



# TexasSpeaks

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



Amy Tilton Jones passes the gavel to incoming President Melissa Witt at the closing ceremonies of the convention.

## Witt: Support each other by supporting TSCA

Welcome to 2017! I hope everyone's new year is off to a great start! Plans are underway for a fantastic convention in October. We want you to be a part of the magic! Whether you're a brand new member, a new teacher/coach who isn't a member yet, or one of our veteran multiple-decades members – I encourage you to engage in the work that TSCA is doing. Engagement is bi-directional – share of your talents and experience with others that we may learn and grow. In addition, take time to sit back and glean from the experience and talent of your peers in speech and theatre education.

Seventeen years ago I joined this organization, and I've found it to be true that I am a reflection of those I surround myself with. I'm proud to have chosen a profession in which the people I spend the majority of my time with are so creative, driven, and motivated to contribute to making this world the place that it should be. I'm continually inspired by my peers as a teacher, a debate coach, and as a citizen within my community.

Ours can feel like a thankless profession. Some of you are "lone rangers" on your campuses – even in your entire district. During my career I have been assigned to various departments over the years - the English

department, the fine arts department, and the speech department – and those were all while teaching on the same campus in the same district! Some of us teach on vast campuses, rivaling the size of junior colleges, where it can be easy to get lost in the shuffle. Some of us teach on small campuses, where everyone knows everyone, and yet we still can get lost in the shuffle. And while the hope and the gratitude and even the struggles we experience with our students is motivation like no other – it's not always enough. I've always said that my path was blessed, as I was fortunate to have some amazing mentors my first few years of teaching. They taught me what it means to be a teacher, a coach, and a mentor. They introduced me to the community that has sustained me over my career. It is from them that I have learned the secret to avoiding that "5-year burnout" that has become the subject of so much concern in education: community. While competition is the nature of what many of see as our job, if not our passion, competition is only a part of it. Like professional athletes, surgeons, and even "First Children," we share a special bond. We do something others cannot – will not – do. And because of this, we are best suited to understand a struggling colleague. We are best suited to

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advise a new coach. We are best suited to celebrate the wins within our community. We are best suited to support one another. And we are where this field of study, this level of competition, this art will live or die. The demands placed on educators are making headlines. They are trite compared to the demands we place on ourselves. And if we don't recognize the crucial role of mentoring in this arena, we will see the consequences. We must stand together, if we expect to be able to stand alone on our campuses and in our districts. We must nurture the new, refresh the seasoned, and celebrate those who built and have sustained the legacy of Forensics in Texas.

So, give a little of your time and

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## Tilton Jones reminds us that we shape the future

Dear TSCA members,

TSCA convention 2016 is in the books, but my memories of this convention will be ones that I cherish! Thank you for attending TSCA 2016 in San Antonio. Thank you for joining me in talking about the future of our students and world. Thank you for making this convention a great one. Thank you for such a special President's reception. Thank you for all the assistance and kind words many of you have offered me through my time of service to TSCA; you know who you are, and your advice, friendship, and counsel have meant the world to me!

I am now honored to join the ranks of TSCA Past Presidents. I am humbled to be in the same "club" with such amazing educators that have served as your President. I look forward to many more years of membership and service to TSCA. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your President; it will remain the honor of my professional career.

### *Presidential Speech*

As a child, one of my favorite movies was *Back to the Future*. I had no idea if that was what the future would look like, but I was pretty convinced it would be EXACTLY like that movie. Flying cars, hover boards, self-adjusting clothes, and of course the flying DeLorean. My Grandpa even owned a DeLorean. I made him take me school in it so I could feel futuristic. According to an article in *Time* magazine (October 20, 2015), the producers of *Back to the Future* extensively researched the technologies that they predicted in the film. Even with lots of research, some of it still has not come to fruition. Flying cars are not a reality. Hoverboards are not the safest invention with countless fires, emergency room visits, and YouTube videos reported. Nike just announced the creation of the "Back to the Future" self-adjusting shoe the HyperAdapt 1.0 to be released this November. Sadly, Grandpa's DeLorean never did fly, and DeLorean ceased operations in 1982. The creators of *Back to the Future* did successfully predict some future inventions: video conferencing (like Skype or Facetime), video glasses (similar to Google Glass), and mobile payment technology; although they admittedly missed the reliance we would have on all sorts of touch screen technologies.

So how do we predict the future in order to prepare our students for it? How can we teach them to live and work in a future we cannot imagine? Well, I am no Robert Zemeckis, but we need to start by exploring how much change we have witnessed in our lifetimes and careers, and discover how to prepare students for the one thing we know they will encounter: change.

In the past 50 years, there has been a proliferation of communication technologies, and industries have emerged to sell, manage, and accessorize these new inventions. In addition to technology, we as a society have become more open to talking about different cultures and people with different world views than ours. Travel allows many people to see places our parents and grandparents only dreamed of. Medical advancements have allowed us to live longer lives, and find therapies and cures to treat a myriad diseases. Awareness of disabilities and medical conditions has led to therapies and inventions to help us understand and improve the experience of people with learning disabilities.

Let's start with technology. In his song, "Welcome to the Future," Brad Paisley puts it this way "When I was ten years old, I remember thinking how cool it would be when we were going on an 8 hour drive, if I could just watch TV. I'd have given anything to have my own Pacman game at home. I used to have to get a ride down to the arcade, now I've got it on my phone." I often entertain my students with tales of the dot matrix printer I remember from a high school classroom. None of them know what that is, or remember the cool paper you had to feed through them. Technology has evolved so quickly, become an integral part of our lives, and our education. Technology has created it's own vocabulary: Google, Facebook, Wikipedia, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, App, Pokemon Go! etc. Technology has also created entire spin-off industries. What is the first thing you do when you buy



a new phone or Ipad? You need a case, maybe a stylus. New laptop? A carrying bag, and maybe a wireless mouse. ABI research reports that in 2015, the worldwide mobile technology accessories industry made 81.5 Billion dollars. That's headsets, protective cases, and other accessories for a device that did not largely exist 30 years ago. A device that helps the educational process by being able to have access to information at your student's fingertips, but also creates more distractions that we as teachers have to compete with. Technology has also created entire industries and subsets of industries. Today's educators are familiar with the IT person and Help Desk, and E-learning departments and staff; again occupations that did not exist 30 years ago.

The speed of technological changes can be seen by comparing technologies that have come and gone in our lifetimes. Blockbuster has been replaced by Netflix, Redbox, Hulu, Vudu, and even DVR technology. An article on MSN Money (August 18, 2016) reports that metal keys, and even key cards, will be replaced by smart phone access. We have seen the move from printed textbooks to digital versions, but MSN predicts an all digital classroom in the future. Data storage media is another rapidly changing area: floppy disks, zip disks, mini dvds: to today's flash drives and cloud storage. PC Magazine (August 20, 2015) reports that by the year 2025, the following things will be made obsolete by technology: car mirrors (because of back up cameras), plastic credit and debit cards (because

of mobile pay technology like Apple Pay), cords and chargers (due to the increase in wireless charging capabilities), and most human operators. Technologies that students rely on today, will be their “brick phone” stories as adults.

Advances in medical technology and awareness have brought about better quality of life, inclusion, and understanding for people living with diseases, conditions, and disabilities. Temple Grandin was diagnosed with “brain damage” at the age of 2 (later she was determined to have autism). In the 1950’s it was common to blame the mother for “causing” this condition in the child, and recommend institutionalization. Grandin’s mother sought out schools and therapies to help her child, even though her diagnosis was a little understood one. Despite problems in school, not fitting in, and having her condition understood by few; Temple Grandin went on to earn a Ph.D. in Animal Science. Today she is a Professor of Animal Science at Colorado State University. HBO made a movie about her life. She is also the author of countless books about autism, living with autism, and raising autistic children. Why do I know so much about this? Well, at the age of 6, my son was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (what we used to call Asperger’s). At the time, he was the 1 in 88 children in our country diagnosed with ASD. Today the ratio is higher. Well, today Lawson is 12, a happy and hilarious 7th grader. He is in boy scouts, loves camping, legos, and Minecraft; and he will always fill, what he calls the “Lawson shaped hole in my heart.” I have been honored to witness how technology, advancements, and understanding have allowed him to live a fairly close to normal life. Have there been challenges? Sure. Has he been bullied? Yes. Does he encounter ignorance or lack of understanding? Of course. But society sure has come a long way since Temple Grandin was diagnosed. And I am certain that society will progress even farther in it’s level of understanding in Lawson’s lifetime.

Our social values have also changed and evolved. Whether it be religion, culture, philosophies, our culture has become more open, accepting, and participatory. Gender equality has also evolved over the years. Now one thing you may not know about me is that I LOVE Wonder Woman. The other day, my husband was playing the original Wonder Woman theme song from 1975. We were a little shocked at some of

the lyrics: “in your satin tights, fighting for your rights.” And appealing for her to “stop a war with love.” And to “Change minds, change the world.” We may consider those viewpoints a little sexist or old, although I still love Wonder Woman, but we continue to make strides in gender equality. In 2016, we are witnessing the first female presidential candidate for a major US political party. I can only imagine what our daughters, granddaughters, and students will witness in their lifetimes.

In the words of my favorite philosopher, Brad Paisley “Wherever we were going, well, we’re here. Every day is a revolution: welcome to the future.” So, what skills do we need to possess, and teach our students in order to live and work in an unknown, rapidly changing future?

**Adaptability:** In his book, *Love That Boy*, Ron Fournier calls parenting, “entering into a permanent relationship with a stranger.” As teachers, we initially have the same relationship with our students. We do not initially know students that enter our classrooms, but we will have a life-long impact on them and their education. We as teachers must remain adaptable: always learning, using new methods, new technologies, new examples, new methods of content delivery. We never know what will encourage or inspire a student.

An engineer recently gave this advice to my class: “EVERY field changes so much. Technology moves so fast—keep up and be flexible.” In addition to our adaptability, we need to encourage adaptability in our students. Keep learning, keep growing, embrace new ideas and new aspects of your job. How many of us said “I will never teach speech online!”? And now we are, because students want it. According to the *Montreal Gazette* (January 20, 2016) “By 2020, the 4th Industrial Revolution (Robotics, artificial intelligence, machine learning, biotechnology) will transform the way we live and work. Some jobs will disappear, and jobs that don’t exist today will be commonplace. The future workforce will need to align skill set to keep pace. Students have to adapt to changing demands of society. *Forbes* (May 12, 2014) reports the need for people in the future to have “New media literacy.” Today, this means being able to manage videos, blogs, podcasts, and social media, but in 5-10 years it will mean learning and then implementing new and changing technologies. Encourage your students to keep an open

mind, and develop the ability to see the “big picture.” In the words of Steve Jobs: “The ones who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do”.

**Communication:** Teach understanding and acceptance. Insist on the importance of reading, speaking, and interpersonal communication, even if our phones have the ability to replace the need for those skills. Even though many technologies can and will replace the need for social interaction, social intelligence will be an important skill to have, and therefore; is an important skill to teach. According to *Forbes* (May 12, 2014), social intelligence is the ability to connect with diverse people. Another important skill to have, now and in the future, is cross cultural competency, because technology has made globalization a reality.

**Relationships:** We as teachers are Future Shapers! An article by the Association for Middle Level Education, titled “The Power of Positive Relationships,” reports that we as teachers shape the future. We may not know when something we have said encourages a student or sets them on the path toward their future career. Most of you probably will not believe this, but I was an extremely shy 13 year old when I met Charlotte Brown. I think I wanted to be a Physical Therapist when I grew up, but I’m not sure why. Don’t ask me how she got such a shy kid on stage, or in front of judges to perform, but she did. Not only that, I learned how to dress at a tournament and many other life skills from Ms. Brown. I have her to thank for setting me on my career path, and my students have her to thank (or blame) for setting me on my career path! We have that impact on our students. Encourage them, help them find their talents, and support them as some of them become colleagues. You don’t have a jet pack, flux capacitor, or flying car, but you shape the future.

Our society has come so far in the fields of education, social awareness, and equality. The future is as wide and unknown as the horizon. Preparing students for an unknown future can be treacherous, but by valuing adaptability, communication, and mentoring relationships: you are future shapers.

In the words of Gerda Klein, a holocaust survivor who spoke at Del Mar College, our students are “messengers to a time we shall not see.” What message are we sending with them?

## Communicator of the Year Rob Wicall shares praise for teaching speakers and communicators



Retired San Antonio Spurs Rob Wicall was named the 2016 TSCA Communicator of the Year for his work as a community figure while serving as the mascot for the San Antonio Spurs.

Wicall shared some of his experiences as the Coyote and shared his thoughts on the importance of education and communication. He thanked the teachers for all they do.

### *Service Awards*

#### **Forty Years**

*Marita Duesler,  
Monsignor Kelly Catholic  
HS*

*William English  
Baylor University*

#### **Twenty Five Years**

*Sara Jane Barno,  
Hornedo Middle School*

*Shannon Howard,  
Dobie High School*

*Mike Jones,  
Del Mar College*

*Jolinda Ramsey,  
San Antonio College*

### **Witt continued from Page 1**

talents to support your peers and colleagues in TSCA – your fellow teachers, coaches, and friends. And take from the richness that TSCA has to offer. We are many, we are diverse, we are a beautiful collage inspiring future generations. Don't let the heat of the tab room, the contrition of TFA business meetings, the pain of getting a 3 when only the top 2 advance, the RFD that doesn't seem to match the posted paradigm, and all of the other frustrations that are a part of what we do overwhelm your vision. There will be losses. There will be decisions you

disagree with. There will be personalities that are ... well, milk when you're lactose intolerant... But there will be celebration and joy. There will be students, parents, and yes, even administrators who take time to tell you how you changed their lives. And there will be debate coaches, interp coaches, and/or theatre directors who give you that special gift of gratitude for a moment in your career, a decision made, a lesson plan shared.

Be your best in 2017. Give your best. And let us give your our best.

### **NSDA starts a new coaches conference**

Join the National Speech & Debate Association for the inaugural national education conference for speech and debate in Denver, Colorado on August 24-27, 2017. Attendees can earn up to 20 hours of professional development as well as possible graduate credit hours!

Announced workshops include Argumentation and Rhetoric: A Gateway to a Limitless World, Being an Educator of Significance: 21 Keys to Character and Leaders in the Classroom and Beyond, Critical Linkages: From High School, to College, to Career, Discovering Your Voice: A Perspective on Helping Students of Color Excel in Forensics, Grace in the Lion's Den: A Technology Empowered Confron-

tation of Racism, Holding a Debate Day at Your School, Interp: Bringing Characters to Life, Riding the Zombie Wave: Apocalyptic Strategies for Advancing Argumentation Skills, Understanding Strategies for Teaching Common Philosophical Text, Welcome to My World: Developing a Partnership with Your Principal and What is Policy Debate? No, It Isn't That Complex.

For more information, visit <https://www.speechanddebate.org/conferences/>.

The 2017 conference is open to all coaches and district leaders interested in speech and debate education.

# 2016 TSCA

## Educators of the Year

K-12 Educator of  
the Year:

*Eloise Blair*  
*Houston Lamar High School*



*“Eloise Blair is a true leader in education. As my English teacher, she was determined to make sure I learned grammar. Every. Single. Day. Her insightful suggestions on everything made a huge difference in my creative writing. As my debate teacher, the life lessons she taught me are still in evidence today.” - Angie Richard, Klein Oak Speech/Debate*

*“Don’t be sorry. Be Better. At least once a week, those words echo in my mind. At work, at home, no matter where I am, small life lessons and reminders planted by Eloise Weisinger Blair more than 20 years ago continue to guide me through everyday challenges and sometimes more complicated quandaries. Eloise was my Speech and Debate coach at Aldine High School, but she was more than that. She was a teacher, mentor, a counselor and a role model. She leads by example, living the motto that hard work and perseverance really do pay off.” - Amy Davis, Consumer Investigative Reporter, KPRC*

*“As a black girl coming from a very poor neighborhood I never had anyone to expect much from me until I met Coach Blair. She taught me how to have confidence in myself and never settle for anything but the best.” - Victoria Williams*

2-Year College Educator of the Year:

*Patrick Ralls*  
*Wharton County Junior College*



*“When we had an opening at Foster High School for a new debate coach, I looked at many candidates’ resumes and then saw Patrick’s. For me the search was over. I knew he would be a dedicated teacher, a role model and a colleague that would continue to grow our program in the fashion I believed would benefit our students, our school and our reputation.*

*Patrick is an honorable man, husband, father and teacher. I am proud to have worked with him and to call him my friend.” - Larry Balfe*

*“Over anyone’s educational lifetime, there is a high probability of encountering one or two teachers that you remember as impactful or innovative. No other teacher spent as much time, dedication, and personal interest in my educational future as Mr. Ralls.” - Chelsea Harmon, History teacher, Bowie Middle School*

*“Patrick stands out among the teachers I have known as being the most passionate, sincere, and competent educator. Years removed from Patrick’s classroom, I employ the speech and communications lessons he has taught me on a daily basis, and attribute much of my college success, inside and outside the classroom, to what I have learned from him. Patrick is an attentive educator, an honest mentor, and a dear friend.” - Stephen Vincent, US Navy*

# Committee Appointments 2017

## ***BYLAWS***

Chair: Ann Shofner (18)  
Sara Jane Barno (19)  
Lacy Cannon (17)  
M'Liss Hindman (18)  
Kathy Owens (19)  
Ruben Richardson (19)

## ***COM NOM NOM COM***

Chair: Mendy Meurer  
Vanessa Amos  
Brandon Cohn  
Leslie Crady  
Wayne Kraemer  
Rhonda Smith

## ***EOTY***

Chair: Kari McKenzie (18)  
Dale Anderson, Del Mar (18)  
Kyla Brookshier, Seguin HS (19)  
Kelley Finley, SPC (17)  
Brian Lain, UNT (17)  
Brian Ott, TTU (19)  
Amanda Jo Ratcliff, TJC (19)  
George Tennison, Ollie MS (19)  
Jim Towns, SFASU (18)

## ***FISCAL REVIEW***

Chair: Brent Hinkle  
Kristi Hodgkiss (19)  
Greg McGee (18)  
Gina Risher (19)

## ***NOMINATING COMMITTEE***

Co-Chair: Cheryl Potts  
Co-Chair: JP Fugler  
Lisa Campbell  
Lillian Adeyemi  
Justin Blacklock  
Max Thompson

## ***PUBLIC RELATIONS***

Chair: Michael Merritt (17)  
Timothy Haynes (18)  
Shannon Howard (19)

Kyle Peterson (17)  
Martha Pierson (19)  
Nick Reichert (19)  
James Thompson (18)

## ***TIME & PLACE***

Chair: Darrell Yarbrough (South)  
Mike Jones, Comptroller  
Ralph Long, East (2018)  
Trudy Hanson, West (2017)  
Michelle Watkins, Central (2020)

## ***GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS***

Co-Chair: Sami Womack  
Co-Chair: Ryan Lovell  
Clint Adams, Big Spring HS  
Abby Blank, Robert Turner College & Career HS  
Nicole Cornish, Athens HS  
Kim Falco, Franklin HS  
Amy Kemp, Texas HS  
Ryan Lovell, Tascosa HS  
Greg Mayo, Westbury HS  
Mark Mazzu, Cinco Ranch HS  
Cody Morris, Mt. Pleasant HS  
Seth Pietsek, Abilene HS  
Carla Reisman, Byron Nelson HS  
Stephanie Rodarte-Suto, Canyon  
Debbie Waddell, Cy Falls HS

## ***RESOLUTIONS***

Chair: Nancy Randolph  
Jayson Anderson, Lubbock HS (19)  
Adrian Gallardo, Rankin HS (19)  
D'Nan Mathis, Lubbock Cooper (19)  
Adesuwa Omoruyi, Taylor HS (19)  
Melissa O'Neal, Ferris HS (18)  
Karen Schilling, Farwell HS (19)  
Angela Verner (18)  
Kasey Willeby, Foster HS (19)

## ***SPECIAL AWARDS***

Chair: Connie McKee (17)  
Amy Jones (19)  
Russell Kirkscey (17)

Barbara Mayo (2019)

Kerry Moore (18)  
Norma Coston (external resource)  
Melissa Witt (Ex Officio)

## ***LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS***

Chair: Martha Pierson  
Andrew Barrett, Dobie HS  
Christine Beard, Mayde Creek HS  
Vicky Beard, Spring Woods HS  
Deanne Christensen, Oak Ridge HS  
Ashley Freeman, Alief Elsie  
Letra Johnican, Alief Hastings  
Michael Merritte, Ball HS  
Adesuwa Omoruyi, Alief Taylor  
Nick Reichert, Waller HS

## ***SPEECH & THEATRE***

Chair: Ross DeLeon  
Ramon F. Arana, Burgess (19)  
Andrew Barrett, Dobie HS (19)  
Angi Burns, McKinney North (19)  
Amy Kemp, Texas HS (17)  
Carolyn Mackey, Burges HS (19)  
Louie Pacheco, Muleshoe HS (19)  
Janice Valenzuela, Irving HS (19)  
Clay Wheeler, Schimelpfening MS (19)

## ***EDUCATOR TRAINING***

Chair: Mellessa Denny  
Jane Boyd, Grapevine HS  
Liana Hinojosa, Hastings HS  
Tracy Matthies, Blinn College  
Stacy McGee, Cy Fair ISD  
Jose Rodriguez, Irvin HS  
Crystal Church Rolison, Cisco College  
Ann Shofner, Retired

# Committee Appointments 2017

### *UIL ADVISORY*

Chair: Eloise Blaire  
 Christopher Brannen, Barber's Hill  
 Gilbert Casas, McCollum HS  
 Jonni Davis, Arlington HS  
 Shawn Duthie, Holliday  
 Joanna Hickey, Boling HS  
 Aimee Kasprzyk, Hillsboro  
 Rory McKenzie, Lindale  
 Marilyn Myrick, Lake Travis  
 Shelby Randolph, Lampasas  
 Katrese Skinner, El Campo  
 Lester Stone, Bush HS

### *COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY*

Chair: Sarah Contreras  
 Karin Dahmann, Blinn College  
 Rebecca Kerr, Art Institute of San Antonio  
 Russell Lowery-Hart, Amarillo

### College

Meghan Pace, Angelo State  
 Patrick Ralls, Wharton County  
 Kiera Wade, TJC

### *STRATEGIC PLANNING*

Chair: June Smith  
 Linda Alderson  
 Sara Jane Barno  
 M'Liss Hindman  
 Brent Hinkle  
 Amy Tilton Jones  
 Connie McKee  
 Rory McKenzie  
 Kiera Wade



## Around the Halls



# 2016 Convention Resolutions

Whereas, the wealth of information presented at this convention is vast and intensive, and whereas our brains cannot possibly retain every detail delivered, and whereas you can never have enough external memory, especially because some of you are getting on up there in age, and Whereas you never know when you save your student's life because they forgot their debate case, but you have it on your flash drive, be it resolved, that our new flash drives are very much appreciated, and may we always safely remove the device when we're finished with it.

Whereas the future is uncertain, and whereas we might have "those classes from hell"(Dr. Town's honest words, not ours), with those kids and whereas SACS is a frightening accreditation organization with a 95 check-point standard for colleges offering dual credit.

Be it resolved we will incorporate Future Shapers, a mentorship program on steroids, into our lives and into the lives of our students, which will encourage and develop character of adaptability, agility, resiliency, creativity, courage and authenticity. Be it further Resolved that we embrace dual credit as the wave of the future, and be it further resolved that we will continue to work those classes from Hades, while enjoying the classes that gel, knowing we were in the right place at the right time.

Whereas, a suitable hotel for the TSCA must be be omniscient, knowing our needs before we even think of them, and whereas, a satisfactory hotel for this group must be omnipotent, and whereas, an exemplary hotel for the hundreds of us descending on this city must be omnipresent, anywhere and everywhere to help ensure a productive conference, be it resolved that the TSCA members thank the Omni Hotel

for their omni benevolence in making this convention a huge success.

Whereas, the TSCA is committed to adaptation and change to meet the needs of its professional development log, and whereas, many of us got into "sticky" situations when our administrators saw such creative panel signatures, and whereas, we were "stuck" if we let a panel without a signature, and spent too much time hunting people down, be it resolved that the new and exciting method for confirming panel attendance is welcome and appreciated, and be it further resolved that we hope this new method "sticks".

Whereas, the San Antonio Spurs have won 5, count them 5, NBA Championships. Go, Spurs, Go!, and Whereas, a team needs the crowd to be fired up, and the Spurs Coyote is a master o that task. Go Spurs Go!, and Whereas: the mascot uses nonverbal communication to get the crowd to cheer, antagonize the other team, give impromptu interview, no even get ejected from a game by a ref who missed excellent no verbals. Go Spurs Go!, and Whereas, through humor and body a gauge, the coyote reminds us to be present and engaged- as fans, as people, and as educators. Go Spurs Go! Therefore be it resolved that TSCA applaud our Communicator of the year, Robert Wicoll, for his achievements in the art of the silent language and his appeal to our humanity. Go Coyote Go!

Whereas, Linda Long was a beautiful, articulate, and elegant member of our organization for many years, and Whereas, Sandra Jones was a larger than life presence who molded the careers of many of our colleagues, and Whereas, Bo Coston was the partner and soulmate for our Norma and a supporter of TFA and TSCA, therefore be it resolved that we mourn the loss of these beloved members of our com-

munity and share our support with their family and friends.

Whereas, three years ago the resolutions committee had an observation, and Whereas, two years ago our powers of suggestion worked, and Whereas, this summer, it actually happened (it really, really happened!), and whereas, the resolutions committee thinks that they may have had some influence, be it resolved that TSCA congratulate Greg and Stacey McGee on their marriage!

Whereas, President Amy Tilton Jones revealed that her favorite philosopher is Brad Paisley, and whereas, she also revealed that even though many of the technology predictions did not come to fruition, she was certain that Back to the Future was going to be exactly what the future would look like, and whereas, she reminded us that our job is to shape the future of our students and that will mean change, adaptation, and understanding, therefore be it resolved, that we thank Amy Tilton Jones for her service and leadership.

Whereas, giving back is part of our culture, and whereas, it is sometimes difficult to find people to step up, and whereas, TSCA encourages it's members to serve, therefore be it resolved that we congratulate those that are willing to serve in their new positions- Carolyn Baum-executive secretary, Leslie Rodriguez-journal editor, and Colin Malinik-vice president elect.

Whereas, Amy Tilton Jones needs a Hover board to better connect to the future, and Whereas, Melissa Witt coordinated a panel of programs and events that's further convincing us not to worry, and whereas, Wade Hesch is about to embark on a program planning journey, and whereas, LouAnn Seaborn has moved from model professional communicator to magician (we have no idea how she does it!), and whereas,

# 2016 Resolutions, cont

George Pacheco demonstrates coolness, always and whereas, Jana Riggins continues to record on the record, no more no less, and whereas, Kendra Willey had ONE job, to bring the camera, which got here magically, she didn't tell me the story, therefore Be it resolved that we thank Amy Tilton Jones for forcing us to look to the future, and be it further resolved that we recognize the phenomenal leadership team that has served this organization competently and passionately!

Whereas one believes that students should achieve the best, and Whereas another in her 40th year of teaching has shaped many of us in this room, and whereas nothing says honor like a son honoring his mother, therefore be it resolved that we offer a hearty congratulations to the TSCA Educators of the Year-Patrick Ralls and Eloise Blair, and to the TIFA Educator of the Year- Sarah Lynn Contreras.

Whereas, we sometimes get caught up in the bustle of the convention, and whereas, we sometimes get called into meetings unexpectedly, and whereas, we sometimes need to remind ourselves to take in the moments, therefore be it resolved: that one of the sweetest moments witnessed last night was Amy pinning Mike because 25 years ago, he never would've thought that his wife would be giving him his pin.

Whereas, she is always a bundle of positive energy, and whereas, she has worked diligently to make middle schools a wonderful interest group, and whereas, she manages to get so much done with calm and grace, and whereas, she has been a dedicated member of TSCA and is pretty much a Jill of all trades, be it resolved that we congratulate Sara Jane Barno for her Outstanding Service for TSCA (future president?)

Whereas, he was excited to get to meet with his friends and colleagues,

and whereas, it was important to get the script just right, and whereas, he's always been accused of being a little messed up in the head (his words not ours), and whereas, he now has an official diagnosis for that accusation, be it resolved that TSCA wish our friend Scott Baker a speedy recovery and healing thoughts.

Whereas, people feel special when they receive recognition for their achievements, and whereas, our distinguished TSCA members are accomplished and deserve to be recognized, and whereas, our Norma Coston distinguishes herself by providing us beautiful awards, be it resolved, that Norma Coston and Custom Awards and Engraving receive special recognition for always being there for us.

Whereas, elephants are awesome, and whereas, poverty is complicated but feeding children is not, and whereas, sometimes, our first love is poetry, not people, and whereas, each year we are entertained by the best of us, and whereas, we use our performance powers to bring awareness to important causes, therefore be it resolved that this body applaud M'Liss Hindman, Jolinda Ramsey, and Wade Hesch for bringing to light causes that should be important to us.

Whereas we would like to thank TSCA for offering professional development opportunities, and whereas TSCA promotes utmost professionalism, and whereas it is always wonderful to look to the future, and next year we want to infuse you with inspiration, therefore be it resolved, that we say adios to San Antonio (Go Spurs Go!) and say Howdy to Houston.

Whereas Martha Haun has wrangled the rowdy TSCA crowds for years as parliamentarian in order to maintain order at general sessions and whereas Mike Jones, as comptroller, has managed money for more years than



one should be expected to, and whereas the Local Arrangements Committee provided major swag in a bag to all members attending convention, be it resolved that the membership thank these officers and committee members for their selfless work to make the 2016 TSCA convention the fabulous festive future touching educational event it has been.

# Call for Manuscripts

*Texas Speech Communication Journal*  
Volume 43

The Texas Speech Communication Journal issues a call for papers that focus on Experiential and Service Learning in Communication Studies. Contributors may approach the topic from a variety of methodological perspectives. Manuscripts should be received no later than May 10, 2017. Manuscripts not devoted to the topic of Experiential and Service Learning in Communication Studies will be considered for the general research section of the issue as space allows. Texas Speech Communication Journal (TSCJ) follows a policy of blind review so no author identification should appear in the body of the manuscript.

Manuscripts should not exceed 25 pages and be written according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th edition). The title page should include the author's name, academic position, institutional affiliation, full mailing address, telephone number, email address, brief author biography, and a history of the manuscript (presentation at conferences). An abstract of not more than 150 words should accompany the manuscript. The author should also include keywords for the article. Email submissions are preferred for both manuscripts and teaching tips (either in Libre Office, WordPerfect or Word).

The Texas Speech Communication Journal (TSCJ) is a state journal published by the Texas Speech Communication Association. The TSCJ produces one print and one online issue per academic year, and seeks to publish original scholarship that makes a contribution to the studies of human communication. An external committee from around the United States blind reviews all submissions.

*Queries and manuscript submissions should be sent via email to:*

*TSCJ Editor, George Pacheco, Jr.*

*TSCJ Editor – Elect, Leslie Rodriguez*

*email: [tscjournal@gmail.com](mailto:tscjournal@gmail.com)*

*West Texas A&M University*

*Deadline: May 10, 2016*

## Around the Halls

