

# Time-Bindings

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## A Message From Lance Strate, Executive Director:



Planning is underway for the 58th Annual Alfred Korzybski Memorial Lecture, hosted by Fordham University once again, and will be on October 29, 2010. The AKML will be held in conjunction with a Symposium entitled *New Languages, New Relations, New Realities*, which will take place over the course of that weekend, October 29-31, 2010. In addition to the Korzybski Lecture, which will be given this year by linguistics scholar Deborah Tannen, the Symposium will also feature Douglas Rushkoff, who delivered the 2008 AKML; Nicholas Johnson, our 1995 Korzybski Lecturer; Tiffany Shlain, who will be previewing her new film, *Connections* (Tiffany is the daughter of the late Leonard Shlain, who delivered the 2007 AKML); Robert Logan, physics professor and Marshall McLuhan collaborator from the University of Toronto; and Gary Gumpert and Susan Drucker of the Urban Communication

Foundation. And there is more to come! Our Call for Papers for participation in the Symposium is below, please consider submitting a proposal, or simply attending—you won't be disappointed!

## Deborah Tannen to Deliver the Alfred Korzybski Memorial Lecture

The name of our Alfred Korzybski Memorial Lecturer is well known to anyone interested in understanding and studying language. Deborah Tannen is University Professor and Professor of Linguistics at Georgetown University and author of many books and articles about how the language of everyday conversation affects relationships. She is best known as the author of *You Just Don't Understand: Women and Men in Conversation*, which was on the *New York Times* Best Seller list for nearly 4 years, including 8 months as No. 1, and has been translated into 30 languages. Her 2009 book *You Were Always Mom's Favorite!: Sisters in Conversation Throughout Their Lives*, became a *New York Times* best sel-ler and received a Books for a Better Life Award. *You're Wearing THAT?: Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation*, published in 2006, spent 10 weeks on the *New York Times* Best Seller list. Among her other books, *Talking from 9 to 5: Women and Men at Work* was a *New York Times* Business best seller; *The Argument Culture* received the Common Ground Book Award; and *I Only Say This Because I Love*

*You: Talking to Your Parents, Partner, Sibs, and Kids When You're All Adults* received a Books for a Better Life Award.



A frequent guest on television and radio news and information shows, Deborah Tannen has appeared on *The Colbert Report*, *20/20*, *Good Morning America*, *the Today Show*, *the Rachael Ray Talk Show*, *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, *Charlie Rose*, *48 Hours*, *CBS News*, *ABC News Tonight*, *Oprah*, *CNN*, *Larry King*, *Hardball*, *Nightline*, and many NPR shows including *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *The Diane Rehm Show*, and *Fresh Air*. She has been featured in and written for most major newspapers and magazines including *The New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Time*, *USA Today*, *People*, the *Washington Post*, and *The Harvard Business Review*. Deborah Tannen is one of only five in Georgetown University's College of Arts and Sciences who hold the distinguished rank of University Professor. She has been McGraw Distinguished Lecturer at Princeton University and was a fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Stanford, California, following a term in residence at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. The recipient of five honorary doctorates, she is a member of the PEN/Faulkner Foundation Board of Directors. In addition to her writing for general audiences, Tannen is author or editor of 14 books (21, including her general audience books) and over one hundred articles for scholarly audiences. She has also published poems, short stories, and personal essays. Her first play, "An Act of Devotion," is included in *The Best American Short Plays 1993-1994*. It was produced, together with her play "Sisters," by Horizons Theatre in Arlington, Virginia.

The title of Professor Tannen's Korzybski Lecture will be *Language and New Media: How Texting, Tweeting, E-mail and Facebook are Transforming Relationships*, a timely topic indeed, as she explains: *Much has been written about how the use of new media is transforming the language, such as the concern that the use of acronyms like "lol" is compromising written language and creeping into spoken language as well. These concerns will be addressed, but more significant is the way that use of new media transforms relationships, for example by speeding up the length of time expected between communications; in some contexts encouraging the belligerence that results from anonymity; and providing access to more individuals while possibly limiting the volume and type of communication with each.* I think it is safe to say that the 58th Annual Alfred Korzybski Memorial Lecture will be altogether memorable and enlightening!

### **At the Eastern Communication Association Meeting in Baltimore**

The IGS sponsored two programs as an affiliate of the Eastern Communication Association, at their 101st Annual Convention, which took place in Baltimore on April 22-25, 2010. A competitive papers session featured, "Let Them Eat Yellow Cake: The Consequences of General Semantics Violations in Public Affairs," by Mark Hickson III and Larry Powell, both of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, which was winner of our Top Paper Award, in addition to papers by Stephanie Gibson of the University of Baltimore, and Donna Flayhan of the State University of New York at New Paltz. Our other session was part of ECA's "Focus on the Future" series, entitled "The Chart is Not the Course You Travel," and featured a roundtable discussion involving Stephanie Gibson, *ETC* Editor Bill Petkanas, IGS Trustee Thom Gencarelli, IGS President Martin Levinson, and IGS Executive Director Lance Strate.

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