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**In This Issue:** [NCA Annual Convention and COVID-19](#) | [Convention Registration](#) | [Renewal and Transformation: Discipline](#) | [Teachers on Teaching](#) | [Scholar to Scholar Highlights](#) | [Guest Speaker Registration](#)

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## NCA Annual Convention and COVID-19

We very much look forward to seeing you in Seattle to partake in the fantastic array of sessions, programs, and events that we have planned as we engage our theme of “Renewal and Transformation.” Our convention will be conducted as a face-to-face event, and while we are excited about the return to this format, we also want to assure you that we are committed to adhering to all national, state, local, and facility health and safety guidelines.

The NCA leadership and our National Office staff are closely monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation. We recognize that you may have concerns, so we encourage you to stay informed and to consider what is best for you and your friends and family as you make your own decision about whether to attend. Please be sure to consult our [convention webpage](#) for the latest updates and details about the health-related measures that we will be implementing at our two venues, the Sheraton Grand Seattle Hotel and the Washington State Convention Center.

For those who are planning to attend, please note the following:

- We will conduct our convention in accordance with the current CDC guidelines for meetings and will follow all applicable state, local, and facility requirements.
- In accordance with CDC recommendations, vaccinations or negative COVID-19 tests are not required for attendees, but we will follow the current state of Washington requirement and CDC guideline that masks be worn indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Please plan to bring appropriate masks to be worn during our convention.
- Per the current CDC recommendations, we ask that members who are unvaccinated stay home, stay safe, and do not travel to attend our convention.
- If you have COVID-19 or symptoms, we ask you to stay home.
- We plan to distribute stickers that will allow you to convey your level of comfort regarding personal proximity to others. We also will abide by all applicable social distance guidelines in our venues.
- We will provide hand sanitizer stations throughout our venues, place sanitizing wipes in all of our meeting rooms, and have additional masks available for attendees.

As we look forward to gathering together in November, we also are heartened by the recent CDC finding that nearly 92 percent of the U.S. population holding a bachelor’s degree or higher has been fully vaccinated. Please know that we will seek to do our very best to address issues relating to COVID-19 and health as we embrace this in-person format for our convention.

For those who choose not to attend, we will provide live streaming of nine programs that will be accessible for free to all members via our website, including four special Renewal and Transformation sessions, the Carroll C. Arnold

Distinguished Lecture, and the NCA Presidential Address and Awards Ceremony. Please see the [Convention page](#) on our website for more information. We encourage you to join us for these events.

--[Roseann M. Mandziuk](#), NCA First Vice President, Texas State University

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## Convention Registration: Early Bird Deadline Extended to October 1

The Early Bird Registration deadline for the NCA 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention has been extended from September 17 to October 1. Please visit the [Registration Information](#) webpage to register now. Your NCA membership must be current through December 1, 2021, to qualify you for the member rate.

Per the [Professional Standards for Convention Participants](#), all participants are required to register for the convention. We encourage all attendees to register online, to avoid waiting in lengthy lines onsite, and to register prior to the Early Bird deadline, which offers significant savings.

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## Renewal and Transformation: Discipline

Does the Communication discipline make a difference? The [Discipline](#) spotlight session will bring together nine scholars who have guided their careers toward practical, activist-oriented, and/or difference-making scholarship. They will explore what makes our discipline unique, why it has the potential both to solve problems and to create visions for optimistic futures, and to share some of their unique experiences as researchers and teachers in the discipline. Session panelists will include:

- Amy Aldridge Sanford and Darius Lana, University of Central Florida
- Godfried Asante, San Diego State University
- Marissa Doshi, Hope College
- Lisa Hanasono, Bowling Green State University
- Lydia Huerta, University of Nevada, Reno
- Marianne LeGreco, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Each panelist will provide an energizing, discussion-provoking seven-minute talk about Communication's utility. These talks will be followed by a brief response from renowned scholar Laura Ellingson, Santa Clara University, and an extended question-and-answer session with audience members. Those in attendance will also learn how they can join in on a forthcoming journal forum that continues the conversation started in this session. We hope you will join us for what promises to be the beginning of an intriguing and ongoing conversation! This session will be live streamed for those who are not able to attend the convention in person.

--[Jimmie Manning](#), Renewal and Transformation Series Co-planner, University of Nevada, Reno

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## Don't Miss the 2021 Teachers on Teaching Series

Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw's iniquitous observation "those that can, do; those who can't, teach," is an especially cynical misnomer that doesn't befit post-modern Communication educators. In fact, today our discipline boasts scholars who deliver state-of-the-art teaching, nurturing, and cultivation of today's rising scholars.

Annually, NCA hosts a Teachers on Teaching series that honors outstanding Communication professors who are inspirational teachers and dedicated mentors, and who have made a difference through their works in and out of the classroom. This year's featured event at the Seattle convention will highlight two such Communication educators in 75-minute sessions, showcasing scholars who will share their stories of classroom successes, challenges, and "teachable moments." To highlight the reciprocal relationship between teachers and students, the sessions will also feature a cohort of current and/or former students who will offer remarks attesting to their teacher's positive influence on their academic, intellectual, and professional lives.

The Teachers on Teaching series gives rising scholars and teachers at all levels an opportunity to learn firsthand the importance of the total Communication classroom experience and the scholastic mentoring intricacies. This year's honorees are [Carlos Morrison](#), Alabama State University, and [Charles Parrott](#), Kennesaw State University.

--[Elizabeth Desnoyers-Colas](#), Teachers on Teaching Program Planner, Georgia Southern University

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## Scholar to Scholar Session Highlights

Scholar to Scholar (S2S) sessions employ a format wherein the presenters create posters that combine text and graphics to display their research. Each presenter will remain in close proximity to their poster and be available to answer questions and engage in discussions about their work. Compared to the more traditional format of panel presentations, the S2S session is much more interactive, with a cohort of wandering scholars and audience members engaging in one-on-one conversations with each scholar about their research. The S2S sessions demonstrate the ways in which scholars can display their work creatively, enable a more intimate engagement between presenters and audience members, and allow scholars access to an audience that is much broader than that typically in attendance at a more traditional panel presentation. Sessions will take place throughout the convention in the Exhibit Hall. For more information, please visit [NCA Convention Central](#).

--[Patricia Davis](#), Scholar to Scholar Co-planner, Northeastern University; and [Christina Moss](#), Scholar to Scholar Co-planner, University of Memphis

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## Guest Speaker Registration

Attendees who were invited to participate in a session based on their expertise in an area outside of the discipline may receive a complimentary registration. Guest Speakers are people who would not normally attend the convention and are not and have never been members of NCA. Guest Speakers must register in advance by completing and submitting the [Guest Speaker Request Form](#) before October 11, 2021

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