

**American Society for the History of Rhetoric (ASHR) Business Meeting Minutes**  
NCA 2021, November 20, 2021

Minutes to be approved at NCA 2022

**1. Welcome. Called to Order at 11:02 AM** (Vice President Dr. Alessandra Von Burg)

The documents for today's meeting can be found at <https://ashr.org/nca-2021/>  
Alessandra is running the meeting in Michele's absence. She is not trying to usurp power 45 minutes early.

**2. Approval of the 2020 Business Meeting Minutes.**

They can be found at <https://ashr.org/gatherings/ashr-at-nca/nca-2020/>  
No corrections forwarded.  
Johnson moves to approve. Katie Bruner seconded.  
Minutes approved by acclamation

**3. The Current Steering Committee.**

*Officers (2019-2021, with 2 exceptions)*

- President: Dr. Michele Kennerly (Penn State University)
- Vice President: Dr. Alessandra Von Burg (Wake Forest University) [present]
- Immediate Past President: Dr. Scott Stroud (University of Texas, Austin)
- Treasurer: Dr. Bjørn Stillion Southard (University of Georgia) [2020-2022]
- Membership Coordinator: Dr. Allison Prash (University of Wisconsin, Madison)
- Website Coordinator: Dr. Cory Geraths (Eureka College) [2020-2022]
- Social Media Coordinator: Dr. Jordan Loveridge (Mount St. Mary's University)
- *JHR* Editor: Dr. Ned O'Gorman (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

*At-Large Members (2019-2021)*

- Dr. Martin Camper (Loyola University, Maryland)
- Dr. Kundai Chirindo (Lewis & Clark College) [present]
- Dr. Jamie Downing (Georgia College) [present]
- Dr. Christa Olson (University of Wisconsin, Madison)
- Dr. Carly Woods (University of Maryland)

*Advisory Committee*

- Dr. Michele Kennerly [2019-2023]
- Dr. Scott Stroud [2017-2021]
- Dr. Richard Enos (Texas Christian University, emeritus) [2018-2022]
- Dr. Steve Mailloux (Loyola Marymount University) [2018-2022]
- fifth member pending

#### 4. The Steering Committee as of the End of This Meeting.

In early November, we ran a nomination process that yielded the number and nature of nominations needed to fill the open positions.

- President: Dr. Alessandra Von Burg (Wake Forest University)
- Vice President: Dr. Jordan Loveridge (Mount St. Mary's University)
- Immediate Past President: Dr. Michele Kennerly (Penn State University)
- Treasurer: Dr. Bjørn Stillion Southard (University of Georgia)
- Membership Coordinator: Dr. Allison Prash (University of Wisconsin, Madison)
- Website Coordinator: Dr. Corey Paul Geraths (Wabash College)
- Social Media Coordinator: Dr. Bess Myers (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)
- JHR Editor: Dr. Ned O'Gorman (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

At large members (2021-2023)

- Dr. Martin Camper (Loyola University, Maryland)
- Dr. Kundai Chirindo (Lewis & Clark College)
- Dr. Carolyn Commer (Virginia Tech)
- Dr. Ben Crosby (Brigham Young University)
- Dr. Jamie Downing (Georgia College)

Advisory Committee

- Dr. Alessandra Von Burg [2021-2025, chair from 2021-2023]
- Dr. Michele Kennerly [2019-2023]
- Dr. Richard Enos (Texas Christian University, emeritus) [2018-2022]
- Dr. Steve Mailloux (Loyola Marymount University) [2018-2022]
- fifth member pending

Note: Marissa Croft (ABD, Northwestern) will do visual design for us, as a freelancer.

Thank you to Dr. Christa Olson and Dr. Carly Woods who have each served multiple terms in ASHR leadership positions.

#### 5. November 2020-November 2021;(Or, A Journal of Another Plague Year):

**November 2020:** We immediately went to work to create the Outstanding Mentor Award, a significant symbol of ASHR's commitment to fostering and recognizing inclusive, even transformative, excellence. Will present inaugural award later in the meeting

**December 2020:** ASHR signed a contract to move its journal, the *Journal for the History of Rhetoric*, to Penn State University Press on January 1, 2022. The move made financial sense.

**March 2021:** Dr. Anne Kretsinger-Harries, 2021 ASHR unit planner, began to organize NCA submissions. ASHR received:

- 20 paper submissions (17 accepted; 3 declined)

- 3 panel submissions (1 accepted; 2 declined)
- 1 panel submission transferred from the Environmental Communication Division (accepted by ASHR; co-sponsored by the ECD)
- FINAL PROGRAM: 7 slots (5 paper panels, 1 book panel, 1 business meeting)

Many, many thanks to Dr. Kretsinger-Harries for her prolonged attention and care.

**Fall 2021:** The Planning Committee for the ASHR Symposium continued to advance its plans. (More below in the VP's report.)

**November 2021:** NCA 2022 – Dr. Jamie Downing will plan ASHR's panels for NCA 2022, Dr. Carly Woods will organize a New Books panel.

**November/Dec 2021:** ASHR debuts a new look for its website and socials media platforms, inspired by quotations from historical rhetoric texts. We will be using this new design to stimulate engagement on our social media platforms

## 6. Officer Reports.

### A. Treasurer (Stillion Southard)

Treasurer's Report  
American Society for the History of Rhetoric  
2021 NCA Business Meeting

#### I. Overview

ASHR's financial situation remains sound for the size and scope of the organization.

ASHR's balance decreased slightly from last year.

#### II. Taxes and Incorporation

A. ASHR continues to enjoy the benefits of a 501 (3) (c) tax status.

B. ASHR is current on its 990-N form filing and will file again in February of 2021.

C. Corporation filing with GA Sec. of State will occur February 2022; will likely cost \$30.

D. A new EIN number was applied for and granted, allowing us to be in compliance with PayPal.

#### III. Summary of Finances

A. Available Balance as of 1 November 2021: \$30,302.19

Balance as of 14 November 2020: \$31,010.99

B. Non-Conference Total Credits: \$3,193.22

1. Membership funds collected: \$2,948.43

Previous period (13 Nov 2019 to 14 Nov 2020): \$4487.81

2. Taylor & Francis: \$244.79

Previous period: \$169.93

C. Non-Conference Total Expenses: \$3341.41

1. Non-Symposium Expenses were:

a. Taylor and Francis: \$2804

Previous period \$3786

b. 2020 ASHR Award Plaques (NCA): \$131

c. Corporation fees: \$50

\$30 regular fee; \$20 to amend in order to address phishing

d. Webhosting/website plugins: \$123.87

- e. Membership system (MemberPress): \$116.10
  - f. *Colored Conventions* books for NCA panel: \$116.44
  - 2. Previous period expenses: \$5208.76
- D. Symposium
- 1. \$3250 collected in 2019-20 and on reserve for next Symposium
  - 2. No symposium-related expenses in 2021

Respectfully submitted,  
Bjørn Stillion Southard

## **B. Membership Coordinator (Prasch)**

### **ASHR Membership Report NCA 2021**

Prepared by Allison Prasch ([aprasch@wisc.edu](mailto:aprasch@wisc.edu)), Membership Officer

Since November 2020, ASHR membership decreased from 172 members to 148 members, or a net loss of 24 members. Some of this decrease is to be expected, as we normally see a fluctuation of members in “off” symposium years. Although we did not host the 2020 Symposium as planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the society and ASHR members sponsored 27 year-long memberships to non-tenure-track rhetoricians (graduate students, post-docs, teaching faculty, lecturers, adjuncts, independent scholars) in the spring and summer of 2020. As the numbers below indicate, a good portion of our member decrease between November 2020 and November 2021 happened with our Graduate Student and Instructor/Lecturer member categories—the same categories which benefited from a member influx last summer. Thus, I believe one main reason for this membership decrease is that those who received the memberships associated with the micro-grant initiative did not renew their membership in 2021. Still, I remain optimistic about ASHR’s membership roster and the strength of our association. We have a diverse and robust slate of early career scholars who will present their research at the 2022 ASHR Symposium in May just prior to the Rhetoric Society of America biennial conference. The symposium planning committee envisions this event as an opportunity to reconvene after a long hiatus, and we are excited to use this opportunity to recruit and retain our members. We also plan to resume our annual reception at NCA next November in New Orleans.

If reelected as Membership Coordinator, I hope to implement several of the 2020-2021 membership initiatives postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These include a targeted membership drive to encourage longtime members to renew their expired memberships and a matching gift campaign that would allow senior scholars to sponsor memberships for early career scholars. I also plan to work with our Social Media Coordinator to publicize the upcoming symposium and highlight the ongoing accomplishments of our members.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Prasch

**Membership numbers (by rate category) as of November 9, 2021:**

Graduate Student: 24 (-13 from 2020)  
Instructor/Lecturer: 11 (-8)  
Assistant: 20 (-2)  
Associate: 13 (+2)  
Full: 6 (no change)  
Emeritus/emerita: 5 (-4)  
Sustaining: 5 (no change)  
Five Year: 30 (+1)  
Lifetime: 34 (no change)

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**TOTAL: 148**

**Membership Totals in Prior Years**

November 2020: 172  
November 2019: 138  
November 2018\*: 165  
November 2017: 124  
November 2016\*: 141  
November 2015: 126  
November 2014\*: 146  
November 2013: 117  
November 2012\*: 120  
November 2011: 115

\*ASHR Symposium year

**C. Social Media Coordinator (Loveridge)**

ASHR Social Media Report, NCA 2021

Prepared by Dr. Jordan Loveridge (Assistant Professor, Mount St. Mary's University)

**Introduction:**

Social media engagement is an important element of ASHR's growth and success as an organization. Past years have seen steady and consistent growth in ASHR membership and in relevant metrics of ASHR's online presence. However, in 2020, ASHR's web presence hit significant plateaus in several important engagement. In 2021, ASHR has seen dramatic dips in site visits an engagement.

The drop in audience engagement can be easily attributed to a few factors:

Previous years (2019/20) saw the creation of both new avenues for online engagement (e.g. the creation of the ASHR Twitter) and the publication of a significant original content (interviews, teaching modules). In 2021, less content has been published and no new media outlets have launched.

COVID-19 has disrupted scholarly research, conference attendance, etc. ASHR officers, volunteers, and members who might visit the ASHR website/social media outlets are impacted by the pandemic.

As Social Media Coordinator, I have invested considerably less time, effort, and energy into creating new content and driving visitors to the ASHR website. I have not developed any new social media initiatives, and my posting has been far less regular. Social media upkeep requires frequent and thoughtful posting and monitoring of accounts and other initiatives. As a new parent in the pandemic, this has not been possible for me. The numbers below will communicate

the clear impact of a social media officer who is not able to regularly engage with the organization’s social media channels.

Follower Count Changes:

Academic Year	Twitter	Facebook
2019-2020	1,910	1,883
2020-2021	2,337	1,983

Website Views by Month and Year:

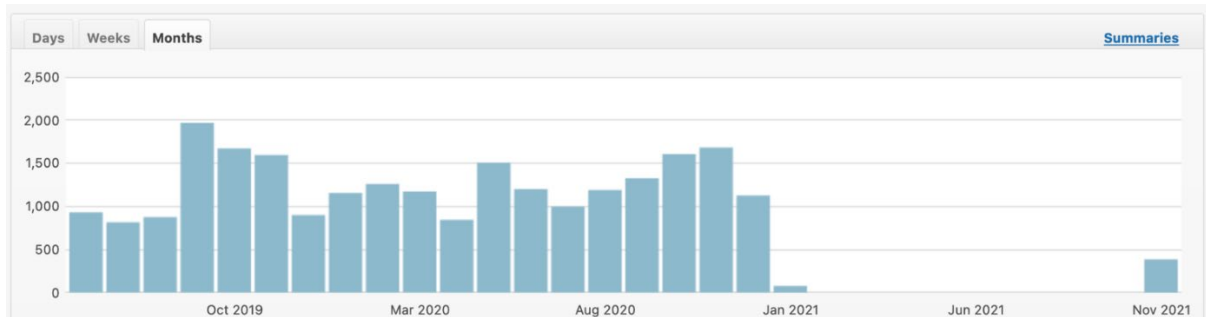
Months and Years

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2017						195	619	634	1,274	827	967	761	5,277
2018	1,340	744	754	879	1,098	1,536	768	1,709	863	836	774	955	12,256
2019	1,501	1,510	1,232	818	924	932	816	876	1,968	1,671	1,593	898	14,739
2020	1,153	1,258	1,170	842	1,509	1,199	996	1,188	1,326	1,606	1,683	1,125	15,055
2021	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	384		461




























Average per Day

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Overall
2017						18	20	20	42	27	32	25	27
2018	43	27	24	29	35	51	25	55	29	27	26	31	34
2019	48	54	40	27	30	31	26	28	66	54	53	29	40
2020	37	43	38	28	49	40	32	38	44	52	56	36	41
2021	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20		1

Views Per Month:



## Most Visited Content:

November 17, 2020 to Today		
Title		Views
Home		627
Women in the History of Rhetoric		137
Journal		103
Awards		75
NCA 2020 Book Review Panels		74
Teaching the History of Rhetoric		73
<a href="#">+ Home page / Archives</a>		71
NCA 2020		69
African Philosophy and Rhetoric		68
ASHR is Pleased to Announce Its 2021 Award Winners: Dr. Andre E. Johnson, Dr. Florianne "Bo" Jimenez, a...		66
Medu Nefer (Ancient Egyptian) Rhetoric		62
Submissions		59
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Chinese Rhetoric in Classical and Contemporary Times		42
2020 Symposium		36
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ASHR Interview: Lucy Xing Lu on Chinese Rhetorical Traditions		27
2021 Special Issue: Journal for the History of Rhetoric		25
Join ASHR		25
Turkish Rhetoric at the Intersections of Three Formative Texts		23
Medieval Irish Rhetorical Traditions		23
Arabic Interpretations of Aristotle's Rhetoric in 13th Century Europe		22
Benefits of Membership		22
ASHR Interview: Dissertation Award Winner Dr. Rudo Mudiwa		22
Constitution		18
Gatherings		18

## Conclusions:

While ASHR has seen some growth in followers on its social media platforms, it is abundantly clear that overall engagement with ASHR resources and the organization's website has plummeted. For instance, over the last 365 days, the ASHR homepage has been visited only 627 times; at this time last year, analyzing the past 365 days would have returned a result of 3,390 visits. You can also see that there are multiple months where no one has visited the ASHR website.

It is not an exaggeration to say that I am shocked by these numbers. As I began writing this report, I expected a significant decrease in site traffic and engagement, but the numbers we are

getting for this year are far less than the years before we even had a social media coordinator or a Twitter account. This tells me that what is going on here is not just the result of a lack of consistent posting, but a sign of wider trouble in our discipline. These numbers ought to prompt us as an organization to reflect on what we can do to make ourselves useful to the scholars who constitute and support our society.

At the same time, I also wish to register my disappointment and regret at my own management of the social media accounts over the last year. While the changes in the numbers discussed above can't be solely explained in terms of a lack of consistent posting and engagement, there is clearly a connection. All in all, I believe this offers us some positive news as an organization: basically, we know that good and consistent social media promotions and engagement work.

It is on this thought that I will close my report. I also wish to thank ASHR officers and the Steering Committee for their wonderful work and support of me as the social media coordinator over the past few years. During the years that I was most successful in this position, I could not have succeeded without the help and support of a number of colleagues, most especially Dr. Allison Prasch.

Finally, I also wish to share that I will no longer be serving as the social media coordinator for ASHR. I wish the new coordinator all the best in their efforts. I will, however, continue to support ASHR in other capacities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jordan Loveridge

Assistant Professor of Communication and English

Mount St. Mary's University

## **D. Web Coordinator (Geraths)**

### **ASHR Website Report**

#### Overview

The website continues to function as a helpful repository for all things ASHR. In addition to the many pages established during Paul Stob's time as ASHR Web Coordinator, the site has seen the addition of new updates on NCA, regular social media posts, semi-regular announcements about ASHR business, as well as a new banner advertising the 2022 Symposium (lovingly crafted by ASHR's own Marissa Croft). There have, however, been some issues, as will be noted in greater detail below. In the report that follows, I summarize the website's strengths, comment on some areas that need to be improved, and overview three changes I hope to make next year.



## Website Strengths

The website continues to have a number of strengths:

- (1) It offers a helpful repository of ASHR business and is, in many ways, an archive of ASHR's work at NCA (Panels; Business Meeting) and RSA (Symposia)
- (2) It functions as a pedagogical resource for rhetoricians (and others) who are looking to incorporate the history of rhetoric into their courses
- (3) It offers additional information for researchers aspiring to publish their work in *JHR*
- (4) It offers (semi-) regular announcements and news updates and (more) regular social media updates via the embedded Twitter widget
- (5) It continues to serve as a space for digital *encomia* through the celebration of ASHR award winners
- (6) It offers a (mostly; see below) helpful plugin for tracking, maintaining, and renewing the organization's membership

## Issues to Address

However, a few issues with the website need to be addressed in the coming year:

- (1) There has been an issue with the data analytics plugins for the website that I only recently discovered. This has led to a dearth of data concerning visitors to the website over the last 10 months. I have rectified this, and it should not be a problem moving forward. I sincerely apologize to the membership for not catching this error sooner. Over the next year, I will track the viewership and access data and, because I do not have data now, will craft and submit an amended report to the Executive Board in 3 months and 6 months, respectively. Doing so will help us track access data for the website relevant to two key events in ASHR's upcoming year: NCA in November 2021 and the RSA Symposium in May 2022.
- (2) There is also a more minor issue with the MemberPress plugin that we use to track ASHR's members. Allison Prash, ASHR Membership Coordinator, has alerted me to a discrepancy in the data concerning active, paid members. She and I are planning to meet in November 2021 to rectify this before the New Year.

## Summary of Plans for 2022

In summary, there are three key areas that I plan to focus on for 2022:

- (1) As noted above, I plan to rectify the issues with data analytics and provide more regular updates to the ASHR Executive Board. I would like, specifically, to get into the habit of providing more easily digestible summaries of this information on a regular basis to the E-Board on a quarterly basis. I plan to craft and submit summaries of web traffic in March 2022 (covering November 2021 - February 2022), July 2022 (covering April 2022 - June 2022), October 2022 (covering July 2022 - September 2022), and January 2023 (covering October 2022 - December 2022).

- (2) Related to the above, I think it would be helpful to--aside from the gap in data discussed above--more thoroughly breakdown the web traffic data from the last four years. Doing so will, as additional data comes in, allow the Executive Board to determine what changes need to be made to the website, including possible suggestions for what new additions could be added. I propose to have such a larger report ready for the Executive Board by June 1, 2022.
- (3) Finally, I propose to more regularly update the website with News posts and to better coordinate with the Social Media Coordinator to get the website out and to get traffic up. I am open to ideas, but a few possibilities include: (1) monthly features/interviews with authors of recent *JHR* pieces and (2) a new area of the website dedicated to showcasing relevant job ads to historians of rhetoric.

I am looking forward to seeing what the next year will bring the ASHR website and, more broadly, ASHR. While there have been some hiccups with the website this year, I am confident that these will be resolved in 2022. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for how to improve the website next year (especially ideas for new content), please get in touch. I can be reached via email at [cgeraths@eureka.edu](mailto:cgeraths@eureka.edu).

Respectfully,

Cory Geraths  
ASHR Web Coordinator

### **E. Editor (O’Gorman)**

November 9, 2021

Dear ASHR Members:

It is with excitement that I write with an update on the *Journal for the History of Rhetoric*. We are finalizing Volume 25 as I write. It should arrive in your mailboxes in print form near the end of the year. Please look for it.

Notably, this will be the final volume that we publish with Taylor and Francis. While our partnership with Taylor and Francis has been fruitful, we recently switched publishers to Penn State Press. This decision was made both for reasons of economy and principle. Financially, Penn State offered us a considerably better deal than T&F. But we also wanted to support a university press over a corporate conglomerate.

Thank you to the *ad hoc* publication committee for leading this process. It was chaired by Allison Prasch and included Martin Camper, Christa Olson, Jordan Loveridge, Kundai Chirindo, Paul Stob, Bjørn Stillion Southard, Michele Kennerly, and Alessandra Von Burg.

One special benefit of moving to Penn State Press will be that the *print* version of *JHR* will now come out issue-by-issue (three times a year), rather than volume-by-volume (once a year). This

we believe will help grow the readership of *JHR*. So, you can expect to see the journal in your mailboxes regularly now.

Along these lines, now that we are with Penn State, **please check with your institution's library** to make sure they are subscribing to *JHR*.

This last year has been a strong one for the journal, even amid COVID and its disruptions. The highlight, arguably, was Christa Olson's excellent guest-edited issue (24.1) on "Americas." Christa recruited an outstanding group of scholars for the issue and produced what I think is one of the more thought provoking and stimulating issues in rhetoric studies we've seen in a while. It was also very timely, given the widespread calls for justice following the brutal murder of George Floyd.

But there is more to celebrate in volume 24 – outstanding essays on topics ranging from Erasmus to Ignatius to white supremacy to Plato's *Timaeus*.

So, it was very good year!

Some of you have asked what the acceptance rate is in *JHR*. In 2020, it was just over 25%, and in 2019 35%. To be clear, I do not take pleasure in rejecting manuscripts, but I do seek well-qualified reviewers and lean heavily on their recommendations. Moreover, if you look at the offerings in *JHR* over the last two years, you will see that younger, less established scholars are very well represented. *JHR* seeks to be a welcoming place for scholars still early in their careers, and I think this is reflected in our record.

What about other "metrics"? Well, Taylor and Francis \*loves\* metrics, and they tell me that from January 1 - September 30, 2021 there had been **8878** downloads of individual articles. That's just under 1000 per month! That's pretty great!

Our transition to Penn State Press may hurt such numbers initially. Taylor and Francis has a wide reach, but so does Penn State through its cooperatives. Again, the surest way to help the journal grow in readership is to **ask your institutions to subscribe to it**.

I want to note that Christa Olson has told me that volume 25 will be her last as Book Review Editor. Her work has been superb, and I will miss her conscientious and always timely work. I am in the process of finding her successor.

Volume 24 was the last for my former editorial assistant, Katie Bruner. Katie was a top-notch partner on this venture. But I am happy she found a 3-year postdoc at Northeastern, where she is busy teaching and working on her amazing book project on MIT and the rhetoric of science. I am very happy to have Daniel DeVinney on board as *JHR*'s new editorial assistant. He's picking up right where Katie left off.

Finally, I want to thank the Steering Committee of ASHR for bringing before you a motion to renew my editorship for another 3-year term. While I have no interest in monopolizing the

editorship of the journal, given the rather massive changes we are currently undergoing in switching presses it seemed prudent for me to stay on until we are firmly settled in at PSU Press.

Thank you to you all for your interest in the journal.

-Ned O’Gorman  
Editor

## F. Vice President (Von Burg)

- **ASHR has two panels at RSA**
  - "Pedagogical Approaches For/In the History of Rhetoric"
    - **Chair:** Allison Prasch (UW-Madison)
    - **Presenters:**
      - Darrian Carroll (University of Maryland)
      - Theon Hill (Wheaton College)
      - Jordan Loveridge (Mount St. Mary’s University)
      - Stacey Sowards (UT-Austin)
      - Morgan Johnson (Colorado State University)
  - "Activism and Archives"
    - **Chairs:** Carly Woods (University of Maryland) and Jennifer Keohane (University of Baltimore)
    - **Presenters:**
      - keondra bills freemyn (University of Maryland Libraries)
        - Project STAND and the Black Women Writers Project
      - Tatenda Mashanda (University of Maryland)
        - Archival research in Zimbabwe
      - KJ Rawson (Northeastern University)
        - The Digital Transgender Archive
      - Michael Steudeman (Penn State University)
        - A history of student activism project his undergraduate students worked on
- **SYMPOSIUM: Rhetoric in Motu**
  - We are looking forward to a (fingers crossed) in person conference this May
  - There are three keynote speakers:
    - Maryam Ahmadi (PhD Candidate, University of Wisconsin-Madison)
    - Dr. Rudo Mudiwa (University of California-Irvine)
    - Dr. Karriann Soto Vega (University of Kentucky).
  - The symposium call received
    - 43 submissions
    - 24 abstracts were accepted
    - 6 panels were organized

- In planning the conference, organizers were very intentional about highlighting the work of younger scholars, from undergraduates to untenured faculty.
- The planners have done away with respondents to give more time to spotlight their work

Question: Dr. Lester Olson: why eliminate respondents?

Response Dr. Alessandra Von Burg the decision was not made quickly. Proposals all received meaningful feedback from multiple scholars. We want to emphasize the scholarship of the presenters and generate discussion that highlights new methods and understandings without the imposition of potentially siloed older thought.

Question: Dr. Ben Crosby: Many early career/undergrad students don't have funding for travel. How can we ethically claim to highlight their work when many of them would have to pay out of pocket to attend?

Response: Dr. Alessandra Von Burg: There have been discussions about creating a travel fund. However, little has been done beyond the idea stage. It is something that needs to be thought through in more detail and brought through steering.

## **7. Report from the Awards Sub-Committee. (Downing & Olson)**

Shortly after NCA 2020, we began conversations concerning the development of a new award recognizing the often unheralded, but “formative, consequential mentoring that sustains the history of rhetoric and those who study it.” This focus was decided upon because it does not closely replicate awards bestowed by closely related organizations and divisions (i.e. RSA's Book Award) and spotlights the ongoing care with which these mentors shepherd the next generations of scholars in the history of rhetoric. The award's inaugural call and criteria can be found at: <https://ashr.org/2021/08/call-for-nominations-inaugural-ashr-outstanding-mentor-award/>

### **Outstanding Mentor Award**

**Prof. Andre E. Johnson**, Associate Professor of Communication Studies at the University of Memphis, has been chosen as the inaugural recipient of the ASHR Outstanding Mentor Award. The selection committee praised Prof. Johnson's record of engaged and proactive mentoring, noting how he extends his mentorship to students and colleagues even before they recognize their own need and staying with them for the long haul. The committee noted the broad and positive effects that Prof. Johnson's mentoring has had on the study of rhetorical history, even at this relatively early stage in his career. Prof. Johnson's mentorship has already and will continue to promote research on histories of rhetoric that have been previously neglected. Prof. Johnson himself is a catalyzing figure, attracting diverse voices to ASHR and to rhetorical studies more broadly. Agreeing with nominators who wrote, “Truly, his students, colleagues, and community are better because of his dedication and talents,” the selection committee is pleased to honor Prof. Johnson and recognize the community that he creates and sustains through his mentoring.

### **Outstanding Dissertation Award**

**Dr. Florianne “Bo” Jimenez**, author of “Echoing and Resistant Imagining: Filipino Student Writing Under American Colonization,” has been selected as the recipient of the 2021 American Society for the History of Rhetoric Outstanding Dissertation Award, which honors a dissertation of especial significance to the Society’s mission defended in the past year. The selection committee was particularly impressed with Dr. Jimenez’s treatment of an era of US colonialism rarely discussed in the discipline of Rhetoric, as well as the nuanced integration of texts, critical theory, and methodological choices. (Several committee members noted that they found themselves so engaged that they wanted to read the entire dissertation.) The dissertation was completed under the directorship of Dr. Rebecca Lorimer Leonard, at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dr. Jimenez is now Assistant Professor of English and Co-Director of the Writing Center at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

After consultation between committees and with Dr. Kennerly in her role as ASHR President, we would also like to acknowledge **Dr. Misti Yang** with an Honorable Mention went for “Code Me a Good Reason: Joseph Weizenbaum and the Rhetoric of AI.” Dr. Yang is currently a Mellon Assistant Professor of the Public Communication of Science and Technology at Vanderbilt, having defended in August 2021 under the directorship of Dr. Damien Smith Pfister, in the department of Communication at the University of Maryland.

### **Outstanding Student Paper Award**

**Jennifer Woolley**, a PhD student at Ohio University, is being recognized for “Complicating Culpability: Planned Parenthood’s Historical Apologia on Margaret Sanger.” The selection committee was particularly impressed with how her analysis of apologia in Planned Parenthood’s centennial discourse can help rhetoricians understand the obligations involved in addressing our own institutions’ problematic pasts. *If you are attending NCA, you will be able to hear this paper on Thursday, November 18, on the 2-3:15pm panel in Issaquah AB (third floor).*

Similarly, the Student Paper Award Committee would like to acknowledge Caroline Koons, PhD candidate in Communication Arts and Sciences at Penn State University, with an Honorable Mention for “Parrhesiac Voice: Freedom Riders, Singing Dissent, and Parchman Prison” ASHR Steering Committee member Dr. Christa Olson chaired the Outstanding Mentor and Outstanding Student Paper selection committees. Thanks to Dr. Derek Handley, Dr. Melba Vélez Ortiz, and Dr. Mary Stuckey for serving on the former, and Dr. Ira Allen, Dr. Ben Crosby, and Dr. Miriam Fernández for serving on the latter. ASHR Steering Committee member Dr. Jamie Downing chaired the Outstanding Dissertation committee. Thanks to Dr. Nicole Allen, Dr. René De los Santos, and Dr. Elizabeth Miller for serving on that committee.

We would like to say a final congratulations to the winners and to those nominated and to express our gratitude to everyone who undertook the work of writing nomination materials.

### **8. Motion from the Steering Committee.**

The Steering Committee moves to extend the editorial term of *JHR* editor Dr. Ned O’Gorman for so that he might get the journal fully set up with its new publisher, Penn

State UP. The term would be for three years (as per the ASHR Constitution), but Dr. O’Gorman could choose to relinquish the editorship when he sees fit.

Dr. Andre Johnson moves to approve; Katie Bruner seconds  
Motion passes by unanimous assent

## 9. Looking Ahead.

- On the recommendation of ASHR Treasurer Dr. Bjørn Stillion Southard, we are looking into how ASHR might participate in the 2022 Douglass Day Transcribe-a-Thon.
- We are very appreciative of Dr. Downing and Dr. Woods for the NCA 2022 work they will do.
- We all look forward to ASHR’s Symposium before RSA in May!
- Anything from the floor?
  - Dr. Andre Johnson: Thank ASHR and nominators for award. Announcement: He is editing a book centered on the Colored Convention Movement. A virtual symposium will be held on the topic in Fall 2022. The call should come out in January. Requests ASHR share the information when it is posted on social media. There is the potential for an edited volume of research resulting from the symposium.
  - Dr. Kundai Chirindo: From Legislative Assembly: NCA has supported the launch of a new journal called *Communication and Race*, which foregrounds epistemologies and experiences of marginalized communities
  - Dr. Jamie Downing: Information from planners’ meeting
    - The conference is smaller next year overall. Nearly every division lost at least one slot. In line with this we are assigned 6 conference slots next year.
    - Dr. Wahlid Afifi emphasizes cooperating with other divisions for co-sponsorship
    - NCA has pulled a few sessions for spotlighting research that is particularly relevant to the theme. People can submit to them like any other division
    - Dr. Afifi encourages divisions to think about the role of respondents and the responsibilities/training of the position. Asks divisions to either ensure expectations/guidance is clear to respondents or consider their necessity to the panel.
      - Comment: Dr. Lester Olson: Doesn’t think it is a good idea to just eliminate them for reasons mentioned before
      - Dr. Jamie Downing: It isn’t something we would rush into necessarily, just wanted members to be aware that the larger conversation is taking place
      - Dr. Kundai Chirindo: It is a conversation worth having. At the very least, consider the type of guidance given to respondents. Suggests Blue book/guidelines, which gives a model of great respondents
    - Dr. Afifi is interesting in divorcing business meetings from NCA registration, which obligates an in-person business meeting at the conference. By tying it to NCA membership instead, divisions would

be free to hold the meetings virtually. Given the pressures made evident over the last two years, this would allow people to meaningfully associate with divisions even if they cannot attend NCA.

- This mirrors a conversation ASHR steering has been having given our interdisciplinary membership, many of whom will never attend NCA.
- Dr. Alessandra Von Burg: Acknowledges Michele and all of her work over the past few years, particularly in making hard choices surrounding the cancellation of ASHR's 2020 symposium due to COVID.
- Congrats to Alessandra on officially becoming president! The steering committee is now activated.

Dr. Andre Johnson Move to adjourn. Dr. Jamie Downing seconds.

Adjourn at 3:08

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jamie Downing