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# NCA's Human Communication and Technology Commission Newsletter

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## Human Communication and Technology Commission: 2002 Call for Papers

The National Communication Association's (NCA) Human Communication and Technology Commission (HCTC) issues a call for papers for the 2002 NCA convention. This year's convention will be held on November 21-24, 2002, in New Orleans. The theme for this year's convention is Communication in Action. Vice president Judy Pearson describes the theme as having both broad implications and narrow allusions. On the one hand, action refers to metaphysical and physical change; on the other,

action may signify simple alterations or movements. The National Communication Association meets the new Century with energy and poised for new opportunities. The great aim of education, wrote Herbert Spencer, is not knowledge but action. ... The NCA 2002 Convention provides an opportunity for us to engage in thoughtful, meaningful, and empathic action. HCTC considers itself well positioned to take advantage of the natural linkages with this theme. Human Communication and Technology is grounded on the firmest of foundations, being rooted in the facilitation and acquisition of technology related human communication theory, research and performance. Technology use is a natural response when converting communication to action.

The Commission invites panels and papers on topics that support the examination of theory and application of contemporary communication technology as related to human communication studies, pedagogy, and other functions. The Commission is especially interested in Human Communication and Technology as

related to areas of rhetoric, ethics, intellectual property rights, teaching and learning, security, accessibility, accountability, globalism, distance education, training and development, and other topics.

Please indicate if program proposals or papers are particularly appropriate for co-sponsorship.

All article length papers and programs must be received by the planners by February 15, 2002. Send four copies of the paper or proposal to Dennis Wignall by this date. Panel proposals must have abstracts accompanying them with participants addresses and phone numbers included. Please specify if your submission is a student paper.

Send your submissions to:  
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## New Membership Officers Profiled

In addition to other business (see minutes at end of newsletter) Mary Wiemann and Noemi Marin were elected as the new membership officers to advance HCTC's governance structure.

Mary Wiemann is an associate professor of Communication at Santa Barbara City College, where she has been since 1979. She was chair of the department for eight years and founded the communication laboratory that makes use of technology for instruction and enables students to use technology effectively in their coursework and personal and professional lives.

Mary did her graduate work at Purdue University in the days when theses and dissertations were typed in triplicate with carbon paper and students lined up to submit their data to be keypunched and then processed by the computer. Her students find these stories to be the rough equivalent of, "When I was your age, I walked 5 miles to school in the snow." Mary challenges them to think of how their children will view the high tech things they are using today in 30 years.

Mary particularly likes to teach interpersonal communication (she authors the student and instructor manuals for Looking Out/Looking In) and the basic course (she is a co-author of Competent Communication). She has also written online modules on conflict management for faculty

development. Her interest in HCTC was sparked by the workshops and panels on technology and instruction, and she would like to see the commission sponsor more panels on the interpersonal adaptations people make in their uses of technology to communicate.

Mary lives in Santa Barbara, California, with her husband John, vice chancellor and professor of communication at the University of California, Santa Barbara. They have two grown children.

Noemi Marin is an Assistant Professor of Communication at Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton since 1999. She had a visiting position for a year and a half, and this semester, she moved to tenure-track sequence. Noemi teaches rhetorical criticism, classical and contemporary rhetorical theory, communication and gender and intercultural communication. She also teaches online courses and encourages students to use technology for their research and their personal interests.

Noemi has two sets of higher education degrees, first from another lifetime called communist Romania. Graduate of University of Bucharest, in English Language and Literature, Noemi was a full professor in the National College for Civil Aviation. However, defecting 12 years ago, and coming to the US, she started from scratch with a Masters in communication from California State University, Northridge, and a Ph.D. in rhetoric from University of Maryland, College Park.

Noemi has authored several

book chapters and articles in particular on the role of culture in the public discourse of democracy in Eastern and Central Europe. In addition, she designed an online course in intercultural communication for University of Maryland University College. Her interest in HCTC started in view of her participation for over three years in panels sponsored by the commission. In addition, Noemi interests in the commission are guided by the relationship between technology and public sphere important for the future of a global communication village. Noemi is also the book review editor for a new online journal *The Journal of Literacy and Technology* <<http://www.literacyandtechnology.org>>.

Noemi lives with her husband, John who is a self-employed attorney in Boca Raton, Fl. Two years ago, her daughter Oana had finally joined her from Romania.

## The Why and Wherefore of the Human Communication and Technology Commission

In Show Boat (1929) by Kern and Hammerstein there is a ballad entitled "Why Do I Love You?" which contains the phrase "I don't know the why or wherefore you should be the one I care for &

The past and the future of why one might care for a grouping such as the Human Communication and Technology Commission doesn't seem overly complicated. (Continued Next Page)

### **Continued ...The Why and Wherefore of the Human Communication and Technology Commission Continued**

One cares for such a group for personal reasons, for professional reasons, or for a blending of the two. The HCTC had its roots in the computer task force of the 1980 s. That task force was dissolved when it was believed that the task force s goal had been reached. Then we discovered that the computer was a gift that kept on giving and just kept developing uses and values that penetrated both personal and professional lives. The transformation of the old computer task force into the present HCTC took place three years ago. In the ensuing time the HCTC has grown rapidly in size and influence within the NCA.

One goal of those involved in starting the HCTC was to make sure that the fruits of the computer

revolution were made available to the NCA membership. That this goal has been successfully reached is attested to by scanning the program for the November 2001 Atlanta Convention of the NCA. It is unusual to go through more than three consecutive program pages without finding at least one, and usually more than one, program or paper(s) touching upon the computer, the Internet, or the World Wide Web. The HCTC played an important role in bringing this state of affairs to pass. Now it is part of the HCTC charge to make certain that the quality of the program contributions be continually elevated. We should quest not after more program slots. But after higher quality contributions in the available program slots.

A secondary and oftentimes hidden agenda is having a vehicle that can be used to raise individual

visibility within the NCA and the profession. There s nothing wrong with that as long as individual visibility is tied to the common good. HCTC members need to focus on the quality of their program contributions even as the commission superstructure enhances the individual s personal and professional stature. The why, the wherefore, and the individual goals must always be in tune.

September 11<sup>th</sup> causes a refocusing on the important issues. The convention theme for 2002 is Communication in Action. Our challenge is to consider how computer technology can improve the quality of life for everyone? What concerns does the computer add to human communication and how do we ethically address them? How can the computer help each of us to deepen and to extend ourselves and our profession?

## **Human Communication & Technology Commission NCA Business Meeting**

November 2, 2001

Officer Attendees:

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Publications</b>	<b>Membership</b>
Clark Germann Diane Witmer	Frank Dance Karen Lohler	Tasha Van Horn Dennis Wignall	Lori Charron J.D. Wallace

- I. Call to Order  
Clark Germann called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
- II. Program Report
  - A. The program report was given by Frank Dance and Karen Lohler, Planning Co-Chairs.
  - B. Rapid Review: This year s use of Rapid Review program made planning the 2001 NCA convention program extremely labor intensive and stressful. Rapid Review was not effective and will not be used for next year s NCA convention planning. (Continued on next page)

C. Approximately 60 papers were submitted for the 2001 NCA convention. There were four judges (readers) which ranked the submissions. HCTC submitted 20 panels to NCA for the 2001 convention. 16 were accepted plus the business meeting.

## II. Publication Report

- A. The publications report was given by Tasha VanHorn and Dennis Wignall.
- B. A 10-page newsletter was sent out via email to HCTC members.
- C. The newsletter will also be posted on the HCTC website.
- D. There was a discussion regarding the difficulty of obtaining a current HCTC membership list from NCA. It was reported that HCTC will receive its own membership list, but NCA does charge a substantial fee for membership lists of other NCA divisions.
- E. Dennis Wignall reported that there was a 25 % return on the newsletter due to inaccurate email addresses.
- F. Members suggested that HCTC network with other divisions to share membership lists.
- G. A plea was made to for members to contribute articles to the newsletter.
- H. Van Horn and Wignall suggested that the HCTC archive its materials on the HCTC website.
- I. Diane Witmer indicated that she would keep the responsibility of the web-site and would place the archive on it if the information was given to her.

## III. Recruitment and Membership Report

- A. The Recruitment and Membership report was given by J.D. Wallace and Lori Charron.
- B. HCTC member, Ulla Bunz, suggested that HCTC reach out to members of the Internet Researchers Association (an international organization) who has their convention in Europe this year. She is currently compiling a list serve of internet researchers from which HCTC could draw.

## IV. Legislative Council

- A. Currently NCA is exploring changing its constitution. Changes proposed are:
  - 1. There will no longer a differentiation between division and commission.
  - 2. Those with membership between 100 - 500 will all be considered a division.
  - 3. This will expand the number of representatives on the legislative council. Caucuses will have 1 representative and divisions will have 2. HCTC members are encouraged to read about all the changes to the new constitution.
- B. Additional information is posted on NCA's website.
- C. The question was raised regarding the impact of NCA's funding to HCTC.
- D. It was discussed that the Chairs should inquire as to the name of our current representative on the legislative council.

## V. HCTC Officers for next year

- A. The following people were nominated: Ulla Bunz, Noemi Marin, Mary Wiemannn.
- B. Voting for the Recruitment and Membership Co-Officers took place.
- C. Mary Wiemannn and Noemi Marin were elected.
- D. Voting for the Student Representative position also took place: Scott D Urso was nominated and elected. The co-chairs will craft a proposal and present the change to the by-laws to officially recognize the HCTC student representative. (Continued)

- E. HCTC Officers for 2001-2002 are:
1. Co-Chairs:
    - a. Frank Dance, University of Denver, CO
    - b. Karen Lollar, University of Denver, CO
  2. Co-Vice Chairs, Program Planning:
    - a. Tasha Van Horn, Citrus College, CA
    - b. Dennis Wignall, Saginaw Valley State University, MI
  3. Co-Vice Chairs, Publications:
    - a. Lori Charron, Concordia University, MN
    - b. James D. Wallace, Pepperdine University, CA
  4. 2001-2002 Co-Vice Chairs: Publicity and Membership:
    - a. Mary Wiemann, Santa Barbara College, CA
    - b. Noemi Marin, Florida Atlantic University, FL
  5. Student Representative: Scott D Urso

VI. NCA Legislative Council

Discussion was held as to who would represent HCTC on the NCA Legislative Council if the newly proposed constitution was approved. The discussion analyzed possible solutions. It was moved, seconded, and approved that, if the newly proposed constitution is enacted, the outgoing chairs would represent HCTC on the legislative council.

VII. Next year s convention:

Communication in Action will be the theme for the next convention. It was suggested that members should try to propose joint sponsored panels ideas for those such panels should be directed to Tasha VanHorn and Dennis Wignall. Deadline is Feb. 15th and all proposals should be sent to Dennis Wignall.

VII. Meeting adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.