As the great Greek philosopher, Plato, once said, “The beginning is the most important part of the work.” Oral communication laid the foundation of our discipline through the use of the spoken word. The introduction of writing ushered in a new era of communication where people no longer relied just on the spoken word to pass down their stories over generations, but could communicate them through the use of symbols and alphabets. In the 15th century, the invention of the printing press produced a quantum increase in the need for a visual medium of presenting the written word. The electronic era provided new forms of communicating ideas and stories through mediums like the telephone, radio and television, which presented unique forms of visual storytelling and reevaluating the way we express ourselves. These four eras have become the pillars of the current state of the communication discipline with the availability of the Internet and digital technologies.

The 75th Anniversary of the New York State Communication Association is a wonderful time for honoring the past, celebrating the present and shaping the future. NYSCA invites papers bringing together discussions about the rich history and sustaining foundations of our discipline. This conference looks to celebrate and highlight scholarly perspectives of those pivotal moments of the past and present as we anticipate the challenges of the future.

We welcome submissions in a variety of formats including papers, panel proposals, posters, roundtables, media screenings, and other innovative proposals for thoughtful engagement. Work related to the conference theme is encouraged, as well as scholarship addressing a wide range of communication topics from a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches. Undergraduate and graduate student submissions are also welcome and will be considered for student paper awards.

For completed papers of no more than 25 pages, please send identifying information (title page, author, affiliation, contact information) in a separate document. Papers should include a running head with an abbreviated title. Student submissions should indicate “undergraduate” or “graduate,” along with an abbreviated title in the running head. For all other presentation formats, including panel proposals, posters, and roundtables, please include the title, the lead contact or panel chair, the participants/authors, affiliations, contact information, and a description of the panel, poster, or roundtable. For each paper in a panel or roundtable proposal, please include a title, a list of authors, and abstracts of no more than 250 words.

A statement of professional responsibility should be included on the cover or title page of the submission and should state the following: “In submitting the attached paper/panel proposal, poster, or roundtable, I/we agree to present at the 2017 NYSCA conference if it is accepted. I/we further recognize that all who attend and present at NYSCA’s annual meeting must register and pay the required fees.”

For the 75th Anniversary, we will be transitioning to an electronic submission system for all abstracts, proposals, and/or completed papers, which can be located at https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=nysca2017. Please read the instructions on the site prior to submitting your paper or proposal. All abstracts, proposals, and/or completed papers are due no later than Friday, June 2, 2017.