



**January 2006**

**Volume 33 Number 1 Editor : Blaine Goss, New Mexico State University**

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

## **Embrace Palm Springs!**

Heather Hundley & Donna Gotch, Local Hosts

We're excited to host the 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Western States Communication Convention in Palm Springs February 17-21<sup>st</sup>, 2006. It's the ideal location this time of year, so gear up for the hustle and bustle of this small resort city. The daytime temperatures are relatively warm compared to most of the places convention goers are coming from; however, remember it's the desert—when the sun goes down it gets quite chilly quickly. Don't expect any snow unless you take the tram to the top of Mt San Jacinto or go to a nearby ski resort (about 2 hours away at Big Bear), but it could rain. Check the local weather before you pack for the trip.

We are planning a couple local events such as touring the ecologically sound Living Desert Zoo & Botanical Gardens and golfing at Mesquite Golf and Country Club. To register for these activities go to: <http://www.westcomm.org/conventions/WSCA-2006-Palm-Springs> and sign up. In addition, you and your friends may enjoy other local activities such as sightseeing in a Jeep Eco Tour, attending the Follies, or relaxing at a spa. Remember, since it's the city's busiest time of year and President's Day weekend, you may need to reserve these activities ahead of time. The Aerial Tram suggests people arrive by 10 am at the latest to avoid long lines and enjoy the mountain. Of course, you won't need reservations to gamble, shop, or sightsee. See the Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism Guide at <http://www.palm-springs.org/attractions.html> for additional details.

Palm Springs offers a number of culinary delights in all price ranges. This includes international flavors such as Thai, Japanese, French, Italian, Mexican, and Indian restaurants, a New York style kosher deli, Hawaiian fare, and vegetarian cuisine. Several watering holes are available to select from as well including Hair of the Dog (a British

pub), The Village Pub (which features a live band and great happy hour specials), and The Beer Hunter (an excellent sports bar with a myriad of large and small screen televisions). The city consists of two main roads, Indian Canyon and Palm Canyon, where the majority of these restaurants can be found. They are the most populated areas and for the upscale places, you will want to make reservations.

We look forward to your arrival and want to make your stay most enjoyable. The local host team and Riviera Resort and Racquet Club are committed to the conference and your needs. Please make the most of Palm Springs and let's "Cherish Our Time Together."

## From Mary Jane Collier, WSCA President

Cherish time with WSCA colleagues with discourse in the desert!

It's not too late to plan to join us in Palm Springs in February. Our upcoming WSCA convention is scheduled for February 17-21, 2006 at the Palm Springs Riviera Resort & Racquet Club. There are so many outstanding workshops and excellent preconferences, as well as the third annual Undergraduate Scholars' Research Conference, Graduate Programs Open House and Graduate Student Workshop, on Saturday that you will definitely want to arrive on Friday evening to be ready to take advantage of them!

As you will recall, the 2006 convention theme, "Cherishing (Our) Time (Together)" was developed by Leah Vande Berg. Connie Bullis and Dennis Alexander, both former Presidents of WSCA, graciously volunteered to coordinate the planning of the Palm Springs convention. To honor the memory of Leah Vande Berg, they maintained her theme for the convention. 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."

This WSCA convention will be filled with opportunities to spend cherished time with new colleagues and old friends. Saturday evening's Convention Opening (Kick-off event) includes a performance tribute to Leah Vande Berg and will be followed by the Welcome Reception. Sunday's keynote address is Mayor Ron Oden who will address a topic consistent with the convention theme--the role of communication and cherishing differences in the midst of social and political challenges. Finally there is a wide range of competitively selected, thematic, and invited programs and panels to inspire and engage all of us through Tuesday noon.

On behalf of WSCA, thank you to Dennis Alexander for his careful planning of the convention schedule, to Connie Bullis for coordinating convention events, to Bob Avery for planning the Kick-off event, and to Betsy Bach and Dawn Braithwaite, who planned the keynote address by Mayor Oden.

Make your reservations right now for the 2006 WSCA convention at the Riviera Resort & Racquet Club in Palm Springs. I look forward to seeing you very soon!

## Palm Springs Packs Scholarly Punch

I hope you have been looking over the WSCA Program copy on the website. If you have I am sure you are having the same problem as I. When the planners started sending in the programs and panels I got caught up in what I wanted to see and hear at what hour. I would like to tell you I scheduled the panels in such a way as to attend all that I wanted. The truth is way too many interesting topics and issues.

I do know that the kickoff presentation is sure to please and shock and challenge and celebrate a life worth lived. The presenters have spent a good deal of time creating the right words and moments for this fitting tribute to Leah VandeBerg' scholarship and passions. I also know the keynote of Mayor Ron Oden presentation will be community service and politically charged. His title is America: I Thought You Said!?

As you begin to use the web program to plan your convention activities, do not miss some of the hot button sessions: diversity in forensics, Desperate Housewives, modernity and violence, performing feminisms, G.I.F.T.S., spirituality in health care and of course the top competitive papers in the various interest group. The web program does contain a few minor errors. The printed program you will receive at registration has been through extra proofreading.

Dennis Alexander, Program Coordinator

## A Student-Centered Experience

As you finalize plans for Palm Springs next month, be sure to put some time aside for the student-centered programs on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. That day begins with the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Undergraduate Scholars' Research Conference, which offers undergraduate students from across the region and even the nation to present their best work and begin what we hope will be a long commitment to communication and to WSCA. The conference promises to be both inspiring and fun. Following that conference is a graduate workshop where undergraduate and graduate students can get insight into graduate school success and the various graduate programs, both M.A. and Ph.D., across the West.

Lisa Flores, Second Vice President

## 2006 WSCA Distinguished Service Award Call for Nominations

The Western States Communication Association seeks nominations for the 2006 Distinguished Service Award. This award honors persons who have made considerable and long-standing contributions both to WSCA and to the field of communication. Previous award winners include Malcolm Sillars, Walter Fisher, Dennis Alexander, Bill Wilmot, Jody Nyquist, and Leah Vande Berg. The nomination packet should include a detailed listing of the nominee's accomplishments (or a c.v.) and one or more letters describing the nominee's contributions to WSCA and the field. Updated nomination packets of persons previously nominated are welcome. The committee will begin review of nominations on December 14, 2005, and accept nominations until January 12, 2006.

Please send nominations or direct inquiries to the committee chair, Brenda J. Allen by email, hard copy, or fax: [Brenda.J.Allen@cudenver.edu](mailto:Brenda.J.Allen@cudenver.edu)  
Department of Communication  
University of Colorado and Health Sciences Center  
Campus Box 176  
Denver, CO 80217-3364  
303-556-6018 (fax)

## Call for Nominations:

### *Western Journal of Communication* - Editor-Elect

The WSCA Publications Committee is searching for candidates for the position of editor-elect for the *Western Journal of Communication*. The editor will serve a 3-year term and will likely start reviewing manuscripts in Fall 2007. The next editor will be responsible for volumes 73, 74, and 75 (2009, 2010, and 2011). WSCA will help offset some editorial costs (e.g., funding for editorial assistants, mailing, etc.).

Nominations, including self-nominations, should be supported by the following documentation:

- \* Letter of self-nomination (or letter expressing willingness to serve if not self-nominated), including a statement of proposed plans and editorial vision.
- \* Current curriculum vitae
- \* A letter from a responsible administrator pleading adequate host institutional support and outlining nature of support.
- \* Names and phone numbers of professional references qualified to assess the candidate's preparation/ability to carry out the editor's tasks.

Nominations should be directed to the Publications Committee Chair: Dr. Chuck Braithwaite, Chair, WSCA Publications Committee, Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0245.

The committee will begin reviewing applications on March 1st until a suitable slate of candidates is found. A list of candidates will be forwarded to the Executive Committee of WSCA. If you have any questions, please free to e-mail Chuck Braithwaite at

cbraithwaite2@unl.edu.

## Coming in the February Issue of *WJC*:

"Rhetoric, Anxiety, and Character Armor: Burke's Interactional Rhetoric of Identity" by Bryan Crable.

"Employee Perspectives on Implementation: Communication as Predictors of Perceptions of Success and Resistance" by Laurie K. Lewis.

"Human Affection Exchange: XII. Affectionate Communication is Associated with Diurnal Variation in Salivary Free Cortisol" by Kory Floyd.

"Alternative Media and Social Justice Movements: The Development of a Resistance Performance Paradigm of Audience Analysis" by Joshua Atkinson and Debbie S. Dougherty.

## A message from The Dean of the Palm Desert Campus and Communication Colleague, Fred Jandt,

The February meeting of the World Affairs Council of the Desert will be:  
February 19, 2006

Dr. Amy B. Zegart, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy  
University of California, Los Angeles will present, "Through the Looking Glass:  
September 11th and the Failure of American Intelligence Agencies"

See the website below if your WSCA plans allow and extra *intellectual hors d'oeuvre!*

<http://www.worldaffairsdesert.org/wacd/default.html>