

# **Candidates for Nominating Committee (At- Large Members)**

*Four will be elected to serve a one year term beginning in September 2017*

- Pamela Conners, Gustavus Adolphus College
- Stephen M. Croucher, University of Jyväskylä
- Kyle Heuett, Ball State University
- Blake Paxton, Saint Xavier University
- Narissra M. Punyanunt-Carter, Texas Tech University
- Keli Steuber Fazio, The College of New Jersey
- Sara Trask, Randolph-Macon College
- Stephanie L. Young, University of Southern Indiana

**Pamela Conners, Gustavus Adolphus College**

I am an assistant professor at Gustavus Adolphus College. My research in communication engages three disciplinary themes: public advocacy and deliberation, rhetoric of public policy, and civic leadership. My scholarship considers how public discourse and deliberation function in a democracy.



**Stephen M. Croucher, University of Jyväskylä**

Since I first joined the NCA more than 15 years ago, this organization has been a place for intellectual stimulation, friendships, and growth. I am thrilled to be nominated for the position of At Large Member. I am currently a professor of communication at the University of Jyväskylä in Finland. Before moving to Finland I was an Associate Professor at Marist College in New York and an Assistant Professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. I earned my doctorate from the University of Oklahoma. I have been actively involved in NCA governance for the past 15 years: reviewing for multiple divisions, serving and chairing the Douglas W. Ehninger Distinguished Rhetorical Scholar Award Committee, chairing the American Forensics Associations Publications Committee, and serving on the NCA Internationalization Task Force. I am also an active reviewer for many of the NCA journals.



Being a member of many international communication associations, I believe I can draw on these experiences to further the goals of NCA. Specifically, I believe I can add to the NCA's internationalization efforts. Having lived and worked in Europe for 5 years now, and being closely aligned with other international associations, the International Communication Association (ICA), and the World Communication Association (WCA), I feel I know the scope of communication internationally well. As the professor of intercultural communication at the University of Jyväskylä, one of my jobs has been networking our program with other universities throughout the world. I am excited to cultivate these networks for the NCA. There is extensive potential for engagement and collaboration internationally for NCA. I look forward for the chances to represent NCA in these and many others efforts.

**Kyle Heuett, Ball State University**

As someone who has enjoyed, and benefited from the service of those on NCA committees I would be happy to serve as a member of the nominating committee to work towards the continued functioning of these committees. I look forward to using and growing my network within the discipline to afford qualified and energetic individuals the opportunity to serve us moving forward.



**Blake Paxton, Saint Xavier University**

Blake Paxton is an assistant professor of communication at Saint Xavier University in Chicago, IL. He received his Ph.D. and M.A. in Communication from the University of South Florida and his B.A. in Communication from Saint Louis University. Paxton's research areas are in interpersonal, health, and intercultural communication and women's and gender studies. He has been an active member of NCA since 2010, in the ethnography, performance studies, health, and family communication divisions. Paxton also participates annually in the Central States Communication Association conference and International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry conference. He has published articles in *Qualitative Inquiry*, *Critical Studies* <-> *Cultural Methodologies*, and *Qualitative Research Journal* and is currently working on a book project that describes autoethnographic explorations of continued relationships with the deceased. Paxton has served on several educational assessment committees and his university's faculty senate. He was also his department's basic course director for the public speaking course. His pedagogy is largely influenced by a combination of the work of the late John T. Warren and Deanna L. Fassett on critical communication pedagogy, Louise DeSalvo's *Writing as a Way of Healing*, and feminist epistemologies. Paxton enjoys teaching courses in community based learning and collaborating with other instructors' in their pursuits for social justice through teaching.



**Narissra M. Punyanunt-Carter, Texas Tech University**

Narissra Maria Punyanunt-Carter (Ph.D., Kent State University, 2002) is an associate professor in the department of communication studies at Texas Tech University. Narissra teaches interpersonal communication, gender, nonverbal, and romantic relationships. Dr. Punyanunt-Carter's research interests include romantic relationships, computer-mediated communication, father-daughter communication, and mass media portrayals of romance.



It is an honor to be nominated and considered to be a candidate for NCA. I love this organization and I promise to do my very best. I

attended NCA over 20 years ago as a graduate student. I love everything about NCA. I am currently a life-time member and I promise to do my very best to help this organization grow and excel. I am an active member of the Mass Communication Division, Interpersonal Division, and Instructional Development Division. I am currently serving as chair of the Mass Communication Division. I am excited about the possibility of serving in this position!

I have served as a permanent or ad-hoc reviewer for ten different peer-reviewed journals. I have been an advisor for over 5 different Texas Tech University student organizations and one national honor society. I was awarded Advisor of the Year 2013 by the (NSCS) National Society of Collegiate Scholars (honor society). I have published 9 book chapters, 45 journal articles, and 1 book review, with 1 book. Recently, she was awarded by the Honors College as the “Faculty of the Year”! Last year, I was awarded NCA’s Thomas L. Veenendall Lambda Pi Eta Advisor of the Year Award.

**Keli Steuber Fazio, The College of New Jersey**

Keli Steuber Fazio is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies and an affiliated faculty member of Public Health at The College of New Jersey. Her research and teaching specializes in interpersonal and family communication, with her most recent work focusing on disclosure decisions and social support related to infertility and postpartum depression. In addition to her scholarship, Keli’s community-engaged work helps friends and family provide effective support to their loved ones during relational and health stressors. She has reviewed papers for multiple divisions within NCA, served as a reviewer for various research awards, and is currently serving as secretary for ICA’s Interpersonal Communication Division. Keli’s other relevant service experience includes chairing The College of New Jersey’s School of Communication and the Arts Curriculum Committee, chairing and membership on various search committees, chairing her department’s Promotion and Reappointment Committee, and actively participating on two Public Health Task Forces at her college.



**Sara Trask, Randolph-Macon College**

It is my hope to be elected as one of the four At-Large Members to serve a one-year term on the Nominating Committee. There are two reasons I am interested and qualified to serve in this particular position.

First, as a member of both the Interpersonal and Family Divisions at NCA and a member of the Interpersonal Interest Group at ECA, I have several avenues to recruit potential nominees to slate the election for Second Vice President, the At-Large Members of the Legislative Assembly, and the At-Large Members of the Committee on Committees. In addition, I am also comfortable recruiting outside of



my divisions and interest group at both our national and regional conventions by utilizing my current connections across the discipline.

Second, I believe it is time to extend my service within the Association. In previous years, the extent of my service only reached my divisions by serving as a paper reader and panel chair. Now is a good time in my career to extend my service to the Association, and I believe the Nominating Committee would be a good start.

**Stephanie L. Young, University of Southern Indiana**

Stephanie L. Young is an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies at the University of Southern Indiana. She received her Ph.D. from Ohio University in 2009. She has been an active member of NCA for the past twelve years. She has served the discipline regionally and nationally. She is a member of the Rhetorical Society of America (RSA), Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA), Central States Communication Association (CSCA), and the Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender (OSCLG). She has chaired a number of committees including CSCA's Cooper Award Committee and OSCLG's Outstanding Thesis Awards Committee. She also has served as chair and program planner for CSCA's Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Division and CSCA's Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity caucus. She has reviewed numerous manuscripts for scholarly journals including *Communication Studies* and *Communication Teacher* as well as published in *The Journal of International and Intercultural Communication* and *Women's Studies in Communication*.



Stephanie L. Young, with her leadership experience and long-term commitment to NCA, is excited for the opportunity to serve on NCA's Nominating Committee. To be on the Nominating Committee means collaborating and identifying diverse and qualified members to lead NCA in maintaining its mission that includes fostering collaboration, public engagement, and ultimately "to improve the quality of human life and relationships." She believes that the position plays a vital role in the growth, development, and success of NCA.