

Candidates for Second Vice President

One will be elected with a term beginning in January 2018

- Ronald C. Arnett, Duquesne University
- Kent A. Ono, University of Utah

Ronald C. Arnett, Duquesne University

Communication: Difference, Welcome, and Resistance

I am an active member of the National Communication Association. I have missed only one NCA convention since 1978. I have chaired several divisions, received the Robert J. Kibler Service Award, and edited the *Review of Communication* and the *Journal of Communication and Religion*. I have served at each level of our discipline. For example, I just completed my second term as executive director of the Eastern Communication Association and serve as the executive director of the Pennsylvania Communication Association. I am the author/co-author of ten books and four edited books; I have received three divisional book awards and one affiliate book award from the National Communication Association and two Everett Lee Hunt book awards from the Eastern Communication Association. I am equally committed to scholarship, teaching, and service. I was chair at Marquette University and professor, dean, and vice president at Manchester College. I am currently professor and chair at Duquesne University in the Department of Communication & Rhetorical Studies and hold the Patricia Doherty Yoder and Ronald Wolfe Endowed Chair in Communication Ethics. My scholarship, administration, and service engage my commitment to teaching, which is reflected in a three-course load each semester; I find that classroom learning enriches my scholarship and enlivens all my other commitments and obligations. As is the case for many of us, NCA is a significant shaper of my personal and professional identity; I understand NCA as an academic home, one that has welcomed and will continue to welcome diversity of persons, ideas, and approaches to communication. The power of our discipline rests in a pervasive commitment to difference.



In this historical moment of higher education, I pledge commitment to four initiatives:

1. Encouraging comprehensive conversation about corporatization in education and creative responses to this movement;
2. Uplifting the stories of communication programs representative of differing institutions that have met crisis and thrived through creative response;
3. Sponsoring conversations about teaching, scholarship, and service in an era of increasing demands and limited resources;
4. Being responsive to additional initiatives that emerge concerning our discipline in this challenging moment in higher education.

Difference and Teaching—Curricular attentiveness embraces both NCA and the local academic home, giving communication departments innovative vibrancy. Agreement on what constitutes an outstanding communication curriculum begins with the local in a manner that is nationally recognizable. A thoughtful cosmopolitan position unites local, national, and international perspectives without imposing a unitary viewpoint.

- *Contrary to professional schools, we must build communication departments and curricula on local soil responsive to national and international initiatives while rejecting a standardized curriculum.*

Difference and Scholarship—Diversity in communication scholarship includes historical methods, quantitative methods, ethnographic inquiry, standpoint perspectives of gender, race, class, and affectivity, and philosophical and pragmatic approaches. Our discipline lives with a conviction that diversity in inquiry matters. We have a heritage for *why* difference is pragmatically important in scholarship in our historic departure from English. In the doing of scholarship from multiple perspectives, we gather insight propelled by texture, difference, and pragmatic humility.

- *We must applaud conviction of perspective with a measured sense of caution, supporting research and divisions that engage what we individually might discount. At our best, NCA is a “think tank,” not a gatekeeper.*

Difference and Service—Our discipline calls us to give something of ourselves to others. We will not agree on the type or manner of service; we need only to agree on the performative importance of attending to someone other than ourselves. Service begins in the classroom and extends outside to state communication associations, to regional communication associations, to NCA, to international affiliates, and to all the places and people we can touch with the gift that this discipline bestows.

- *The service of NCA extends to all segments of our discipline, from the state to the international level, encouraging students at the high school, undergraduate, and graduate levels of education, along with faculty from diverse institutional structures. We must root for all, not just a limited constituency.*

Difference and the Future—Difference and disagreement are the reality of the human condition. The temptation to escape such struggles by closing our borders and imposing methods, procedures, definitions, and declarations about who does and does not have a right to be part of “us” requires resistance. The task of NCA is to house and celebrate our diversity. I love this discipline, with all its frayed edges and natural resistance to control. NCA is a dwelling, a house, built and being built by many.

- *Our task is to keep options available for members who are not yet at the NCA table. We must pursue directions that maintain flexibility, responsiveness, and openness, assuring future NCA members similar obligations and opportunities.*

Difference and Voice—I am an advocate of the members' governance of the association and our discipline's heritage. Our free speech tradition permits us to offer an alternative to the corporatization of higher education. Throughout contemporary higher education, administration is the mantra. I contend that we can and must offer an alternative to the prevailing direction of higher education, keeping teaching and scholarship central and administration an act of service. We are historically well positioned to lead in this effort. Our legacy honors responsiveness and resistance. In the words of Jacques Ellul, too often the impulse is to do what can be done, rather than what should be done. The “should” requires thoughtful counters to the current direction of higher education.

- *Together we can protect the voice of faculty and honor organizational and legal*

obligations. NCA is an important academic home, a place worthy of our labor, frustrations, and joys.

We are rough around the edges, resistant to control, and ever open to unexpected ideas, theories, and voices. My candidacy is not a promise for great change, but for attentiveness to our diverse heritage, inclusive of free speech. My pledge is to protect contrasting methodologies, contexts, standpoints, and positions on communication that constitute a vibrant and welcoming creative educational center.

Kent A. Ono, University of Utah

My name is Kent Ono, and I am running for the position of 2nd Vice President of NCA. If elected, not only would I greatly enjoy working with you, but also I would strive to be the Association's strongest advocate.

I want to begin this statement by telling you a little bit about myself. Then, I will give you reasons why I am running for this position. Finally, I will describe some ideas I have for improving NCA.



ABOUT MYSELF

- Member of NCA since 1987.
- Served as:
 - Co-Editor of *Critical Studies in Media Communication* and Interim Editor of *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*.
 - Chair of both the Critical and Cultural Studies Division and the Asian Pacific American Caucus.
 - Member of the Legislative Assembly.
 - Member of the Affirmative Action and Intercaucus Committee.
 - Publications Chair of the Mass Communication Division.
 - Member of the President's Task Force on Diversity.
- One of the founders of the Critical and Cultural Studies Division, as well as the journal, *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*.
- Helped plan two NCA Summer Conferences on Critical Cultural Studies.
- Received NCA's Charles H. Woolbert Research Award and NCA's Teachers on Teaching Award. As a graduate student, also won the top student paper award given by the Mass Communication Division.
- Received Distinguished Scholar awards from both the Critical and Cultural Studies Division and the Rhetorical and Communication Theory Division.
- Received PhD from the University of Iowa, MA from Miami University of Ohio, and BA from DePauw University.
- Currently Professor and Chair of Communication at the University of Utah and have been at Utah for four years. Before that, was a Professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign for 10 years and was an Associate Professor at UC Davis, where I also worked for 10 years.
- Have authored, co-authored, edited, and co-edited the following books: *Contemporary Media Culture and the Remnants of a Colonial Past* (Peter Lang, 2009); *Asian Americans and the Media* with Vincent Pham (Polity, 2009); *Shifting Borders: Rhetoric, Immigration, and California's Proposition 187* with John Sloop (Temple University Press, 2002); *Asian American Studies after Critical Mass* (ed., Blackwell, 2005); *A Companion to Asian American Studies* (ed., Blackwell, 2005); *Critical Rhetorics of Race* with Michael Lacy (ed., New York University Press, 2011); *Enterprise Zones: Critical*

Positions on Star Trek with Taylor Harrison, Sarah Projansky, and Elyce Helford (ed., Westview Press, 1996).

- Have contributed essays to numerous journals, including *Communication Monographs*, *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, *Women's Studies in Communication*, *Western Journal of Communication*, *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, *Amerasia Journal*, and *Journal of Asian American Studies*.
- Am a mixed race Japanese American who was born in Wyoming. My life partner is Sarah Projansky, and we have two amazing children.

WHY I AM RUNNING FOR 2ND VICE PRESIDENT:

- NCA has given much to me. It is through the networks and mentoring provided by members of the Association that I have thrived as a scholar and teacher. I would be honored to continue that tradition in this leadership role.
- NCA's journals and conventions have given me a space to share my scholarship and more importantly have allowed me to read and hear rich scholarship presented, from which both my students and I have benefited.
- I have the time, energy, and desire to serve NCA in a greater capacity. My term as Chair of my department will conclude this year, and thus I can devote all of my time and attention to serving the Association.
- This is a critical time for NCA, which has struggled for the last several years to produce a governance document Association members can fully embrace. I think I can help the Association move forward on this issue and, hopefully, move on to other important matters.
- I feel a sense of civic responsibility to do my share of the work to strengthen and maintain NCA.

IDEAS

- Mentorship Program
 - Create a mentorship program, one that focuses on: (1) helping new members of the Association feel welcome when they arrive; (2) helping graduate students and junior faculty members gain needed professional development experiences; (3) helping small college and K-12 members find useful resources; and (4) helping scholars prepare for transitions, promotions, and tenure.
- National and International Visibility
 - Continue efforts to build NCA's visibility, nationally and internationally. In particular, work with leaders of other professional organizations, including those in the social sciences, humanities, arts, sciences, and medical, environmental, and educational fields. Additionally, work with international organizations in an effort to create greater opportunities for members of NCA and to improve communication research and teaching inside and outside of the United States.
- Undergraduate Honors Seminar
 - Consider creating an NCA Undergraduate Honors Seminar. Study existing communication seminars and conferences devoted to undergraduate students so that, were NCA to sponsor an Undergraduate Honors Seminar, it would not duplicate what others do. Work with NCA members to learn what role NCA could

play in further enhancing undergraduate research and mentorship beyond a seminar.

- University Presses at NCA
 - Contact myriad university presses and invite them to NCA. Work with members of the Association to make the NCA Convention an even more welcoming site for university presses.

As 2nd Vice President, I would work tirelessly to improve the Association, to make it more welcoming and effective, and to build bridges within our organization, as well as between NCA and other organizations. I would be honored to serve the Association in this way. I would do this as a way of giving back to NCA, since it has given so very much to me.

Thank you!