

**NCSA 2021 President's Award**

**Amy Arbogast**

**Assistant Professor of Writing, Speaking, and Argument, University of Rochester**

Today's NCSA President's Award winner is someone who has served our organization in many capacities, and yet has given each of her positions and duties an impressive degree of focus and passion. Her involvement with NCSA started when she was a graduate student, and she quickly distinguished herself for her work ethic and insightful contributions. She is a regular contributor at our conferences, she has taken a leading role in conference organization herself, and she has not only served on committees but has started new initiatives for NCSA. This person does not just serve the Association: she advocates for it and does so energetically. I am absolutely delighted to recognize as this year's President's Award winner the extremely deserving Amy Arbogast, Assistant Professor of Writing, Speaking, and Argument at the University of Rochester.

After graduating college *summa cum laude* from Allegheny College Amy went on to earn a Ph.D. in American History from the University of Rochester. Her dissertation focused on the emergence of professional playwriting in late-nineteenth-century America. She has published "Rural Life with Urban Strife: The Evolution of Rural Drama in the Late Nineteenth Century" in the collection *Performing the Progressive Era: Immigration, Urbanism, and Nationalism on Stage, 1890-1920*, and has contributed numerous entries to the *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Cultural and Intellectual History*. She is currently engaged in research related to her position as Assistant Professor of the University of Rochester's Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program and Coordinator of that Program's Speaking Center. She has received several grants and awards and has presented her research in a variety of venues. As those who know her can attest, Amy brings tremendous energy and enthusiasm to her work and frequently seeks to bridge the academic/civic divide.

Amy is a dedicated educator and an inspiration to her students and student tutors. As her Executive Director puts it, Amy's "concern for deep and active learning combined with her own passion for learning likely explain her commitment to mentoring students and her lasting impact on them." Indeed, her activities and impact extend beyond her work. She is also a baker of elaborate birthday and wedding cakes, a guitar player, and a trivia enthusiast known for her deep knowledge of the TV shows *The Office* and *Parks and Rec*. And as her husband Jonathan Arbogast notes, Amy is an A+ mom to their two children.

Amy first started attending our conferences in 2014 and has become quickly embedded into the fabric of NCSA. Her consistent advocacy of graduate students as a member of the Graduate Student Caucus was noteworthy, and she was the first graduate student to join our Board meetings. Amy later agreed to co-direct our 2020 conference in Rochester and worked tirelessly with her co-organizers on the conference plans. The Covid pandemic started less than two weeks before the conference was set to begin, and Amy once more worked tirelessly, this time to dismantle and postpone the event she had poured months of her time into perfecting. Undeterred by this tremendous disappointment, Amy has once again agreed to organize a conference in Rochester and has also joined our Executive Board as Chair of the Graduate Committee. Somehow, Amy continues to find energy for NCSA, and this benefits us all. I am deeply grateful to Amy for her work and dedication over the years and it is with pleasure that I recognize her today with the NCSA President's Award.

**Susan E. Cook**  
**NCSA President**