

CommTech

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Building a History...and a conversation

Recapping the history of the commission on Human Communication and Technology

Karen Lollar
University of Denver

There has long been an interest among scholars of human communication in the role of communication technology but until recently no designated group within NCA for its discussion. With the rapid advance of computer technology exciting new research interests have emerged in areas such as:

Ethics

Intellectual property rights

Teaching and learning

Security and privacy

Universal accessibility

Global impacts

Group decision-making

Distance education

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Thoughts from the Chair

Vision for the future of the Commission

Dianne Blomberg
Metropolitan State College

The Human Communication and Technology Commission hopes to accomplish a great deal in the first years of its efforts. In this new commission, it seems to me, our first goal is one of exposure. Promoting who we are and why we are important to the study of human communication is of primary importance at this point in our history.

In addition to the promotion of the commission and its purpose, we need to play a visible part in reducing the digital divide, the gap between those who have access to technology and those who do not. As leaders in the industry we must be committed to reducing this gap in an effort to equalize the process for businesses, students and private computer users.

Finally, we hope to enlighten each other on the process and product of the influence of technology on the teaching/learning experience. Many use technology within the educational system, but we hope to assist them in adopting it with its highest and best use. This in turn will lead to the same goal within industry.

This is a great deal to embrace as we move this new commission forward, but we feel we are capable of this and more.

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In 1998, a group of visionary scholars including Karen Kruper, Clark Germann, Mary Mandeville, Frank Dance and Dennis Wignall proposed the initiation of a new HCA commission specifically charged with Human Communication and Technology. The mission of the commission is to examine the theory and application of contemporary communication technology as it relates to human communication studies, pedagogy and other functions.

The commission will offer NCA panels, poster sessions, pre-convention conferences and other activities to promote research within the discipline. The goal of this newsletter is to become another opportunity for discussing issues, sharing information and presenting research in progress. **PLEASE** share your ideas and questions to begin our conversation about technologically-mediated communication by emailing me at klollar@du.edu for inclusion in our next newsletter. How about a question to begin some dialogue:

How should the commission structure itself to be responsive to members and active in addressing the issues related to human communication and technology?

Introducing the Commission Officers

This year's Co-Chairs are:

Dianne Blomberg
Metropolitan State College of Denver
Blomberd@mscd.edu
303-556-6239

Mary Mandeville
Oklahoma State University
Mmandev@okway.okstate.edu
405-744-6150

This year's co-vice chairs, Program Planning

Clark Germann
Metropolitan State College of Denver
Germannc@mscd.edu
303-556-3453

Diane Witmer
California State University
Dwitmer@fullerton.edu

This year's Co-Vice Chairs, Publications

Karen Lollar
University of Denver
Klollar@du.edu
303-871-3936

Frank Dance
University of Denver
Fdance@du.edu
303-871-4323

This year's Co-Vice Chairs, Publicity and Membership

Tasha Van Horn
Citrus College
Tashavanhorn@yahoo.com

Dennis Wignall
Saginaw Valley State University
Dwignall@svsu.edu
517-497-4903

Share your Research

HCT Co-Program Chair Clark Germann is the co-recipient of a \$290,000 research grant from the U.S. Department of Education to investigate the possibility of using virtual reality and other advanced computer technologies to produce simulations of community leisure resources so that persons with disabilities may become familiar with these resources prior to visiting them in person. It is anticipated that this familiarization will reduce an individual's anxiety of visiting new sites and may also alleviate unanticipated problems. Germann is an associate professor at Metropolitan State College of Denver and is working on the project with Jane Broida, a professor in the college's Human Performance, Sport, and Leisure Studies department. Also participating in the project are the Denver Parks and Recreation Department; National Sports Center for the Disabled at the Winter Park ski area; the Pepsi Center; and the King Day Enrichment Program. Interested persons can learn more about the project at <http://clem.mscd.edu/~catt>

Do you have research projects in progress that you would like to share? Your colleagues in this commission are interested in what you are studying and what you are finding. We encourage you to submit a brief one-paragraph abstract of your current research interest to share in our next issue. Send to Karen Lollar either by email or mail. Klollar@du.edu or

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUMMER CONFERENCES

ICA ACAPULCO, MEXICO

JUNE 1-5

50th Annual Conference

Communication Technology and Global
Culture

July 13-15

Ball State University, Muncie, IN

NCA ANNUAL MEETING

SEATTLE

NOVEMBER 8-12

Theme: Communication: The engaged
discipline.

Interesting Internet Sites...

On Computer mediated Communication

<http://www.december.com/cmc/info/>

On scholarly e-conferences in a variety of subjects

<http://www.n2h2.com/KOVACS/Sindex.html>

On communication, computing and technology in education

<http://www.tc.columbia.edu/admissions/catalog9900/4Programs/SF/Tu.htm>



Join HCTC Today!

By Tasha Van Horn

Are you being strongly encouraged to use more technology in your classroom? Has your Dean asked you to develop an online class? Do you want to network with other Communications professors who are teaching online courses or using technology in their classes? Connect with your colleagues by joining NCA's newest commission, Human Communication and Technology Commission (HCTC). The commission was formed in 1998 to provide a forum for research, discovery, and collaboration on topics concerning human communication and technology.

Check out the HCTC website at

<http://commfaculty.fullerton.edu/dwitmer/NCA/HCandT.html>

NCA members can select HCTC as a membership affiliation option at the time of NCA membership application or add HCTC to their NCA membership at anytime. Three affiliations are included with each NCA membership. Additional affiliations are \$5 each. To join HCTC, contact Tasha Van Horn, Co-Vice application or add HCTC to their NCA membership at anytime. Three affiliations are included with each NCA membership. Additional affiliations are \$5 each. To join HCTC, contact Tasha Van Horn, Co-Vice Chair of Publicity and Membership, at tashavanhorn@yahoo.com, office phone 626-852-8093.

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