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**Join us at the WSCA Convention on February 17-21, 2006
at the Palm Spring Riviera Resort & Racquet Club**

From Mary Jane Collier, WSCA President...

Count on positively engaging panels and performances, the captivating company of WSCA colleagues, and of course, bask in the balmy breezes of Palm Springs in February! Our upcoming WSCA convention is scheduled for February 17-21, 2006 at the Palm Springs Riviera Resort & Racquet Club. Look for a full slate of programs and panels including workshops, preconferences, the third annual Undergraduate Scholars' Research Conference, Graduate Programs Open House and Graduate Student Workshop.

The 2006 convention theme, "Cherishing (Our) Time (Together)" was developed by Leah Vande Berg. This theme encourages us "to work from within multiple viewpoints and perspectives, to think about how we spend our time as teachers, scholars, and citizens, friends, partners, and family members, and to envision and take steps toward futures characterized by humane commitments and social and environmental justice." Connie Bullis and Dennis Alexander, Primary Program Planners for this convention, honor her memory by maintaining this theme for the 2006 convention.

The Riviera Resort & Racquet Club is a beautiful site where we can theorize, reflect, perform, and engage the latest research and pedagogy in comfortable meeting rooms, as well as take advantage of the swimming pool, lighted putting course, and tennis courts. Heather Hundley and the team of local hosts at California State University, San Bernardino have things well in hand to prepare for our visit. Remember the video from the luncheon presentation in San Francisco where we met the Riviera hotel staff and learned about the personalized planning that had already

begun? If this isn't enough...you can look forward to our sock-hop and stepping out on the dance floor imagining audiences who were dancing to Elvis on the very same stage not so long ago!

See you in Palm Springs!

From Heather Hundley and Donna Gotch, Local Hosts

Discourse in the Desert!

WSCA Convention February 18-21, 2006

Palm Springs, CA



California State University, San Bernardino is excited to host the upcoming WSCA convention in Palm Springs, California. We will be in Palm Springs for the first time in the organization's 75+ year history and we plan to make it a memorable trip. Some special surprises are being planned for convention attendees.

The city is a perfect location to host the convention since it offers a rich diversity of culture and activities for everyone to enjoy. Outdoor activities include tennis, hiking, biking, and golfing. In fact, the area is known as the "Golf Capital of the World" and features 112 golf courses in the valley. You may come early or stay late to take a day trip to Joshua Tree National Forest or even take a jeep tour or eco tour in the desert to learn about plants and animals indigenous to the area. Another way to explore the ecological makeup of the region without traveling too far is to visit the Living Desert (which consists of 1200 acres of scenic trails and exhibits in the nearby city of Indian Wells). Several mountains and canyons frame the beautiful desert. To get a bird's eye view, you can take a fifteen-minute tram ride to the top of Mount San Jacinto. Be prepared for the elevation change from 487 feet above sea level to 8500 feet above sea level, however, because in February there will be snow at the top of the tram.

In addition to the numerous outdoor activities, the area has a plethora of museums, galleries, shopping, restaurants, casinos, and spas. Cabazon is a short drive away and offers 200+ outlet shops including Crate and Barrel, Eddie Bauer, Northface, DKNY and other top name stores. In the other direction, Palm Desert features El Paseo known as "the Rodeo Drive of the Desert" presenting Tommy Bahama, Banana Republic, Saks Fifth Avenue

and several fine art galleries. After spending an afternoon of shopping, dining and gambling, you may want to relax at one of the many spas in town. The Spa Resort Casino offers therapeutic and rejuvenating mineral baths, body wraps, massages and facials. Reasonable rates and discounts are available for groups of six or more, so plan a day of luxury with your friends.

The conference hotel, the Riviera Resort, brings the 1950s style charm indicative of Palm Springs, to our convention. In fact, several celebrities such as Sammy Davis Jr., Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Raquel Welsh, Phyllis Diller, Ricky Nelson have made this hotel a destination and it was the location of the 1963 film *Palm Springs Weekend* featuring Connie Stevens, Troy Donahue, Robert Conrad, Stephanie Powers and Jerry Van Dyke. The Mediterranean Room, where the sock hop and luncheon will be held, was a place where Elvis invited locals in to watch him practice. More recently, the hotel has been host to Lionel Richie, Martina McBride, Will Smith and Queen Latifah. The two-floor buildings that surround the swimming pool will not leave you waiting for an elevator jammed with other convention goers. Several activities are available on the hotel property as well, such as stadium tennis courts, an 18-hole putting green, a basketball court, sand volleyball, swimming pools, hot tubs, and other watering holes.

While the city offers 354 days of sunshine, don't be misguided by the temperatures. While the average high is 72 degrees, the average low is 43 degrees. You may walk around in the daytime in shorts, but when the sun goes down, it gets quite chilly. In fact, it may rain while we're there, so be prepared for these kinds of conditions.

To explore the Palm Springs Visitor's web site, see <http://www.palm-springs.org/> . For history on the area, go to <http://www.ci.palm-springs.ca.us/history.html> . Please plan to join us for the WSCA Convention in Palm Springs, February 18-21, 2006 so we may "Cherish (Our) Time (Together)".

From the Convention Planners – Dennis Alexander & Connie Bullis

Palm Springs Program

We have a great program shaping up for the 2006 WSCA Convention in Palm Springs. Saturday is filled with the Undergraduate Preconference, the Preconference with our theme of "Cherishing (Our) Time (Together)," workshops and the Kickoff and No host reception. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday morning are being filled with exciting programs and competitive

papers. The keynote on Sunday and the luncheon on Monday will also be memorable events. Join us at the Riviera for an intellectually stimulating and exciting four days.



WSCA Model Teaching Program Award Call for Nominations

The Model Teaching Program Award Committee seeks nominations for the Teaching Program Award to be presented at the next Western States Communication Association meeting in Palm Springs, California (February 2006). The award may be given to one or more speech or communication programs from elementary schools, secondary schools, or community colleges. The following criteria will be used to evaluate and select the award programs. The ideal program should:

1. The program should reflect the breadth and/or depth of the communication discipline.
2. The program should have teaching personnel with specialized training in communication.
3. The program should integrate curricular and co-curricular activities.
4. The program should have strong administrative support.
5. The program should relate to the mission of the particular institution.

Nominations must include at least two letters of support (one should be from the school or college; the other should come either from a former student or from someone outside the program) that detail the programs success in meeting the above criteria. Additional supporting documents, such as descriptions of course curriculum and innovative teaching methods are encouraged. The deadline for nominations is October 31, 2005. The recipient(s) will be notified in December and will present a panel on the Model Teaching Program at the Palm Springs Convention.

Nominations should be sent to Dr. Diane Martin, Dr. Robert B. Pamplin, Jr. School of Business, University of Portland, 5000 N. Willamette Blvd., Portland, OR 97203.

Three other members of the selection committee are from the Communication and Instruction Interest Group, the Community College Interest Group, and the Elementary and Secondary Education Interest Group.

Questions about the award and/or the nomination process may be directed to Diane Martin at martind@up.edu.

From Lisa A. Flores, Second Vice President

Renew and Recruit!: WSCA Relies on its Members

Professional organizations, such as Western, play key roles in our academic lives. Providing opportunities for scholarly conversation, pedagogical inspiration, and collegiality, WSCA brings us together and energizes us in so many ways. When we read our journals and attend conference panels, we enter in and engage scholarly debates. Often these informal and formal conversations that occur in our journals, panels, listservs, and website help us rethink ideas we're struggling with. Or they provoke us, shifting our academic energy in new and exciting ways. Our colleagues in Western help us negotiate the classroom, challenging us to engage our students across the discipline. And of course, as we sneak some time with friends in downtown San Francisco or by the pool in Palm Springs, we remember why we value WSCA and just how central it is to our academic lives.

As second vice president, my task, in part, is to reflect on our membership and to ensure that we support current members and welcome new ones. To do this, I need your help. As you reflect, even momentarily, on the benefits of your WSCA membership, please take a minute and renew and recruit. You will soon be receiving your membership renewal information. Rather than sliding it aside so you can attend to the pressing and immediate demands of your day, fill it out and return it. Or jump on-line and renew electronically. Consider upgrading your membership to a lifetime membership. But don't stop there. Send a note to a colleague who may have let her or his membership lapse. Identify those you know who may not be members. Share with them the gains of membership and direct them to the website so they too can join. After all, the sun and fun of Palm Springs is just around the corner!

On-line and printable membership information, for new and current members, is available at our website at www.westcomm.org.