

Time-Bindings

The Newsletter of the



Institute of General Semantics

founded in 1938 by Alfred Korzybski

www.generalsemantics.org

Vol. 26, No. 3-4

Winter 2008

A Message From Lance Strate, Executive Director:



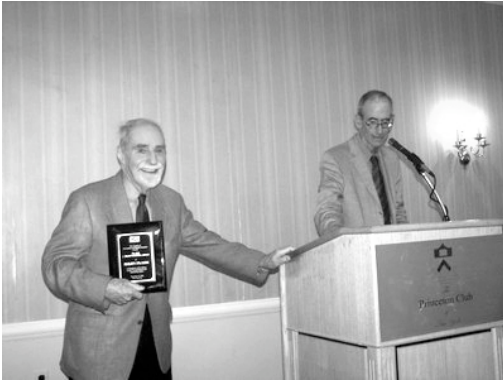
Autumn has been a busy time for the Institute of General Semantics, and I am pleased to be able to report to you that we have made significant progress on a number of different fronts, which I will detail below. But first, on behalf of the Institute of General Semantics, I want to extend our best wishes for this Holiday Season to you, and wish you a merry Christmas, joyous Yule, happy Chanukah, wonderful winter solstice, fulfilling Kwanzaa, pleasant Boxing Day, uplifting Hajj, happy New Year, etc. And I hope you don't mind my mentioning the fact that IGS memberships make for a thoughtful and unique gift for colleagues, friends, and relatives, as does a copy of Alfred Korzybski's *Science and Sanity*, or any of his other works, not to mention the many other books that can be ordered through our website <www.generalsemantics.org>.

Ben Hauck Appointed IGS Webmaster



He was already working hard on our new website when the Board of Trustees decided to appoint IGS member Ben Hauck as Webmaster, a position he has held with the New York Society for General Semantics for some time now. Ben has published essays in the journal *ETC: A Review of General Semantics*, and taught a three-part introduction to general semantics for the New York Society for General Semantics. In addition to his internet skills, he is a New York City-based actor, performing and teaching improvisation, and he is currently writing a book on the subject. Over the past three months, Ben has taken care of the archiving of the previous IGS online forums, preserving those heady discussions and making them easily accessible on our website, while launching the new discussion forums and serving as their primary moderator. He also has kept the new website updated with IGS news items, making our site much more dynamic than it has ever been. And he has continued to discover and make accessible GS resources, add links of interest and relevance to IGS members, and otherwise improve the architecture of our website. If you have not been to the site recently, please go take a look. And if you have any suggestions, or complaints, you can e-mail our newest officer at <webmaster@generalsemantics.org>.

The Alfred Korzybski Memorial Lecture and Symposium A Great Success



With over 50 participants and over 200 in attendance in New York City over the course of the weekend of November 14-16, the 56th Annual Alfred Korzybski Memorial Lecture and the *Creating the Future: Conscious Time-Binding for a Better Tomorrow* Symposium offered numerous opportunities for learning and intellectual exchange, and garnered rave reviews. At the AKML on Friday, Nov. 14, which was held at the Princeton Club, Institute of General Semantics President Martin Levinson (on right) presented the 2008 J. Talbot Winchell Award to Allen Flagg (on left) in recognition of

his lifelong service, accomplishments and time-binding efforts.



Douglas Rushkoff gave a dynamic Alfred Korzybski Memorial Lecture entitled "Playing the Future: Towards a Creative Society," that generated a great deal of audience response and enthusiasm. Several audience members made audio recordings of the address, and made them available online (the URL for downloading and streaming the audio can be found on the IGS website), and a camera crew of Fordham University students recorded the speech and the symposium that followed (DVDs will be available for sale in the near future). Moreover, a written version of Rushkoff's talk, along with selected papers from the symposium, will be published in the next *General Semantics Bulletin*. So, if you were not able to attend, you don't have to miss out entirely on the proceedings.

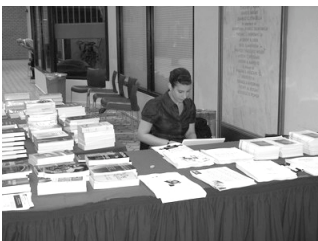
The *Creating the Future: Conscious Time-Binding for a Better Tomorrow* Symposium was



held at Fordham University's Lincoln Center Campus over the course of the next two days, and participants included authors such as Kathleen Sweeney, David Berreby, Thomas de Zengotita, Dick Meyer of NPR, Alex Wright of the *New York Times*, Tylver Volk, Bruce Kodish, Andrew Postman, Marleen Barr, Paul Levinson, and many others. On the left, Terrence P. Moran of New York University, who founded the media ecology program there with Neil Postman, speaks on "General Semantics



Writ Large." To the right, IGS Trustee and Ambassador-At-Large Milton Dawes discusses "Tools for Creating Better Futures."



Registration and book sales were handled by Fordham University graduate student Pamela Miller (on left), with help from IGS Vice-President/Treasurer Jacqueline Rudig, and Ben Hauck. To the right, Bruce Kodish discusses GS with Sister Bosco Ebere Amakwe.





This truly was an international gathering, as the symposium participants included Milton Dawes from Canada, Eva Berger from Israel, Bosco Ebere Amakwe from Nigeria, Prafulla Kar and Devkumar Trivedi from India's Centre for Contemporary Theory and General Semantics, and IGS Trustee and Secretary Vanessa Biard-Schaeffer from France (on the left). Also participating was John C. Wright (on the right, shown after being presented with a copy of *Science and Sanity*), author of *The*



Null-A Continuum, the sequel to A. E. van Vogt's Null-A science fiction novels. In addition to program sessions on activism, intercultural and international communication, symbolic communication, new media, media ecology, science fiction, teaching general



semantics, and the future of general semantics, we also enjoyed a multimedia presentation by Eric Goodman (on left) entitled "Thus Spoke the Spectacle," and note the response on the part of Lance Strate and Jackie Rudig (on right).



All in all, it was a weekend to remember, full of good spirits, appreciation, satisfaction, inspiration, and anticipation for next year's events!

General Semantics on the Air

On November 11, 2008, as part of our publicity for the Alfred Korzybski Memorial



Lecture and *Creating the Future* Symposium on November 14-16, the Connecticut Public Radio Program "Where We Live" which is hosted by John Dankowsky (on left) ran an episode devoted to general semantics entitled "Language, Symbols, and Words... Oh My!" IGS Executive Director Lance Strate and *ETC*



Editor Bill Petkanas (pictured on right in the WCSU studio where the program was produced) were the guests for this episode, along with

AKML speaker Douglas Rushkoff, and the lively discussion also featured a call-in segment. The episode is archived on the Connecticut Public Broadcast Network website, and can be played online or downloaded as an MP3 file from the following URL: <<http://www.cpbnet.org/program/where-we-live/episode/general-semantics>>.

The Institute Welcomes New Trustees



The Board of Trustees of the IGS has added two new members, Corey Anton (left) and Thom Gencarelli (right). Dr. Anton is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies in the School of Communications at Grand Valley State University, the author of *Selfhood and Authenticity*, and a Fellow of the International Communicology Institute. Dr. Gencarelli is Chair of the



Department of Communication at Manhattan College, a Past President of both the New York State Communication Association and the New Jersey Communication Association, and Vice-President of the Media Ecology Association. We look forward to their added energy, insights, and contributions to the IGS!

At NCA and NCTE

November was indeed a busy month for the Institute, as we went from the AKML and Symposium on November 14-16, to simultaneous involvement with the NCA meeting on Nov. 21-24, and the annual convention of the NCTE on Nov. 20-23 in San Antonio, Texas. General semantics was well represented at the 94th Annual Convention of the National Communication Association in San Diego, California, which was held on November 21-24, 2008. The Institute was represented in the Exhibition Hall to the delight of many old and new friends, our tables being organized by Fordham University graduate student Pamela Miller, with the assistance of Executive Director Lance Strate. Independently of the IGS efforts to strengthen our connection to communication scholars, Michael Cole, who holds the Dr. Sanford I. Berman Chair in General Semantics at the University of California, San Diego, organized a program session entitled, "Alfred Korzybski, Language, and the Origins of Communication Research: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue," in which he presented a co-authored paper on "General Semantics and Communication, Past and Present." The other participants included Jeffrey Elman of UCSD who spoke "On Dinosaur Bones and the Meaning of Words," and Thierry Bardini of the University of Montreal, whose paper was entitled, "On Strange Filiations of the Stranger Count: Korzybski and Cyberculture." We hope to have the participants in this session attend the next IGS conference and present their papers on that occasion. Regrettably, our application for affiliation with the National Communication Association was put on hold, due to the fact that the NCA is reviewing its policies and procedures concerning affiliation, but they are optimistic that once the review is complete we will be a welcome addition to the list of NCA affiliates. In the meantime, NCA 2nd Vice-President Dawn O. Braithwaite has offered to sponsor a session on behalf of the Institute at the 2009 NCA meeting in Chicago. As for the National Council of Teachers of English meeting in San Antonio, our booth there was staffed by IGS officer manager Judy Clarke, with the assistance of her daughter (and our previous office manager) Jennifer, and her son Zachary. Our thanks go out to the Clarke family for a job well done!

Affiliations and Associations

At the New York State Communication Association's yearly conference, which was held on October 17-19, 2008 in Kerhonkson, NY, the Institute organized a program session on "General Semantics Today" that featured *ETC* Editor Bill Petkanas, *ETC* Associate Editor Mary Alexander, and IGS Executive Director Lance Strate. Also, the IGS has applied and been approved for affiliate status with the International Communication Association, and the Eastern Communication Association, and we will be sponsoring exhibits and program sessions at their annual meetings, ECA's being on April 22-26 in Philadelphia, ICA's being on May 21-25 in Chicago. Moreover, we plan to participate in the 2009 New Jersey Communication Association conference which is being held at Kean University in Union, New Jersey on March 28, and in the Media Ecology Association's annual convention hosted by Saint Louis University on June 18-21. Are you interested in arranging for Institute participation at a conference? Let us know!

The \$1,000 Samuel I. Hayakawa Book Prize

At the Alfred Korzybski Memorial Lecture we formally announced the Institute of General Semantics Samuel I. Hayakawa Book Prize which includes a cash award in the amount of \$1,000. Competition for the Hayakawa Book Prize is open to any book published in 2004 or later on topics and themes of direct relevance to the discipline of general semantics, including time-binding, abstraction, language, symbols, meaning, communication, media, perception, consciousness, epistemology, scientific method, etc. To enter, send a letter of nomination and four copies of the book to Executive Director, Institute of General Semantics, 2260 College Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76110 by March 1, 2009. For more information, contact Lance Strate, Executive Director of the Institute of General Semantics, via e-mail executivedirector@generalsemantics.org, or by telephone at 718.817.4864.

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