

CONNECTIONS

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SOUTHERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION



TOM SOCHA
Vice President
Southern States
Communication
Association
tsocha@odu.edu

Memphis will play host to largest SSCA convention

If we build it, they will indeed come! It looks like Memphis 2010 will be one of the SSCA's largest conventions packed with lots of positive communication experiences sure to keep all of our communication minds very happy.

We look forward to the Vice President's Plenary Lecture Series — Happy Hours for the Communication Mind featuring Jim Baesler (a leading communication researcher studying prayer), Doug Kelley (one of the field's learning scholars studying how we communicate forgiveness), and Larry Frey (the field's leading expert in the area of communication activism).

We will learn from a memorable Civil Rights Panel — Rhetorical Genealogy, Memory and the Speeches of Fannie Lou Hamer with an appearance by this civil rights' activist's daughter.

We will experience a Positive Communication Experiential Meditation Session — Dr. Christine Kiesinger, George Washington University.

We will hone our observation skills by



Photo courtesy of the Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau

Beale Street is one of America's most famous musical streets. Located in the heart of downtown Memphis with 3 blocks of more than 30 nightclubs, restaurants and retail shops. Music includes traditional Blues, Rhythm and Blues, Jazz and Rock 'n' Roll.

taking an ethnographic field trip to Beale Street and beyond lead by expert field guides of the SSCA Ethnography Interest Group.

We will reflect during Workshops:

Please see **MEMPHIS**, page 6



PATRICIA AMASON
President
Southern States
Communication
Association
pamason@uark.edu

Association, convention grown over last 10 years

In looking back over the goals and plans set by Association leadership over the past 10 years, I have taken stock in what we as an Association have accomplished and would like to share some good news with you.

Among the initiatives identified in the 2006 leadership retreat led by then President Chuck Tardy included membership growth in the Association. In 2000, we had 14 Divisions and 7 Interest Groups.

By 2009 two of those Interest Groups grew to Divisional size bringing our totals to 16 Divisions. Our membership numbers in each of the 16 Divisions has increased with all displaying healthy numbers.

After 2000, two of our Interest Groups were dissolved. These Groups targeted graduate students and directors of graduate programs.

Although these Groups no longer exist in

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Now is time to plan for Memphis convention

It's time for you to start preparing for our Memphis convention. Please remember that there are two very important things that you need to do immediately, if you are planning to attend the convention.

First, make your hotel reservations. The 2010 SSCA convention is being held in the wonderful Memphis Peabody hotel.

This beautiful historic hotel is a favorite of SSCA members; therefore, I expect that the rooms will fill quickly.

So beat the rush and get your room before they are all taken. We have a great rate at the hotel, but we have a limited number of rooms in our block (and when those rooms are gone, we don't have any more).

Plus the deadline is early (March 7, 2010). After that date, the great rates will



J. EMMETT WINN

Executive Director
Southern States
Communication
Association
director@ssca.net

disappear even if there are rooms available. However, SSCA usually fills its hotel block long before the deadline.

So, PLEASE book your room now. You can book your room online by visiting our website at <http://ssca.net> and clicking on the convention information link.

Page 3 of this newsletter and our Web

site details the instructions for booking your rooms online.

The special SSCA booking code 999572. If you have any problems, questions, or if you need reservation assistance, please contact Peabody Memphis reservations directly at (901) 529-3620, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (CST).

Second, PLEASE pre-register for the convention before the deadline of March 5, 2010.

You'll save money and help us make the convention experience better for all.

To pre-register, please visit our website at <http://ssca.net> and click on the convention information link.

See you in Memphis at the beautiful historic Peabody hotel.

Memphis Convention Notes

JUST SAY NO TO THE HOTEL SERVICES FEE AT THE PEABODY HOTEL?

Imagine that it is early April 2010 and you are checking into the beautiful and historic Peabody hotel. As an SSCA conventioneer you can, if you wish, opt out of the Hotel Services Fee (HSF) which is charged in addition to your regular room rates.

What is the HSF? The HSF is currently \$9.95 per room per night and entitles guests to wireless Internet access in guest rooms, unlimited local phone calls and 800 number calls, complimentary use of the health club, morning newspaper, shoe shine (two per stay) and coffee service in the lobby each morning at designated hours. Guests who decline the HSF at check in will pay standard services costs for any/all of these services.

It's a great deal if you are going to use the wireless Internet in your room every day and the health club, but many of our members may indeed prefer to just say no to the HSF.

To opt out of the HSF, you must tell the clerk at the front desk when you are checking into the hotel. The HSF is optional for our group but you must tell the clerk (at check in) that you do not want the HSF.

Please note that the HSF is an all or nothing deal. If you opt out at check in then you cannot add the HSF later.

SSCA CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEES

Pre-Registration Deadline is March 5.

(Please note that your membership must first be active before qualifying for the fees listed below.)

- **Regular Members** (see membership costs below): Pre-register: \$45; At Convention: \$55
- **Student Members** (see membership costs below): Pre-register: \$25; At Convention: \$30
- **Undergraduate Honors Conference Participants:** Pre-register: \$50; At Convention: \$50
- **Non-members:** Pre-register: \$65; At Convention: \$80

Membership Categories

LIFE: A one-time payment of \$1,250 (or four consecutive payments of \$325 equals a standing patron membership); **PATRON:** An annual fee of \$190 provides special support for SSCA, and includes convention registration fee, subscriptions to the four regional association journals, and listing in the convention program; **SUSTAINING:** Annual fee of \$90 provides membership and convention registration fee; **REGULAR:** Annual fee of \$50 provides membership privileges; and **STUDENT:** Annual fee of \$30 provides membership privileges and is available only to full-time students.

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J. Emmett Winn, Ph.D.
Executive Director

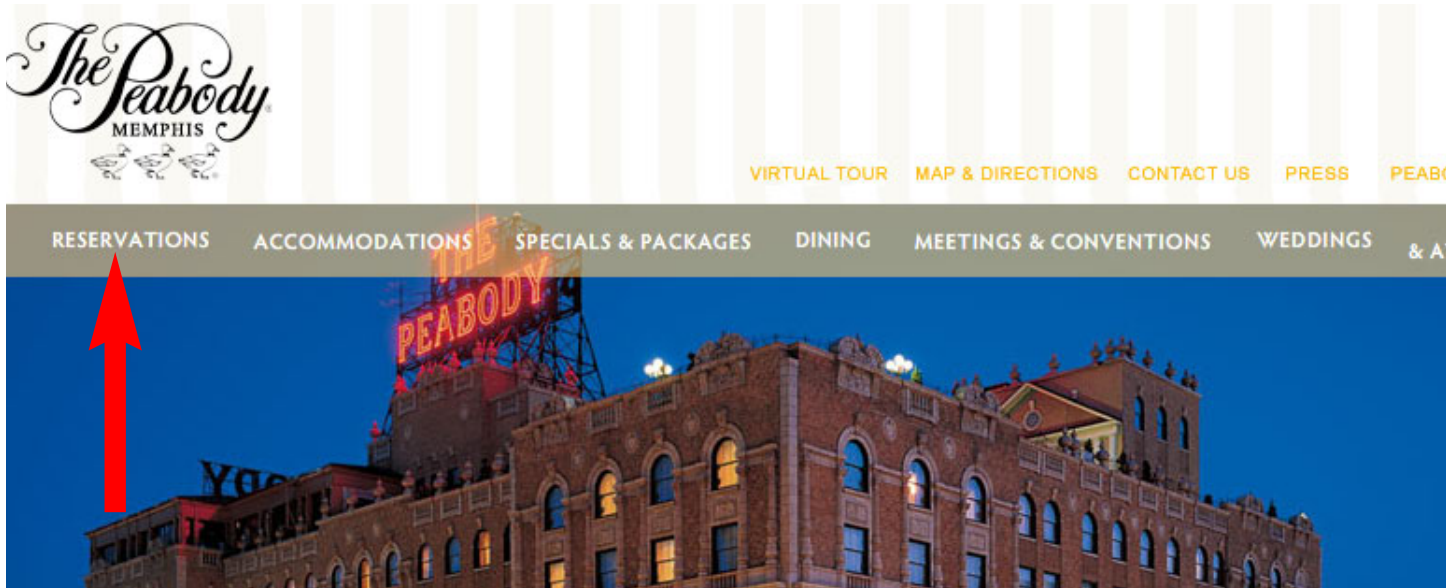
Jennifer Wood Adams, Ph.D.
Editor and Designer

Southern States Communication Association
Department of Communication and Journalism
217 Tichenor Hall
Auburn University
Auburn, AL 36849-5211

The Peabody Memphis Hotel Reservations

This page should answer many of your questions regarding hotel reservations, but if you need further assistance please contact The Peabody Memphis Reservations directly at (901) 529-3620 Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (CST) with any and all questions.

Be sure to review this entire page first, then navigate in your browser window to <http://www.peabodymemphis.com> and click on the "Reservations" icon.



BOOKING CODE

Enter the booking code 999572 into the "Group Reservations" field in order to book at the group rate and click "Submit"

GROUP STAY INFORMATION

For Reservation Assistance contact Peabody Memphis Reservations directly at (901) 529-3620 Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (CST).

Guests wishing to stay before April 7 or after April 11 must call Peabody Memphis Reservations at (901) 529-3620.

Additional days are subject to group rate availability.

Username

 Password

 Submit

Are you a First Time Visitor?
 Yes No
 Forgot your password?

Group Reservation

Group Number

 Submit

Ten (10) or more rooms booked for the same arrival and departure pattern is considered a group and should not be booked via our website as individual reservations. We reserve the right to cancel these reservations.

Find Rooms & Rates

Please enter your desired arrival and departure dates to view all hotels' availability select the hotel of your choice.

Check In Date: Check Out Date: Adults: Children:



THE PEABODY LITTLE ROCK >
 3 STATEHOUSE PLAZA
 LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201
 501-906-4000
[More Information >](#)



THE PEABODY MEMPHIS >
 149 UNION AVE
 MEMPHIS, TN 38103
 901-529-4000
[More Information >](#)

The group rates are:
• \$175 Single or Double occupancy

- \$195 Triple occupancy
 - \$215 Quad occupancy
- Taxes are 15.95% per night.

Undergraduate Honors Conference turns 20

How time flies when you are having fun! It is hard to believe that the Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference has been bringing promising young scholars together with seasoned academics for twenty years.

In this time many UHC participants have gone on to find success in graduate school and now mentor their own students. The UHC has helped gifted undergraduates connect with mentors and it has directly benefited our discipline through these relationships.

I encourage you to continue to support this important conference by attending the panels and interacting with these talented students.

The UHC participants will benefit from your insightful and constructive comments during the panel discussions. Many students



**FRANCES
BRANDAU-
BROWN**

Vice President-Elect
Southern States
Communication
Association
fb@shsu.edu

will also appreciate the opportunity to network and explore potential graduate programs across the south.

The Undergraduate Honors Conference panels will be held on Friday April 9th and Saturday April 10th, 2010.

On Friday evening from 6:30 to 8 p.m.,

UHC participants and guests are invited to attend a reception to commemorate the UHC's 20th anniversary sponsored by the both the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Graduate School at Sam Houston State University.

The annual UHC Breakfast will recognize these young scholars and the Top Paper recipient will be announced at this time.

You might consider welcoming an undergraduate to the convention with a Caring Connection. Writing a special personalized note of encouragement on the back could be very meaningful to these new scholars.

Memphis is an exciting city with lots to offer. During this convention, I hope you will show these young scholars how take advantage of the exchange of ideas, friendship, camaraderie, and fun on Beale Street.

President

Continued from page 1

the formal sense, the Association supports the research conducted by graduate students as many are convention participants in panel presentations and discussions and actively author or co-authors with their professors in research showcased at our conventions.

We also host sessions are our convention inviting students and prospective students to meet and discuss graduate programs with directors representing a variety of institutions in the south.

A second leadership initiative was devoted to continuing the presentation of high quality research at our convention. This initiative dovetails with the first initiative.

Simply compare the size of our convention programs over the past decade and you will see evidence of how our Association has grown.

In 1999, we held a joint convention with Central States Communication Association and we had a good representation of SSCA members participate.

At the beginning of the new millennium in 2000, 506 persons were scheduled in the program. Tom Socha, our current Vice-President and Program Planner reports 668 currently are programmed for our 2010 convention. That's a 25 percent increase over the decade.

To further indicate our growth, 139 panels were scheduled for our 2000 convention not including the Undergraduate Honors Conference sessions. Compare that with our

2010 convention, where Socha promises a selection from among 172 panels.

The robust increase in membership and convention participation shows remarkable growth considering the economic roller we've experienced over the past decade.

We have worked hard to plan quality conventions that are worthwhile for members to attend by offering contemporary themes attracting diverse scholarly and pedagogical discussion and outstanding plenary speakers with only a slight increase in convention registration fees.

To reach out to persons new to SSCA, we've held newcomers' receptions at conventions and provided ribbons people new to the Association can wear on their convention badges.

We all need to make sure when we see one of those ribbons that we give the wearer a hearty Southern "hello."

As convention planner, I invited persons new to the Southern region to participate on panels.

My convention theme in 2009 focused on collaboration. Many panels reflected the exposure of SSCA to non-members as they featured the collaborative efforts of members with non-members. While we weathered some storms in the administration of our finances, I am happy to report that the Association is financially sound.

Additionally, eight of our awards now are fully endowed at least at the \$5,000 level, thanks to the leadership efforts of Frances Brandau-Brown who introduced the Caring Connections program.

What a wonderful way to provide a trib-

ute to a beloved friend and colleague. Recently, I was asked to describe our tradition of honoring our colleagues with the "hands" at a leadership meeting held at another convention.

Many of our members are promoting the introduction of a second journal to be published by the Association.

After negotiation with Taylor and Frances, five issues of Southern Communication Journal will be published per year for 2010 and 2011.

In 2010, the additional issue offers research that is qualitative in nature. Ken Cissna, the editor of this special issue, was overwhelmed with submitted work, thus supporting the need for a journal devoted to qualitative studies. The Publications Committee continues discussion with Taylor and Frances in exploring the possibilities of a second journal.

In April, we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of the founding of the Association.

Make your travel plans now. We promise stimulating conversation and all Memphis has to offer including great barbecue, museums, the music of Beale Street and a beautiful venue, The Peabody Hotel.

This is a beautifully appointed hotel that surely won't disappoint you. I strongly encourage you to support the Association by reserving your rooms at the Peabody as we have a room block obligation and financially it is in the best interest of the Association that all these rooms are sold.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in Memphis!

Exhibits offer great books, journals, publicity

The annual convention in Memphis is almost here. I am confident that you are as excited about it as I am.

For me, the convention is like a family reunion (in a good way) held at a theme park. It is a wonderful time to reconnect with colleagues, threaten to begin (or finish) research projects, and compare the operations of our respective institutions.

The positive feelings aroused as we are reunited with our academic family members are truly exhilarating.

And just when you think it cannot get better, it does. Why? Because you have the opportunity to experience the joy of reunion in the context of presentations from seasoned scholars to bright undergraduate students – refreshing the passion for the study of communication within each of us.

This academic family reunion is held within an amazing city filled with a host of activities, restaurants to try, and revelry to engage in.

It is reminiscent of a theme park's blur of faces, sounds, and attractions that cul-



KELLI FELLOWS

Marketing Director

Southern States
Communication
Association

fellowsk@uncw.edu

minate in a wonderful experience.

But you don't have to leave the convention area to see attractions – they are right here for you. How, you might ask? The exhibits, of course.

Our exhibitors are simply amazing. They provide the opportunity to browse the latest book selections within your specific interest area, talk with the representatives about innovative book ideas that you may have, or become inspired by a new approach for your classroom.

And all of those academic journals. Truly we are in an academic utopia as we can explore journals that may be outside our traditional purview.

But it is not enough for you to simply be attending the convention and looking at the exhibits – I want you to become an exhibitor. That's right – your program in the spotlight.

Does your program offer a master's or doctorate? When you consider the number of high caliber undergraduates that will attend the convention, what better exposure could you ask for?

Perhaps your program has an innovative service learning or research project underway that you could showcase.

There is still time for your program to be highlighted, and like a theme park, I am offering an Internet coupon just for you.

E-mail or call me today to take advantage of special exhibitor rates – just because the budget is tight does not mean the public relations for your program can not continue.

Be an active part of the academic reunion this year – celebrate with all of us as we exchange ideas and program information, and visit your exhibit.

Editing journal: 'Deeply collaborative' effort

Editing a journal is great fun. It's interesting to have the opportunity to read outside my own narrow interests and inspiring to see how much smart work is out there.

It's satisfying to be part of bringing good work to publication. And I love being told that people are proud of the journal.

Editing is deeply collaborative. SCJ depends most of all on the support of the association.

In addition, I am constantly impressed by the quality of the people at Taylor and Francis, all of whom are a joy to work with.

I depend on Sam Perry, my Editorial Administrator, and on his Editorial Assistant, Jay Reynolds Patterson.

I am grateful for the support of my department, which provides me with the



MARY STUCKEY

Editor

Southern
Communication
Journal

mstuckey@gsu.edu

opportunity to do the work.

But I am most dependent on the members of the editorial board, and on those who, while not on the board, agree to review manuscripts. As Editor, the thing that has surprised me most is the number of people who have written to thank me for the timeliness and quality of the reviews they received.

This is all the more gratifying because many of these people have had their work

rejected for publication in SCJ. Certainly, this speaks well of the authors. And I have been blessed by cooperative and generous authors. But it also speaks well of the reviewers.

Reviewing is hard work. It is work that is done by people who are already busy and who have many other demands on their time. It is uncompensated work. And I think it is work that this editorial board and other reviewers do superlatively well.

So while you're in Memphis, if you see a member of the editorial board, or if you know someone who has reviewed for the journal, take a minute and thank them.

They don't get ribbons to wear at conferences, and they don't get much other recognition. But no editor could do their job without them. And they should know that their work is appreciated.

Check out the SSCA Web site for updated association information at: www.sscanet.net

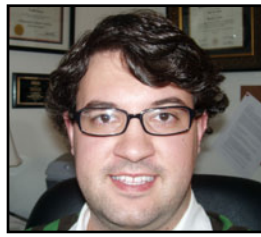
Outreach award needs contributions from members

Due to the generosity of SSCA members, I am pleased to report that there are only two rewards remaining not currently funded at the \$5,000 level.

This year the Resource Development Committee (RDC) is working to fund the Outreach Award. The current balance of the Outreach Award is \$575.

This award honors SSCA members who have made significant contributions to the profession by facilitating the success and access of under-represented populations or the integration of specific groups of students, professionals, or scholars into the communication discipline or professional organizations.

You can help fund this award in two ways: either by a direct contribution to the award fund (on your membership form) or through your support of Caring Connections.



TODD LEE GOEN

RDC Chair

Southern States
Communication
Association

dilgoen@yahoo.com

Since its inception in 2002, members of the association have honored friends and colleagues with Caring Connections.

Recipients of this honor are always delighted to learn that a colleague or friend has honored them in this way.

Please consider showing a friend or colleague how much you care by sending a Caring Connection.

Direct donations and Caring Connections

purchases are both tax deductible.

To purchase Caring Connections, please fill out the order form on Page 7 and mail by 9 March 2010.

Pre-convention orders will be waiting with your recipients' nametags when they arrive at the convention.

Caring Connections will also be available for purchase at the convention during for the purchaser to deliver to those s/he wishes to honor.

At the request of the Executive Council, the RDC is also considering ways to raise support for the Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference.

Anyone wishing to contribute to this effort can do so on the membership form. Anyone with fundraising suggestions can contact any member of the RDC.

Thanks for your support of the association and the awards.

Memphis

Continued from page 1

Teaching the Course on Conflict Management (McCorkle & Reese), Developing Positive Communication Curriculum (Socha at al.), Building an Individual Strengths Curriculum in Communication (Duncan & McClendon), GIFTS, and more.

In Memphis we will birth a new SSCA Interest Group: Ethics and Philosophy of Communication as well as hear their first words in a panel.

At this year's awards lunch we will cheer winners and hear a funny and memorable address: The Laughter of God: Toward a Rhetoric of Good Humor (Dr. Terry Lindvall).

Be sure to get those SSCA awards luncheon tickets early before they sell out.

In Memphis, we will join in the Turner and Tardy Dialogues: Chuck Tardy and Kathie Turner will lead dialogues with our graduate students and early career faculty about how SSCA might better serve their needs and will be joined by NCA President Dawn Braithwaite and Brad Mello (NCA Education).

I hope that all graduate students and early career faculty come to Memphis with their ideas and wish lists.

Besides keeping your minds happy, we of course want to keep the rest of you happy by: eating the BBQ of the GODS (Prefer dry? Head to Rendezvous. Like wet? Head to Corky's), listening to music of KINGs (Elvis and BB), and watching the marching, happy Peabody Ducks.

So, be sure to "go the distance" to Memphis in lucky April 7 to 11 to sing the Blues and be happy with us at SSCA.

My thanks to all the Memphis co-program planners, presenters, officers, local arrangements folks and more, but I want to offer a very special thanks to our outgoing Executive Director, Emmett Winn, whose work on behalf of SSCA has been a wonderful model of positive communication.

Emmet is most deserving of our thanks, lots of high-fives, and as much beer as he wants from us all!



Photo courtesy of the
Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau

Memphis Rock 'n' Soul Museum where you can feel the beat and discover the story of Memphis music and its unique impact on worldwide culture. Told as only the Smithsonian can, you'll hear the soundtrack of your life. Personal CD audio guide with every admission to the museum.

This newsletter is GARBAGE!

Many SSCA members favor electronic versions of newsletters rather than paper copies. One popular reason for relinquishing the paper version is Green.

By forgoing your paper copy of this newsletter, you help SSCA cut down on its use of paper products.

When SSCA uses less paper, it helps to protect our natural resources and cuts down on the waste and pollution associated with the manufacture of paper products.

It also reduces the inevitable disposal of hundreds of copies of this newsletter as garbage — the end result for most paper used in the USA.

If you would like to stop receiving your paper copy of this newsletter, simply e-mail director@ssca.net and let us know.

If you want to continue receiving your paper newsletter then do nothing.

We are happy to continue sending it to you.



CONNECTIONS

Dr. J. Emmett Winn, Executive Director
Southern States Communication Association
Department of Communication and Journalism
217 Tichenor Hall
Auburn University
Auburn, AL 36849-5211

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