

T e n n e s s e e COMMUNICATOR

A Newsletter Produced By The Tennessee Communication Association

May 2008

Volume 15, Issue 1

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Send us your news for the *Tennessee Communicator*, TCA's bi-annual newsletter.

Please send submissions and photos to:

Simone Notter Wilson
The University of Memphis
College of Communication & Fine Arts
232 CFA Building
Memphis, TN 38152

E-mail: snotter@memphis.edu

For more information about the Association please contact Judi Truitt

E-mail: judi.truitt@volstate.edu

TCA

(615) 452-8600 Ext. 3781
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Two all too Sudden Farewells

TCA Remembers David Walker and Bob McDowell

Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) and the College of Liberal Arts were saddened by the sudden death of **David E. Walker**, professor in the Department of Speech and Theatre for nearly 43 years. Walker passed away on March 13, 2008, following a heart attack at his Franklin home.

Walker joined the department in 1965 and earned professor status in 1974. He designed and taught courses in political communication, religious communication, history and criticism of rhetorical theory, communication in the interview, great American speakers, senior seminars in speech communication, parliamentary procedure and directing forensics, in addition to teaching several other courses.

The University of Memphis and the College of Communication and Fine Arts were saddened by the sudden death of **Robert "Bob" McDowell** on March 2, 2008. McDowell, a local broadcast icon, general manager of the University of Memphis' radio station (WUMR) for the past 25 years, associate professor and associate chair of the Department of Communication, passed away after a short battle with cancer.

Dr. Bob, as he was lovingly known to his students and the campus community, was a great influence in every aspect of the broadcast industry, not only in Memphis and the Mid-South, but also nationally. Besides his long career at the U of M, McDowell enjoyed a distinguished career in Memphis broadcasting. He founded the Memphis Area Radio Stations Association, was program

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His administrative experience included positions as director of forensics, director of the Division of Speech Communication, president of the Faculty Senate, and acting chair of the department in summer 1984 and again in fall 1990.

David Walker's career spanned more than 30 years at MTSU, and the lives of those whom he touched—students and colleagues—have been enriched and changed," said Sidney A. McPhee, MTSU president. "David was a servant to his peers who welcomed his support as they were going through the arduous tenure and promotion process. He was a solid shoulder to lean on for colleagues who served in interim-chair positions and gained immeasurably from his wise counsel and guidance."

John McDaniel, dean of the MTSU College of Liberal Arts agrees: "David brought with him a clarity of expression and a highly principled set of expectations for himself and his students—and his colleagues, as well." "Serious, but with a twinkle in his eye, David brought energy, consistency, and compassion to his life's work. I miss him. So too do so many who have known him for the gentle gentleman that he was."

Walker graduated summa cum laude from David Lipscomb University in 1960 with a bachelor's degree in speech communication and a minor in history. He earned his master's in 1961 and his doctorate in 1969, both from the University of Florida.

Walker leaves his wife, Sandra Barnes Walker; son and daughter-in-law David Ellis and Lavinia Walker of Geneva, Switzerland; daughters and sons-in-law Suzy and Derk Frizzell of Houston, Texas, Cindy and Jeff Key of Murfreesboro; and Michelle and Mike Clark of Murfreesboro.

director for WDIA Radio and general manager of WRVR.

McDowell was also the pronouncer for the Tennessee Regional Spelling Bee for the past 18 years. Many Memphians will recognize him as the longtime voice of CrimeStoppers, as well as the voice talent for hundreds of commercials and public service announcements, such as Keep Tennessee Beautiful.

McDowell was proud to be an educator and a mentor to his broadcast students, many of whom have gone on to become the local broadcast personalities that we hear and see on the Memphis airwaves every day. For thousands of U of M students, graduation was complete only after being called to the stage by the voice of Dr. Bob during commencement ceremonies.

He was the backbone of WUMR, "The Jazz Lover," a name he created for the University's educational jazz formatted radio station where he nurtured a new generation of professionals. His experience with and knowledge of the FCC made him an irreplaceable source of stability within the local media industry, and made WUMR a participant in areas of Memphis media usually left to commercial enterprises.

McDowell leaves his wife of 41 years, Marianne Thompson McDowell; two daughters, Kelli McDowell and Cindi McDowell; two granddaughters, Morgan Elyse McDowell and Avery Kate McDowell, all of Memphis; and a sister-in-law, Suzanne (Bob) Galliher, of Dallas, Texas.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope the current issue of the *Tennessee Communicator* finds everyone enjoying a relaxing and productive summer. I also hope that you are planning on attending what will be an excellent joint meeting with the Tennessee Communication Association and the Kentucky Communication Association at beautiful Montgomery Bell State Park near Nashville on September 12 and 13, 2008.

What better time to focus on “Building Communities: A Communication Perspective” than with a joint meeting of two vibrant communication organizations. There will be myriad opportunities for interaction with colleagues from both associations panels, poster sessions, meals, receptions, as well as golf, nature walks, and other park programs.

We should all be proud to be a part of an organization that comes together

to celebrate our accomplishments and the communication discipline. We should also be proud that we are an organization that comes together in the face of tragedy. We recently lost our good friend—and heart of this association—Dorotha Norton. And as many of you know, we suffered another loss with the passing of long time member and former TCA president David Walker of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in March. David was a member of our faculty for more than 40 years.

More important to me, David was my M advisor while I was an undergraduate student many years ago. I hope that we can use our time together to celebrate David’s many accomplishments over a long career and his contributions to TCA. I know we will all miss him.

Greg Simerly, President

Lots to Do at Montgomery Bell State Park

Hello to my TCA and KCA colleagues! I can’t believe that we are already wrapping up the Spring 2008 semester! I’m just not ready; it has passed too fast. Nevertheless, I look forward to a relaxing summer, and the trip that Rob and I are taking to Japan and China. Before you leave for your summer plans, be sure to send in your 2008 TCA award nominations to Ralph Hillman by August 1, 2008.

I look forward to seeing all of you at beautiful Montgomery Bell State Park (MBSP) in September. The Park is about three miles from my house, so I feel as if I am expecting company! Don’t forget that the reservation deadline for rooms at the Park is August 1, 2008, and the reservation deadline for the conference is August 29, 2008. Debra and Carl have done a wonderful

job of planning this special joint convention. Thanks to both of you for your hard work.

At our joint planning meeting last summer we discussed that some of you might want to go to MBSP on Thursday or stay over until Sunday. I know your families would enjoy it. So now I ask: Would anyone be interested in golf, a visit to the chapel at Montgomery Bell (where the Cumberland Presbyterian Church began), or a trip to Dickson to shop at the antique district and visit the famous Miss Mabel’s Tea Room? Would you prefer Friday or Sunday? Or maybe you have other requests.

Let me know as soon as possible and I will try to make arrangements.

Judi Truitt, Executive Director
judi.truitt@volstate.edu



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DEADLINES

AUGUST 1, 2008

TCA awards nominations are due for:

Outstanding Communication Educator
of the Year

Outstanding Communicator of the Year

Dorothy Norton Spirit of Service Award

Please send your nomination letters to
Ralph Hillman at rhillman@mtsu.edu

AUGUST 1, 2008

Deadline for room reservations at Mont-
gomery Bell State Park. To make your
reservation call 1-800-250-8613

AUGUST 29, 2008

Deadline to register for 2008 joint confer-
ence in September. To register fill out the
enclosed registration form or contact
Judi Truitt at judi.truitt@volstate.edu



Reservation and Registration Deadlines for Joint Conference in September Are Firm

By Debra Jones

The official theme for this year's Joint TCA/KCA Conference on September 12 and 13, 2008 is "Building Community: A Communication Perspective." However an appropriate subtitle to the theme might be—*Just because we've always done it this way, doesn't mean that we can do it that way this year.* As we have all probably experienced in the past, building a community involves compromise and stepping out of our own comfort zone, but the benefits are well worth the extra trouble. I believe that the same will be true for this year's joint conference.

Please keep an eye out for important e-mails and updates to the Web site during the summer. But please keep in mind that the deadlines for this year's conference are early, and they are firm. We have been fairly casual about deadlines in the past. Some of us walked in at the last moment and yet, thanks to the efforts of people like Judi Truitt and Greg Simerly, an extra set of meals magically appeared. That will not work this year! The setting is beautiful, the food is delicious (we tested it!), but the good folks at Montgomery Bell State Park must have firm numbers ahead of time.

August 1, rooms will be made available to the public, and there are no other accommodations just around the corner from the Park. You can make your room reservation by calling the park at 1-800-250-8613.

The registration deadline for conference is August 29, 2008. You must register for the conference by August 29 so that we will be able to provide the caterers with a head count for meals. The registration form is included in this newsletter and will also be available on the Web site.

We are still working on the final conference schedule, but you will note a few differences. The keynote speaker who represents both organizations will be featured prior to Friday night's dinner, which will be a cookout. Michael Osborn and Robert Bostrom have agreed to share the spotlight during that time. After the cookout, we will be entertained by a bluegrass band followed by the traditional social gatherings. Both TCA and KCA will hold separate business meetings first thing Saturday morning so that at noon we will be able to come together for a joint awards ceremony and hearty luncheon to wind up the conference.

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The deadline for making room reservations is August 1, 2008. After

U of M Communication Student Is Part of Minority International Research Training in Uganda

Tesfa Alexander, a first year graduate student at the Department of Communication at the University of Memphis is one of six students who have been accepted to the Minority Health and Health Disparities International Research Training (MHIRT) program in Uganda. Alexander will spend the summer in Uganda and participate in innovative epidemiological research activities in Mbarara, a district in southwestern Uganda, and potentially in other locations within the country.

The program, sponsored by the Mid-South Coalition for Minority International Research and funded by the National Institutes of Health also selects several students every year for research activities in Brazil.

Alexander's personal interest in socio-economic factors and related behaviors, combined with his professional background in global health care public relations, are his motivation to explore cross-cultural communication strategies that reduce ethnic-related health disparities. In his studies at the University of Memphis, Alexander focuses on the roles that cultural beliefs, self-identity, and socioeconomic development play in the increased incidences of

childhood obesity and the recent epidemic of type 2 diabetes among minority children in the U.S.

"Learning about culturally based customs, perceptions and values is crucial for the success of cross-cultural health communication strategies," Alexander says. "Spending the summer with a research team in Uganda is a great opportunity for me, not just to immerse myself in international community-based training that will hopefully benefit the people of Uganda, but also to gain a grassroots understanding of global health strategies that I can then apply to my current focus—reducing the health disparities among minority adolescents at risk for developing type 2 diabetes."



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2008/09 TCA Membership Form

Name: _____

Institution Represented: _____

Full-time Faculty ☐ Adjunct Faculty ☐ Retired Faculty ☐ Student ☐ Independent ☐

Preferred Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

(The TCA newsletter will be send electronically!)

Phone: (business) _____ (home) _____

Membership:

Student \$5 ☐

Regular \$25 ☐

Adjunct Faculty \$10 ☐

Sustaining \$65 with free conference registration ☐

(Check for details on fees for 2008 joint conference)

Emeritus, no fee ☐

Must be retired from active service and have been a regular member for 15 continuous years.

The TCA membership year runs from fall conference to fall conference!

2008 Conference Registration

- ☐ Yes, I will attend the 2008 TCA/KCA conference, and the \$50 conference fee for this year is enclosed.
- ☐ Yes, I will attend the 2008 TCA/KCA conference. I am a student presenter and don't have to pay a conference fee.
- ☐ Yes, I will attend the Friday evening dinner.
- ☐ Yes, I will attend the Saturday breakfast business meeting.
- ☐ Yes, I will attend the Saturday TCA/KCA awards luncheon.

Note: The registartion fee will not be reduced if you don't attend meal events.

Please make checks payable to: Tennessee Communication Association

Mail check and completed form(s) to:

Judi Truitt, TCA Executive Director
Volunteer State Community College
123 Ramer Administration Bldg.
1480 Nashville Pike
Gallatin, TN 37066

For more information contact:
(615) 452-8600 Ext. 3781
or e-mail judi.truitt@volstate.edu

