



# ALABAMA COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

## WELCOME TO THE ACA!

The Alabama Communication Association engages current and future scholars by providing opportunities for networking with other Alabama communication scholars and professionals. ACA provides opportunities to present and publish scholarly work through our annual convention and publications.

In this newsletter, you will find updates about our virtual town hall meetings on July 25, updates from our current and former officers and founding members of the organization, as well as what to expect for next year's conference, and a call for papers.

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# VIRTUAL TOWNHALL MEETINGS

All meetings will be held on July 25th. Please RSVP by 5pm on June 23rd.

<https://forms.gle/mjuMrGeFNKF1HNGS9>

## ***Taking Care of Business with Dr. Ray Ozley (9-10am CST)***

This session will be a substitute for our normal business meeting. The Executive Director will deliver the annual business report. Participants are invited to discuss items of interest that are not addressed in our other town hall meetings. While we will not have official votes on regular business items and elections, this discussion will help set the agenda for subsequent officers' meetings and next year's official association business meeting.

## ***Post Pandemic Conferencing with Dr. George Daniels (10:30-11:30am CST)***

We are in a season where many professional organizations will need to reconsider traditional approaches to their annual meetings. As 2021 approaches, we should anticipate shifts in institutional support for conference travel, safety concerns, and emergent preferences of younger scholars for virtual environments. We will discuss how these trends may require innovative approaches to conference planning. We will explore options for proactively engaging these trends as we plan future conferences.

## ***What about Undergraduate Participation? with Dr. Sally Hardig (1-2pm CST)***

ACA's mission statement specifies that the association "engages current and future scholars by providing opportunities for networking with other Alabama communication scholars and professionals." We have benefited from a rich tradition of graduate student participation. The association can grow and be strengthened with more participation from our undergraduate colleagues. This town hall will focus on exploring how to improve our engagement with undergraduate students.

## ***Making the Case for Communication Instruction with Dr. John Saunders (2:30-3:30pm CST)***

We will discuss our ongoing efforts to represent, support, and protect effective communication instruction in the state of Alabama. ACA officers have been working on documents to represent our association's official positions related to topics such as class size, instructor credentials, and general education standards for our basic communication courses.

# LEADERSHIP NOTES

## ***From Executive Director, Dr. Ray Ozley:***

I continue to be humbled that the Alabama Communication Association (ACA) membership entrusts me with the Executive Director position. My personal motto for this role continues to be: “Borrow from the Past and Build Infrastructure for the Future.” We do not have to look far in today’s environment to see an increasing relevancy for ACA’s rich tradition of providing a safe and intimate place for students, scholars, and practitioners—at every level—to explore questions about communication’s vital role in society. We are very fortunate that our history provides such a solid foundation for our future. As we prepare to celebrate our 10th anniversary, we should note that we are at a threshold moment with many opportunities to improve our continued support of individual and collective innovation and growth. We need everyone’s input as we identify and implement relevant plans for our future. Specifically, I look forward to our upcoming Town Hall meetings where we will discuss new approaches to conference planning, advocacy for the discipline, and ways to continue improving student engagement. While these are not new discussions, we have a great opportunity this year to make the most of our threshold moment and transform discussion into action. I invite everyone to join us as we build upon our past and embrace new structures for our future!

## ***From Vice President, Dr. Sally Hardig:***

For the past 10 years, the ACA has provided a valuable space for scholars and practitioners from Alabama and surrounding states to present and discuss ongoing research and communication related projects. Probably the greatest strength of the state organization is that it provides an invitational and relatively intimate space for dialogue about ongoing scholarship, practice, and pedagogy happening locally in Communication Studies and related areas. The conference offers a warm and supportive forum for students, scholars, and practitioners to explore communication issues specific to our state and communities. I hope to see the membership grow to include more student membership and participation (both graduate and undergraduate). I would also like to expand opportunities for students to engage with each other, with faculty, and with practitioners.

## ***From Founding Member and Historian, Dr. John Saunders:***

In the ten years since the ACA's birth, it has changed in a few different ways. I really like the fact that the ACA is different from what I and the other co-founders might have thought it would be back in 2010. I like this because it means the ACA is evolving to meet the needs of Communication students, faculty, and practitioners. My hope for the future of the ACA is that its leaders and members keep track with the pulse of the discipline and continue to make the ACA useful and relevant. What would I like to see of the ACA in another 10 years? That it is not the same as what it is now. As long as it continues to evolve and progress to include and empower more people and more ideas, I think it is headed in the right direction.

## CALL FOR PAPERS: ALABAMA COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION 2021

The Alabama Communication Association invites submissions of scholarly papers, practitioner and student projects, and panel presentations for its 10th annual convention. We especially welcome original research by undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty/professional members and practitioners from Alabama and the surrounding area. We invite individuals to submit a variety of projects from the Communication Studies discipline, and also from other intersecting disciplines such as Public Relations, Mass Communication, English, etc.). This conference is committed to focusing on the following submission types.

**Papers:** Papers of scholarly work (no more than 25 pages including tables, figures, and other material, but not including references) will be competitively evaluated. Papers that exceed this page limit will not be reviewed. We will recognize the top faculty/professional paper, top graduate student paper, and top undergraduate paper.

**Great Ideas for Teaching Students (G.I.F.T.S) panel:** Instructors may submit teacher and student tested ideas for effectively teaching a wide variety of communication concepts and contexts (e.g., health communication, research methods, theory, gender, organizational communication, PR). We encourage presenters to bring handouts of the activity for the audience.

**Project Panels:** Creative panel ideas that explore applied and scholarly experiences are encouraged from multiple perspectives. Topical roundtable discussions from scholars and/or practitioners who have collaborated and applied communication practices in communities or the classroom are ideal. Individuals from a variety of institutions and backgrounds may submit ideas. We also encourage students to submit capstone course work and other class projects.

**Submissions:** Papers and panel submissions should be prepared for blind review; please remove all identifying information with only the title on the title page. Put title, name, and complete contact information in the body of the email. Panel submissions should include a brief abstract of the activity and up to two pages of supporting materials that articulate the goal, rationale, directions, and explanation of how the activity connects to/with communication concepts, theories, and/or various skills. Please limit submissions to two per individual.

**Respondents, Chairs, and Reviewers:** We invite faculty members who would like to serve as respondents and graduate students who would like to serve as chairs to contact the conference planner with their areas of interest and expertise. Faculty who are willing to serve as paper reviewers should also contact the conference planner at the email address below.

### Conference Timeline:

Submission deadline: May 14, 2021 (midnight)

Acceptance/Rejection Notices sent out early to mid June

Conference: July 31, 2021

Send all submissions and queries to the conference planner at  
[alabamacommassociation@gmail.com](mailto:alabamacommassociation@gmail.com)

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