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THE 2007 CONFERENCE TWO-STEP

by Missy Alexander
NYSCA President

**So, I must confess, it was a little —
overwhelming.**

It wasn't the part where we had to find a location; after all, we've been at the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa for years, now. Peggy Cassidy gave me an old contract to look at and the booking was complete. No, that part was relatively easy.

Then there was finding keynote speakers, but I lucked out because both Mary Kahl and Shawn Parry-Giles enthusiastically agreed to participate. I was all set with this by the end of January. Controlling the flow of the paper submissions was some work, but it really wasn't too scary, and with Valerie Swarts on board to coordinate the research awards, things were moving along.

Brad Crownover sold lots of ads, so the miscellaneous expenditures were covered, and Katherine Fry controlled the budget, so we could check our expenditures easily this year. With supplies in hand, Cheryl Casey to run the registration desk, and Ari Kissiloff helping with everything (in addition to creating that beautiful new website), it seemed like we had anticipated all problems and looked forward to a nice, smooth conference.

Not so fast! This year we had a brand new challenge: How do we run an academic conference while dodging 500 line dancers? So much for smooth.

Yes, for those of you who didn't attend the conference last October, we had a conference that included a lot of country music and stomping. But we're NYSCA and we know how to make things happen. With a little perseverance and a lot of good humor, we pulled it off.

Luckily, our paper sessions were just fine. There was a little competition from the folks calling out dance steps, but it wasn't too bad. And there were lots of good sessions. Communication Mistakes as a conference theme brought proposals on political communication errors, interviewing errors, interpersonal communication problems, technology convergence problems, and lots of reflection on teaching. All of these topics were wonderful to explore, but I was particularly enthusiastic about the sessions on teaching.

Reflecting on our teaching is one of those things that can get short-changed at the big conferences. They do have sessions on this, but the audience is usually quite limited and then we move on. The scale of NYSCA allows us to extend the conversation to lunch and dinner. The conversations about teaching were particularly good this year. I know I left with new ideas about integrating curriculum – and I'm working with those ideas in my department right now.

When it was time to turn our attention away from our own conversations and listen to our keynote speakers, we had another list of interesting things to discuss. Dr. Mary Kahl (SUNY New Paltz) presented her talk, "A Subject for Sarcasm and Ridicule": *Learning from the Ladies of Seneca Falls*, in which she described the presentation of the women's rights movements in the Seneca Falls Museum. It was a fascinating talk about staging history and the ways in which issues of gender and race shape that staging. That conversation went on well past our scheduled time and throughout the weekend.

Dr. Shawn Parry-Giles (University of Maryland) was our Saturday night speaker. Her talk, *Connecting Research, Pedagogy, and Civic Engagement: Getting Funding and Getting Creative*, helped us all think about how better to promote our discipline. Dr. Parry-Giles has worked with NCA to make the case to the funding agencies in Washington, D.C., that Communication is both a humanities and a social science discipline. This education campaign should be followed up with lots of applications from us to NEH and NSF. We have to follow up on the good work she and her colleagues and NCA have done.

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Missy Alexander, Thom Gencarelli, and Bill Petkanas jam at Friday night's Official NYSCA Jam Session

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What was most gratifying about working as the conference planner was the level of enthusiastic support I received from everyone. Our board is fantastic and hard working, making it possible for delegation of responsibilities. This made my life as a conference planner relatively easy.

As Valerie Swarts begins her planning, I hope everyone is ready to step up and help her, too. It makes serving NYSCA a very rewarding experience. I thank all of the board members for their support, including the recording secretary, members-at-large, the *Proceedings* and *NYSCA Reports* editors, and the nominating committee, who made the elections run so smoothly this year.

So the downside of the line dancers was that we had a hard time sharing spaces outside of our sessions. The dancers were really everywhere and it was loud. But, we're NYSCA, so what did we do . . . ? Well, of course, we learned to dance. After all, dancing is communication!

See you next year,
Missy



Tom Flynn (left) receives the 2007 Wilson Scholar Award from Gary Gumpert



Friday night's Keynote Speaker, Mary Kahl, answers questions following her address



Shawn Parry-Giles, delivering Saturday night's Keynote Address



The Hudson Valley, as seen from high atop the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa

2007 Student Research Awards

NYSCA is pleased to announce and congratulate the winners of the 2007 Student Research Awards, presented on Saturday, October 20 at the 65th Annual Convention during the General Business Meeting.

For undergraduate research the winner is **James Marconi**, of Marist College, for “Politics in the Information Age: How Presidential Candidates Present Themselves Online.”

The winner for graduate research is **Danielle Haas**, of the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, for “At the Interface: A Comparison of UK and US Newspaper Ombudsmen and Their Role in Media Self-Talk.”



Saturday's roundtable on Faulty Communication in Organizational Crises and Disasters. From upper left, clockwise: Gary Gumpert, Sue Jasko, Mary Kahl, Don Fishman, Sue Drucker, Jim Morrison (Chair), Thom Gencarelli



Panelists in Saturday's concluding plenary session, Errors in Communication: The Top Ten Communication Mistakes. From left, Don Fishman, Sue Drucker, Thom Gencarelli, Bruce Avery, Tom Flynn, Lewis Freeman. Out of picture: Gary Gumpert

New Web Site Adds Enhanced Features and New Look

Ari Kissiloff, *Director of New Media*

Hello, members! As I announced at last October's conference, the new Web site has been up and running for several months. We've added features such as CSS popup menus for easy navigation, RSS news feeds about education and communication, RSS Syndication of NYSCA content, rotating conference photos, a global search tool, dynamic text resizing, and the ability to print or e-mail any of the content pages.

We've also recently added more information about the upcoming 2008 conference, more minutes and meeting notes, newsletter archives, photos, and even more information about NYSCA.

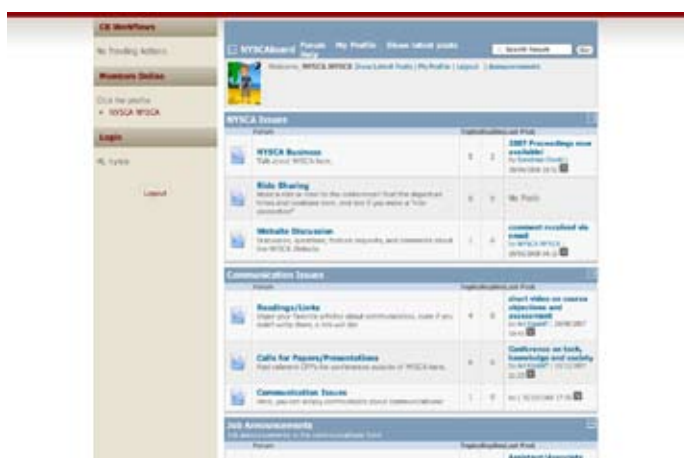
There are also special features available exclusively to members, such as job postings, conference ride sharing, discussion boards, and an online membership directory. Members can even enter information about themselves into their profile (including a profile photo), so that they can connect with other NYSCA members. When you are logged in, you'll also get a special RSS feed of the discussion boards, right on the home page.

To access the members-only section:

1. Log in, by using the username and password you received via e-mail from me (either September 10, 2007 or February 11, 2008, depending on when you became a member).
2. If you can't find this e-mail, click "lost password" and type in your username and e-mail address. (Your username is your first initial and then up to eight letters of your last name, followed by the numeral "1." For example, John Smith would be jsmith1.)
3. Your password will be e-mailed to you. If it still doesn't work, please e-mail me: akissiloff@ithaca.edu.

The first time you log in, you will be able to update your profile, change your password, and decide whether or not you want your e-mail address shared with other members, or published in the online directory (the default is to publish). Don't worry—the e-mail addresses are available only to other members who are logged in, so they won't show up to the general public. When you log in, you'll see a "MEMBERS" link near the upper right-hand corner, which will bring you to the special sections.

The Web site address is <http://www.nyscanet.org/>



THE 66TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NEW YORK STATE COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

October 17-19, 2008
The Hudson Valley Resort & Spa
Kerhonkson, NY

Keynote Speakers

Diana Carlin, University of Kansas, Dean-in-Residence at the
Council of Graduate Schools, Washington, DC

Terence Moran, New York University

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline for Submission: June 20, 2008

DISCIPLINARY DETACHMENT IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD? SEEKING COHERENCE, CONTINUITY, AND CONNECTION

Systems theory tells us to see all the parts of the whole as related and interdependent, but has that holistic approach been compromised within the discipline of communication? Conversations at NYSCA, ECA, and NCA have addressed concern over the increased specialization and fragmentation of the discipline of communication, raising questions that merit consideration and discussion. Is there too much separatism among areas of study? Does specialization affect our ability to make a contribution to broad social problems? How do we, or can we, integrate specialized areas? Does there remain a common core of the discipline located among these microcosms? How should we structure undergraduate and graduate education within our discipline in order to promote any common ground?

The 2008 conference will focus on these questions and any issues relating to the coherence of the communication discipline. Papers and panels addressing these concerns and our roots, traditions, and common links are invited and encouraged. Of particular interest are panels that include participants with

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a common research topic but different contexts, e.g., Communication Apprehension in interpersonal, group, digital, or critical theory contexts. The potential topics are limitless.

Proposals unrelated to the conference theme, from a variety of theoretical traditions, are also welcome. We seek papers in all formats—formal and informal presentations, roundtables, participatory panels, demonstrations, media screenings, or other innovative ideas. Undergraduate and graduate student submissions are also welcome and will be considered for student paper awards.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Paper and panel submissions must be received no later than June 20, 2008.

Submissions must be sent electronically as MS Word attachments to valerie@nyscanet.org or to valerie.swarts@srub.edu.

Equipment requests for NYSCA should be kept to an absolute minimum. But if you do have a request, please include the request in your submission and be specific. We will try to accommodate your request.

Paper Submissions

Paper submissions must include two file attachments:

- (1) A file that contains a cover sheet noting the paper's title, names, affiliations, postal and e-mail addresses, and numbers for phone and fax for all authors. The "Statement of Professional Responsibility" (see below) should appear on the cover sheet.
- (2) A separate file that includes a 75–100-word abstract and the paper itself. Please remove all author identification from the paper.

Panel/Program Proposals

Panel/program proposals must include the following:

- (1) a thematic title for the panel/program
- (2) a detailed rationale for the proposed panel
- (3) a "Statement of Professional Responsibility" (see below)
- (4) a 75–100-word description of the panel to be included in the final program
- (5) a list of all participants, including their names, institutional affiliations, postal and e-mail addresses, and numbers for phone and fax for all panelists.

Statement of Professional Responsibility

The following statement must be included on the cover sheet when submitting a paper or panel proposal for review:

In submitting the attached paper or proposal, I/we recognize that this submission is considered a professional responsibility. I/we agree to present this paper or program/panel if it is accepted and programmed.

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If you have any ideas for articles or topics you'd like to see represented, please send them to jcm46@comcast.net

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