

# Communication Educator of the Year

## Dr. Walter G. Kirkpatrick

Receiving the TSCA award as 1985 Communication Educator of the Year is Dr. Walter G. Kirkpatrick, Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Memphis State University. Dr. Ralph Hillman of Middle Tennessee State University nominated Dr. Kirkpatrick, and observed in his letter of nomination that Dr. Kirkpatrick has "moved communication education into the public sector."

Indeed, Dr. Kirkpatrick has created an important new dimension for the Memphis State program by developing Organizational Communication as a vital option for study. He has created internships and jobs for his students with some of the most significant industries in Memphis, including Holiday Inns and Federal Express. He has built an important link between the university and the community.

Dr. Kirkpatrick has twice been nominated by his colleagues and students as a Semi-Finalist for the Teacher-of-the-Year Award at Memphis State. Only 15 of the more than 700 faculty who teach at Memphis State receive this honor.

Perhaps most significant of all, Dr. Kirkpatrick founded the National Undergraduate Honors Conference in Communication Studies, which he began in 1975 at Depauw University and has continued at Memphis State. The concept behind this conference is to bring many of the finest undergraduate students in the country to Memphis State each spring for three days of intensive seminars and workshops with prominent communication scholars.

The importance of the conference for the Speech Communication discipline has been immense. Prof. Sam Becker of the University of Iowa has said of the Conference: "It has encouraged hundreds of bright students into our discipline." Prof. James Andrews, chairperson at Indiana University, has described the NUHC as the "best conference for undergraduate students I've ever seen." Prof. Jesse Delia, chairperson of the University of Illinois, wrote of the Conference in the *Southern Speech Communication Journal*: "This is a great idea for our discipline, and deserves all our support." Prof. Dennis Gouran, chairperson of Pennsylvania State University, has responded, "We can't think of a better thing to support."

For his innovative, energetic reforms in communication education, the Tennessee Speech Communication Association is proud to honor **Prof. Walter Kirkpatrick as its 1985 Communication Educator of the Year.**