

# Florida Communication Association Newsletter



Message from the President  
Diana Karol Nagy

Can you feel it coming? Summer that is. Classes are wrapping up, summer plans being made, graduation ceremonies are around the corner. That means, it's time to submit your FCA research, panel ideas, and scholarship for the FCA Convention. We pushed back the date this year: June 30<sup>th</sup>.

This convention will be a particularly exciting one. First, we are traveling to Orlando! Orlando has so much to offer – theme parks and shopping are just the tip of the iceberg. Orlando offers professional sports teams, cultural events, nearby parks and lakes; the list goes on and on. Bring the family and make it a mini vacation. With the economic downturns, this is the perfect opportunity to save with the fantastic hotel rates we are arranging.

Second, our convention theme promises exceptional panels, discussions and scholarship. "Communication Scholarship: What is it?" offers so many opportunities. I can't wait to see your submissions and all of the exciting ways you define communication scholarship!

Here's to all we can do!

Diana

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## 2009 Conference Theme

*Communication Scholarship: What Is It?*



The work done by communication scholars differs greatly. Researchers examine topics, utilize methodological approaches and apply theoretical frameworks that touch on and overlap with a variety of other academic disciplines. Practitioners employ communication theory and concepts in a multitude of contexts including teaching, journalism, healthcare and business. Further, the definition of what constitutes communication scholarship has and continues to change across time and space.

Submissions of proposals are invited for papers, posters and panels that explore and examine the range of work by those of us who consider ourselves to be communication scholars. Work which seeks to interrogate the definition and bounds of communication scholarship is also welcomed.

A broad interpretation of this theme is encouraged and anticipated. The goal for this year's program is to both highlight and discuss the expansive and ever-changing diversity of work that constitutes communication scholarship.

*79<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Florida Communication Association  
October 15-17, 2009 - Orlando, Florida  
The Deadline for Submissions is June 30, 2009*

### 2009 Convention Submission Guidelines

#### Competitive Papers

- Three Categories: Professional, Undergraduate Student and Graduate Student
- Submit a 100 word abstract by June 30. Final papers will be due by July 31. Please indicate on the abstract that this is a "Competitive Paper" and identify the category.

#### Poster Sessions

- Two Categories: Undergraduate Student and Graduate Student
- Submit a 100 word abstract of the nature of the poster. Please identify the category on the abstract.

#### Panels, Workshops, and Individual Papers

- Submit a 100 word abstract. For panels, include the names and affiliations of all panel participants, including your name if you are on the panel.
- For workshops, develop the rationale and proposed outcomes for the workshop in addition to the abstract.
- Individual papers will be combined into sessions based on theme.

#### Submitting Your Proposal

All proposals should be submitted electronically using the FCA website at <http://www.fcom.org>. Click the "Conventions" button on the left hand side of the screen and then click the "Proposal Submissions" button.

#### Registration is Required!

Please note that all participants in a program session will be required to pre-register for the convention. The final program will not be printed until just before the convention and only those programs that are confirmed with participant pre-registration will be included.

#### Questions or Problems?

Please contact Donald Painter, 1st Vice President and 2009 Convention Chair, at [dpainter@polk.edu](mailto:dpainter@polk.edu).

#### Additional Convention Information

If you have suggestions or would like to help with convention planning, please contact Donald Painter at [dpainter@polk.edu](mailto:dpainter@polk.edu). Help is needed with moderators for each session, convention logistics, convention receptions and other critical projects. We are also looking for sponsors for a number of convention related activities including breaks, lunches, printing, keynote speaker, entertainment, etc. Becoming an FCA Convention sponsor is a great opportunity to highlight and promote your organization.

## 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

FCA membership offers you an exceptional opportunity to engage with faculty, student and professionals from around Florida. This year's convention, "Communication Scholarship: What is it?" will be in Orlando. Check out [www.visitorlando.com](http://www.visitorlando.com) for more details. Here's just a taste of what they have to offer...

*Tour the theme parks or shop the outlets. Get close to nature or play a round of golf on any of the 176 courses offered. And, most importantly, connect with loved ones. Unique lasting memories are waiting to be made in Orlando. That's because the adventure and endless excitement of Orlando brings people together and strengthens relationships. Enjoy new attractions in 2009 including the American Idol Experience at Disney's Hollywood Studios; Manta, an immersive roller coaster, at SeaWorld Orlando; and Hollywood Rip, Ride, Rockit, an inversion rollercoaster incorporating music and video at Universal Studios Florida.*

## Awards & Recognition

Each year FCA presents important awards to recognize the efforts of outstanding FCA members at the annual convention. Nominations of FCA members can be made by any FCA member. For more information, contact our Association's past president, Kim K. Johnson at [kimjohnson@comcast.com](mailto:kimjohnson@comcast.com).

### Faculty and Professional Awards:

- **Teacher of the Year:** for outstanding performance as a classroom teacher
- **Scholar of the Year:** for outstanding scholarly achievement in one's career
- **Outstanding Service:** for achievement and service to the FCA over several years.

### Student Awards:

- **FCA Grant \$500** - for outstanding scholarly research and performance activities as a student, faculty or professional member of FCA
- **Student Scholarship Award \$250** - for outstanding performance and scholarly activities as a student member of the FCA.

### Scholarship Recognition:

For more information about these awards, contact our current president, Diana Karol Nagy at [dnagy@ufl.edu](mailto:dnagy@ufl.edu).

- **Juried Paper Awards:** At our convention, we award the top undergraduate and graduate papers, as well as professional papers. Be sure to indicate that you are submitting your paper for these categories when you submit your proposal for our annual convention.
- **Poster Session Awards:** Participants must submit a proposal and be awarded a slot for poster session during which selected formal judges and convention attendees vote for several award categories.

## FCA Membership....

### Why become a member of the FCA?

The Florida Communication Journal  
The FCJ is a state journal that attracts national and international submissions.

### Annual Conference

Every year participants comment on the "warm" atmosphere of our annual convention. In contrast to larger conventions, it is easy to make new contacts, share information and be involved.

### Information to improve your classroom effectiveness

Many of our conference panels provide helpful teaching strategies and classroom activities that are geared toward a variety of communication sub-specialties.

### Guest Speakers

The opportunity to meet and discuss important communication issues with knowledgeable guest speakers. Our guest speaker in 2008 was Creed Greer, PhD, Associate Director of the William and Grace Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication, and the Director of the University Writing Program at the University of Florida.

### Great Value!

At \$30, membership for faculty in FCA is the most economical in the communication discipline, and student membership is offered at an even lower cost to encourage participation.

### Our Newsletter

The newsletter provides a way to keep members updated and connected throughout the year.

### Our Website

The website provides added value where you can keep up with the association's activities.



## Executive Board Spotlight.....

From the desk of Natalia Cherjovsky, 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P.

As you might know, I am new to the Executive Board and incredibly thrilled about this position. I first came to know about FCA in 2003, when Sue Easton, who was then my professor at Rollins College, brought my class to the convention. I was smitten instantly, and I submitted my first paper the year after that.

I feel honored to be a part of the organization and to have the opportunity to help shape its present and future. To that end, I have been working on a podcast to distribute to deans, chairs and other contacts.

At Full Sail University, where I teach a class called Media & Society within the Psychology Department, our team is very excited about getting involved with the FCA convention and pitching in for the registration and newcomers' reception. We are even exploring the possibility of offering a tour of Full Sail University during the convention!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. See you in Orlando in October!

From the desk of Christa Arnold, Florida Communication Journal Editor

The Journal Editor position has been both challenging and rewarding for me. The quality of our journal is high, our acceptance rate low - comparable to the national journals. We are beginning to get a good reputation thanks to the past FCJ editors and we are attracting many scholars, including international academicians. Our journal has become quite desirable and appealing for scholars.

The journal had more than 50 national and international submissions to FCJ just this Spring. With so many submissions, the editorial process takes a bit longer. I am excited that the next issue will be out soon. A big thank you to all of the reviewers that have helped in this process.

From the desk of Stephanie Jackson, Newsletter Editor

As a new member to the Executive Board, I am looking for ways to make this newsletter more rewarding for you. I have plenty of ideas, but want your feedback. What do you want in your FCA Newsletter?

Classroom tips? Best practices? Ideas for conference submissions?  
Member highlights? I am open to all ideas.

Coming in the next issue: conference hotel information and registration, best practices for teaching public speaking online and a few surprises.