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In This Issue: Welcome from the First Vice President | NCA Exhibit Hall | NCA Day of Service | NCA Memorial Session | NCA Welcome Reception | Graduate School Open House and Career Center | Registration Desk | Navigating Convention Locations

Welcome from the First Vice President

I am so looking forward to seeing you at the NCA Convention in Baltimore later this month. As you already probably know, this year's theme, "Communication for Survival," encourages Communication scholars and practitioners alike to think about the vital role communication plays in survival. You and many of your colleagues have submitted remarkable proposals relating to the convention theme, proposals for sessions, short courses, preconferences, film screenings, and more. Before we convene in Baltimore, I would like to note just a few events highlights at this year's convention:

- Using the card provided in your convention materials upon arrival, introduce yourself to five people you don't know (preferably newcomers to the Annual Convention), write their names on the card, and bring your card to the registration area to receive your "Mentor Pin." Final step: Wear your mentor pin proudly throughout the convention and beyond!
- [NCA Opening Session: Race Relations in Charm City: Communicating Social Justice](#), sponsored by the Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society.
- Communication for Survival Spotlight Series:
 - [Communication and Surviving in the Anthropocene: Keywords](#) focuses on what the discipline of Communication may offer to consider how we entered this era of consequential anthropogenic climate change, the barriers we face to transform our culture, and which voices might help us bring about a more just and sustainable future.
 - [Communication, Disability Justice, and Surviving Ableism](#) will examine the centrality of communication practices to the pursuit of disability justice through anti-abelist scholarship and activism.
 - [Communicating Survival in Violent Times: A Dialogue on the Intersections of Violence in Gendered, Sexual, Racial/Ethnic, and Class Contexts](#) will feature larger conversations about domestic violence, gendered violence, and racial/ethnic violence utilizing an intersectional lens.
 - [Communication and Surviving Environmental Racism](#) features the work of Destiny Watford, a Goldman Environmental Prize winner and one of *TIME Magazine's* Next Generation Leaders, and Communication scholars discussing research on related themes of voice and social movements, racial ecologies, and urban organizing.
 - [Communication and #_____ing While Black or Brown](#) addresses experiences of hashtag activism but focuses specifically on the role of communication and that of our discipline as a means of constructing narratives around #_____ing while black or brown.
- [Carroll C. Arnold Distinguished Lecture](#), sponsored by Pearson, which will be delivered by Dr. Lisa Flores, from the University of Colorado, Boulder. A powerful scholar who has helped to shape the field of Communication in significant ways, Dr. Flores' talk will focus on "Mobility, Containment, and the Racialized Spatio-Temporalities of Survival."
- [NCA Presidential Address and Awards Presentation](#), sponsored by Routledge, Taylor & Francis. NCA President Star Muir will present "The Coming Dark Age and the Future of Scholarly Associations."

In closing, I am so excited about this year's convention and hope you and your students, friends, family, and colleagues have a wonderful experience, one that energizes you, helps you think and act in new and powerful ways, and ultimately helps us all find ways communication can facilitate survival.

--[Kent A. Ono](#), NCA First Vice President, University of Utah

Visit the Exhibit Hall

Visit the Exhibit Hall to speak with publishers, educational product vendors, and other Communication-related associations. For a full list of exhibitors and booth assignments, visit the [Exhibitors](#) section on NCA Convention Central. The Exhibit Hall will be open as follows:

- Thursday, November 14: 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
 - Friday, November 15: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, November 16: 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
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NCA Day of Service

For the third consecutive year, NCA will be hosting a Day of Service, sponsored by Kendall Hunt, on Wednesday, November 13. This year, we will be offering an on-site and an off-site session.

[Part One](#) will be putting together bags of school necessities such as pencils, notebooks, and folders, for children in Baltimore. This session will take place 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. in Holiday Ballroom 1, 2nd floor of the Hilton Baltimore. The bags of supplies will be donated to the Boys & Girls Club of Metropolitan Baltimore (BGCMB). We will be assembling 500 bags of school supplies, so every little bit of time you can give to the effort will help. Please stop by for as long as you are able. Registration is not required, but we do encourage anyone interested to sign up with our [Facebook event](#). There is no registration fee for Part One of the NCA Day of Service.

[Part Two](#) will be at the Boys & Girls Club of Metropolitan Baltimore (BGCMB). BGCMB serves more than 500 young people at one of its club locations. Attendees will be helping the Club with needed projects and will be donating the assembled bags from Part One. Transportation to and from the Hilton Baltimore and lunch will be provided for Part Two attendees. There is a \$20 registration fee, but that will be refunded following the convention to all who attend the Day of Service Part Two.

You can register for Part Two of the NCA Day of Service when you register for the convention. If you have already registered for the convention and would like to add the Day of Service session to your registration, you can do so by logging into your NCA membership account, clicking the "my account" link at the top of the page, clicking the "purchases" tab, selecting the "events" section, clicking the "details" button next to your convention registration, selecting the "add session" button, and then selecting the NCA Day of Service Off-Site at the Boys & Girls Club session.

For more information, please contact the [Convention Team](#).

Celebrating and Remembering: NCA Memorial Session

Annually, our association has the sad task of saying goodbye to members who have passed away during the year. Please join us in honoring these friends and colleagues during [Celebrating and Remembering: NCA Memorial Session](#). Attendees are invited to speak from the floor, sharing memories and celebrating those individuals' service, friendship, and contributions to the Communication discipline.

We hope that the NCA Memorial Session provides a comfortable space for gathering and sharing memories of our late colleagues, who have inspired us in myriad ways. The NCA Memorial Session will take place on Saturday, November 16, at 11:00 a.m., in Holiday Ballroom 3 of the Hilton. Please join us in celebrating the lives of those we have lost in the last year.

NCA Welcome Reception

All attendees are invited to attend the [NCA Welcome Reception](#), to be held Thursday, November 14, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The Welcome Reception is a great place to meet and reconnect with friends and colleagues. This year, the NCA Welcome Reception will be hosted inside the NCA Exhibit Hall, located in the 400 Level Ballrooms, presenting a great opportunity to speak with our many exhibitors.

Thank you to [Morgan State University, Department of Global Journalism and Communication](#); [Salisbury University, Department of Communication](#); and [University of Maryland Baltimore County, Department of Media and Communication](#) for their sponsorship of the reception.

Graduate School Open House and Career Center

The complete list of schools participating in the Graduate School Open House is now available [online](#). The Graduate School Open House will be held Thursday, November 14, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the 400 Level Ballrooms of the Baltimore Convention Center.

The complete Job Fair position list is available [online](#). The Job Fair will be held as part of the NCA Career Center on Friday, November 15, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., in the 400 Level Ballrooms of the Baltimore Convention Center. Please bring your CV and/or business cards to hand out to representatives, as extended conversations may not be possible. Additional resources, such as [How to Prepare for the NCA Job Fair](#) and [how to craft your elevator pitch](#) are also available.

In addition to the Job Fair, the NCA Career Center will also feature three dynamic PrepTalks, CV Consulting, and professional headshots.

Both events are open to all registered attendees.

Registration Desk

The NCA registration area, located outside the 400 Level Ballrooms of the Baltimore Convention Center, will be open as follows:

- Wednesday, November 13: 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 14: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, November 15: 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 16: 7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

The registration area will not be open on Sunday, November 17.

Navigating the Convention Locations

Please review the following information to help you navigate your way around the convention sessions. Convention programming is scheduled in the Baltimore Convention Center and the Hilton. NCA Registration and the Exhibit Hall will be located in the Baltimore Convention Center. General sessions will be located in the Hilton.

Navigating the Hilton

The meeting space in the Hilton is separated into an east and west tower. The towers are connected within the hotel on the second floor. The hotel lobby is in the west tower; sessions that take place on the first floor are in the east tower. The Key Ballrooms are in the west tower on the second floor. The Holiday Ballrooms are in the east tower. Sessions on the third floor are in the west tower. If you are going from a session on the first floor to the third floor of the Hilton, you will need to either exit the hotel on the first floor, walk across the street to the hotel lobby and then travel up to the third floor; or go up to the second floor, cross the enclosed skywalk from the east tower to the west tower, and then travel up to the third floor. The skybridge access from the Hilton to the Baltimore Convention Center is located on the second floor near the Poe room.

Navigating the Baltimore Convention Center

The meeting rooms in the Baltimore Convention Center (BCC) are on the 300 and 400 levels. The BCC is connected to the Hilton by an enclosed skybridge. Please note that the entrance to the BCC via the skybridge is open only when there are ongoing sessions and events in the BCC. The door will be locked 30 minutes after the last session or event of the day is completed. The skybridge access from BCC is located on the 300 level.

If you have any questions about the convention properties, please contact the [Convention Team](#).

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