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NCA Opening Session: Race Relations in Charm City: Communicating Social Justice

The [NCA Opening Session: Race Relations in Charm City: Communicating Social Justice](#) panelists will discuss race relations both in Baltimore and throughout the nation, and examine ways in which social justice work seeks to improve issues associated with race, including poverty, violence, wealth attainment, and food access. This important discussion will be held Thursday, November 14, 3:30 - 4:45 p.m. in Holiday Ballroom 6 in the Hilton.

This interdisciplinary panel includes scholars and Baltimore community leaders whose work is dedicated to a greater understanding of the issues of race, injustice, and social justice, with Kimberly R. Moffitt, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, serving as moderator and Dottye Burt-Markowitz, Baltimore Racial Justice Action; J. David Cisneros, University of Illinois; Rajani Gudlavalleti, Baltimore Harm Reduction Coalition; Mark C. Hopson, George Mason University; Karsonya Wise-Whitehead, Loyola University Maryland; and Janelle Wong, University of Maryland, serving as panelists.

Communication for Survival Spotlight Series: Communication and Surviving in the Anthropocene: Keywords

We face one of the greatest challenges of human history: How can we survive, adapt, and potentially thrive in the Anthropocene, an era of consequential anthropogenic climate change? While it is clear that we need climate scientists and politicians who are willing to assess climate risks and solutions, "[Communication and Surviving in the Anthropocene: Keywords](#)" focuses on what the discipline of Communication may offer to consider how we entered this era, the barriers we face to transform our culture, and which voices might help us bring about a more just and sustainable future.

Leading experts will prompt discussion by exploring keywords of our times: Anthropocene, Islands, Borders, and Denial. Perspectives from research in science communication, environmental justice, and organizational communication will be highlighted, as will insights from the engaged work these scholars are doing to intervene in the Anthropocene. Chaired by Constance Gordon, San Francisco State University, speakers include: George Cheney, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs; Sally Planalp, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs; Carlos A. Tarin, University of Texas, El Paso; Catalina M. de Onís, Willamette University; Emma Frances Bloomfield, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and Philip Tschirhart, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Additional interactive exhibits will be organized by graduate students.

--[Phaedra Pezzullo](#), Communication for Survival Spotlight Series Co-planner, University of Colorado, Boulder

Great Ideas for Teaching Students (G.I.F.T.S): Innovative Ideas to Engage Students

We need to equip our students with the communication techniques and competencies they need to stay competitive and become successful agents of change in these turbulent times. Great Ideas for Teaching Students (G.I.F.T.S) offers four sessions this year, all featuring innovative and creative ideas to engage students in deep learning of communication concepts, skills, and theories.

Unlike traditional convention sessions, G.I.F.T.S sessions are like speed dating: a round-table format that sparks conversations among colleagues. Each G.I.F.T.S session provides a list of teaching ideas with table numbers. Participants will learn the teaching strategy from the presenter at the table, ask questions, and share ideas and experiences. Every 7 minutes, the participants will move to another topic table of their interest, which will allow them to gain 7-8 concrete teaching ideas.

This year, our G.I.F.T.S sessions broach a wide range of teaching ideas, from public speaking to strategic communication, PR, and global communication competencies. Whether we work at a teaching institution or an R-1 university, all of us must be able to help students explore and benefit from Communication as a vibrant field of inquiry. Join us to learn new ways of engaging students! For more information, please visit [NCA Convention Central](#).

--[Mariko Izumi](#), Great Ideas for Teaching Students Program Planner, Columbus State University

Department Chairs and Doctoral Chairs/Graduate Directors Forums

Each year, NCA sponsors sessions for Department Chairs and Doctoral Chairs/Graduate Directors to discuss important topics and current issues that face college and university administrators.

The [NCA Department Chairs Forum](#) is designed to assist Department Chairs with topics specific to departmental leadership. In collaboration with the Association of Communication Administration, this year's forum will address topics including identifying a departmental vision and generating faculty buy-in, and issues associated with recruiting, hiring, and evaluating faculty.

The [NCA Doctoral Chairs and Graduate Directors Forum](#) will discuss results of the inaugural NCA Doctoral Education Committee survey, in which Program Directors were asked: What are the top three issues facing your doctoral program? What three pieces of information would you like to know about Communication doctoral programs nationwide? The ensuing discussion will generate the questions for the 2020 DEC survey.

Enhance Your Convention Experience with a Short Course or Preconference

Preconferences take place on Wednesday, November 13. These half-day or full-day sessions present an opportunity for scholars to enjoy a deep dive and are a fantastic means of networking with like-minded scholars and an easy way to efficiently explore unfamiliar topics. For more information, including registration requirements, please visit the [Preconferences webpage](#).

Short Courses provide convention attendees with a unique, pedagogically focused experience. These extended sessions are educational in nature and offer participants an opportunity to explore or reexamine a teaching or research area. Courses are led by experienced practitioners, including some leading researchers and textbook authors. For more information, please visit [NCA Convention Central](#).

Preconferences are free for all registered attendees this year. Short Courses are \$10 for NCA student members and \$20 for all other attendees and take place Thursday-Saturday of the convention. Short Course and Preconference registrations can be included in your convention registration. If you have already registered for the convention, you can still register online for a Preconference or a Short Course by logging into the [NCA website](#), 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 short course or preconference you wish to add to your registration. If you are a convention volunteer and wish to add a short course or preconference, please contact the [Convention Team](#).

NCA Legacy Scholarship

The National Communication Association invites students to apply and compete for the NCA Legacy Scholarship award. The NCA Legacy Scholarship seeks to broaden the Communication discipline's relevance to various publics by providing a \$1,000 scholarship to a local college student pursuing a degree in Communication, Journalism, or related program within the host city/region where the NCA Annual Convention is being held. A \$250 award will go to the runner up. The scholarship award will be competitively awarded each year to a student based on both an essay related to communication and civic responsibility, and a convention theme-related speech presented during the NCA Annual Convention. Learn more about the [eligibility requirements and nomination procedures here](#).

Hotel Reservation Deadline

The deadline to book a hotel room for the 105th Annual Convention at the group rate is Monday, October 14, 2019. This year, NCA is working with the housing bureau associated with Visit Baltimore and reservations cannot be made by calling the hotel directly. For more information, including the reservation phone number and reservation link, visit the [Hotel and Travel Information](#) webpage. Convention attendees who require an accessible hotel room, please visit the [Convention Accessibility](#) webpage for additional information.

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