



# OCA Conversation

Ohio Communication Association

August 2006 Vol. 2, No. 2

## 2006 Journal covers variety of contexts

The new edition of the Ohio Communication Journal, which will be out by the time the association convenes in October, takes the research publication in a new direction, according to Jason Wrench, Ph.D., the new journal editor. Dr. Wrench, who teaches at Ohio University's Eastern Campus in St. Clairsville, succeeded Dr. Karyl Sabbath of Otterbein College, to whom the issue is dedicated. Volume 44, dated October 2006, contains eight research articles that represent that new direction because they cover a wide variety of communication contexts, including media, intercultural, organizational, social influence, communication education and computer-mediated communication. The articles also reflect three research approaches in communications, rhetorical, qualitative and quantitative.

The following is the Table of Contents for Volume 44.

**Are We Making a Difference?: A Mixed Methods Assessment of the Impact of Intercultural Communication Instruction on American students**

Michael W. Corrigan,  
Barbara Pennington, &  
James C. McCroskey

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## Top Ohio scholars lead OCA conference plenary Oct. 7 meeting at Perrysburg's 'French Quarter'

A celebration of Ohio's contributions to communication scholarship will bring five outstanding educators to the 10:30 a.m. plenary session at the Oct. 7 Ohio Communication Association annual conference. The meeting will be at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, in the Toledo suburb of Perrysburg.

The panel will include Alberto Gonzalez of Bowling Green State University, Matthew J. Smith of Wittenburg University, Sue DeWine of Marietta College, Andrew Rancer of the University of Akron and a fifth scholar not yet confirmed. Each has specialized in a particular area of communication teaching and research, and will bring an update on new directions in the discipline.

Dr. Gonzalez is vice president for academic services at Bowling Green State University, providing leadership to the Office of Admissions, Student Financial Aid, Registration and Records, Academic Enhancement and two student mentor programs. He was professor and chair in the Department of Interpersonal Communication. He received his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University. His focus is interpersonal communication, and he has published five books in

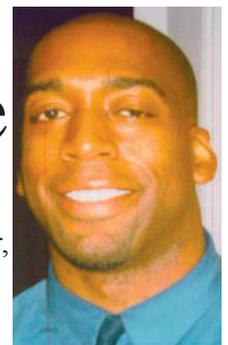
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## President's message:

# Opportunities to serve

By Jeffrey Tyus

It's the middle of summer. It's hot, humid, and sticky! However, there is only one thing on my mind... preparing for OCA 2006 on Oct. 7 at the Holiday Inn French Quarter outside Toledo. This year we saw a remarkable increase in the number of panel and paper proposals as we sifted through approximately 70 submitted proposals. We are planning an exciting time of networking with friends, both old and new, as well as a time to place the spotlight on **Scholarship Begins at Home: Ohio's Impact on the Discipline**, which is our theme this year.



[DR. TYUS](#)

See **OPPORTUNITIES**, page 6

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## OCA Profile

**Jason Wrench****-Professor and puppeteer**

*This is one of a series of profiles of people in leadership for the Ohio Communication Association. Jason Wrench is the association's journal editor and conference planner.*

*What is your job and employer and what do you teach?*

I'm an assistant professor in the School of Communication Studies at Ohio University on the Eastern Campus in St. Clairsville. I teach a wide range of courses, including communication theory, conflict, gender, intercultural, interpersonal, organizational, oral interpretation of literature, quantitative research methods, religious communication, and risk and crisis communication.

*Tell me an interesting fact about you.*

I've been a professional puppeteer for over 15 years. I've been on two national tours and one international tour when I was younger.

*What was your first job?*

My first job was as a promotional manager at a Christian radio station right out of high school.

*Tell me about your education.*

I have a Bachelor of General Studies degree with an emphasis in Family Communication from Texas Tech, a Master's degree in Communication Studies from Texas Tech, and an Ed.D. in Curriculum & Instruction and Communication Studies from West Virginia University.

*What was your dissertation topic and what is your current research focus?*

My dissertation was on risk communication, and the first part of my dissertation is being published this coming winter in Communication Research Reports.

As for what I'm currently studying, I believe in having multiple research agendas all functioning at one time, which is why my publications tend to be across the board. Generally speaking, my research tends to be in Instructional Training and Development, Health Communication, and Organizational Communication on some level. While the links to those areas may be clear (subordinate-supervisor communication), the links to other avenues may not be as direct (religious communication as instructional communication).

*What do you like about your job and your workplace?*



Executive... *from page 2***MARGARET FINUCANE****College Rep**

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# 18 research panels cover wide variety of interests

A rich offering of research panels on topics from social marketing to reality TV is on the schedule for the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Ohio Communication Association. Ohio students and teachers will gather at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, in the Toledo suburb of Perrysburg, beginning at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>.

The social marketing panel will be presented first thing in the morning by a team from Bowling Green State University, while reality TV is the subject of a paper for the last session of the day by a scholar from Kent State University. In between the topics cover media coverage of the Iraq War, challenges of online teaching, Bush campaign rhetoric, and critiques of the primetime television shows "Grey's Anatomy," "24," "The Simpsons," "Dawson's Creek" and "Family Guy."

A team from Ohio University will address challenges in the college classroom, including academic freedom, managerialism, intercultural difference, the quality of instruction and privacy. A team from Kent State University's Stark County campus and Perry and Central Catholic high schools will consider how scholarship stemmed from the collaborative efforts of a high school debate team and an argumentation class. Another Ohio University panel will consider the dynamics of communication and religion.

Gender issues will be in the spotlight of scholars from Youngstown State University for papers that cover differences between men and women on nonverbal cue interpretation, the parent's role in child gender roles and identification and the role of gender and communication in fitness and health. New directions in computer-mediated communication, including the use of cell phones, adolescent Internet use, interactive electronic health care and convergence in the newsroom and journalism classroom will be explored by graduate students from Kent State University.

Participants will turn to international perspectives in papers that cover how women in China used a mothers-to-be bulletin board, how the Chinese *People's Daily* covered SARS and Bird Flu, how the *New York Times* reported on the tsunami and the Pakistan earthquake and the inclusion/exclusion patterns of world news on the covers of *Time* magazine.

## **NEWS BRIEFS** WITTENBERG SEARCH:

Wittenberg University is conducting a search for a tenure-track position in Relational Communication beginning August 2007. A Ph.D. is required. The university is seeking a dedicated educator who will teach some combination of Introduction to Communication Studies, Interpersonal Communication, Social Scientific Methods, and Senior Seminar, as well as upper-level courses in the candidate's area of expertise. The successful candidate will have an active research program and share in service to the department and the university. Wittenberg is a national liberal arts college affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church. For more information, contact Dr. **Matthew J. Smith**, Department of Communication, Wittenberg University, P.O. Box 720, Springfield, OH 45501. Direct questions to [msmith@wittenberg.edu](mailto:msmith@wittenberg.edu).

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areas of communication and culture, as well as research papers on political discourse in Mexican American activities and popular music as a mode of communication. Dr. Gonzalez and his wife, JoBeth, reside in Bowling Green with two daughters, Monica and Veronica.

Dr. Smith is chair and associate professor in the Department of Communication at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. He earned his Ph.D. from Ohio University in 1998.

His focus is on media communication and he has co-authored a text in basic

communication and books on online communication and reality television. His monographs have appeared in *Comics and Ideology* (2001), *The Journal of Popular Culture* and other journals. He is married to Susan Sheridan Smith and together they are raising 3-year-old twins Trevor and Kent.



[SMITH](#)



[GONZALES](#)



[RANCER](#)



[DEWINE](#)

Dr. DeWine is provost of Marietta College. She earned her Ph.D. in Interpersonal and Organizational Communication and Counseling Psychology from Indiana University in 1967. Since 2000, she has been the chief academic officer responsible for all academic units and academic support units. Before that she was a professor and director of the School of Interpersonal Communication at Ohio University. Dr. DeWine and her husband Mike, a retired medical educator, have a daughter, Leigh Anne, and son, James.

Dr. Rancer, who earned his Ph.D. from Kent State University, focuses his research on argumentative and verbally aggressive communication and other personality traits across a wide variety of contexts.

He has

published monographs in several journals, including *Communication Monographs*, *Human Communication Research*, *Communication Education*, *Communication Quarterly* and *Communication Research Reports*. He has published several book chapters and is co-author of books on communication theory and argumentative and aggressive communication.

## NEWS BRIEFS: Three Ohio colleges get new teachers

VISITING INSTRUCTOR: **Amanda Karel** has joined the Department of Communication at Wittenberg University as a visiting instructor for the 2006-2007 academic year. Ms. Karel is completing her dissertation at Ohio State University and specializes in interpersonal communication, especially family communication. She will teach interpersonal comm and research methods.

NEW JCU FACULTY: **Sarah Hagedorn**, who just received her doctorate from Purdue University, has joined the Communication and Theatre Arts faculty at John Carroll University as a tenure track assistant professor teaching basic and advanced public relations. Her research interest is in PR that “breaks out of the mold.” Her dissertation was on outlaw discourse in the public relations of Ryan Air, the European low-fare airline. Dr. Hagedorn also serves as adviser to the campus chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America

(PRSSA). Earlier this year, she became engaged, and this summer she moved to Beachwood, OH. Dr. Hagedorn and both of her parents are graduates of another Jesuit school, St. Louis University.

2 JOIN OTTERBEIN: Two experienced teachers, **Janice Windborne** and **Eric Jones**, have joined the Otterbein College Department of Communication’s broadcasting program. Dr. Windborne, who has a Ph.D. in mass communications from Ohio University, comes to Otterbein from Missouri State University and will be teaching in the department’s Media Production concentration and serving as adviser to campus radio station WOBN-FM. Dr. Jones, who earned his Ph.D. from Penn State University in Mass Communications, is moving from Claflin University in South Carolina to teach in the Media Studies concentration. The Otterbein faculty also is celebrating the achievement of tenure and a promotion to associate professor by Dr. **Jeff Demas**.

## JASON WRENCH

**PROFILE**, from page 2

I love the fact that we are solely focused on undergraduate education on my campus. I don't have graduate students, so my entire teaching and mentoring focus is on undergraduate education. For this reason, I have the opportunity to mentor undergraduates in a way that's very similar to that of graduate advisor-advisee mentoring. In fact, I commonly do research with undergraduates. I've had a number of students present at regional conferences, and often their research wins awards. My first mentored project is actually getting published next spring in *Communication Quarterly*. I am very proud of that study, which was initiated and completed almost entirely by undergraduate students. I only had to come in at the end and edit and re-write some areas to make them sound more like academic writing.

***Tell me something about your personal life (such as family).***

My family is all on the other side of the Mississippi, so I only get to see them about once a year.

***What other significant achievements have you had?***

I have two books coming out in the Fall of 2007 (one with Allyn & Bacon and one with Roxbury). In 2006, I took over the reins as the editor of the *Ohio Communication Journal*. In regional leadership, I've been the chair of the Instructional Communication Interest Group and the current vice-chair for the Human Information Technology Interest Group at the Eastern Communication Association.

***What are your personal and/or academic goals now?***

My personal goals are to keep doing what I'm doing. I love teaching and conducting research, so I hope to continue producing competitive research and students.

***What goal do you have for the Ohio Communication Association?***

I would like to see a wider range of academics in the state of Ohio really use the Ohio Communication Association as an outlet for scholarship. I would also like to see more undergraduates and graduate students actively involved in the organization.

***If you had to describe yourself, what words would you use?***

Sanguine, Choleric, Neurotic, Energetic, Driven

## CSU prof wins grant, honor

**Robert Abelman**, Ph.D., professor of communication at Cleveland State University, recently celebrated two achievements. In May, he was selected to receive a 2006 National Academic Advising Association Research Support Grant to help support a study of college and university vision and mission statements and their fit with academic advising. Dr. Abelman is joined in the research project by colleagues from the CSU School of Communication, including Dr. **Gary Pettey** and graduate students **Amy Dalessandro**, **Patricie Janstova** and **Sharon Snyder-Suhy**.

For the third time, the Mensa Education and Research Foundation, has honored Dr. Abelman with its award for excellence in research. One of six people selected this year from a slate of international candidates, he was cited for his research on gifted children and television and his contributions that help define what we understand about intelligence. Over the last two decades, his work with intellectually and artistically gifted children helped develop and improve child- and family-oriented television programming for commercial and public television.

**CONTEXTS**, from page 1

**Bush's Use of the Terrorism and "Moral Values" Issues in his 2004 Presidential Campaign Rhetoric: An Instance of the Rhetorical Strategy of Polarization**

*David E. Foster*

**Do Differences in Displays of Nonverbal Immediacy and Communicator Competence between Male and Female Supervisors Effect Subordinate's Job Satisfaction**

*Paul E. Madlock*

**Repairing Relationships when Customers have Complaints: A Focus Group Study of Organization Strategies**

*Narissra M. Punyanunt-Carter, Angela Planisek, & Sara Cornette*

**Academic Advising of Undergraduates in Communication: Structural Models and Service Challenges Identified by Faculty**

*Douglas J. Swanson*

**Computer-Mediated Communication Discourse in Students' Classroom Writing**

*Yun Xia*

**Race to the Bottom: The Representation of Race in ESPN's Playmakers**

*Keith Strudler & Maxwell Schnurer*

**Cultural Interpretations of Fantasy Film: The Lord of the Rings as Christian "Equipment for Living"**

*Brent Yergensen*

**OPPORTUNITIES**, from page 1

However, there is something else we need to place in the spotlight for our conference in October: recruitment. This year will signify important change as the timeline for several positions within our Executive Committee will be expiring. Therefore, I wanted to use this forum to highlight the open positions available and the responsibilities of those positions in the hope that you might consider becoming a part of this exciting and growing organization.

**Vice-President/President-Elect (2006-08)**

- To perform other duties assigned by the President.
- To plan special state and regional activities.
- Preparing for the role of President from 2008-2010.

**Journal Business Manager (1-year renewable)**

- Solicit institutional advertising.
- Arrange for printing of manuscript.
- Work with Executive Director on budgeting of the Journal.
- Attempt to provide for the Journal to pay for itself.
- Prepare accounts for annual audits.

**Conference Coordinator/Conference Planner (2006-08)**

- Work with Executive Director on preparation for the conference.

This newsletter was edited by **Dr. Richard D. Hendrickson**, assistant professor in the Department of Communication and Theatre Arts at John Carroll University, using InDesign software in the offices of *The Carroll News*, with support from the newspaper's editor-in-chief, **Krystina McGiffin**. If you have corrections or suggestions, send e-mail to [rhendrickson@jcu.edu](mailto:rhendrickson@jcu.edu).

- Act as liaison with hosting hotel/campus complex.
- Arrange all non-program related matters of conference.
- Organize banquet and luncheon.
- Make arrangements with keynote speaker.
- Arrange printing of conference and banquet programs.
- Arrange for program equipment as needed.
- Secure future site(s).

**District Representative (5 positions open—2 year commitment)**

- 5 districts—Northwest, Northeast, Southeast, Southwest, and Central Ohio.
- Serve as a liaison between the district you represent and the Executive Committee.
- Communicate with the institutions in your district about OCA news/conference.

**1 Graduate & 1 Undergraduate Student Representative (1-year renewable)**

- Represent the views of Communication students on the Executive Committee.
- Offer suggestions to improve student participation at the conference.

The Ohio Communication Association has prospered because of the dedication and strengths of both its members and those who have served in its leadership. Please consider joining our Executive Committee. You have an opportunity to be a part of something new and exciting—seize the opportunity of serving your state organization and providing valuable professional service to your field.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please send me an email at [Jeffrey.tyus@sinclair.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.tyus@sinclair.edu) that includes a name and position being nominated for. Voting will take place at the business meeting during the conference in October. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

*Dr. Jeffrey Tyus is president of the Ohio Communication Association.*

## Kent State Stark, high schools collaborate on debate

Like many high schools in Ohio, Perry High School and Canton Central Catholic participate in competitive debate tournaments at state and national levels. Some team members are enrolled in post-secondary courses at area universities.

Dr. Margaret Wick, professor at Kent State Stark University, noticed one such “budding orator” in her introductory communication course. Sasha Swoveland, then a Perry High School junior, sparked her desire to learn more about “argumentation in action” and led her to meet with Carrie Daily, director of debate at Perry, and Kristie Cramer, director of debate at Central Catholic and assistant at Perry. That meeting led to a semester-long collaboration between Wick’s argumentation class and the high school debate teams and coaches.

The collaboration began with coaches Kramer and Daily teaching a five-week crash course on the debate and judging basics. High school teams demonstrated their craft early on and returned later so that argumentation students could judge their debates and show that they were ready for tournament judging. Once “certified” to judge, Kent State students judged at local high school tournaments.

Toward the end of the semester, high school debaters returned to campus to help argumentation students prepare for actual team debates. As the final exam for the course, college and high school students debated, sometimes as partners and sometimes as opponents. Veteran judges evaluated the debates.

Local reporters captured this capstone event. After the debates, everyone gathered to share their reactions.

Despite having resisted the idea, the college students said they had learned the most from having to do their own formal debates and described how much they had learned from the high school debaters.

Argumentation students wrote journal entries each time they judged tournaments and wrote two other papers - one about whether competitive colleges should view participation in debate as a top reason to admit students and another about whether the course had prepared them to be engaged citizens.

Most reactions were overwhelmingly positive. College students raved about high school debaters’ knowledge and hard work. Also impressive was the amount the Kent students learned in just a few short weeks; many indicated they had never worked so hard, but they acknowledged that they had gained something useful.

The college students weren’t the only ones who gained from the experience; the high school students, having spent most of their lives on the “receiving end” of the learning spectrum, developed a new appreciation for how difficult it is to teach someone to argue persuasively. Their self-confidence deepened from the college students’ view of them as “the experts.”

For debaters Justin Wilhelm and Sasha Swoveland, KSU students Julie Contrucci and Steve McCoy, coaches Kramer & Daily, and Professor Wick, this collaboration culminates at the Ohio Communication Association convention on Saturday, Oct. 7 at 1:15 p.m. in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Their presentation is entitled, “Serving, Learning, and Reflecting: How Scholarship Stemmed from the Collaborative Efforts of a High School Debate Team and an Argumentation Class.”

## John Carroll’s WJCU triples power with \$100,000 project

It was a busy summer at WJCU, 88.7 FM, as the station at John Carroll University in Cleveland put the finishing touches on a renovated transmission facility and prepared to sign on with a higher power, HD Radio-ready signal.

WJCU Director and project manager **Mark Krieger** said the final phase, replacement of the old transmitter, tower, and antenna, has been complete.

With the fulfillment of all requirements under an FCC construction permit, the station will increase its signal

from 850 Watts to 2,500 Watts.

Krieger said he hoped to have the boosted signal fully operational by the end of September.

Approximately \$100,000 of WJCU listener donations was used to purchase specialized equipment and engineering services, while the university assumed most infrastructure improvement expenses.

Krieger is a member of the faculty of the JCU Department of Communication and Theatre Arts.

## Ohio University's Angela Steele is 2006 'Distinguished Undergraduate'

Angela Steele, who graduated summa cum laude in June 2006 from Ohio University Lancaster, has been selected as the Ohio Communication Association's "Distinguished Undergraduate" for 2006.



**STEELE**

Steele brought to the OUL classroom her 14 years of progressive business management experience and a keen understanding of the practical application of personal and organizational communication theory. She also was awarded the Outstanding Senior in the OUL School of Communication.

She led a team of 20 undergraduate students during OUL's Communication Practicum course that conducted research on behalf of a community based art organization. In October 2005 she presented the poster, "POP Community Center for the Arts Research," at the Ohio Communication Association Conference. In November of that year, she participated on a panel at the National Communication Association and discussed, "The Race Car Project: Using Legos to Teach Team Concepts."

At the Eastern Communication Association Conference in 2006, Steele presented her paper, "Researching the Researcher: A Cultural Analysis." She is slated to present her paper, "Interactional Detours in Gay & Lesbian Families: A Proposed Model of Family Systems Theory," at the upcoming November 2006 National Communication Association Conference. In addition to papers and presentations, she is a frequent guest speaker at area universities on the subjects of business communications and GLBT relationships.

Steele is currently a managing partner with eCom Advisors, a national electronic bill presentment and bill payment management consulting firm.

She resides in Dublin, Ohio with her partner, Maureen. She is the mother of three children Seth, Emily and Aaron and is the grandmother of one grandchild, William.

**It's time to renew OCA membership**  
 Memberships in the Ohio Communication Association expire at the end of December. Go to the web site [www.ohiocomm.org](http://www.ohiocomm.org) to find a renewal form and send your dues today! Membership entitles you to receive the OCA Journal and two online newsletters.

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