



Editors: Sonal Chaddha & Veronica Henson-Phillips

Speaking From the CENTER

A Newsletter from the Speaking Center of Agnes Scott

Fall 2004

www.speaking_center.agnesscott.edu

Sixth Annual Persuasive Speech Contest

Many thanks to attendees of our Sixth Annual Fall Persuasive Speech Contest with an international theme! All six contestants gave powerful and informative speeches, making almost impossible the task of selecting a winner. The panel



of Distinguished Judges included Dr. Phil Gibson of the Biology department, Nancy Albert, Registrar and Dean Sibby Anderson-Thompkins. Congratulations to winners Shailee Pradhan, Dina Mokhtar and Alecia Kran, who took first, second, and third, respectively.

Members of the audience were on the edges of their seats for each riveting speech. Local merchants donated prizes for audience responses to trivia questions.

Every speaker was awarded a certificate of participation and a gift certificate for having the courage and dedication to create and deliver a powerful speech. The other contestants were as follows: Ferrel Cain, Crystal Cox and Yevheniya Krutko. ♪♪

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Did watching to the Presidential Debates Influence Your Voting Decision?



Terica Black, a junior, watched the presidential debates but was unmoved by her decision to vote for Senator Kerry,

Susan Lee, a senior, felt similar to Terica in her opinion of the debates. Her decision to vote for Bush remained the same as before.



Miranda Patton, a first year student and also a first time voter in the presidential election, saw the debates and was influenced by them. She decided to vote for Senator Kerry.



Thank You Judges



Top Ten Reasons to Visit the Speaking Center

1. Speaking in front of an audience really scares you.
2. You know what you want to say: you just don't know how to organize it.
3. Your professor has assigned an oral presentation.
4. You're excited about your term project and want to share what you learned with your class.
5. You want to improve your voice quality and/or your diction and word choices.
6. Your roommate is tired of listening to you practice.
7. When you run for office some day, you don't want to have to pay someone to prepare your speeches.
8. You want to learn how to develop and use dynamic visual aids.
9. You have an important job interview.
10. You understand that nothing puts an audience to sleep more quickly than reading your speech straight off the page. ☺

Top Factors Considered by Employees when Hiring College Graduates

1. Oral Communication Skills
2. Listening Ability
3. Enthusiasm
4. Written Communication
5. Technical Competence
6. Appearance
7. Poise
8. Past Work Experience
9. Resume
10. Specific Degree Achieved
11. Grade Point Achieved
12. Part-time or Summer Employment
13. Accreditation of Program
14. Leadership in Campus or Community
15. Participation in Campus or Community
16. Recommendations
17. College or University Attended



*Oral Communication Skills
ranks no# 1 as factor for
being considered for
employment*



Public Speaking Tips

Holding Eye Contact

Interest or concern with the other person. This is the single most important thing you can do to make communication work through body language.

Smiling

Shows you are following what is being said and that you are willing to pay attention to the other person

Fidgeting

Shows some impatience; perhaps a concern with the time and a need to get away

Arms crossed

Often a defensive posture; protecting yourself; keeping the other person at a distance; disagreeing with the other person

Nodding your head

Signals agreement, or that you have understood what is being said

Covering your mouth

Shows possible anxiety or lack of confidence

Standing up

May indicate superiority (especially when the other person is sitting down); can be used in arguments to assert control

Hand gestures

May show enthusiasm and an attempt to convey something which is strongly held, or to make a particular point.

Arms on hips

Often a slightly aggressive attitude, sometimes interpreted as 'take it or leave it'

Foot-tapping

Impatience, possible disinterest

Head scratching

May show uncertainty, or someone having difficulty in understanding what is being said

Head to one side

Shows interest and attentive listening

A Newsletter from the
Speaking Center of Agnes Scott

Speaking from the Center is published by the Speaking Center to provide a forum for ideas about speaking and informing the campus community about the center's activities. The Speaking Center is located in McCain Library in room G-37 on the ground floor. Hours and the appointment calendar are posted outside the Center. The Coordinator of The Speaking Center is Professor Veronica Henson-Phillips. She is available for appointments at extension 6915.

We're on the Web!
www.speaking_center.agnesscott.edu



Fall 2004 Tutoring Schedule

Monday

1:30—2:00 PM	Jenny Wiese
2:00—2:30 PM	Jenny Wiese & Crystal Pough
2:30—4:00 PM	Crystal Pough
4:00—5:00 PM	Crystal Pough & Jenny Wiese
5:00—5:30 PM	Crystal Pough
6:00—7:00 PM	Staff Meeting
7:00—8:00 PM	Sonal Chaddha
8:00—9:00 PM	Khara Agana

Tuesday

2:00—3:30 PM	Veronica Henson-Phillips
3:30—4:30 PM	Veronica Henson-Phillips & Sonal Chaddha

Wednesday

1:30—2:30 PM	Jenny Wiese
4:00—5:00 PM	Jenny Wiese
6:30—7:30 PM	Sonal Chaddha

Thursday

2:00—4:00 PM	Veronica Henson-Phillips
6:30—7:30 PM	Sonal Chaddha

Sunday

7:00—9:00 PM	Khara Agana
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Meet the Speaking Center Tutors

Crystal Pough is a 2004 graduate of Agnes Scott College with a Bachelor of Arts in English. As a veteran of the Agnes Scott's "Public Speaking" class, this is her second year of tutoring. Her favorite part of the job is seeing students become confident enough to participate in the speech contests. As an advocate of hardy presentations, she utilizes her skills in a public relations position with a community center.



Jenny Wiese is a senior at ASC and is majoring in (or shall we say graduating in!) economics. As her third year of tutoring in the Speaking Center comes to an end, she hopes that the Center will continue to grow. Public Speaking skills are important to every aspect of life as people are always talking! She firmly believes that a solid base in communication increases the value of all other skills.

Sonal Chaddha is a junior double majoring in Economics-Business & Psychology. She is an international student who is originally from India but lived majority of her life in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. She enjoys helping others get confident about their speaking and encourages everyone to make use of the resources at Speaking Center as much as possible.



Khara Agana is a Senior at Agnes Scott College and majors in Business/Econ. This is her second year of tutoring and what brought her back to the speaking center to tutor is the joy she takes in seeing students improve their public speaking skills, as well as learning the lessons of being a better public speaker along with them. "Learning to be a skilled public speaker is so important. I take a personal joy in sharing that knowledge with other students." Khara sincerely believes that the better you speak, the more opportunities you will have.