

COMMUNICATION CENTERS SECTION  
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
2009  
National Communication Association  
Saturday, 2-3:15 pm  
Meeting Room 5-I, Chicago Hilton

I. Call to order and welcome; minutes approved electronically—Kathie Turner, Chair. [Many thanks to Ted Sheckels who took notes until I arrived!]

II. Officers' Reports

A. Chair—Kathie Turner (Davidson College)

- When Kathie convened meeting she noted that section's status was up in the air—as usual because # hovers on 100; but also because NCA is rethinking divisional/sectional/etc. structure.
- She also reported on Legislative Assembly meetings, noting that motion to eliminate extra fee for short courses was defeated (had majority but not required 2/3), that dues increases were rejected, and that discussion of registration procedures was “feisty.”
- She also reported on Nominating Committee Meeting, noting that there were 3 nominees for 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and numerous nominees for legislative assembly at-large seats.
- Then, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP candidate Deanna Selnow (U of KY) spoke to group.
- Those attending on unit's behalf reported briefly on “Town Hall” meeting focused on whether NCA should get involved in political issues.

B. Vice Chair—Ted Sheckels (Randolph-Macon College)

- Ted Sheckels reported on planning for 2009 convention. 3 papers submitted; 2 accepted and routed to S2S. 6 sessions submitted; 4 accepted; another accepted a bit later after he begged for xtra slot. Unit also scheduled 5 Years Out session and business meeting.
- NACC is down a slot for programming. There need to be more submissions to show that there is lots of interest in our unit.

C. Vice Chair Elect---Wendy Atkins-Sayer (The University of Southern Mississippi)

- Wendy reminded folks that we have a NACC Facebook section page, NACC webpage, photo album link, discussion threads. These could be used for posting

center pictures or for having threads on great center ideas. Wendy Atkins-Sayre reported on planning for 2010 convention. Theme is “Building Bridges.” Submissions by 17 February. People must register by mid-September. Only 4 slots, down one from 2009 because venue has fewer rooms. Whether units were all reduced by 1 or reduced proportionately was discussed as well as ways to expand # of slots.

### III. Reports from Appointed Positions

- A. Publication Specialists. Marlina Howe Davidson (University of Nebraska—Omaha) spoke on behalf of both herself and Beau Bingham (University of Wyoming). Since the newsletter used to be a way for us to keep in touch and as a group we wanted to bring it back. Marlina and Beau plan to distribute it before NACC spring conference (and in fact, Marlene Preston posted it to the listserv on Friday, November 20, 2009.) There was also a call for archived presentations on the NACC website. Marlina suggests that if you have news to email her and/or Beau: [MarlinaDavidson \(mmdavidson@unomaha.edu\)](mailto:MarlinaDavidson@mmdavidson.unomaha.edu) or Beau Bingham ([bbingham@uwyo.edu](mailto:bbingham@uwyo.edu)).
- B. Recorder/Membership Director. Susan Wilson (DePauw University) first apologized for being tardy, then she indicated efforts to track bounces on the listserv list. Kathie Turner stated that our membership is currently at 92 and we need to increase our number to at least 100 to stay active under the NCA umbrella. She reminded us that we could encourage others at our institution to check Comm Centers as their affiliation because the work that Communication Centers do to benefit our respective campuses.
- C. Student Coordinator. Kathie Turner read a report from Kim Cuny (University of North Carolina-Greensboro) indicating that [speaking.network.com](http://speaking.network.com) has not garnered as much traffic as hopes. Its intended purpose was to provide student a forum to connect with tutors/consultants from other schools. With budget cuts, UNC—Greensboro has agreed to fund the site for one more year.
- D. Website Manager. Kathie Turner reported that Anand Rao (University of Mary Washington), the website manager is on paternity leave. Anand is willing to stay on in the position. The group acknowledged Anand’s contributions and worries that the work shouldn’t fall on one person’s shoulders. Marge Prately plans to coordinate with Anand to establish a centers’ information section as well as tutor training materials. Both would be particularly useful as new centers were being established.

### IV. Old Business

- A. 2009 NACC Spring Conference Host Sue Weber (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia). Sue reported that 81 people attended. 100 people were registered. There was lots of student participation which is always heartening. She provided the financial numbers for the conference and was appreciative of her administration’s support of securing and paying for our meeting space. The main thing she might have changed was Saturday scheduling—people felt that it was a long day overall. Due to bad weather, some people were unable to make it to Philly. The group acknowledged Sue’s considerable work at organizing a

wonderful conference. Many positive comments about Roger Smitter's participation in the conference and his remarks as the keynote speaker on Saturday.

- B. Tutor training and certification document. Ted Sheckels recounted the lengthy discussion that happened Thursday morning. He summed up some of the potential changes as being more flexible language, the addition of role-playing requirements, an advanced level of the position, and periodic review of centers not just when institutions decide they want to review centers. Ted and Kathie plan to continue refining the document and would like to have a document that can be voted on at the spring NACC conference at DePauw. Please send comments/questions (copied to both Ted and Kathie: [tsheckel@rmc.edu](mailto:tsheckel@rmc.edu); [kturner@davidson.edu](mailto:kturner@davidson.edu))

#### V. New Business

- A. Elections of new officers--Kyle Love (Columbia College) and Esther Yook (University of Mary Washington), Section Nominating Committee brought this slate forward:

Vice Chair Elect—Sue Weber  
Recorder---Deb McGee  
Student Coordinator—Kim Cuny

Unanimous approval of slate

Excellence at the Centers—Linda Hobgood  
Nominating Committee—Esther Yook

- B. 2010 NACC Spring Conference Host Susan Wilson handed out a flyer about the conference. The conference theme is: Communication Centers: Foundations and Frontiers. For more information and to register, visit:  
<http://www.depauw.edu/acad/communication/nacc/travel.asp>.  
Ted made a friendly suggestion about the deadline—that January 15<sup>th</sup> be the call for proposals and not just finished papers. Suggestion was accepted.
- C. Liaison to NACC Spring Conference---Linda Hobgood. Linda reports that she's heard some interest in holding the 2012 conference and this is desirable because it allows for long term planning. Proposals to host the 2012 conference are due September 2010 to Linda. The 2011 conference will be at Linda's campus, University of Richmond. This was the site of the first NACC spring conference in 2001 and is fitting that we will be returning for the 10<sup>th</sup> conference. The theme will be: "Center to Sphere" and will most likely be in mid-March.
- D. Modification of section's awards--- Wendy Atkins-Sayre. Wendy stated that she coordinated all the input from both last spring's NACC 's discussion and other comments, in modifying the outstanding tutor award procedure. Now a recommendation must also come from a member of the tutoring staff cohort. Deb moved to accept the motion and it was seconded by several people. Unanimous Endorsement. (I have copied the new award details as an addendum.)

- E. Communication Centers awards: presentations. (These awards were made under the “old process”):

Outstanding Tutor (will be officially conferred at the spring conference when more students attend): David Loque (sp) Davidson College

Preston Leadership Award: Esther Yook, Mary Washington University

Von Till Outstanding Newcomer: Jennifer Butler Ellis, Michigan State University

Distinguish Service Award: Linda Hobgood, University of Richmond

- F. Esther Yook and Wendy Atkins-Sayer attended the Task Force meeting and provided a report. The meeting was poorly attended with ideas all over the place. There was discussion about how people could even weigh in on an issue and how would a national organization present its view.

- G. Announcement of positions available.

Eastern Kentucky University—Director in the Academic Creativity Center, a two million dollar center just created.

Marge Pryately: St. Cloud State—Director Position . Marge indicated that NACC statements about center mission and director responsibilities helped as the institution created the center and the director position.

Wendy Atkins-Sayer: University of So Mississippi will have an opening for the director of its second center.

Marlina indicated that positions would be a welcome inclusion in the NACC newsletter and to send copy to her or Beau (see above for addresses).

VI. Kathie’s work as chair was recognized with a round of applause. Kathie passed the gavel and the NACC notebook to Ted, who gaveled the meeting to adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Wilson

**NCA Communication Centers Section and the  
National Association of Communication Centers**

**Awards Guidelines**

Revised October 2009

*Awards in each category will be given only to those demonstrating high quality in meeting the criteria below.*

**NCA Top-Ranked Panel**

The top-ranked panel will be determined by the convention selection process, and identified by the Vice Chair. ***Panels created by section officers (defined as past chair, chair, vice chair, and vice chair elect) will not be eligible for the award.*** Certificates will be presented to each panelist in attendance.

**NCA Top-Ranked Paper**

The top-ranked paper will be determined by the convention selection process, and identified by the Vice Chair. A certificate will be presented to the author(s).

**The Hobgood Distinguished Service to Communication Centers Award**

The award shall be presented to the person judged to have made the greatest contribution to the support and/or promotion of communication centers, the Communication Centers section of the National Communication Association, and the profession during her or his career. Considerations include demonstrated dedication to excellence, commitment to the profession, concern for others, vision of what could be, and appreciation of diversity. The person must be a member in good standing of the Communication Centers section of NCA. Self-nominations are encouraged.

*The nominator should send a letter of nomination stating why the person should be recognized for distinguished service to Communication Centers. Additionally, the nominator should be prepared to gather additional information if needed (due to multiple nominations or need for clarification).* Additional documents might include:

- The nominee's current vita (provided by either the nominee or the nominee's administration or colleagues);
- Evidence of the above considerations; and
- A minimum of two and maximum of three letters of recommendation, including:
  - one from a colleague in Communication Centers outside of the nominee's institution, and
  - one from a faculty member within the nominee's institution.

Nominations must be submitted by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the award-granting year. The recipient will be chosen by *a committee consisting of current officers of the Communication Centers section (past chair, chair, vice-chair, vice-chair elect).* The award will be presented at the NCA convention, and reported at the NACC conference.

### **The Von Till Outstanding Newcomer Award**

The award shall be presented to the person who has been in Communication Centers administration for five years or fewer as of May 1<sup>st</sup> of the nominating year. Considerations include evidence of innovation, scholarship/*intellectual work*, mentoring, and effectiveness, as well as participation in NCA's Communication Centers section and the NACC conferences. The person must be a member in good standing of the Communication Centers section of NCA. Self-nominations are encouraged.

The nomination *should* include:

- A cover letter stating why the person should be recognized as an outstanding newcomer to Communication Centers;
- The nominee's current vita (provided by either the nominee or the nominee's administration or colleagues);
- Evidence of the above considerations; and
- A minimum of two and maximum of three letters of recommendation, including:

- one from a colleague in Communication Centers outside of the nominee's institution, and
- one from a faculty member within the nominee's institution.

Nominations must be submitted by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the award-granting year. The recipient will be chosen by *a committee consisting of past officers of the Communication Centers section selected by the current chair*. The award will be presented at the NCA convention, and reported at the NACC conference.

### **The Outstanding Tutor Award\***

The award shall be presented to the person who has demonstrated excellence as a tutor in a Communication Center. Considerations include quality of assistance, dedication, knowledge, creativity, and unique contributions. No more than *two nominees* per institution may be nominated in a given year. Nominees may be either undergraduate or graduate students (as of May 1<sup>st</sup> of the nominating year).

The nomination *should* include:

- A cover letter stating why the person should be recognized as an outstanding tutor in a Communication Center;
- A statement from the nominee about his or her participation in the Communication Center;
- The nominee's current vita;
- Evidence of the above considerations; and
- A minimum of two and maximum of three letters of recommendation, including:
  - one from the director of the nominee's Communication Center, and
  - one from *the tutoring staff at* the nominee's Communication Center.

Nominations must be submitted by February 13th of the award-granting year. The recipient will be chosen by *a committee consisting of past hosts of the National Association of Communication Centers conference and selected by the current chair*. The award will be presented at the NACC conference, and reported at the NCA convention. *All nominees will be recognized at the NACC conference.*

*\*The name of the award will be adapted to the usage at the recipient's institution —e.g., tutor, peer advisor, or consultant.*

## **The Preston Award for Leadership**

Awarded to the outgoing past chair

**NACC Top Paper Awards** [these awards were not previously listed in the awards document]

## **Bob and Ann Weiss Undergraduate Paper Award**

In order to be eligible, the undergraduate student submission must be an original research paper that meets the criteria of the call for conference submissions. It must be based on a communication theory, but it can be reflexive. An abstract is sufficient on or before February 13<sup>th</sup> of the conference year.

Submission Guidelines: The complete paper must be e-mailed as a Word attachment to **the Communication Center Section/NACC Student Coordinator by the date announced in the call for papers**. The subject line should read: "NACC Undergraduate Paper Competition." To ensure a blind review process, the document (body of paper and abstract) cannot include the author's name or affiliation. Information that in any way identifies the presenter or her/his affiliation may disqualify the proposal from consideration. A separate cover page should include the following: name, university/college, address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Additional Guidelines:

1. Current or recently graduated students are allowed to submit one paper per conference to the undergraduate paper competition.
2. The submission **may be either** a single-authored **or co-authored** paper written during undergraduate studies and is not limited to those written as part of coursework.
3. A student whose paper is accepted for presentation may not submit another paper from their undergraduate work for this competitive paper competition. They may submit additional papers for consideration on non-competitive panels.
4. If your abstract is accepted as a conference submission, you are expected to



present your paper, regardless of whether or not you win the award.

5. Presenters are required to register for the mini-conference.

*6. The award-winner will be determined by a committee formed for that purpose by the Communication Center Section/NACC Student Coordinator.*

### **Huddy-Gunn Graduate Paper Award**

In order to be eligible, the graduate student submission should be an original research paper that investigates a topic from an empirical or theoretical perspective and meets the criteria of the call for conference submissions. The paper should focus on challenging a theory, the development of a new theory, or the modification of a current theory. An abstract is sufficient on or before February 13<sup>th</sup> of the conference year.

*Submission Guidelines:* The complete paper must be e-mailed as a Word attachment to the *Communication Center Section/NACC Student Coordinator by the date announced in the call for papers.* The subject line should read: "NACC Graduate Paper Competition." To ensure a blind review process, the document (body of paper and abstract) cannot include the author's name or affiliation. Information that in any way identifies the presenter or her/his affiliation may disqualify the proposal from consideration. A separate cover page should include the following: name, university/college, address, phone number, and e-mail address.

Additional Guidelines:

1. Graduate students are allowed to submit one paper per mini-conference to the graduate paper competition.
2. Papers from M.A. thesis projects are not eligible for this competition. These papers are eligible for consideration on non-competitive panels comprised of undergraduate students, graduate students, and/or faculty.
3. The paper *may be single or co-authored* original work of the student(s) submitting the paper. *All authors must be either undergraduate or graduate students. There can be no student-faculty co-authored papers submitted for this award.*
4. If your abstract is accepted as a conference submission, you are expected to present your paper, regardless of whether or not you win the award.
5. Presenters are required to register for the mini-conference.

6. The award-winner will be determined by a committee formed for that purpose by the Communication Center Section/NACC Student Coordinator.

**Joyce Ferguson Faculty Paper Award** [this is a new award]

*In order to be eligible, the faculty submission should be an original research paper that investigates a topic from an empirical or theoretical perspective and meets the criteria of the call for conference submissions. The paper should focus on challenging a theory, the development of a new theory, or the modification of a current theory. An abstract is sufficient on or before February 13<sup>th</sup> of the conference year. The recipient will be chosen in the first year of the award (2010) by a committee consisting of Joyce Ferguson and the current and previous conference planner. In the second year, the committee will consist of Joyce Ferguson, the conference planner, and the previous winner. In the third and subsequent years, the committee will consist of the conference planner and the winners from the two previous years.*

*Submission Guidelines: The complete paper must be e-mailed as a Word attachment to the conference organizer by the date announced in the call for papers. The subject line should read: "NACC Faculty Paper Competition." To ensure a blind review process, the document (body of paper and abstract) cannot include the author's name or affiliation. Information that in any way identifies the presenter or her/his affiliation may disqualify the proposal from consideration. A separate cover page should include the following: name, university/college, address, phone number, and e-mail address.*

*Additional Guidelines:*

1. *Faculty are allowed to submit one paper per mini-conference to the graduate paper competition.*
2. *The paper may be single or co-authored original work of the individual(s) submitting the paper. Faculty may submit papers co-authored with undergraduate or graduate students.*
4. *If your abstract is accepted as a conference submission, you are expected to present your paper, regardless of whether or not you win the award.*
5. *Presenters are required to register for the mini-conference.*

Addendum: