

WESTERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

2008 Annual Convention, Denver/Boulder, CO

February 15-19, 2008

CALL for
Competitive Papers, Program Proposals, Basic Course Conference,
Preconference Proposals, Workshop Proposals,
Undergraduate Scholars' Research Conference (USRC),
and Graduate Students Workshop & Graduate Programs' Open House

“Engaging Through Service”

The 2008 WSCA convention theme of “Engaging Through Service” encourages us to participate in and recognize the value of service in its many forms and circumstances, whether it is using service learning in the classroom, participating in faculty governance, holding office in an association interest group, or presenting a workshop to a community organization. Service not only aids others but also represents “enlightened self-interest” in maintaining and improving our discipline, schools, and communities. It is an investment in the future, done for the benefit of our colleagues and neighbors without regard for direct profit. Yet we are rewarded in many ways by doing service—in better communities, in healthier associations, in stronger departments, in positive annual evaluations, and in personal satisfaction. The theme of this year’s convention is designed to focus our attention on the ways we serve others and to facilitate our developing new ways to help make the world a better place. As Shirley Chisholm said, “Service is the rent you pay for room on this earth.”

Sue D. Pendell, WSCA President Elect/Primary Program Planner

- I. Competitive Papers (deadline: *received by 9/1/07*)*– Submit to interest group.
- II. Program Proposals (deadline: *received by 9/1/07*) – Submit to interest group.
- III. Basic Course Conference (deadline: *received by 9/1/07*) – Submit to Amy London.
- IV. Preconferences (deadline: *received by 9/1/07*) – Submit to appropriate coordinator (see below).
- V. Workshop Proposals (deadline: *received by 9/1/07*) – Submit to Sue Pendell.
- VI. Undergraduate Scholars' Research Conference (USRC)
(deadline: *received by 12/1/07*) – Submit to WSCA Second Vice President Heather Hundley, hhundley@csusb.edu.
- VII. Graduate Student Workshop & Graduate Programs' Open House
(deadline: *received by 9/1/07*) – Submit to WSCA Second Vice President Heather Hundley, hhundley@csusb.edu.

***Special Note: WSCA program planning uses only one deadline for competitive papers, program proposals, the Basic Course Conference, preconferences, workshop proposals, and Graduate Student Workshop & Graduate Programs' Open House. However, the USRC deadline is unique – December 1, 2007.**

Send all competitive papers and program proposals directly to the appropriate program planner for each interest group. Specific information about submitting to interest groups will be posted on the WSCA website (<http://www.westcomm.org/>) at the completion of the February 2007 convention.

Only workshop proposals (and indications of interest in participation in the appropriate preconference session) should be mailed directly to the primary program planner Sue D. Pendell at the Department of Speech Communication, Eddy Hall, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO 80523-1783, Sue.Pendell@colostate.edu.

I. COMPETITIVE PAPERS

1. Authors are encouraged to submit papers to the interest groups for competitive selection. Papers may include research reports employing any methodology, theoretical developments or critiques, critical analyses, and in some cases, works in progress. Submit each paper to **one** interest group only.

Competitive papers should not have been presented previously at another convention/conference, be accepted for presentation or publication, or have been published.

Special Note: Historically, the Community College and the Elementary and Secondary Education Interest Groups have not sponsored competitive papers. Please contact the interest group planner before submitting a competitive paper to either interest group.

2. Submitted papers should include:

(a) A separate title page with title of paper, names of all authors, and their addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and affiliations. This information should be included for each author and should be double-checked for accuracy.

In addition, audio-visual requests should be listed on the separate title page.

(Please Note: Equipment availability is extremely limited. See the WSCA policy on Audio-Visual Equipment at Conventions in the Policies and Procedures Manual on the web site (<http://www.westcomm.org/>).

(b) A 250-500-word abstract of the paper (with title appearing on this page).

(c) Typically, a maximum of twenty-five pages of text.

(d) No information in the paper that identifies the author(s) (beyond that which appears on the title page). *Please remove any identifiers from the paper and electronic file such as the author's name in the header or on the file label.*

3. Submission: Specific information about submitting to interest groups will be posted on the WSCA website (<http://www.westcomm.org/>) at the completion of the February 2007 convention and presented in the April 2007 *WSCA News*. Completed papers are submitted directly to the interest group planners, unless the interest group indicates otherwise.

4. Research in Progress: Some interest groups sponsor programs of “Research in Progress.” Papers submitted to these programs should be so designated on the cover page and should not exceed ten pages in length. Be sure that the interest group to which you are planning to send your paper accepts “research in progress” before submitting it.

5. Debut Award: The WSCA Executive Club Debut Award is made to the author of a paper presented at the convention by an author or co-authors “who have not presented a paper at a state, regional, national or international convention, or published in any academic journal.” The paper also should not have been accepted for presentation or publication. Papers presented at student-only conferences are exempt from this requirement. All authors of a co-authored paper must meet these eligibility requirements for a paper to be considered a Debut Paper. **Papers eligible for the Debut Award should be marked “DEBUT” in the upper right-hand corner of the title page.** Please also indicate whether each author is a bachelors, masters, or doctoral student. Some interest groups also sponsor debut programs, but papers need not be presented on a debut panel to be eligible for the Executive Club Debut Award.

6. Submit the paper and separate title page in MS Word as email attachments, unless the interest group specifies otherwise, to the appropriate interest group planner **NO LATER THAN Saturday, September 1, 2007.** Some interest groups allow or request that papers be submitted in hard copy. If hard copies are allowed/requested, **five copies** of each competitive paper must be **RECEIVED** by **Saturday, September 1, 2007** by the interest group program planner. Check with the interest group program planner before submitting a paper as to the appropriate format.

II. PROGRAM PROPOSALS

1. Program proposals should focus on a unifying theme relevant to research, theory, or instruction in the area of the sponsoring interest group. Programs may consist of a chair, individual presenters, and a critic respondent; however round-table discussions, performance venues, or other unique formats are encouraged. In alternative program formats, respondents may be included or omitted as appropriate. Innovative program proposals, especially those that provide opportunities for engaged interaction among participants and attendees, are encouraged. Programs co-sponsored with other interest groups are also welcome.

Programs that relate to the convention theme, “Engaging Through Service,” are encouraged.

2. Program proposals should include the following:

- (a) Thematic title of the program;
- (b) Names, addresses, phones, e-mail addresses, and affiliations of all participants;
- (c) Title and brief description of each presentation;
- (d) Equipment needed for the program.

(Please Note: Equipment availability is extremely limited. See the WSCA policy on Audio-Visual Equipment at Conventions in the Policies and Procedures Manual on the web site.)

3. Submit the program proposal in MS Word as an email attachment, unless the interest group specifies otherwise, to the appropriate interest group planner **NO LATER THAN Saturday,**

September 1, 2007. Some interest groups allow or request that program proposals be submitted in hard copy. If hard copies are allowed/requested, **five copies** of each program proposal must be **RECEIVED** by **Saturday, September 1, 2007** by the interest group program planner. Check with the interest group program planner before submitting a proposal as to the appropriate format.

III. BASIC COURSE CONFERENCE

Whether your college is grappling with understanding Student Learning Outcomes, in the midst of revamping departmental learning outcomes, or participating in a “dialog” about SLO’s, the time is ripe for you to understand the theoretical and practical implementation of assessing student learning. Thus, the goal of the 2008 Basic Course Conference at the WSCA Denver/Boulder convention is to understand SLO’s and their relationship to course objectives, rubrics, and assessment. The Conference will allow you to work with your current syllabi, assignments, and forms of assessment, and look at how SLO’s fit into the bigger picture of course curriculum, classroom management, and student learning.

If you are interested in attending the Conference, please answer the following questions, and send your responses to Amy London at Skye.Gentile@cabrillo.edu

1. What is your response to the idea of SLO’s? Does the idea scare you? Make you dwell on work load issues? Provoke some other response?
2. Do you currently have objectives on your syllabus?
3. What do you understand as the difference between course objectives and SLO’s?
4. Is your college currently implementing campus or college-wide learning outcomes?
5. What is considered a “rubric” on your campus?
6. Do you currently use rubrics to assess student learning?
7. What is one thing you want to learn during the SLO Conference?

We look forward to hearing from you and promise to use the Conference time respectfully, speaking directly to your needs and the needs of your students. Our goal is for you to leave the Conference with ideas, tangible materials and strategies that you can implement immediately in your classroom.

The Basic Course Conference will be held Saturday, February 15, 2008, from 1:00-4:00 p.m., and the fee will be \$10.00.

IV. PRECONFERENCES

1. Three **mini-preconference sessions** will be devoted to the theme of “Engaging Through Service.”

Session I will focus on participating in department/college/university service; this precon will be coordinated by Sue Pendell, Department of Speech Communication, Eddy Hall, Colorado State

University, Fort Collins CO 80523-1783, Sue.Pendell@colostate.edu

Session II will focus on getting involved in your regional, national, and international associations; this precon will be coordinated by Dennis Alexander, Department of Communication, 255 South Central Campus Dr Rm 2400, Salt Lake City UT 84112-0491, dennis.alexander@m.cc.utah.edu

Session III will focus on utilizing your knowledge and interests in community service; this precon will be coordinated by Peter Andersen, School of Communication, San Diego State University, 5500 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182-4561, peterand@mail.sdsu.edu

2. Preconferences will be held Saturday, February 16, 2008.

3. Participation of non-communication and non-academic individuals is encouraged. **Indicate your interest in participation on a panel to the coordinator listed above.** You should include the following:

- (a) Title of the preconference;
- (b) Your names, full addresses, e-mail addresses, and affiliation;
- (c) The focus of your proposed participation;
- (d) Your background in this area.

4. Your indication of interest in participation must be **RECEIVED NO LATER THAN Saturday, September 1, 2007.**

V. WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

1. A workshop is intended as a training or informational short course that can be presented in a three-hour or six-hour time block. A workshop topic may concern the presentation of teaching innovations; an area of research; a new theoretical perspective; the application of a body of knowledge; skill development; or another clearly focused topic. Workshop leaders are encouraged to advertise their workshops and solicit participation.

2. Workshops are scheduled for the first full day of the convention, Saturday, February 16, 2008. Participants pay a modest registration fee. The fee is intended to cover only the direct costs (materials, etc.) incurred in conducting the workshop (see #4 below).

3. Workshops of interest to members of the Western Forensics Association are encouraged and will be programmed on Sunday evening, February 17, 2008, after completion of the WFA tournament.

4. Workshop proposals should include the following:

- (a) Title of the workshop;
- (b) Names, full addresses, e-mail addresses, and affiliations of all presenters;

- (c) Rationale and goals of the workshop;
- (d) Outline and description of workshop activities;
- (e) Room size and configuration requested (theater seating, etc.);
- (f) Equipment requirements;
(Note: Equipment availability is extremely limited. See the WSCA policy on Audio-Visual Equipment at Conventions.)
- (g) Maximum enrollment;
- (h) Fee amount, set in accordance with WSCA policy (see below);
- (i) Time-block requested (e.g., three hours, six hours).

5. Guide to setting fees for workshop leaders: WSCA has set \$5.00 as the base fee for any workshop. The first \$5.00 of each registrant's fee goes to cover administrative costs. The fee above \$5.00 should be set at such a level as to provide reimbursement to the workshop leader(s) only for the cost of materials, equipment, and any out-of-the-ordinary expenses. Costs for audio-visual and other equipment rental and costs of producing materials for participants must be covered within the overall fee that you specify. The Association cannot reimburse more money to a workshop leader than it receives from participant fees. **Special Note:** If a part or all of a fee is proposed as covering an individual's expenses or as an honorarium, Sue Pendell must approve it prior to any commitment to the individual.

6. The workshop proposal should be sent as an email attachment (saved in MS Word) to Sue Pendell (Department of Speech Communication, Eddy Hall, Colorado State University, Fort Collins CO 80525-1783; Sue.Pendell@colostate.edu).

The proposal must be **RECEIVED NO LATER THAN Saturday, September 1, 2007.**

VI. 5th ANNUAL UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS' RESEARCH CONFERENCE

The WSCA Second Vice President solicits submissions for the Undergraduate Scholars' Research Conference, to be held on Saturday, February 16, 2008. Undergraduates are invited to submit papers reporting original research (i.e., critical investigation, experimentation, or analysis leading to the discovery or creation of new facts, theories or interpretation or significant revisions of already existing ones, or the practical applications of these new or revised conclusions). Diverse philosophical, theoretical and methodological approaches are welcome. All authors on papers submitted must be undergraduate students. An awards ceremony follows the last presentation. For those students whose papers are accepted, WSCA will pay \$15 of the \$25 USRC registration. "Completed papers must be received by December 1, 2007 and should be sent as an email attachment (saved in MS Word) to Heather Hundley at hhundley@csusb.edu; authors will be notified by January 16, 2008."

VI. GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP & GRADUATE PROGRAMS' OPEN HOUSE

On Saturday, February 16, 2008, the WSCA Second Vice President will host a WORKSHOP for advanced undergraduates and master's students who are considering pursuing a master's or doctoral degree in communication. The Workshop is designed (1) to introduce students to the benefits of graduate education, (2) to help them understand how to choose a graduate program

that meets their needs, interests, and abilities, and (3) to gain insight into the realities of graduate school life by talking with current doctoral student peers and faculty mentors.

The WSCA Second Vice President will also host a Graduate Programs' OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, February 16, 2008. Undergraduate and graduate students will meet with representatives from universities that have graduate programs in communication. Faculty and current graduate students who are interested in participating in the Workshop, and Graduate Program Directors at universities and colleges that offer graduate programs in communication who wish to participate in the Open House, should contact Heather Hundley, at hhundley@csusb.edu, by September 1, 2007.