

OSTCA NEWS

Former OSTCA President Robert J. Varga Dies

A long time member of OSTCA, Robert J. Varga, 81, passed away on March 7, 2009. He was born on February 16, 1928 in New York City. He was a WWII veteran, serving in Japan in the Armed Forces Radio. He spent many years as a university professor, mostly in the Speech & Drama Department at Oklahoma City University, where, among his accomplishments, he authored and directed children's plays. A favorite, "Take Me to the Treasure," has been widely presented, including performances as far as Africa. Professor Varga served as President of OSTCA (1972-1973) and received the OSTCA "Josh Lee Service Award" in 1977 and 1990.

His many interests included biplanes, carousels, steamboats, women's softball, the theatre, and a life-long love of teddy bears. He was preceded in death by Jane, his wife of 53 years. He is survived by his sister, Irene; his children, Janice, Terrie, and Chris; daughter-in-law, Tammy; and grandchildren, Sarah, John, Kristin, Austin, Lauren and Jason. He was much loved, and his generous heart, compassion, and boundless sense of humor will be dearly missed. The family requests memorial donations be made to his favorite theatre group, City Rep, Oklahoma City Repertory Theatre, PO Box 1913, Oklahoma City, 73101.

Sanford Research is Competitively Accepted for 2009 NCA Conference

NSU Professor Amy Aldridge Sanford had her research paper competitively accepted at a national conference. Her paper "Who's gonna ask a fat woman for diet advice IRL?" The roles web blogs play for weight loss bloggers who need to lose 100 pounds or more" was accepted for presentation at the National Communication Association's 95th Annual Convention, November 12-15, 2009 in Chicago, Illinois. Health Communication division.

Sanford's research found that the morbidly obese, defined as people who are 100 pounds or more overweight, are the fastest growing population among the obese. Today they make up 5% of all American adults. The morbidly obese often live with health risks and face discrimination as direct results of their size. Many morbidly obese people would like to lose weight, and some have even found weight loss success while blogging about their weight loss journeys.



In 2006, it was estimated that 8% of all Internet users kept a blog. This qualitative study explores the roles blogging plays for the morbidly obese who blog about their weight loss journeys. Nine themes were identified from 50 surveys completed by weight loss bloggers who had 100 or more pounds to lose. The author argues that blogging provides invaluable social support for the morbidly obese.



For more information on Amy Sanford's Research, please contact aldridga@nsuok.edu



Tracy Frederick completes her Doctoral Degree at Regent University

Tracy Frederick, Associate Professor of Communication at Southwestern College has recently completed her Ph. D. degree in Communication at Regent University. Regent University is a private coeducational interdenominational Christian university located in Virginia Beach, Virginia, United States. The school was founded in 1978 as CBN University.

Her dissertation explored Joyce Meyer's recent popularity in the Evangelical community as a "feminine" speaker. Frederick's dissertation argues that Joyce Meyer creates an alternative feminine perspective for Evangelical audiences through her use of a feminine style. The application of Karlyn Kohrs Campbell's theory of a feminine style explains why Joyce Meyer's successful rhetorical style in the Evangelical community is something more than just a religious community accepting a new preacher, it is also the acceptance of a feminine perspective in a traditionally male dominated context. Frederick's study explores the potential power of the feminine style to create a feminine perspective for audiences, Joyce Meyer's popularity as a female Evangelical pulpit preacher, and perhaps better understand the audiences to whom she speaks.

Over the next year, Dr. Frederick plans to publish her research in an academic peer reviewed journal.

For more information on Tracy Frederick's Research, please contact.

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OKLAHOMA SPEECH THEATRE COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

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Thank You!

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