

**Listening: The Key to Life!**  
**36<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the International Listening Association**  
**March 26 – 28, 2015**  
**About Our Presenters and Moderators**

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**Professor Kazuo Akasaka** is Emeritus Professor of Communication from two different universities in Japan, former President of the Japan Communication Association and Asian Communication Association and author of over 70 newspaper columns discussing communication issues across cultures.

**Ivon Alcime, Ph.D** is an Assistant Professor of Communication in the college of Arts and Sciences at Tuskegee University.

**John Backman;** As a regular contributor to [Huffington Post Religion](#) and an associate of an Episcopal monastery, John Backman writes on contemplative spirituality and dialogue. He authored *Why Can't We Talk? Christian Wisdom on Dialogue as a Habit of the Heart* (SkyLight Paths), and his articles have appeared in numerous faith-based publications. John has also operated his own advertising business for more than 25 years, writing copy for such clients as Aflac, The Coca-Cola Company, GE, and numerous colleges and universities.

**E. James Baesler** is Professor of Communication in the Department of Communication and Theatre Arts at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA. Professor Baesler began his research career in social influence and nonverbal communication and for the last fifteen years has focused on the area of religious/spiritual communication, emphasizing prayer as spiritual communication. His publications have appeared in journals such as *Communication Research*, *Review of Religious Research*, *Journal of Nonverbal Behavior*, and *Journal of media and Religion*.

**Melissa Beall** is Professor at the University of Northern Iowa. She is an ILA Life Member, as served as ILA President and is currently serving on the Executive board as Member-at Large Special Projects. Her research areas are in communication education, communication practices, teacher behaviors, culture, learning styles, listening, and technology in the classroom.

**Sheila Bentley** has a long history of experience in the business of listening with 30 years of consulting on a range of listening, communication, and leadership topics. Her company, Bentley Consulting has as clients numerous government, professional, and nonprofit agencies. She has been a member of ILA for over 30 years, and is a Past President of the ILA and of the Memphis chapter of the American Society for Training and Development. She has received the ILA's President's Award three times, the Business Sector Award, and has been inducted in the ILA's Hall of Fame.

**Kelly C. Brion**, Directorate of Intelligence at the U.S. Department of Justice, is the Chair of the Awards Committee and is a volunteer freelance photographer for the Communication Studies Program at Northern Virginia Community College (Annandale Campus).

**Jennifer Reilly Bluma**, A.B.D., Regent University, Virginia Beach, VA, lives in Chicago, IL, and is married to Edward Bluma. Jen and Edward also perform together in a roots/folk/country duo and have been featured on WDCB, WGN, and Fearless Radio.

**Rick Bommelje** is a Professor and Chair of Communication at Rollins College and an ILA Past President. In 2006 Rick was awarded ILA's "Outstanding Teacher of Listening Award." He is the author of *Listening Pays – Achieve Significance through the Power of Listening* and co-author of *Listening Leaders – the Ten Golden Rules to Listen, Lead, & Succeed*.

**Christopher D. Bond** is an Associate Professor at the Missouri Western State University and teaches listening in both traditional and online formats that include a listening service learning project. He is developing a cross-curriculum learning module for Learning Communities. Chris has been a member of ILA for over 10 years and is a Past President of the organization.

**Dr. Wayne Bond** is Professor Emeritus and former Chairperson of the Department of Communication Studies, Montclair State University, and taught at MSU for 42 years. Wayne, a Lifetime Member and a Past President of the International Listening Association, was inducted into the ILA Hall of Fame in March 1999. In 2004, he received the International Listening Association Teacher of the Year Award.

**Pamela Cooper** is a professor at the University of South Carolina Beaufort. She is the Communication Studies Program Director. She has received numerous national and state awards for her teaching, has published over 25 books and articles, presented over 300 convention papers both nationally and internationally, and has served as president of the Central States Communication Association and the International Listening Association.

**Professor Daniel Corey** is an ILA Life Member and has over 40 years of diverse teaching experience.

**Anita Dorczak** is a trained Mediator and Collaborative Law Practitioner. She has a Masters Degree in English Philology, a Doctorate in Semiotics and Comparative Literature and speaks English, Polish, and Spanish fluently.

**Gregory. Enos** is the Managing Principal of Time Communication Associates LLC, an ILA Life Member, and served as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President (Membership) of the ILA.

**Franca Ferrari** is an Assistant Professor of Speech and Theatre at Queensborough Community College, part of the City University of New York.

**Michael Gilbert** is Principal Consultant/Chief Executive at ATOIRE Communications, LLC. Michael is a Life Member and Past President of the ILA.

**Carole Grau** has had a successful and rewarding career as a communications professor, consultant, speaker, executive coach, and facilitator of adult learning. She is the founder of Taliaferro/Grau Associates currently Grau Interpersonal Communication. [www.grauic.com](http://www.grauic.com)

Carole is a member of many professional organizations. She has presented numerous papers and frequently conducts seminars and workshops for those groups. She has been an active member of the New York Society for General Semantics for more than 10 years and has sat on their Board of Directors. She is a founding member, former Board member, and former elected official of The International Listening Association. In 2001, Ms. Grau received the International Listening Association award for Listening in the Business Sector. She has received the ILA President's Award twice. In 2010, she was inducted into the International Listening Association's Hall of Fame, the organization's highest honor

**Jennifer M. Grau:** For more than twenty years as a trainer, coach, facilitator and presenter, has changed the way people work by changing the way they speak, listen, and resolve conflict together. Jennie is President of **Grau Interpersonal Communication**. Jennie has been a member of many professional associations including: International Communication Association, the Speech Communication Association, the International Listening Association, and the American Society for Training and Development. She received her B.A. from Oberlin College, her M. A. from Michigan State University.

**Sherrie Good** is an Associate Professor in the Division of Liberal Arts and Sciences at DeVry University in Phoenix, Arizona

**Richard Halley** is an Emeritus Professor of Communication at Weber State University, Lead Facilitator of the Certified Listening Professional program, Past President of the ILA, and author.

**Sylvia Henderson, the "Maven of Implementation"** works with entrepreneurs, professionals, and teams to get ideas out of their heads and into action for income and impact. Her mission in life is to generate idea-gasms and bring them to profitable and purposeful conclusions to change lives. For more information visit Sylvia's website, the [IdeaSuccessNetwork](http://IdeaSuccessNetwork)

**Marg Herder:** With a passion for creating work that is startlingly authentic and deeply rooted in her spirituality, Marg Herder explores a variety of expressions including writing, visual art, and sound. She is the Director of Public Information and Website Developer for *Christian Feminism Today* ([www.eewc.com](http://www.eewc.com)), which features hundreds of book reviews, articles, Bible studies, and opinion pieces of interest to feminist and progressive Christians. Marg also writes the *Where She Is* blog on *Christian Feminism Today*. Examples of her music, writing, sound design, field recordings, and visual art are available on her personal website, [www.margherder.com](http://www.margherder.com).

**Lucy Holsonbake** is a pioneer in the field of education with over thirty years of varied experience. Whether building an award-winning theatre arts program in an inner city school labeled “at risk,” piloting the Dallas Public Schools’ first Talented and Gifted Program, or heading outstanding theatre and forensics departments in highly competitive college preparatory private academies, Lucy has a proven track record! Currently Lucy is a Communication and Theatre Professor at Northern Virginia Community College, where she is the Faculty Sponsor for the Cable Mavericks Program.

Lucy's teaching has won numerous awards, including recognition from The National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. She also was given the prestigious title of “Distinguished Teacher” by The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars.

**Cheryl Huff** is a Professor of English and Humanities at Germane Community College in Fredericksburg, Virginia. Cheryl is an innovator and Director of The Center for Teaching Excellence at GCC and the Keynote Speaker for this year’s convention.

**Margarete Imhof:** Are Head of the Institute of Psychology’s Department of Educational Psychology at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and the Editor of *The International Journal of Listening* (IJL). She is a longtime member of the International Listening Association, past president (2008), and a prolific researcher and author. Her articles on listening and listening research have been published in journals around the world.

**Laura Janusik** is a dynamic professor, researcher, speaker, and business consultant. She is an Associate Professor and the McGee Chair of Communication at Rockhurst University. Laura has received numerous honors including top paper awards at the National Communication Association the International Listening Association (ILA), and Central States Communication Association. She is a recipient of the Nichols Award and the Brennar Award, presented for scholarly achievement by the ILA and Rockhurst University, respectively.

All of Laura’s work is supported by the most current brain research which she shares and applies in her management, healthcare, and pharmaceuticals training. Her approach to communication, both oral and written, is practical and other-centered. Her research interests include listening cognition, pedagogy, intercultural listening, interpersonal, and healthcare communication.

Laura is the past president of the International Listening Association, and is published both nationally and internationally. She holds a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Maryland at College Park and an M.B.A. from Rockhurst University in Kansas City, MO.

**Erica Lamm** is an Assistant Professor at Concordia University-Nebraska and the current editor of [Listening Education](#), an online journal of the International Listening Association.

**Dr. Charles Lester** is Professor of Communication and Rhetorical Processes at Palm beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, Florida. He is the 2002 recipient of the Charles and Hazel Corts Award for outstanding teaching, a member of the Florida Communication Association, and The American Institute of Parliamentarians.

**Barbara Lynch** is an Instructor at Queensborough Community College, part of the City University of New York.

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**Kay Lindahl** is the founder of The Listening Center and is recognized as an inspiring teacher and spiritual guide to people of all religious backgrounds, she conducts workshops and retreats around the world on the sacred art of listening for religious, spiritual, community and business groups. She is a dedicated spokesperson for the interfaith movement and an ordained interfaith minister.

**Helen Meldrum** has extensive experience as a teacher, lecturer, researcher, and consultant in the areas of interpersonal and group dynamics in health care, customer service, psychology of adulthood, mental health services, communication skills, conflict management, presentation skills, and teaching skills. She is the author of three books focused on communications and organization in healthcare settings and healthcare professionals and her articles, interviews, editorials and reviews have appeared in varied publications.

**Mary Claire Meyer** is undergraduate student at the University of Maryland, College Park studying Communication with a focus in social influence. She will be graduating in May of this year. She was introduced to the field of listening research by Dr. Andrew Wolvin, which has inspired her to pursue a master's degree in Health Communication with a focus in listening behavior.

**Michael Z Murphy** is a Professor at Union County College in New Jersey, a Life Member of the ILA and currently serves on the Executive Board as Member-at-Large, Public Relations.

**Katherine O'Connor** is Service Learning Coordinator and Live Learn Community Coordinator at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Florida.

**Lisa Orick-Martinez** is a Professor at Central New Mexico Community College, Life-Member and Past President of the ILA.

**Dr. Michelle E. Pence**, Assistant Professor of Communication and Area Coordinator for Communication at The University of Texas of the Permian Basin, is a dedicated teacher and researcher. She has published numerous articles in acclaimed international academic journals, and co-authored book chapters in texts from notable presses, such as Oxford University. Dr. Pence received her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, where she conducted award-winning research on aggression and violent behavior between intimate partners. She is also an executive board member for the International Listening Association and conducts research in the area of listening and personality. Visit Michelle's Professional Website at <https://utpb.academia.edu/MichelleEPence>.

**Dick Pfeil** is President of Pfeil, Inc. and director at Koontz-Wagner Electric Company, Inc.

**Donna Rouner** is a Professor of Journalism and Media Communications at Colorado State University.

**Tiffany Schroeder**, Doctoral Candidate in Organizational Behavior, Case Western Reserve University

Pianist **Elizabeth Skavish** is noted for her strong connections with people, whether on the concert platform, in the teaching studio or in master classes. Based in Boston, she has performed throughout the United States, Canada and Germany. Her performance credits include concerto appearances with the Collegium Musicum Schloss Pommersfelden and Ocean State Chamber Orchestra; solo lecture-recitals for Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Boston; contemporary music performances with Boston Musica Viva, Alea III and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project; and chamber and solo performances with Boston Ballet and Festival Ballet of Rhode Island. Ms. Skavish was a founding member of Trio Capriccio and has performed chamber music concerts with members of the Boston, Pittsburgh, and Detroit Symphony Orchestras. At the 2009 International Listening Association Annual Convention she and Jennie Grau presented a program titled “Expressing, Experiencing and Creating Meaning with Music and Words”. Ms. Skavish is a piano faculty member of the New England Conservatory Preparatory School in Boston.

**Terrance Stange** is a Professor at Marshall University Graduate College in Huntington, West Virginia. He is actively involved in the International Reading Association, Special Interest Groups [Professional Reading Teacher Educators and Specialized Reading Professionals], and College Reading & Learning Association; From 2006 – Present, Editor/Journal, *The Reading Professor*

**Dr. Lyman K. (Manny) Steil**, is ILA’s founding member #1 , Past President, Past Executive Director, Lifetime Member, Listening Hall of Fame inductee, CLP, a recipient of ILA’s Lifetime Achievement, and a presenter at 36 annual ILA Conventions. He is the CEO and President of Communication Development, Inc. and the International Listening Leadership Institute. Steil is the author and co-author of 5 books, including *Listening Leaders: The Ten Golden Rules to Listen, Lead & Succeed*

**Molly Stoltz** is an Assistant Professor of Communication at Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia. Molly was formerly editor of the ILA’s *Listening Post*.

**Amanda Strausser** is a first year doctoral student at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her concentration is behavioral and community health with a focus in health communication. She is interested in how technology can be used in innovative ways to change health behavior. In 2014 she received her Masters of Public Health in behavioral and community health. Amanda decided to continue her studies in order to pursue her interest in health communication. She hopes to continue to do research in the area of listening and how technology impacts individuals ability to listen to messages.

**Don R. Swanson:** has more than 40 years of experience with organizational communication improvement as a trainer, coach, consultant, educator and administrator. An experienced mediator and certified listening professional (CLP), he has extensive experience as an executive and conflict coach. At Monmouth University he is the former chair of the Department of Communication, where he founded the MA in Corporate and Public Communication, and the former Chair of the Department of Philosophy, Religion and Interdisciplinary Studies.

**Susan Timm** is a Professor at Elgin Community College, a past member of the Executive Board and Chair of the Ad-Hoc Committee that explored the feasibility and role of the ILA with SkillsUSA.

**Sharon Tindall** is a Master Quilter, lecturer, speaker, and textile instructor. Sharon has more than 25 years of quilting design, translation and sewing experience. She currently teaches at Northern Virginia Community College (Annandale and Manassas Campus), G-Street Fabrics in Northern Virginia and Charlottesville, Virginia's Senior Center.

**David Tyson** is a professional actor, educator and director. He is the Artistic Director of his own, "Weaver of Tales Theatre Company." He is a certified "Actor Combatant" with the Society of American Fight Directors. He has been performing for over twenty years, and has worked at a wide variety of venues including stints at: LaMama Theater - NYC, Walt Disney World-Florida, & the Toronto Fringe festival. He has extensive experience in "Popular" and Physical Theatre forms of theatre including: Commedia Dell'Arte, Clown, Mime, Melodrama and Improvisation. He holds an MFA in acting from Case Western Reserve University and also graduated from the Dell'Arte School of Physical Theatre in California. Mr. Tyson is also an Assistant Professor of Communication Studies & Theatre at NOVA Community College.

**Charles Veenstra** is a Professor of Communication at Dordt College and teaches Interpersonal, Small Group, Family and other advanced courses in Communication. He is an ILA Life Member and incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President (Elect) and 2017 Convention Planner.

**Kae Van Engen**, CLP. Kae is an Instructor of Communication at Dordt College in Sioux Center, IA. Currently she serves on the Executive Board of the ILA.

**Roseanne Vogel** is a Lecturer in the Department of Speech Communication and Theater Arts at Queensborough Community College, part of the City University of New York

**Myra Walters** is a Professor of Communication at Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers, Florida.

**Kim Watkins** is a New York City Personal Training & Marathon Coach and CEO of inSHAPE Fitness and inMOTion Workouts. For 15 years Kim's team of trainers have worked with clients in and around New York City and across the US through online meetings.

**Vincenne Waxwood**, after a career in university and colleges, currently focuses her efforts of helping others through selected adaptation of their communication. She has conducted workshops in listening, intercultural communication, family communication, and business communication. She is a volunteer at the Seattle Symphony in Seattle, Washington.

**Francine White** is an Associate Professor in the Cooperative Education Department at LaGuardia Community College, part of the City University of New York

**Andrew D. Wolvin** is a Professor & Executive Director of the Oral Communication Program at the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Wolvin's research interests center on issues dealing with listening behavior, communication education, and communication management. He is a Past President of the ILA and received the Listening Hall of Fame Award, the ILA's highest honor.

**Ning Xie** is a graduate student at the University of Maryland.

**Rebecca Yost** is an Instructor in the Speech and Foreign Languages Department and Instructional Designer at Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers, Florida.

**Mike Zimmerman** is a freshman at Northern Virginia Community College, his planned major area of study is psychology. Mike's passion for listening began at an early age with his interest in music and has been a self-taught performing musician and composer since the age of 12.

**Kent Zimmerman** is a Professor of Communication and at Sinclair Community College in Dayton, Ohio. Kent was the recipient of the 2011 Innovation of the Year Award for developing and Adjunct Faculty Communication Course. Kent is the ILA's 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President (Elect) and 2016 Convention Planner.