

Florida Communication Association Newsletter



Message from the President
Diana Karol Nagy

Happy Spring FCA Members!

Can you believe that we are well into the spring semester? Many of you will be on spring break soon. For your FCA board, we are well into conference preparations and fulfilling our goals for the year. I am so excited to be serving as your FCA President. This newsletter highlights only a few of the exciting things to come this year with FCA. Our January board meeting brought many ideas and exciting opportunities. Below are just a few of the things we discussed:

- **2009 Convention:** The convention hotel and theme will be announced in the April newsletter. The Orlando area offers us so many options; we look forward to revealing this exciting news;
- **Website:** We are looking for ways for the site to be more effective and useful to YOU – speak up if you have ideas;
- **Finances:** Our financial statements look good. We are operating within our means and taking steps to ensure that will continue through this economic downturn.
- **Newsletter:** We will be expanding our content to include video elements, best practices, and content that will help you.
- **FCA Journal:** The spring issue will be out shortly. For future issues, we are in need of editorial assistance and Florida authors.

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Here’s to an exciting year with FCA!

Convention Plans Moving Forward

Donald Painter, Jr., 1st Vice President, 2009 Convention Chair



Planning and preparation for the 79th Annual Convention of the Florida Communication association is well underway. The site selection committee is currently reviewing proposals and working to select a convention hotel. The convention will be held Oct. 15-17, 2009 in the Orlando area. While planning continues behind the scenes, there are several things you can do right now to get involved and help out. First, start thinking about papers, presentations and panels that you might want to submit to this year's convention. The call for submissions

will be out in April. Second, if you live in the Orlando area, please consider serving on the local arrangements committee. This group will help compile information about local attractions and provide information at the convention for those not familiar with the area. Lastly, spread the word by telling your students and colleagues about the convention and encouraging them to participate. Last year's convention was amazing and together we can make 2009 even better!

Start thinking about papers, presentations, and panels that you might want to submit to this year's convention

Make your classroom learning centered....

- Rearrange the furniture to enhance discussion
- Encourage students to write on the board to promote idea exchanges
- Enhance your own materials through PowerPoint with images and links to online resources
- Increase the number of images to foster deeper understanding
- Begin your class with humor, music or poetry
- Dramatically express a course concept using YouTube
- Build an interactive way for students to contribute

FLORIDA REPORT 2008 States Advisory Council National Communication Association

It's been a very good year for us. We held our 78th Annual Convention in Gainesville, Oct. 16-18. The convention theme was "Communication Across the Disciplines." The Keynote speaker, Creed Greer from the University of Florida, is the Associate Program Director of the University Writing Program. His topic addressed the convention theme.

Diana Karol Nagy, the convention planner, taught a Communication Events Management Course, which helped plan the convention. The course incorporated elements of small group communication, organizational communication, and meeting and event management in a service-learning environment. According to Nagy, the students were a tremendous help before and during the conference. The students will write a final debriefing report which will be made available to next year's planner.

All presenters must pre-register or will be removed from the program. (This is the rule, but we've had to make exceptions.)

We continue to publish two issues of the Journal each year. Our rejection rate is close to the rate for national journals and our biggest challenge is finding someone willing to take on the three year commitment to be editor. The Journal is now part of the digital indexing database through EBSCO. We are now accepting limited advertizing in the journal.

We are continuing our Campus Contacts program, which attempts to identify one communication person on each campus of colleges and universities in the state to keep other faculty informed about FCA and what it has to offer.

We continue to be in good shape financially, but each year our reserve funds get smaller as expenses rise. The Executive Board will be considering solutions at our January board meeting.

The newsletter is now published electronically.

**Submitted by
Richard Quianthy
SAC Representative**



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.

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.

- **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 \$30.00, 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.

Florida Communication Association, 78th Conference A Student's Perspective

By Evelyn Lopez

The Florida Communication Association's 78th Annual Convention was nothing short of a success. More than 100 professionals and students in the field of communication came together for the opportunity to look into the research of 2008's theme, "Communication Across the Disciplines." The employees at the Paramount Plaza in Gainesville, FL were very much accommodating and understanding of any small issues that came about throughout the three days in which the conference took place. The "Communications Events Planning" class from the University of Florida took the lead. We had no idea what to expect coming into this class and came out with a lot of experience.

Newly elected president of FCA, Diana Karol Nagy, was teaching our class. She helped us get organized and let us tap into some useful resources she had from previous conference planning. Pre-conference preparations were the most work. It was a very hands-on class that took a sensible approach to communication. Our class was divided into different groups; an entertainment committee, food and beverage committee, a registration committee and others were in charge of putting together the program that every guest would receive. A few students in the class presented their papers and posters at the conference and had been the year before. As for the rest of the class, we had no idea of what the conference would be like. Everything from food, give-away bags and the nametags on the guests' shirts were put together by the class. Dr. Edmund Kellerman was the local arrangements chair and put together a great tour of the UF Campus and dinner at Tapas 12 West in downtown, Gainesville.

It's not as easy as it all sounds. We found sponsors for breaks between sessions and give-away bags for our guests and created a, things to see and do around Gainesville for the out-of-town guests. Food was tasted, activities were planned, schedules were adjusted and a band was hired. All this was done before we even knew what the convention was all about. By the time we got there, the atmosphere was remarkable. Some of the topics were controversial and the energy in the room was great. Others made you think about life in a way you may have never looked at it before and grasped a completely different perspective. The whole class was excited about what our efforts had come together to achieve.

I had the opportunity to sit next to some professors during the first luncheon. Listening to them speak about new ideas to reach students on different topics relating to communication, new ideas for classes, projects and even volunteer opportunities was what paid off for me. I realized what a great tool this convention was. When they spoke to us they loved the idea of our event planning class and gave us praise for what we'd accomplished in planning this conference. It was such a great idea and even mentioned creating a course like this at their schools.

Overall, the 78th Annual FCA Convention was an accomplishment not just for our class but for everyone that attended. It accomplished its goal of exploring both oral and written communication across the various disciplines and demonstrated how scholarship, teaching and research are following this current trend. Planning the convention was a learning experience inside and outside of the classroom. It was an event you couldn't possibly leave empty handed from, you took with you new knowledge, new perspectives and even a goody bag.

