



WSCA NEWS

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Editor Blaine Goss, New Mexico State University



Make Plans Now to Attend San Francisco!

Ron Lustig, WSCA President

The 76th annual WSCA conference is almost here! Join us in San Francisco as we enjoy a wonderful experience at the *best* communication conference that the discipline offers. President-elect Mary Jane Collier and the interest group planners have put together a fantastic program centering on the theme of “Negotiating Third Spaces.” Local hosts Karen Lovaas and Amy Kilgard have designed some terrific extra-curricular experiences that highlight the beauty and artistry of San Francisco. So please come to San Francisco for the scholarship, the fellowship, and the fun!

Our convention hotel, the Argent, is centrally located, has a world-class chef, and is ready to provide us with first-class service. Staying at the Argent means you'll be where the action is – in downtown San Francisco, with easy access to panels, programs, and WSCA events. You also help support WSCA when you stay at the Argent, as it costs the association when program participants don't stay at the conference hotel.

I want to take a moment to note the loss of Leah Vande Berg, who died on December 13, 2004. Leah was to become the president-elect of WSCA at the conclusion of the San Francisco conference. I know the entire WSCA family joins me in feelings of sorrow at her passing, and our deepest condolences go out to her loved ones. Leah embraced fully the “work hard, play hard” ethic of WSCA; she was a candle that lit so many of our lives. As we approach another WSCA conference and the lively activities that it provides, there is a special justification for coming to San Francisco in February. I hope to see you there.

From Mary Jane Collier, President-Elect

You've all received a WSCA Convention Mailing Packet with details about the exciting events planned for our 2005 convention in San Francisco. This year's convention promises to be overflowing with extraordinary panels and programs, exciting performances, and lots of opportunities to engage scholarly ideas, socialize with old friends, and network with new acquaintances. This promises to be an exceptional convention experience.

You'll see a range of pre-conference sessions and workshops on February 19th from which to choose, many of which are based on the theme of “third spaces.” For instance, there is a pre-conference session on interrogating feminisms and one on student-to-student engagement in the basic communication course. A third pre-conference invites participants to address the social activism rhetoric of the 1960s in the actual spaces in which key events occurred in the San Francisco area. Workshops are devoted to online instruction, community service learning, and social support. The second annual Undergraduate Scholars' Research Conference, Graduate Student Workshop, and Graduate Programs Open House, coordinated by our 2nd Vice President Julie Yingling, are also scheduled on Saturday.

Saturday evening is the traditional Convention Kick-off/Convention Opening with Starhawk. She has agreed to hold a book-signing directly following this event. On Sunday don't miss the keynote and dialogue event with Starhawk and Bryant Alexander, Wenshu Lee, Patricia Geist-Martin, and Anne Marie Todd. Thanks to the hard work of your Program Planners, from the first time slot on Sunday morning to the last time slot on Tuesday, the schedule is jam packed with exemplary panels and programs. You'll see a wide variety of formats; in addition to traditional paper presentations, there are round table discussions, performances engaging the theme of the convention, and sessions in which participants from the local community share their expertise with us. Indeed there will be many opportunities to learn new ideas, work with multiple perspectives, and envision and create futures characterized by humanity and social justice!

See you at The Argent Hotel!

Sue Pendell, Executive Director

As you can see from the pictures of The Argent throughout this newsletter, it's a wonderful hotel for the convention and a great place to stay. WSCA asks that you stay at the convention hotel for two main reasons, one for you and one for the Association.

Your reason for staying at the convention hotel is because your room is convenient to the meetings, the special events, the parties, and the lobby lounge. It's easy and safe just to take an elevator "home" after a department gathering or the Sock Hop. And at The Argent the rooms and the views are spectacular. So treat yourself!

The Association asks you to stay at the convention hotel because we "pay" for our meeting rooms through your having a sleeping room at the hotel. If too many of you don't have sleeping rooms there, then we have to pay extra charges to the hotel, which will lead to higher registration fees or some other way to make up the money.

Over the years we've kept registration fees down to encourage students as well as faculty to attend. We also negotiate the same room rate for one to four people so you can share a room to reduce costs.

Please help yourself and your Association have a successful convention by staying at
The Argent--It's the thing to do!



Welcome to San Francisco! (From Karen Lovaas and Amy Kilgard)

We're looking forward to your arrival for the WSCA 76th Annual Convention in San Francisco, February 18-22, 2005.

The convention's dates come at the end of San Francisco's winter season, with December and January typically the coldest months of the year. Overall, February in San Francisco is quite mild when compared to the most of the U.S. The weather is extremely variable and can differ markedly from neighborhood to neighborhood; downtown is usually one of the sunniest areas. One can expect both some rainstorms and some bright, crisp days in February. Year-round, it's good advice to think in terms of layers of clothing, some of

which can be donned or removed as conditions change. Consider jackets and lightweight sweaters, long sleeve shirts, a raincoat. Jeans are worn year-round in SF. Theatre and symphony goers wear everything from jeans to haute couture evening dress.

Don't forget the Special Events options of the Napa Wine Country Tour on Saturday, February 19th. To register, use the link on the WSCA Convention page at <http://www.westcomm.org/conventions/convinfo.asp>

There's also information there about going on a Mission Trail Mural Walk or ferrying over to Alcatraz. If you're thinking of golf, remember to contact Heather Hundley hhundley@csusb.edu or Scott Patterson spatters@sfsu.edu

There are always an incredible array of things to do in the San Francisco Bay Area. You may not realize, for example, that the entire of month of February is the San Francisco Crab Festival. Once you get here, we'll be providing other information on a variety of dining options in the area. For advance information on the arts and other kinds events you may want to enjoy while you're here, go to <http://onlysf.sfvisitor.org/calendar/>

All in all, we believe that the San Francisco Bay Area offers companionable, enlivening, and inspiring sites that urge us to forge new connections with the people and world around us. It's an ideal setting for enacting this year's convention theme, Negotiating Third Spaces.

Golf by the Bay!!

Please join us Saturday February 19th in a relaxing day golfing with your friends and colleagues. Local hosts and golf enthusiasts are organizing all interested parties to golf at The Presidio Golf Club in San Francisco <http://www.presidiogolf.com/>

The cost will not exceed \$120 per person, but more details will unfold prior to the conference. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Heather Hundley hhundley@csusb.edu or Scott Patterson spatters@sfsu.edu

A travel note from the Newsletter Editor

A source on the web tells me that a cab ride from SFO to the hotel will be approximately \$40. I believe that the subway system known as BART is available at the airport. Parking a car at the hotel can be expensive (\$30/day).

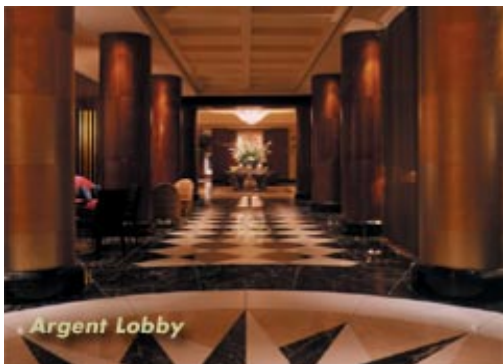


WSCA Debut Paper Award Named for Leah Vande Berg

The WSCA Executive's Club, the organization of current and former WSCA leaders, has renamed the WSCA Debut Paper Award in honor of Leah Vande Berg. This award is presented by the Executive's Club to the author of the top debut paper (first conference paper of a new scholar) at the association's annual conference. The Executive's Club has named the award in Leah Vande Berg's name in recognition of her leadership in WSCA as First Vice President and Editor of the *Western Journal of Communication* and in special recognition of her devotion to students and new scholars. The first Leah Vande Berg Debut Paper Award will be given at the 2005 conference in San Francisco.

From: Vince Waldron, ICIG chair

Interpersonal Communication Interest Group received a record number of submissions for the San Francisco conference. We will present 10 competitive paper panels and 4 discussion panels. Among the interesting topics to be addressed by ICIG panels will be: Interpersonal Communication in Same Sex Unions, Underutilized Theories of Family Communication, and the Role of Forgiveness in Personal Relationships. Students or faculty interested in interpersonal communication scholarship or pedagogy are encouraged to join this energetic group of scholars at our business meeting, bright and early Monday morning at 7:30 a.m!



Coming up in WJC:

Western Journal of Communication

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