



2013-03-09 Bourbon Street by Kevin Byram/CC BY 2.0/Color and lens corrected

## New Orleans in 2014 – A unique melting pot scholarship and culture

The 2014 SSCA conference held in New Orleans is fast approaching! The conference will take place in a city that has long been known for its unique blend of music, food, and culture. This setting provides the perfect backdrop for an interesting mix of scholarship and dialogue.

Many of the panels at the conference are reflective of the convention theme – Envisioning the Future of the Field. This theme will provide a catalyst for discussions about the direction of the field in terms of scholarship and research, instruction, and service to the academy



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Vice President-Elect

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and community. I invite you to participate in the spotlight programs that will highlight many of the key areas in our field involving topic areas ranging from rhetorical study to health communication to persuasion and to service learning. We

will also pay special tribute to Mary Frances HopKins and celebrate her distinguished career.

No SSCA conference description is complete without mentioning the Undergraduate Honors Conference. Dr. Jean DeHart planned the UHC this year and has scheduled an impressive array of papers across a range of topics. Plan to attend one or more of these sessions and welcome new scholars to the field.

We look forward to seeing you in the Big Easy!

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## Dorsey planning for *SCJ* editorship

It is an honor to have been chosen as the Editor of the *Southern Communication Journal* for 2015-2017. Although it is quite a while before my training for the position starts at Taylor & Francis, and before I officially take over from the current *SCJ* editor, J. D. Ragsdale, Carl Cates asked me to offer some preliminary thoughts regarding my editorship of the journal.

As of this writing, there are no major changes planned. I intend for *SCJ* to continue publishing a diverse range of topics and methodologies of critical interest to communication scholars. All work published will continue to represent first-rate, soundly argued essays that advance scholarly frontiers with substantial contributions to our discipline. Like my predecessors, all work published will undergo thorough and timely reviews to ensure the high standards expected for this journal.

In the coming months I will find an Editorial Assistant to aid me in



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managing everything efficiently, and a Book Review Editor to oversee that important area of the journal. I will also continue the practice of publishing a guest-edited issue each year, focusing on some of the most important cultural, social, and political communication topics of our time. Look for an announcement during fall 2014 about submitting your ideas for guest-editing a special issue in 2015.

I will be at the SSCA Conference in New Orleans this year so please look for me and let me know your thoughts about the journal.

## CONNECTIONS

**VOL. 32, NO. 1 • Spring 2014**

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

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## Marketing Notes...

■ **A big THANK YOU** to all those who supported the Association by advertising in our convention program! These are important resources to ensure we can continue to provide a nice program of events to every attendee. We appreciate their partnership and hope others of you will consider promoting your university and program in next year's convention program.

■ **Thinking about textbooks** for the fall semester? Be sure to check out our SSCA vendors for your classroom material needs. The folks at Routledge/Taylor & Francis, Kendall



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Hunt, and Bedford/St. Martin's have been longtime supporters of the Association and our conventions. If you have an opportunity to show your appreciation, please do. I'm sure they would be happy to help you in any way.

■ **It's not too early** to start talking about New Orleans! Watch for the Convention Countdown on our Facebook page coming soon, and feel free to start your own conversations. Want to promote your panel? Post it! Want to connect with old friends? Post it! Want some company to walk down Bourbon Street? Post it! Not one of the 234 people who 'like' us on Facebook yet? Join us online!

**For SSCA convention and hotel reservation information visit [www.ssca.net/convention](http://www.ssca.net/convention).**

# President busy with new awards and incorporation

Two new awards are “under construction” this year—one to be awarded for the first time, and one to be created this year. These will be announced in New Orleans, so this counts as a teaser alert.

The question of incorporation was being discussed even before my year began, as it becomes more common and more expected that associations the size of ours will be incorporated legally. There are issues of legal protection and fiduciary responsibility wrapped up in this process, and the issue has increasingly become clearly not about IF SSCA will incorporate, but WHEN it would.

The issue was given urgency this past year when the National Communication Association rather curtly announced that organizations wanting to continue as NCA affiliates must be incorporated. (The wording was not quite that brusque, but similarly formal.) At the executive council meeting at NCA in Washington, DC, we discussed incorporation, and also what the implications would be if we



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in rebellious fashion ceased to be affiliated with NCA. No one seriously proposed the latter, but we did find some Southern dander was up. In the end, we did move to incorporate.

One can read and hear about “cheap and legal incorporations,” but given our 80-year history, our case is not so simple as it would be to incorporate a new organization. We have already paid for legal searches for any previous SSCA incorporation that may have dropped out of our modern knowledge. None has turned up, but there is still the issue of how to turn our long ongoing concern, SSCA, into a newly incorporated organization. Fortunately, going forward, Executive Director Carl Cates has found a high-

credibility lawyer that offered services for a within-budget figure, and we are on our way to being a modern incorporated organization.

It has struck me, at times, that one of the strengths of our organization is reflected in the fact that for so many years it never occurred to anyone to incorporate. We are an association of communication scholars who simply want to meet and share our research and grow our field—and scholars new to the field! Why incorporate? There indeed seemed to be no good reason, for so many years, as goodwill and conscientious executive directors and officers sustained us. Yet we, along with many other organizations, finally fell victim to our legalistic age here in the end. One good thing does emerge—we are now of such a size that incorporation is now viewed as the only responsible thing to do. That also speaks well of our association, for sure. I look forward to continued growth of and good scholarship and friendships enhanced through SSCA.

# Caring Connections pre-convention orders underway

This year the Resource Development Committee (RDC) is continuing its work to increase the funds for all of the awards offered by the association. Balances for the awards are growing each year because of the continued generosity of our membership.

You can help fund these awards in two ways: either by a direct contribution to the award fund (on your membership form) or through your support of *Caring Connections*. 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 colleagues or friends have honored them in



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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 to the address below by March 26, 2014. 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.

Thanks for your support of the association and the awards!

## Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Get your survey monkey on and vote!

We have three elections this year and some outstanding candidates in each of them. Just take a gander:

I could not be more pleased with the two candidates slated for Vice President-Elect. Each of the candidates has served the organization in various roles over the years, is excited about the opportunity to serve in this leadership position, and is a distinguished scholar in their own right. Please take a look at each candidate presented in alphabetical order.

Micheal H. Eaves resides at Valdosta State University. He is a generalist in the field and is published in the areas of debate, nonverbal and health communication. He states, "I will work to help SSCA as an academic organization push forward our ideas, insights, and ingenuity to shaping and discovering the "magic" of communication in the social lives around us."

Rosann M. Mandziuk calls Texas State University – San Marcos home. Her teaching and research areas include rhetorical theory and criticism, media criticism, and cultural studies. Roseann states, "I am honored to be a candidate for First Vice President, as I truly believe that regional communication associations are the lifeblood of our profession. As an officer, I will work toward enhancing SSCA in three areas: community, collaboration, and conscience."

Our next election is for Community College Representative to NCA Legislative Assembly. We have a new-comer and an ever-faithful on board. Each candidate is equally qualified and willing to take on the daunting and fulfilling



**MONETTE  
CALLAWAY**

Immediate  
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task of NCA Legislative Assembly...that in itself is noteworthy. Bless Them. Here are your candidates in alphabetical order.

First up is our new-comer, S. Brad Bailey. Brad is currently teaching at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College. He states, "I am prepared and willing to represent the best interest of the SSCA and all of its membership in matters impacting us on a national level within the discipline. I am particularly energized by the thought of representing the perspective of my fellow colleagues who work in the community college setting and will work hard to ensure that our voice is represented in the broader discipline." Brad is opposed to the NCA by-laws revision.

Second, we have an ever-faithful, Ramona Clower. Ramona is currently teaching at Arkansas Northeastern College. She has served in several areas of SSCA. Ramona states, "I have put a great deal of thought into running for SSCA Community College Representative. I believe it is so important for Community Colleges to be heard. I have sat back, as many of us do in our organizations, and let others take the lead and then wonder why things were done the way they were. I have never run for an office, but I am qualified, ready, and

eager to listen and be a voice for SSCA and the Community Colleges. I will work to make our issues known to the body at large. SSCA is a wonderful organization, with great support to all." Ramona is also against the NCA by-laws revision.

Finally, we have the splendid Mary Stuckey slated as candidate for the SSCA Nominating Committee for NCA. Mary graces the halls of Georgia State University on a daily basis where she conducts research and fills the minds of students who will one day be our future.

As you can see, we have a wonderful slate of candidates for each of the positions. For more information on each please visit the website [www.scca.net/candidates-2014](http://www.scca.net/candidates-2014).

As this is my last newsletter, I find it bittersweet. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as SSCA President. It has been filled with sorrow, laughter, and joy. Sorrow...at the loss of good friends and scholars along the way...most recently Dr. Susan Siltanen my mentor for many years. Laughter...at the many texts in meetings, mistakes I made (you have to laugh so not to cry), and jokes that kept me going. Joy...because of the friends I have made, memories I will cherish, accomplishments that I could not have encountered without you, finishing that program and getting through the speech unscathed. I thank each of you for your support and belief in me. Now, back to business...get your survey monkey on and vote! Until we meet again...

CONVENTION PRE-REGISTRATION FORM  
 84<sup>th</sup> SSCA Convention \* New Orleans, LA \* April 3-6, 2014  
**EVERYONE attending the convention must complete a registration form**  
 PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

**You must also be a member, or you may register and pay as a non-member, before your convention registration form will be processed. If you wish to register as a non-member, fill out the information below, please check here  and go to page 2.**

**\* ITEMS ARE REQUIRED**

\*Name (Last, First, Middle) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Name as you desire it to appear on your badge (please use First Name/Last Name format): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*City \_\_\_\_\_ \*State \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 \*School/Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_ \*Preferred Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \* Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**SSCA Membership Form**

Complete this application to renew your membership or join SSCA with your conference registration. You will need to send the appropriate dues in order to activate your membership. All categories include subscriptions to the *Southern Communication Journal*, convention information, and participation in divisional and incidental activities of the Association.

Please indicate whether this is a \_\_\_ new membership, or \_\_\_ renewal of an existing membership:

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.
- \_\_\_ STUDENT: Annual fee of \$30 provides membership privileges and is available only to full-time students.
- \_\_\_ EMERITUS: For retired members who have been members of SSCA for 15 or more consecutive years (equivalent to a Sustaining membership without further payment).

Regional Journals: Subscriptions to the six journals published by the other regional associations are available to Emeritus, Sustaining, Regular, and Student members for an additional \$80 annually.

\_\_\_ YES, I want to spend \$80 for subscriptions to the other regional journals.

Affiliation Group (select one)

- \_\_\_ Jr. /Sr. High School
- \_\_\_ 4-Year College of University
- \_\_\_ 2-Year Community or Technical College
- \_\_\_ Applied Professional

Divisions: Choose 2 selections for divisional affiliation (each additional selection will cost an additional \$5):

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

Interest Groups: You may select up to TWO for no extra fee. (\$5 for each additional).

- \_\_\_ American Society for History & Rhetoric
- \_\_\_ Burke Society
- \_\_\_ Ethnography
- \_\_\_ Association for Communication Administration
- \_\_\_ Philosophy and Ethics

**Calculating Membership Fees & Dues:**

Membership: Category: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional Journals (\$80—included in Life & Patron Memberships) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional Affiliations (\$5 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional Interest Groups (\$5 each) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Membership total (include on page 2)** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**EVERYONE attending the convention must complete a registration form**  
 PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

New SSCA member or is this your first SSCA convention? Please let us know by checking here: \_\_\_\_ Newcomer (optional)

| <b>*Total Membership Fees and Dues from page 1</b>  |                  |                       |        |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|--------|
| <b>*Convention Registration Fees</b><br>Preregistration available until March 11  | Pre-Registration | At Convention         | Amount |
| Regular Members (Membership \$50: see back for info.)   | \$45             | \$55                  |        |
| Student Members (Membership \$30: see back for info.)   | \$25             | \$30                  |        |
| Non-members (No membership fee required)  | \$65             | \$80                  |        |
| Life Member (Membership \$1,250: see back for info.)  | \$0 (included)   | \$0 (included)        |        |
| Patron Member (Membership \$190: see back for info.)  | \$0 (included)   | \$0 (included)        |        |
| Sustaining Member (Membership \$90: see back for info.)   | \$0 (included)   | \$0 (included)        |        |
| Emeritus Member (Emeritus Status req.: see back for info.)  | \$0 (included)   | \$0 (included)        |        |
| <b>Special Events</b>   |                  |                       |        |
| Awards Lunch (Saturday) Limited Availability. Check with Registration Workers. No sales after Friday noon.                | \$40 per ticket  | # of tickets<br>_____ |        |
| Charitable Donations: Please consider giving an additional tax deductible contribution in support of one of the following |                  |                       |        |
| Janice Hocker Rushing Early Career Research Award   |                  |                       |        |
| John I. Sisco Excellence in Teaching Award  |                  |                       |        |
| Michael M. Osborn Teacher-Scholar Award   |                  |                       |        |
| T. Earle Johnson-Edwin Paget Distinguished Service Award  |                  |                       |        |
| Rose B. Johnson SCJ Article Award   |                  |                       |        |
| Robert Bostrom Young Scholar Award  |                  |                       |        |
| Franklin Shirley Award for the Top UHC Paper  |                  |                       |        |
| Dwight L. Freshley Outstanding New Teacher Award  |                  |                       |        |
| Minority Recruitment & Retention Award  |                  |                       |        |
| Outreach Award  |                  |                       |        |
| Theodore Clevenger Jr. Undergraduate Honors Conference  |                  |                       |        |
| Grand Total<br>(Total all amounts in the last column)   |                  |                       |        |

Make check payable to SSCA for the total amount and return before March 11, 2014 to:

**Dr. Carl M Cates**  
**College of the Arts**  
**Valdosta State University**  
**1500 N. Patterson**  
**Valdosta, GA 31698**

To pay by credit card, contact Carl Cates at [director@ssca.net](mailto:director@ssca.net) or 229-333-5832

# CARING CONNECTIONS

## Pre-Convention Order Form



Please complete this order form and return it to Dr. David Nelson, Department of Communication Arts, 1500 North Patterson Street, Valdosta, GA 31698-0120, with a check for your order. Caring Connections are \$5 each. You will receive a tax receipt via e-mail after the convention. Pre-convention orders must be received by March 26, 2014 in order to be processed and waiting for your honoree when s/he arrives at convention. You may purchase and deliver additional Caring Connections at convention. Please note that Caring Connections are distributed to convention attendees only. If you wish to honor someone not in attendance, you may mail the honor yourself.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your University Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5= \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Southern States Communication Association

Honoree's Name

Honoree's University Affiliation

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# SSCA DIVISIONS AND INTEREST GROUPS

## SSCA DIVISIONS

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- 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

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



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