

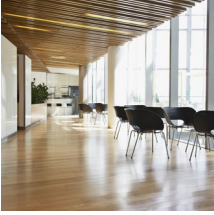
TEXASPEAKS

A newsletter brought to you by Texas Speech Communication Association

VOL. 19, ISSUE 1

8.15.2015

Top stories in this newsletter



Dallas Convention
2015



Presidential Address

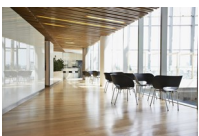


New Officers Ready



Free Convention
Package!

Dallas Convention 2015



I hope you are making plans to join us in **Dallas, October 1-3, 2015** at the Westin DFW Airport. Hotel reservation information is available on the website, www.etsca.com, under the Convention 2015 tab. A tentative schedule is also on the website, along with a draft of the convention program.

The convention program is full of great panels! I want to share some of the highlights with you now. We are honored to be joined by **Charlie Minn, a renowned filmmaker**, who is debuting his new documentary at our convention! His panel, sponsored by the Mass Communication Interest Group, will take place in the Panel A and B time slots. We are also excited to welcome New York Times Bestselling author, **Joshilyn Jackson**. Ms. Jackson is joining us Friday afternoon for our Meet the Author program. Professor's Performance Hour will be at 6pm on Friday, join us for a touching tribute to TSCA members by TSCA members. At 7pm on Friday, we will celebrate 2014-2015 TSCA President Mellessa Denny at the **President's Reception**. This year, we will also award **Educator of the Year, 25 year pins**, and the **June Smith GTA Award** at the President's Reception.

This year also marks the **90th birthday of TSCA!** We have planned several festive birthday surprises throughout convention...so don't miss a moment! If this will be your first convention, we can't wait to welcome you to TSCA. If this is not your first convention, bring a friend, invite a new colleague and introduce them to TSCA.

So I hope to see you in Dallas this October! If you have any questions about Convention, or have an update for the program draft, please email me at ajones@delmar.edu.

Respectfully,

Amy Tilton Jones

TSCA Vice President, 2014-2015

Presidential Address



It is the custom of TSCA to publish the **Past President's Presidential Address** that was given at the previous convention. So here is the manuscript of **M'Liss S. Hindman's speech** given at the Convention Luncheon last October 3, 2014:

"This summer I had both of my knees replaced. It was not an easy decision to make because I had postponed it for almost 20 years. My family had pleaded with me to have the surgery for those decades; but I hate going under anesthesia and my surgeon and doctors said wait until you don't want to put up with the pain anymore. So I adapted. Over the years, I tried lots of different types of medicine. I learned a different way to walk, I sat more than I walked, I slowly gave up all forms of exercise even though I once thought of myself as somewhat athletic, and I learned to cope with pain so successfully that I didn't even admit I felt it most of the time. Obviously my overall health suffered. Who was responsible?

While recuperating, I had time to think about how irresponsible our state and country are. Yes, I was a bit cranky and on pain meds! We have known for way over twenty years that there are major problems with water pollution, crime, federal spending, lack of state spending for schools, toxic spills, energy consumption...the list goes on forever. Our world has many parts that have been worn down, misused, patched up and we limp along instead of making the necessary changes.

Presidential Address (Continued)

The Texas Legislative Study Group, most recently released in April of 2013 summarizes that Texas ranks “first in the amount of carbon emissions, first in the production of hazardous waste, 44th in the rate of high school graduates, and last in voter turnout.” In Texas, “only 51% of the students who begin college actually earn a bachelor’s degree within six years. That equates to only about 17% of our Texas population who will actually earn a four year degree.” Who is responsible for this?

I don’t claim to have all of the answers. I certainly don’t want to be a politician trying to fix all of these problems. But having been an educator for almost four decades, I do want to share my view about what each of us can do for our profession. Let’s think together for a while about teaching responsibility while we are living in a very irresponsible world. We will examine a broad history of teaching responsibility, then get some ideas from a current approach of teaching responsibility to children and finally suggest some ways that each of us might become more proactive educators.

Historically, how has teaching responsibility been handled in our American society? When you ask people of my generation or older, they will usually tell you that responsibility was taught both at home and in church. Then somewhere the shift to teach responsibility went to the schools. Really? I tend to rally behind Hillary Clinton’s, “It Takes a Village” approach. (And that was NOT a paid political announcement.) But I honestly feel that all of us would agree that teaching responsibility to children requires all of us to do what we can. But as teachers, we do hate to be told what to teach.

As of this fall, the Texas Coordinating Board requires all colleges and universities to teach certain outcomes in our core courses. Fortunately, among those requirements are oral communication, visual communication, critical thinking, and teamwork; but they also included both personal and social responsibility. I have served on our college’s General Education Committee for the last eight years as we went through the planning phase and now move into the implementation of teaching these outcomes. I was most surprised by some faculty’s negative response to being required to teach responsibility. Apparently lively conversations sprung up all over campuses around the state debating whether it was even possible. Or if just requiring homework to be turned in by a deadline was good enough to qualify as teaching responsibility. Who is responsible for clearing up these perceptions?

There are numerous creative educational systems of teaching children responsibility. One that I have recently been introduced to is Sean Covey’s 7 Habits for Happy Kids. While I don’t have time to explain the whole program here, I highly recommend that you check it out if you are not familiar with it. I want to share three of the Habits, with their brief descriptions, which I feel are important to us as educators and as members of this state organization:

Habit 1 – Be Proactive. You’re in Charge.

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

Habit 6 – Synergize. Together is Better.

I value other people’s strengths and learn from them. I seek out other people’s ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than anyone of us can alone.

As I am recovering from my knees being replaced, I am learning how to live differently. I am learning how to exercise again. I am literally learning how to walk again. I will sometimes still hunch over and I will sometimes still limp, but I have a responsibility to myself first and foremost to become healthier. I can’t blame others. We all have that same responsibility. We have that same responsibility in every aspect of our lives.

One of my students found a poem to perform last year written by Anis Mojgani. It quickly became an all-time favorite of mine. The title is “Shake the Dust” - not to be confused with Taylor Swift’s “Shake It Off.” This is “Shake the Dust” and I need to share a cutting from it because I feel the message is powerful and I want to honor of my former Texas Tech oral interpretation professor, Dr. Vera Simpson, who was my mentor and got me involved in TSCA almost 40 years ago:

Presidential Address (Continued)

This is for the little brothers
For the former prom queen
This is for the schoolyard wimps
And the childhood bullies that tormented them.
Shake the dust.
This is for the benches and the people sitting upon them.
This is for the bus drivers driving a million broken hymns
And for the men who have to hold down 3 jobs,
Simply to hold up their children.
Shake the dust.
For the two year olds who cannot be understood
Because they speak half English and half god
Shake the dust.
For the girl whose brother is going crazy
For the gym class wall flower
And for the kid who's always late to class
Because he forgets the combination to his locker.
Shake the dust.
This is for the ones who are forgotten
For the ones who are told to speak only when they are spoken to
And then are never spoken to.
Speak every time you stand
So that you do not forget yourself.
Never let a moment go by that doesn't remind you
That your heart beats 100,000 times a day
And that there are enough gallons of blood
To make every one of you an ocean.
Do not settle for letting these waves settle
And for the dust to collect in your veins.

Shake the dust fellow educators. It is we who must accept the responsibility to do what we can. We may not have all of the answers to solving water pollution, energy consumption or toxic waste. But we all know that what we do as speech educators is crucially important. We do make differences in our students' lives and we cannot afford to settle by refusing to teach responsibility. So teach responsibility the way you teach everything else with intentional modeling, praise, and follow through.

Shake the dust TSCA. It is time to stop limping along blaming others and in particular blaming one another; it is time to look for innovative alternatives in the way we conduct business; and it is time to take proactive initiatives even if it involves some replacement surgery. Regardless we must continue to support one another and learn how to walk again. We must hold ourselves to a higher standard. We must strengthen our voice in the state. This is no time for putting things off. Teaching responsibility is what we do best. So shake the dust.

New Officers Ready



As the new school year is beginning and we plan for an exciting convention, please know that your TSCA officers have been hard at work. The officers met in a Retreat in May to plan for the year. Below is a message from our **President, Mellessa Denny**:

It is hard to believe but the 2015 convention program is almost ready. If you have never served as an interest group chair, you may have no idea what the process is. However, it is a year-long process for those who are elected to represent you. That is just one part of TSCA. If you are like me, it took you a couple of years to understand how TSCA works. Though, I am still not sure I understand it all. I am constantly learning something new about our organization. What I learned early on, however, is the importance of **every** part of TSCA and how it all comes together.

So here's a brief primer on TSCA:

What do Interest Groups do?

I will admit that I really did not think that these were important meetings to attend at first. I wanted to take a nap instead because I was at a meeting late the night before. But I learned the truth quickly. Interest groups are crucial to the success of the convention program.

These meetings are where the sessions for next year's programs are birthed. The chair does more than just preside over the meeting. The chair remains in contact with the vice president and submits all the information for the sessions that will be in the program the following year. They coordinate and plan what eventually you will attend. By attending the interest group meetings and working with the chair, you have the opportunity to affect the program at convention. Without the members, we have no program.

You do not have to be a veteran member to have your voice heard. The ideal program for convention will include sessions for all levels of education as well as all interests in the field of communication. That only happens when we have members who guide the development process.

What is the purpose of the District Meeting?

The district meeting is your chance to discuss problems of interest to your particular district. It is your chance to network with those in your geographical area. It is also your chance to discuss who from your area should be nominated for an award. Therefore, your district chairperson is a vital part of TSCA. They will report directly to the Executive Council and to the body about their constituents. We are big state and TSCA needs to know what is going on in your area!

What do the TSCA committees do?

You really should sign up to serve on a TSCA committee if you want to be involved. Each committee has a different charge and committees work at different times of the year.

If you like numbers and math and accounting and such, you might be perfect for the Fiscal Review Committee. If you like politics and are not afraid to contact our elected officials, you are perfect for the Governmental Affairs Committee. If you have a quick wit, you might enjoy the Resolutions Committee. Want to tear up and be inspired, be a part of the Educator of the Year Awards Committee.

Look for forms at convention and sign up for a committee! No matter your interest, TSCA has a spot for you. Every member is crucial to the success of our organization. The more involved we are, the better we are.

I encourage you to peruse the website and learn more about TSCA. If you find something you are interested in, email me and I will help you find a way to be more involved. I am looking forward to seeing you in Dallas in October to celebrate our 90th birthday. Bring a colleague and introduce them to the organization.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR OFFICERS:

Officer contact information is online at the TSCA Website: <http://www.etsca.com/>

Two of our officers have switched jobs during the summer however:

Melissa Witt, Vice President-Elect is now teaching at Dimmitt HS, 1405 Western Circle Dr., Dimmitt, TX 79027; School phone: 806.647.3105; Cell phone: 806.438.7359; Email: mewitt@dimmittisd.net

George Pacheco, Jr. is now a faculty member at West Texas A&M University in Canyon. His new email address is gpacheco@wtamu.edu. The new address for the TSCA journal is tscajournal@gmail.com

Free Convention Package Available for 2 Lucky Professors!



The Texas Speech Communication Association is pleased to offer 2 complimentary Convention Packages to faculty members in Texas to attend Convention in Dallas October 1-2!

Eligibility: Applicants must be full-time faculty members in a speech communications department at an accredited college or university.

Selection Process: Applications will be accepted through September 1. The Executive Council will review applications and select two applicants to receive the free packages. Selection will be announced September 10, 2015.

Directions: Please contact Melissa Witt, Vice President Elect of TSCA for an application and return it to her no later than September 1, 2015. Melissa's email: melissawitt2010@gmail.com

District Chairs



If you are a new teacher and want more information about membership & convention, please feel free to contact your District Chair as well:

District 1 - Stanley Klein, South Texas College,

District 2 - Martha Fair, Corpus Christi ISD -

District 3 - JoAnna Hickey, Boling HS -

District 4 - Gay Hollis, James E. Taylor HS,

District 5 - None, for more information contact Melissa Witt at

District 6 - Cindi Havron, Magnolia HS,

District 7 - Kari McKenzie, Gilmer HS,

District 8 - Danny Moss, Northeast Texas Community College,

District 9 - Shawn Duthie, Holliday HS,

District 10 - Naomi Bell, North Mesquite HS,

District 11 - None, for more information contact Melissa Witt at

District 12 - Debby Haren, Harker Heights HS,

District 13 - Debbie Winkler, Lexington HS,

District 14 - Seth Pietsek, Abilene Cooper ISD,

District 15 - Tony Blair, Angelo State University,

District 16 - Lacy Venhaus, Randall HS,

District 17 - Michelle Pittman, Plainview HS,

District 18 - Aaron Cox, Odessa HS,

District 19 - Daniel Rosales, Jefferson/Silva HS,

District 20 - Barbara McCain, Claudia Taylor "Lady Bird" Johnson HS,

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS
FOR CONVENTION NOW!
SEE YOU IN DALLAS!!!**