We are eager to receive submissions from all subfields in Communication.

All submissions must be made through the Manuscript Central site: <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rsjc>.

We are planning several special issues: Charles Morris is editing "Queering the South," and Katherine Hendrix is editing "Race in the Academy." They are slated to appear in 2009 and 2010.

In addition, as a way of testing the much-



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discussed possibility for a new journal affiliated with SSCA, Ken Cissna has agreed to serve as special editor for one or two issues on qualitative methods.

Submissions to Ken's issue(s) are being accepted through the MC site. Please make sure you check the "special issue" box to make sure your submission is routed to him.

There will also be a forum honoring Michael Osborn and his contributions to the discipline. My thanks to Michael and to James Darsey for spear heading the work on that forum.

The new Book Review Editor, Davis Houck, has been busy as well.

Beginning in 2009, the book review section will be expanded, and Davis has commitments for several lead review essays by authors such as Carole Blair on material rhetorics, David Frank and Mark McPhail on the civil rights movement, and Julia Wood and Katy Body on women's/girls' voices.

I'm grateful for all the help I've received, excited about the way things are shaping up, and eager to hear from you in the form of submissions to the journal.

Call for Papers Qualitative Research in Communication

Guest Editor: Kenneth N. Cissna,
University of South Florida

The Southern Communication Journal is pleased to announce a call for a special issue (or perhaps two) devoted to qualitative research in communication, which seeks to provide an outlet for exemplary qualitative research on a wide range of communication topics.

Over the past 20 or 30 years, qualitative research has flourished across the social sciences, including among communication researchers, yet no outlet within the communication field is devoted to publishing full-length qualitative manuscripts. This special issue(s) seeks to provide such an outlet for all kinds of qualitative communication research.

All qualitative approaches are welcome, including, but not limited to, ethnography of speaking, participant observation, interviewing, grounded theory, focus groups, autoethnography, discourse analysis, and all forms of ethnography including critical, artistic, literary, poetic and performance.

The deadline for submission is Oct. 15, 2008.

The complete Call for Papers with detailed submission information can be found at <http://www.cas.usf.edu/communication/cissna/CFP-SCJ.pdf>. Inquires related to book reviews should be addressed to Christine S. Davis, Guest Book Review Editor (e-mail: Christine.S.Davis@uncc.edu). Other inquiries can be addressed to the Guest Editor at kcissna@cas.usf.edu.

Caring Connections helps fund several association awards at \$5,000 level

As many of you know, my term as Resource Committee Chair has drawn to a close. I want to thank everyone on the Resource Committee for all of their hard work, especially Todd Goen. I could not have done this job without their help.

I am proud to say that when I started Caring Connections in 2002, none of our Association Awards was funded at the \$5,000 level.

Now, all but three awards have balances of \$5,000 or higher.

Everyone who has participated in Caring Connections or made donations to the awards should be proud of what we have accomplished together.

I am pleased to report that Caring Connections had another successful year.



FRANCES BRANDAU-BROWN
RDC Chair

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We raised a total of \$3472 at this year's Savannah convention.

When the final totals were counted and added the existing balance, we were only about \$600 away from being able to fund the Sisco Award at the \$5,000 level, so I sent out an e-mail appeal to SSCA's past

presidents. I am thrilled to tell you they answered the call. The Sisco Award now has a balance of \$9853.

In addition, some donations were also sent in for the T. Earl Johnson - Edwin Paget Award. It now has a \$693 balance. Our next goal is to get the Johnson - Paget Award to the \$5,000 level, so I hope you will consider making a tax deductible donation.

Although we make every effort to see that convention attendees get their Caring Connections, sometimes we simply do not find everyone.

Here are the people honored with Caring Connections that we were not able to reach at this year's convention: Megan Martin honored by Danna Gibson and Kathleen Turner Davidson honored by Mary Stuckey.

Meet us on the waterfront in Norfolk, Va.

Please make your plans to visit Norfolk, Va., April 1-5, as the members of the Southern States Communication Association will be convening there for its 2009 convention.

Norfolk, a city rich in history known for its morning breezes, glistening waterfronts, and maritime operations, is an exciting destination.

Our convention hotel, the Marriott Norfolk Waterside, has a brilliant view of the waterfront. Our convention theme is "Crossing Ideologies: Communication and Collaboration in a Changing World."

Along with this convention theme I will be highlighting the contributions of scholars, educators and professionals engaged in collaborative works.

Our Plenary Session speaker is Gary Kreps. Kreps is the Eileen and Steve Mandell Endowed Chair in Health Communication, Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication at George Mason University.

Kreps is the former Chief of the Health Communication and Informatics Branch at the National Cancer Institute. His presenta-



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tion topic is "Opportunities for Transdisciplinary Collaboration and Community Participation in Communication Research."

His presentation will feature the significant outcomes of much of the health communication research he has conducted in the past, his current projects as well as those planned for the future.

His research connects such issues as improved communication and public health concerns and community-based interventions in the effort to bring theory into praxis.

The Vice-President's Spotlight Series will feature four areas of foci. The first and second areas of foci are directly related to the conference theme and will emphasize (1) the integration of theory and praxis both inside

and outside of academic contexts and/or using blended disciplinary ideologies; (2) panels illustrating significant scholarship or pedagogical practices conducted via collaborative efforts.

The third focus will be on panels honoring the scholarly contributions of long-time SSCA members. The fourth focus of the series will be on "Welcome Panels" featuring scholarly contributions of persons new to SSCA and/or the Southern region of the U.S.

Spotlight Sessions will feature presentations by a number of scholars including Howard Sypher of Purdue University, Jim Query of James Madison University, Joy Hart and Kandi Walker of the University of Louisville.

Additionally, topics will address issues such as those confronting academics outside the walls of the academy, academics working in collaboration with members of the private sector and may include work involving communication scholars and members of the medical community and industry, interdisciplinary team teaching, and other forms of cross-disciplinary research.

I hope to see you in beautiful Norfolk, Va.

CONNECTIONS

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