



TexasSpeaks

*A Publication of the Texas Speech Communication Association
Summer 2017 Edition*



The Omni Houston Westside will once again be the host for the annual convention of the Texas Speech Communication Association.

TSCA returns to the Omni Houston Westside

Convention will once again return to Houston this year and revisit the Omni Houston Hotel at Westside. The executive council, along with other members, have been working hard to put together a program that will entertain, educate and send you home ready to make a difference in your students' lives.

The theme this year, chosen by President Melissa Witt, is *InFusion: Inspiring Minds Want to Grow*.

The convention will start on Thursday, October 5th and run through Saturday, October 7th. The room reservation deadline is Wednesday, September 13th and you should ask for the TSCA convention when making your reservation.

Cost for the convention will

be \$150 and the luncheon ticket is an additional \$20. Special events this year include the second year of the membership appreciation dinner and Professor's Performance Hour which will be held on Thursday evening at 5 PM. Please get your dinner from the buffet line and join others from your organization as your colleagues perform.

In addition, the convention luncheon will be Friday at 11:45 AM and will feature the 2017 Communicator of the Year. New members are encouraged to attend the New Member Breakfast on Friday at 8 AM.

For the second year, convention will also be offering a short course. This year's course is titled *Teaching Toolbox for Communication Theory*. It will be offered Thursday evening starting at 7 PM.

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This course will be taught by Carolyn Baum, Dr. Trudy Hanson and Connie McKee and they will focus on teaching communication theory at the collegiate level.

In addition, workshops will be held covering speech, debate, theater, communication theory, TFA and other topics.

Make your reservations now so you don't miss this year's convention!

President's Corner

Inspiring Minds: It's Time to Grow



Melissa
Witt

Author and holocaust survivor Viktor Frankl observed, "Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom." From this quotation I notice two things. First, we as members of the speech education community have come face to face with some concerning stimuli over the last few years. There are obstacles facing us that affect our jobs, our families, and our students. Second, nothing even remotely as impressive as those faced by Viktor Frankl. I do not say this to minimize the real fears, concerns, and realities we are facing. Rather I ask all of us to take time in this space and choose our response. It is time to move from short term, reactive, crisis-driven communication to a long term, proactive strategic communication.

I am going to ask our membership to consider three points of action going forward, with regard to our work ahead: Perspective, Patience, and Professionalism.

PERSPECTIVE

If you've been to convention, if you've been a member, you understand that our membership is comprised of a varied assortment of

professionals. We have junior high and high school speech/debate/theatre teachers; we have teachers who specialize in Communication Applications or Professional Communication; we have college professors of Communication Studies, Speech Communication, Mass Communication, Speech Education, and more. We are a diverse group with diverse interests - but all with the goal toward providing exceptional education in the field of communication. In addition, we have teachers of English, Social Studies, Journalism. I've even heard that some of our members teach math and science! We have mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, significant others, and even grandparents. We have new teachers, veteran teachers, and retired teachers. We have men, women, and diverse ethnicities. We have lifetime educators, attorneys, lobbyists, and state legislators. As your organizational leadership works to address challenges you face at the legislative and state level, we ask you to understand that we are planning and working for ALL of you. More importantly, remember that we ARE you. If you see a problem, an area that we can improve, bring that to our attention. But also bring your ideas, your solutions with thought to how they would affect the membership.

PATIENCE

We have some work to do at the state and local levels. We have some advocacy campaigns to put into motion. It is time to transition from crisis communication to long-term

strategy. Our administration, parents, community leaders, SBOE members, and legislators need to hear about what our students are accomplishing, what our teachers are doing, and what our programs offer the students and the community as part of the norm, not merely whenever we perceive a crisis. This is going to require patience and persistence on the part of each one of us. I can brag about you to anyone, but I cannot tell you what is important in your community and how you help to achieve those goals. You are best situated to make connections with your administration, school board members, and civic leaders to build the network of support that will value your contributions. At the end of the day, that is what is going to protect our programs long after we are gone.

PROFESSIONALISM

We work long hours. We coach anywhere from 7-20 separate events. Many of us do this alone, while teaching English. while raising children, while caring for elderly parents. ,while battling debilitating pain, disease and even In the midst of tragedy. We show up and we show out. We get CDL's so that we can drive our students. We miss holidays and vacations and birthdays. These are all choices that we make. They are not excuses for a lack of professionalism. We teach our students interviewing, judge adaptation, and a host of other skills to help them address others with a professional demeanor. We must hold ourselves to the same standard. This is a most difficult lesson for me in particular. It has taken

Renew your TSCA Membership today



<http://www.etsca.com/>

To expedite registration at convention in Houston, complete a membership form or renew your TSCA membership on the TSCA website at least 2 weeks prior to convention held October 5-7, 2017.

Please note the following reminders from Executive Secretary LouAnn Seabourn.

- TFA. To join TFA, select TFA as an Interest Group. You will automatically be billed for your TFA membership.
- Lifetime members. You need to renew your membership. It will look as if you will be charged \$600 again. But, you will not. Just continue to the end.
- Payment. If you can't pay in advance, you still need to complete the renewal form in advance. This allows us to have your name tag ready and have a head count for convention.
- Luncheon Tickets. Luncheon tickets will be on sale at convention. I know that many of your schools will not pay for this meal.
- Forms. Please remind your school to include a copy of your TSCA renewal or membership form with the check. It is amazing how many checks I receive with no school or name attached. Also, check the mailing address. Amazingly, Brent Hinkle is still receiving membership checks.

Thank you for helping ease congestion in the convention registration lines.

me many years to understand that professional isn't limited to the content knowledge I possess and my ability to teach it to my students effectively. It is also the way I present myself to parents and especially administrators. It is my digital profile. It is my presence at school board meetings, staff inservices, etc. It is my willingness to listen first to understand before I criticize, underestimate, or reject the ideas of others. It is true: your attitude, more than your aptitude, will determine your altitude. If your principal doesn't see you as a professional educator, if they can't trust that you will be able to address board members, superintendents, donors., with grace and dignity, you and your program will only last as long as a principal likes you or cares about speech education. I say this as

one of you. I say this as someone who wasn't gifted with these skills but has had to learn not only how to acquire them, but first to appreciate that I need to acquire them. I was gifted with the skills of the debater - I can argue with people and point out inconsistencies with ideas, statements, actions. Believe it or not, some people don't like that! (Who knew?!) I have met consummate professionals in this organization. They hold themselves and their students to a higher standard. I want to thank those of you who lead in this way - you are leading colleagues, not merely students. For those of us who are buried in debate literature, grading deadlines, and lesson plans: look up from your desk and remember an idea paraphrased financial counselor Dave Ramsey, "Do what you have to do, so

that you can do what you want to do."

For the first time in several years, I see a way that we can turn around what has been perceived as a very disconcerting trend in education. But like a large ship, it isn't simple and it isn't quick. It will take all of our persistence and steady action. I know what this is asking of you. It's asking you to do more. It's asking you to be more. It's asking the people often doing the most in their building with the least amount of support to take on one more thing. But here's the payoff: investing your time and energy into your community will result in your gaining support, possibly even help, and definitely respect. If we do more now, we will have more later.

Texas shines at National competitions

NFA Nationals

After Dinner Speaking
4th Julio Gonzales
University of Texas at Austin
6th Derrek Chung
University of Texas at Austin

Dramatic Interpretation
1st Abigail Onwunali
University of Texas at Austin
3rd Air Kamal Wiley College
5th Hailey Byerly Wiley College

Duo Interpretation
1st Abigail Onwunali and Bianca Montgomery
University of Texas at Austin
6th Cole Hanzlicek and Julio Gonzalez
University of Texas at Austin

Extemporaneous Speaking
1st Arel Rende
University of Texas at Austin
4th Allison McKibban Rice University
6th Derrek Chung
University of Texas at Austin

Impromptu Speaking
4th Arel Rende
University of Texas at Austin

Informative Speaking
1st Derrek Chung
University of Texas at Austin
3rd Alishan Alibhai
University of Texas at Austin

Poetry Interpretation
1st Abigail Onwunali
University of Texas at Austin
2nd Hailey Byerly Wiley College

Program Oral Interpretation
2nd Bianca Montgomery
University of Texas at Austin
5th Air Kamal Wiley College

Prose Interpretation
1st Abigail Onwunali
University of Texas at Austin
3rd Air Kamal Wiley College

NSDA

Dramatic Interpretation
2nd Place Maddie Guy
Saint Mary's Hall HS

Humorous Interpretation
4th Place Mary Barnett
Saint Mary's Hall HS

Duo Interpretation
5th David DeLaBarcena & Andrew Denton
South Grand Prairie HS
6th Philip Clement & Gabriella Garcia
Saint Mary's Hall HS

POI
3rd Emma Warnecke
Saint Mary's Hall HS

FX
3rd Nikhil Ramaswamy
Plano West Sr HS

OO
4th Ariana Uriah Okhuozagbon
J Frank Dobie HS

Informative
4th Katie Morris
Ronald Reagan HS

Extemporaneous Debate
1st Lyle Derden
Lamar HS
2nd Kalista Schauer
Richard King HS

Commentary
5th - Rachel Sims
Friendswood HS

Poetry
4th - Graci Wilson
Central HS - San Angelo

Prose
1st- Alfredo Antu
Central HS - San Angelo
6th - Vanessa Kjeldsen
Vista Ridge HS

AFA-NIET Nationals

After Dinner Speaking
2nd Sana Moti
University of Texas at Austin
4th Seis Steves
University of Texas at Austin

Communication Analysis
4th Cole Hanzlicek
University of Texas at Austin

Dramatic Interpretation
2nd Abigail Onwunali
University of Texas at Austin

Duo Interpretation
3rd Abigail Onwunali and Bianca Montgomery
University of Texas at Austin

Extemporaneous Speaking
4th Alishan Alibhai
University of Texas at Austin

Impromptu Speaking
2nd Alishan Alibhai
University of Texas at Austin
4th Matthew Magee
University of Texas at El Paso

Persuasive Speaking
3rd Alishan Alibhai
University of Texas at Austin

Poetry Interpretation
1st Abigail Onwunali
University of Texas at Austin
2nd Hailey Byerly Wiley College

Program Oral Interpretation
2nd Bianca Montgomery
University of Texas at Austin
5th Air Kamal
Wiley College

Prose Interpretation
1st Abigail Onwunali
University of Texas at Austin
3rd Air Kamal
Wiley College

Results cont.

Phi Rho Pi	Bronze Tyshee Sonnier San Antonio College
Communication Analysis Silver Sabrina Bustillos El Paso CC	POI Bronze Diego Oropeza El Paso CC
Extemporaneous Speaking Bronze Sabrina Bustillos El Paso CC	Dramatic Interpretation Bronze Jordyn Catanach El Paso CC
Bronze Noah Miller Lone Star College	Bronze Jaeme Orfanos El Paso CC
Bronze Aaron Kelly Tyler Junior College	Bronze Dillon McCoy San Antonio College
Prose Interpretation Bronze Jordyn Catanach El Paso CC	Silver Erick Canales El Paso CC Gold Hannah Perches El Paso CC Gold Sabass Del Toro El Paso CC
Bronze Jaeme Orfanos El Paso CC	Parliamentary Debate Bronze Bustillos/Martinez El Paso CC
Gold Omari Hawkins Tyler Junior College	Silver Downing/Huges Tyler Junior College
Poetry Interpretation Bronze Erick Canales El Paso CC	NFA/LD Bronze Gavin Downing Tyler Junior College
Bronze Sabass Del Toro El Paso CC	Bronze Shane Brewer Ranger College
Gold Salvador Ali Mendoza El Paso CC	IPDA Bronze Haley Porterfield Lone Star College
Gold Diego Oropeza El Paso CC	Bronze Jacob Files Lone Star College
Persuasive Speaking Bronze Jacob Files Lone Star College	Bronze Noah Miller Lone Star College
Bronze Emma James San Antonio College	Bronze Diego Martinez El Paso CC
Duo Interpretation Bronze McCoy/Long San Antonio College	Bronze Chrome Salazar Lee College
Impromptu Speaking Bronze Gavin Downing Tyler Junior College	Silver Korey Vaughn Tyler Junior College
Bronze Dillon Hughes Tyler Junior College	Silver Josh Lyrock Lee College
Bronze Aaron Kelly Tyler Junior College	Gold Rigoberto Ruiz Lee College
Informative Speaking Bronze Emma James San Antonio College	



What is your favorite part of going back to school?

“I love new school supplies. There is nothing better than the smell of a new supplies!”

“Decorating my classroom.”

“I look forward to the excitement of the kids.”

“I love the smell of new supplies, getting a new calendar, meeting new students and seeing my co-workers.”

“I love a new beginning.”

“I love making sure that my debate kids understand that the score was reset to zero from last year. Watching them work to outpace what they did last year is a huge lift.”

“I love seeing my old students! And my coworker friends.”

“I love when the first kid runs up to me in the hall.”

“When you do the first ‘get to know you’ activity and all the kids try to be cool.”

“New teacher energy!”

News from around the State...

TSCA Executive Secretary Lou Ann Seabourn has been selected to be inducted into the WTAMU Communication Hall of Fame on September 29. Congratulations Lou Ann!

Jersey Village Speech and Debate Coach Regina Wells Jennings and her husband welcomed Layla Avery Jennings on June 6, 2017.



Longtime Texas Speech and Debate and theater director Charlotte Brown retired from Gregory-Portland at the end of the 2017 school year. She had spent over 50 years in the classroom.

Leslie Hernandez is happy to be moving to Tompkins High School this year as the head Speech and Debate

Coach.

Rory and Kari McKenzie welcomed Marli Jaymes, little sister to Harper, on Aug. 12th.

Janelle Adams officially joins the faculty as a debate coach at J. Frank Dobie High School.

Patti Bray Pitts is happily getting ready to start her first school year RETIRED!

Melissa O'Neal will be starting a Junior High debate program at Ferris ISD.



Tania Kelley will be the speech and debate director at Brennan HS.

Seth Phillips will be taking over the Debate coaching position at Prosper HS.

New Things at Convention for 2017

Job Board

Is your school hiring? Please bring a copy of the job ad and post it on our job board. Please list contact information for a school representative (you or someone else) that is attending convention. If a potential candidate has questions, they can locate you. Ads can be for adjunct, part-time, or full time. The job board will be located in the Registration/ Vendor area.

College Forensics Program Information

High school students in Texas (and their coaches!) want to know all about the great college Forensics programs we have in Texas! If you direct a foren-

sics program at a university or college, please bring information about your program to post on our Forensics board. You can bring copies to distribute as well! Please make sure that there is contact information for someone from your program that is present at convention. Potential student or their coaches can contact you or meet you if they have more questions. The College Forensics board will be located in the Registration/ Vendor area.

For questions on either one of these opportunities, please contact Amy Tilton Jones, ajones@delmar.edu.

Find Your Tribe

by Melissa Witt

I hope all of our members have enjoyed some measure of rest and rejuvenation over the summer months. I know many of you have spent portions of your summer helping students from around the nation learn more about this craft that we love, helping new teachers and coaches prepare for the challenges ahead, and attending professional development meetings. As someone who knows how hard you work during the summer, I am thankful each time I see one of you posting vacation pictures with your family and friends.

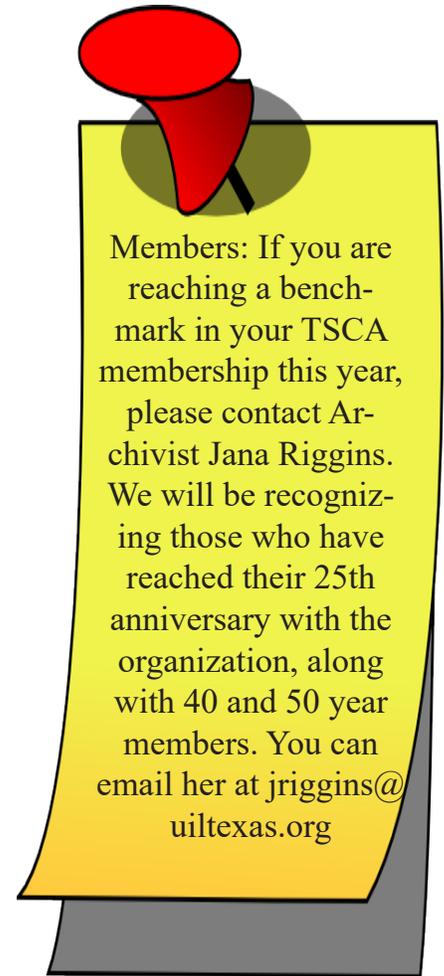
In the coming weeks we will begin the day-to-day of another year in the life of speech education. I hope that your stories this year will be the wonderful kind that stay with you for the rest of your career. That you will truly enjoy spending time with your students and leading them to the discoveries they will make in the coming months.

There will be good days and bad days ahead this year - as in any other year. My desire is that you will support and encourage one another through every challenge

and celebrate with one another every victory. That you will be present in the moment with one another, aware of more than simply win-loss records, passing rates, and departmental deadlines. That you will truly enjoy spending time with colleagues.

One of the most endearing things I saw on Facebook this summer were teachers - from youngin's to retirees - posting vacation pictures that included other speech & debate teachers! You will spend an impressive chunk of your life with other speech and debate folk - professors in your department, coaches on your circuit. Make the most of this time. Make friendships, not just alliances. Build relationships, not enmity. Because at the end of the day, for better or for worse, we are family. Like all families, we don't always agree and we don't always get along. But we are cut from the same cloth. We possess strength, passion, and a desire for excellence. We value education, knowledge, and wisdom. We care about our students and desire the best opportunities for them.

Go forward this year and embrace the challenges ahead knowing that you are not alone.



Members: If you are reaching a benchmark in your TSCA membership this year, please contact Archivist Jana Riggins. We will be recognizing those who have reached their 25th anniversary with the organization, along with 40 and 50 year members. You can email her at jriggins@uiltexas.org

Remember the words of author Robert John Meehan, "The most valuable resource that teachers have is each other. Without collaboration our growth is limited to our own perspectives." Find and celebrate your tribe and continue building your legacy. Stand together, TSCA, because we cannot do this alone.

On Our Website... www.etsca.com



Lesson Plans and Activities: <http://www.coachingspeech.com/>
Renew Your Membership: <http://www.etsca.com/reg/step0.asp>
Texas Speech Communication Journal: www.etsca.com/journal.asp
Jobs: <http://www.etsca.com/jobs.asp>