



# TexasSpeaks

*A Publication of the Texas Speech Communication Association  
Summer/Fall 2016 Edition*



The Omni Hotel at the Colonnade in San Antonio will once again host speech and debate professionals from around Texas and the country.

## TSCA to convene in San Antonio in October

The annual TSCA convention will once again travel to San Antonio this year. This year's convention will be held at the Omni San Antonio at the Colonnade October 6th through the 8th.

The theme of the convention this year is "Shaping the Future" and the programming will offer sessions on everything from cutting a script for interper to collegiate papers from scholars at Texas colleges and universities. The Texas Forensic Association will hold their annual meetings and TSCA will elect new officers as well.

The room reservation deadline is 5 PM on Monday, September 12th. Be sure to ask for the TSCA Convention room rate when making your reservation.

"You should attend convention to learn something new, share your innovative ideas with others, and network with Speech professionals from across Texas," said Amy Tilton Jones, TSCA President.

This year's convention will add two new elements to its schedule. First TSCA will host a Career Fair. This will be held on Friday from 2:30 to 5:30 and will have job recruiters available to talk to convention attendees. In addition, for the first time, TSCA will host a college forensics audition.

"Recent graduates and high school

seniors will have the opportunity to audition for college forensics programs beginning at this year's TSCA convention," said Melissa Witt, TSCA VP-Elect. "Top ranked schools including Tyler Junior College, West Texas A&M University, and the University of Texas will be just a few of the programs represented."

Students can register to attend the forensics auditions, which will be Saturday, October 8th from 8-1 PM, online at [etsca.org](http://etsca.org).

### *In This Issue...*

**Election Candidates vie for TSCA board positions**  
Page 3

**President Amy Tilton-Jones letter**  
Page 2

**College Forensics Open Auditions**  
Page 2

**Teaching Politics in an Election Year**  
Page 4

**Texas succeeds at NSDA 2016**  
Page 4

**Date :** October 6-8, 2016

**Location :** Omni San Antonio at the Colonnade  
9821 Colonnade Boulevard  
San Antonio, TX 78230  
(210) 691-8888

**Room Rate :** \$115 single/double occupancy; \$125 triple/quadruple occupancy

**Room Reservation Deadline :** 5:00pm on Monday, September 12, 2016

**Cost :** \$150 (Sustaining Membership)  
Luncheon : \$20

**For more info, visit [www.etsca.org](http://www.etsca.org)**

## *From 2015-2016 President Amy Tilton Jones*



TSCA's 91st annual convention is less than three months away! A lot of people have been working hard to make this a great

event, so please plan now to join us: October 6-8, 2016 at the Omni San Antonio Colonnade. Convention and hotel information can be found on the TSCA website, [www.etsca.com](http://www.etsca.com).

While you are on the website, please take a look at the Committee tab, and see if you are on a committee. If so, please plan to attend your committee meeting on Thursday. You can also peruse the draft of the convention program,

and begin planning your convention experience.

While you are planning your convention weekend, think of friends or new colleagues that you may want to invite to join you at TSCA. TSCA offers a great opportunity for professional development and professional networking. Who can you invite that may benefit from this experience? I will always be appreciative of the colleagues that introduced me to TSCA seventeen years ago, and the active members that encouraged me to get involved in the leadership of this amazing organization.

The theme for this year's convention is "Shaping the Future." As you contemplate this year's theme, I invite you to think about the future of TSCA and how you

can contribute. If this will be your first TSCA convention, we invite you to join us for the New Member's breakfast on Friday morning. During this time you will learn about TSCA and different ways to get involved. You will also have the opportunity to meet your current officers and several past officers that can help answer any questions you have about the convention or TSCA. During convention please look for committee selection forms and officer interest forms. You can return the completed forms to the registration desk. I encourage you to become involved in the future of the Texas Speech Communication Association. I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio in October!



## **COLLEGE FORENSICS OPEN AUDITIONS**

*Mark Your Calendars*

**Saturday October 8, 2016**

**9 AM to 5 PM**

**Omni San Antonio at the Colonnade**

*To Sign up please visit [www.etsca.org](http://www.etsca.org) and follow the links!*

# 2016 TSCA Officer Candidates

Vice-President Elect

*Colin Malinek*

*St. Mary's Hall*

*Speech and Debate Director*



*"I have attended over a dozen panels and hosted a couple myself. These experiences were not just educational, they were inspirational. I believe that "teachers teaching teachers" is one of the most valuable tools that our community has access to. Experiences like this have led my co-coach and I to lead collaborative work weeks (prior to nationals) where we invite all of the qualifiers from our district so that every student has the opportunity to work with a diverse set of coaches. I am hoping to have a larger impact on our state in my career."*

Vice-President Elect

*Eric Mears*

*Flower Mound High School*

*Speech and Debate Director*



*"Speech communication is important not on its own accord, but because education is important. We use the spoken word to convey truth, to direct, persuade, to instill values in those that come after us. We use the spoken word to campaign, to advocate, to lift up those who cannot speak for themselves. We use the spoken word as a weapon against the onslaught of technology, against the detractors who undervalue our profession, against the very fabric of society should that become necessary."*

Executive Secretary

*Carolyn Baum*

*West Texas A&M University*

*Asst. Lecturer of Communication*



*I believe the field of communication must root itself as a necessity for all scholars and fields of interest. Those of us dedicated to the field understand the value of forensics in critical thinking, the importance of sharing stories and cultures through literary performances, and the significance of the theoretical elements of communication to our personal and professional growth. I believe TSCA can continue and strengthen the platform for speech requirements at all levels of education and reinforce the significance of communication studies regardless of one's professional trajectory.*

Journal Editor

*Leslie Rodriguez*

*Angelo State University,*

*Assistant Professor*



*"I truly am committed to the mission of the Texas Speech Communication Association. Since joining this association, I have actively participated in annual conventions through presenting research in both paper and panel discussions. I have also attended the interest group meetings most closely related to my areas of specialization, and have most recently been elected as Vice-Chair of the Rhetoric and Communication Theory division. Ultimately, it is my desire to see the nation's largest state professional communication association continue to thrive as we "stimulate the intellectual and professional enrichment of our members" (TSCA, 2012). I believe I am best equipped to help advance this mission through the journal editor position; as such,"*

**Candidates complete resumes and letter of intent will be available at [www.etsca.org](http://www.etsca.org) and at convention.**

# Teach Politics in Class (And Live to Tell About It)



In terms of politics, we're smack dab in the middle of what some might call a "highly teachable moment." This ongoing U.S. presidential race includes swirling controversy, impolitic debate, pivotal issues of great importance—war and peace, economics, and the very role of government in our lives—hot tempers, and a decidedly divided electorate. Here are some tried-and-true teaching strategies for teaching politics, political systems, and elections that have worked in classrooms around the country:

## Critique the Televised Debates

Teachers across the country are reporting higher-than-usual levels of student anxiety over this year's televised political debates. The debates have not always been models of decorum and substance. But any presidential debate is rich with teachable content, especially when students come to the debates with a solid foundation in one or more of the policy issues being discussed.

- Assign relevant research topics ahead of time and have your students watch the debates with that knowledge in mind, using what they know to assess the candidates' positions.
- Assign students to fact check the candidates.
- Ask students to identify the best moments in a debate, as measured by standards of idea exchange, argu-

ment, and counterpoints that you have covered beforehand in class.

- Another way to alleviate that stress while also teaching important lessons about debate is to introduce students, beforehand, to the ideals and rules of Lincoln-Douglas style debate. Read up on the style and its rule, see sample video clips, and get all the resources you'll need to introduce and judge Lincoln-Douglas Debates in your own middle school or high school classroom at the National Speech & Debate Association website.

- Have your students critique a televised debate in terms of how well it conforms to the rules and conventions of Lincoln-Douglas Style debate.

## Hold your Own Debates

Classroom debates are often very popular with students, who relish the chance to express themselves and perform.

Have students debate the same topics and questions brought up in the real, televised debates, but as themselves.

## Study Media Construction of Presidential Races

Guide your students' investigation of the presidential campaign (or any other political campaign) by having them study campaign materials like posters, t-shirts, television and radio ads, press coverage, and mailers.

- Gather and compare like campaign material from two opposing candidates. (Or, for higher grade levels, compare press coverage of similar events on both sides of a race.) How does language, message, and design comprise the message and its tone?

- Assign students to work on the campaign (hypothetically). Have them

design a poster for the candidate of their choice and present their design in class, pitching its ability to persuade or inform voters.

- Integrate media decoding of campaign messages into your students' study of U.S. history using Project Look Sharp's free kit, Media Construction of Presidential Campaigns, which includes over 100 lessons and media documents from elections spanning more than 200 years, from 1800 to 2008.

by *Emily Hopkins of Weareteachers.com*

## Texas Success at NSDA 2016

\* **Jaylon Bolden**, J. Frank Dobie HS placed 3rd in DI at NSDA

\* **Brian Baker**, Hendrickson HS, finished 5th in DI at NSDA

\* **Luke Wodrich**, Grapevine HS, finished 4th in HI at NSDA

\* **Drake Leach**, Grapevine HS, finished 2nd in POI at NSDA

\* **Marshall Webb**, St. Mary's Hall, finished 2nd in US Extemp at NSDA

\* **Neil Patel**, Plano West, finished 5th in US Extemp at NSDA

\* **Katherine Hu**, Plano Sr, finished 6th in US Extemp at NSDA

\* **Nikhil Ramaswamy**, Jasper HS, finished 6th in Foreign Extemp at NSDA

\* **Shreetika Singh**, Seven Lakes HS, finished 4th in Foreign Extemp at NSDA

\* **Bennett Eckert**, Greenhill, National Chamption in LD at NSDA