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Mesa is the place-a!: Come on in for WSCA 2009!

by Paul Mongeau, 2009 Local Host



Mesa Arts Center Entry Garden

Now that the submission deadline has passed, I want to use my space here to talk a bit about the site for the 2009 WSCA conference, Mesa, Arizona. To do so, I will answer questions posed by my WSCA friend, Harvey.

OK, let's start simple...Where is Mesa? Is it a big place?

Good question, Harvey. Mesa is located in the Southeast portion of the Greater Phoenix Metropolitan Area, about 15 miles from Sky Harbor Airport and downtown Phoenix. Mesa's is the third largest city in Arizona (behind Phoenix and Tucson) with a population of about 450,000 people (approximately the same sized populations as Kansas City, Sacramento, and Cleveland). Most people don't know that Mesa's population is LARGER than that of Oakland, Miami, and Minneapolis.

For a more detailed view of the Valley of the Sun and Mesa's geographical place in it, follow this link to Google Maps: http://maps.google.com/maps?source=ig&hl=en&rlz=1G1GGGLQ_ENUS282&q=where+is+mesa+arizona&um=1&ie=UTF-8&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&resnum=1&ct=title

That was informative....where is the conference hotel and what is there to do nearby?

Another good question. The Marriott Phoenix-Mesa (the conference hotel; see my column in a previous newsletter) is in a charming section of downtown Mesa where you will find much to do. Downtown Mesa contains galleries, specialty shops, restaurants, book stores, jewelry stores, a computer store, a wonderful music store (given your ability as a guitar player, Harvey, you should check out Milano Music), an old-fashioned barber shop (3 chairs, no waiting), and salons (I don't know about the waiting). Most of these businesses are locally owned, one-of-a-kind places. You will seldom find the chains that fill so many other shopping districts in the Valley. Three blocks from the convention hotel, you will find the Mesa Arts Center. During the conference weekend, the Arts Center will present a variety of visual and performing arts events.

Cool...are there places to eat that are near the conference hotel?

Yes, you do like to eat, don't you Harvey? So you want to get out of the hotel to eat? There are plenty of nearby (a 10 minute walk or less) places to eat that range from fast food joints (e.g., Jack-in-the-Box, Dairy Queen, Quizno's, Subway, Pete's Fish and Chips, and Taco Bell) to gourmet restaurants offering white linen dining. Within walking distance restaurants offer Greek, Italian, and New Orleans cuisine, "Grandma's cooking," Pizza, pub fare, and (of course) Mexican food (ranging from the simple to the fancy).

Gee sounds great! Where can I learn more about Downtown Mesa?

Harvey, there are a number of web sites that focus on downtown Mesa. A website that you might find useful, *Downtown's the Place*, is available at:

<http://www.downtownmesa.com/DTPlace.pdf>

Scroll down through the document, and you will find a map of the downtown area. To give you a sense of the scale, from the bottom of the map to the top is one mile. The Marriott is near the top of the map, just to the right of center.

Gosh, Paul, what's your favorite place that's near the hotel?

I'm really glad you asked, Harv. Personally, I'm most excited about the sports bar that is literally *right across the street* from the conference hotel (and conference center). *Sluggo's Sports Grill* opened in 1986 and was then known as *Harry & Steve's Chicago Grill*. I know that you are a big Cubs fan, Harvey. It was Harry Carey and Steve Stone who once owned the place. You will still find a strong Cubs atmosphere, but they will sell a beer or three (and a burger if you want

one) even if you root for another team.

Wow, that's really cool! What will the weather be like? It's going to be really cold here in the Duchy of Grand Fenwick come February.

Well, Harvey, we have ordered the weather in advance. We asked for clear skies with abundant sunshine (as they say here on the Weather Channel) and daytime highs between 75 and 80 and lows in the upper 40s. Our request, however, has been backordered until the second week of February although the local weatherperson has guaranteed splendid and warm (not hot) temperatures. The average high temperatures for mid-February linger in the low 70s and the average lows drop to the low 40s (so bring a jacket...Midwestern visitors will laugh at the locals in their down coats when the temps falls below 60).

Wonderful! Sounds great! Where do I sign up?

The preconference mailing with conference and hotel registration forms will be sent out in November. If you have any questions, Harvey, feel free to ask. My e-mail address is WSCA2009 – AT – ASU.edu [where the ‘ – AT – is replaced with the @.].

Two Pre-conferences Approved for the 2009 Convention

Border Rhetorics, The Sustainable Self, to be Offered

by Daniel Canary, 2009 Program Planner

Two Pre-conferences will be offered at the WSCA 2009 Convention. Brief descriptions of these pre-conferences, presenters, and information about how to participate follow below. BOTH PRE-CONFERENCES WILL BE ON SATURDAY, February 14, 1:00 PM TO 5:00 PM.

Pre-conference 1: Border Rhetorics: Mapping American Citizenship, Cultural Space, and Identity



The rhetorical construction of American citizenship in contemporary political discourse is sharply focused on the southern border. While many voices struggle to expand narrow conceptions of American citizenship and to problematize mainstream mappings of cultural space and identity, U.S. media representations of the “border problem” and the rhetorical efforts of anti-illegal immigration groups, serve to delegitimize such voices and undermine the possibility for productive dialogue and real social change. As the Western States Communication Association meets in Mesa, Arizona, the goal of this Pre-Conference is to bring together established and emerging scholars to explore contemporary border rhetorics and to interrogate one of the most pressing social and political issues of our time. The format of the Pre-Conference will combine invited presentations by scholars who have conducted substantial research on border/immigration rhetorics with performance and roundtable discussions of short position papers by participants to be solicited after this proposal is accepted. This preconference continues the commitment of the Division of Rhetoric and Public Affairs to bring together scholars biannually to explore a rhetorical issue significant and central to the conference locale.

Presenters include: **Katie Gibson**, Cal State University, Long Beach; **D. Robert DeChaine**, Cal State University, Los Angeles; **Fernando Delgado**, Hamline University; **Dustin Goltz**, Arizona State University, Tempe; **Zachary Justus**, Arizona State University, Tempe; **Kent Ono**, University of Illinois; **Kimberlee Perez**, Arizona State University, Tempe; and **John Sloop**, Vanderbilt University.

To participate, please submit a brief abstract of your paper as an email attachment to **Katie Gibson** at kgibson@csulb.edu by **December 15, 2008**.

Pre-conference 2: The Sustainable Self: Exploration of Work/Life Wellness through Individual, Organizational, and Social Action

The concept of sustainability is critical for addressing individual life situations and wellness. Wikipedia includes an extensive entry on sustainability, including the assertion that sustainability concerns achieving well-being for people and ecosystems (www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sustainability). Also, the organization Sustainable Measures defines sustainability as: “Sustainability is related to the quality of life in a community -- whether the economic, social and environmental systems that make up the community are providing a healthy, productive, meaningful life for all community residents, present and future” (www.sustainablemeasures.com/Sustainability/index.html). Although much remains to be explored regarding the sustainability paradigm for work/life wellness, communication scholars and practitioners are well-situated to address sustainability at the individual, organizational, and societal levels. This preconference provides an opportunity for established and emerging scholars to interact with practitioners who are facing wellness and work/life issues at the individual, organizational, and social levels. This preconference will merge theory and research with practice and stimulate “practical theory” conversations. We are requesting that participants submit one-page position papers addressing the current or future state of the sustainable self at the individual, organizational, or social levels. Each paper will present the author’s position on

significant issues to address in the communication discipline regarding one of these areas we will cover during the preconference. These position papers will be shared among presenters and participants before the preconference to provide directions for exploration and to stimulate break-out discussions.

Presenters include: **Heather Canary**, Arizona State University, Polytechnic; **Jess Alberts, Sarah Riforgiate, and Danielle Jackson**, Arizona State University, Tempe; **Theresa Conte**, Balance Integration, Scottsdale, AZ; **Angela Tretheway and Yvonne Montoya**, Arizona State University, Tempe; **Kathie Lingle**, Alliance for Work-Life Progress, Scottsdale, AZ.

To participate, please submit your 1-page paper as an email attachment to **Heather Canary** at heather.canary@asu.edu by **December 15, 2008**.

6th Annual WSCA Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

by Kathryn Sorrells, Second Vice President



What is USRC? Now in our 6th year, the conference is an extraordinary opportunity for undergraduate researchers. Students share original research in the form of critical investigation, experimentation, or analysis. We welcome papers from a diverse range of philosophical, theoretical, and methodological approaches to the study of communication.

Why participate? Students benefit from participating in the research conference by crafting and sharing a professional presentation, meeting other undergraduate scholars from the Western region and the U.S., learning about each others' research interests, receiving supportive feedback from scholars in the field and learning about graduate studies in communication.

When and where? Saturday, February, 14, 2009 at the Convention Hotel in Mesa, Arizona.

Deadlines and particulars: The deadline for paper submissions is December 1, 2008. Papers must be received by 5 pm PST on December 1st. Please submit papers to Professor Kathryn Sorrells as a Word attachment to electronic mail (kathryn.sorrells@csun.edu). Please include all author contact information (name, mailing address, email address, and phone number) on a separate page from the title page. Papers should be between 18-25 pages in length. Students who submit must be undergraduate students at the time of submission. Students should not submit more than one paper for which they serve as primary author. Co-authored papers are welcome.

Professors and instructors spread the word! Please announce in your classes and distribute to advisors, colleagues, and student organizations. For more information, please contact USRC Coordinator, Kathryn Sorrells (kathryn.sorrells@csun.edu).

Rank Your Hotel Preferences

by Sue Pendell, President

In "Choosing a WSCA Convention Location" last month I talked about the fact that, since there's no such thing as a perfect hotel, the WSCA Executive Council has to make trade-offs in hotel selection. Several years ago, a WSCA membership survey asked about conventions, and results regarding hotel preferences were contradictory.

Here's your chance to let the Executive Council know which you'd prefer. Click on the link below, and rank ordering your choices. Which do you rank first, second, third?

A downtown hotel--\$169 room rate, \$25 round-trip airport shuttle, local restaurants (though a number of the breakfast/lunch ones are not open on Sunday or the Monday of President's Day), easy access to downtown local attractions.

A suburban hotel--\$149 room rate, \$25 round-trip airport shuttle, mainly chain restaurants, more difficult access to downtown local attractions but perhaps other attractions around.

An airport hotel--\$129 room rate, free airport shuttle, chain restaurants, a distance to downtown local attractions but access to them via airport transportation.

Please click on this link, and rank our choices—thank you!

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=ZCgRZpy8bbkKe9qkxvnmBA_3d_3d



Communication Reports Report

by William (Bill) Sharkey, Editor for *Communication Reports*, University of Hawai'i at Manoa



Aloha WSCA members:

Since taking over the Editor position of *Communication Reports (CR)*, I have had the pleasure and privilege of working with people who have made my transition into the Editorship smooth and rewarding. I want to thank the members of the WSCA Executive Committee, the Publication Committee, and Todd Imahori (Past Editor) for their support and advise. I especially would like to thank the authors for their patience and kind words of encouragement during the editorial transitional phase. But most importantly, I want to extend a heartfelt mahalo to the Editorial Board members whose assistance, encouragement, reviewer comments and recommendations have made *CR* a stronger publication and my job a lot easier. I look forward to working with them over the next three years.

As the new Editor of *CR*, I want to take this opportunity to encourage you, the members of WSCA, to consider *CR* as an outlet for your work; I encourage you to pass along the word to those affiliated with other communication associations that *CR* is actively requesting the submission of manuscripts that fit *CR*'s goals. *CR* publishes original manuscripts that are short, data/text-based, and related to the broadly defined field of human communication. The mission of the journal is to showcase exemplary scholarship without censorship based on topics, methods, or analytical tools. Articles that are purely speculative or theoretical, and not data analytic, are not appropriate for this journal. Authors are expected to devote a substantial portion of the manuscript to analyzing and reporting research data. Research articles should be between 12-15 pages in length or 5000 words or less. These restrictions include the abstract, text of the document, references, footnotes, appendices, and the captions for tables and figures, but longer manuscripts may be considered. If you are not sure of the appropriateness of your manuscript in terms of its length or content, please contact me at creports@hawaii.edu.

I am excited to announce that the first issue of *CR* under my editorship will be published shortly; Volume 21(2) is now filled and is in the production stage. As a preview, below is a list of the issue's content:

The legitimization of paltry favors effect: A review and meta-analysis (Andres, Carpenter, Shaw, & Boster)

Perceptions of mobile phone use in public: The roles of individualism, collectivism, and focus of the setting (Campbell)

The language of truthful and deceptive denials and confessions (Ali & Levine)

Deception and computer-mediated communication in daily life (George & Robb)

Emotional intelligence as a mediator of family communication (Keaten & Kelly)

Last, in an effort to provide transparency to the editorial process at *CR*, I present the publication acceptance rates for *CR*. This information includes all submissions from January 1, 2008 through September 1, 2008. With the help of the reviewers, I continue to strive for a turn-around time below 60 days.

Communication Reports Acceptance Rates (January 1, 2008 through September 1, 2008)

Original (i.e., new) Manuscripts Submitted to <i>Comm Reports</i> (this does <i>NOT</i> include revised and resubmitted manuscripts)	82
<i>Manuscript Actions:</i>	
Manuscripts rejected before review (length, not Comm related, not data/text based, quality)	23
Manuscripts rejected first round	38
Manuscripts rejected first round (suggestion to revise and submit as a new manuscript)	03
Revise and Resubmit (R&R) Manuscripts	12
Manuscripts under first round of review	06
Total Number of Accepted Manuscripts	05
<i>Total Acceptance Rate</i>	6% (5/82)
<i>Average time for first round reviews**</i>	66 days
<i>Min/Max time for first round reviews **</i>	10 – 98 days
<i>Median time for first round reviews**</i>	71 days
<i>Average time for second round reviews</i>	45 days
<i>Min/Max time for second round reviews</i>	12 – 66 days

<i>Median time for second round reviews</i>	49 days
<i>Average time for manuscripts rejected before reviews</i>	2 days
<i>Min/Max time for manuscripts rejected before reviews</i>	1-8 days

****Note:** Does not include the "Manuscripts rejected before review"

Review time for decisions made on the 76 original manuscript submissions:

00 - 30 days	26 manuscripts
31 - 60 days	17 manuscripts
61 - 90 days	29 manuscripts
91 -98 days	04 manuscripts

WSCA Communication & Instruction: Master Teacher Award

by Nick Zoffel, San José State University

We are currently seeking nominations for the Western States Communication 2009 Master Teacher Award. This award is given to a teacher who has made significant contributions to the art of teaching, through their teaching style, strategies, and philosophies. The award recipient will receive recognition, an open forum to discuss their approaches, and be featured at a dedicated conference session. WSCA members in all divisions are invited to nominate a colleague for this award.



Nominees for Master Teacher recognition may work at any level of the educational system and teach in any area of Communication. If interested in nominating someone or yourself, please send an email to Nick Zoffel at n.zoffel@gmail.com for a nomination form. All materials, including the completed nomination form and 2 recommendation letters (1 student and 1 colleague) should be marked by October 5, 2008.

e-submissions (.docs or .pdfs) can be sent to n.zoffel@gmail.com

print submissions can be sent to:

Nick Zoffel, Ph.D.
 Department of Communication Studies
 San José State University
 One Washington Square
 San Jose, California USA, 95192-0112

Thank you for your submissions and support of your colleagues' excellent work.

Call for Editor Applications of *Women's Studies in Communication*

by Michelle Holling, ORWAC President



The Organization for Research on Women and Communication (ORWAC) invites applications for editor of its journal, *Women's Studies in Communication*. The journal provides a feminist forum for research, reviews, and commentary that advance our understanding of the relationships between communication and women, gender, and feminisms. *WSIC* is topically and methodologically inclusive, publishing manuscripts from quantitative, qualitative, and critical perspectives in areas including but not limited to interpersonal and organizational communication, rhetorical criticism and theory, performance studies, and media and cultural studies. The journal simultaneously is committed to publishing the best scholarship within these parameters and to encouraging the development of novice scholars.

The next editor will oversee publication of three volumes of the journal beginning Fall 2010 and concluding Fall 2013. The editor should expect to begin receiving manuscripts Spring 2010, if not sooner, with the transitioning process beginning in late 2009.

Interested individuals are encouraged to submit the following: a letter outlining her/his philosophy, experience, ability to

set-up and work with a good editorial board, as well as time commitment, institutional commitment and research experience. Also required are two letters of recommendation and a letter detailing institutional support.

Applications, in hard copy and electronic format preferably pdf, are due November 10, 2008 which will be reviewed by the Executive Committee of the ORWAC. Please forward materials to: Dr. Michelle A. Holling, ORWAC President, Dept. of Communication, California State University San Marcos, 333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos, CA 92096-0001. For more information please contact either Dr. Holling at mholling@csusm.edu or Dr. Cindy Griffin, *WS/C* editor, at wsic@colostate.edu.

We would enjoy the opportunity to meet with potential editors in advance. If you would like to learn more about *WS/C* and the *ORWAC* as well as have a chance to speak with the executive council, please schedule a meeting time with Dr. Holling. Formal interviews will be held at NCA, Nov. 21-24, 2008.

Executive Director Search

by Sara Hayden, Immediate Past President



Western States Communication Association (WCSA) invites applications for the position of Executive Director (ED), the chief operating officer of the Association. The term is for three years, 1 July, 2010 to 30 June, 2013, with the ED-select shadowing the current ED, Dr. Mark Bergstrom during 2009-2010. Dr. Bergstrom will be available to the new ED during 2013-2014. The term is renewable.

Benefits of the position include developing new skills, interacting with a broad range of individuals in the discipline, visibility for the individual and her/his department, and service to WCSA.

Support for the position includes a minimum one course per semester buy-out; funding for a part-time administrative assistant; travel to the WCSA, NCA, and one additional regional association's conventions per year; and office support.

Requirements include a separate, furnished office including computer and telephone; a department willing to pass through costs, and department endorsement.

As specified in the WCSA Constitution and By-Laws and the Policies and Procedures Manual, the duties and responsibilities of the ED include, but are not limited to,

1. Member services, including assisting the Second Vice President in recruiting; preparing and distributing renewal notices; maintaining journal subscription mailing lists and preparing journal mailing labels; preparing, distributing, and tallying ballots for elections and constitution/bylaw changes, and preparing and distributing convention registration information.
2. Convention planning, including site visits and recommendations, negotiating contracts with convention hotels, scheduling meeting and event facilities; preparing and distributing convention registration materials; coordinating printing of convention programs, and arranging recognition awards.
3. Financial affairs, including maintaining accounts receivable and payable; developing the annual budget proposal; preparing the annual financial report; having books and records audited annually; filing Federal tax reports, and making investments.
4. Meeting administration, including scheduling and arranging facilities for the Executive Council and other committee meetings; preparing and distributing agendas and reports, and taking, preparing, and distributing minutes of the Executive Council, Time and Place Committee, and Finance Committee meetings.
5. Clerical functions such as maintaining and distributing handbooks and manuals, the membership database, reports, and minutes.
6. Maintaining the WCSA web site.
7. Other administrative duties, including supplying information to members, etc.

The ED must be responsible, well organized, fiscally knowledgeable, attentive to detail, personable, patient, and dedicated to WCSA.

Applications should include a cover letter expressing interest and detailing qualifications, including the applicant's prior participation in WCSA; names and contact information from three people willing to serve as references; a vita, and a letter of support from the applicant's department chair.

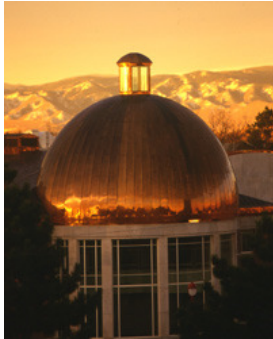
Applications should be sent to Sara Hayden, Chair, WCSA Executive Director Search Committee at sara.hayden@mso.umt.edu. If applicants prefer to send a hard copy of the application, they may send it to:

Sara Hayden, Ph.D.
2205 Westfield Ct.
Missoula, MT 59801

Deadline for applications is 30 October, 2008.

Position Available

by Bernadette Calafell, University of Denver



Human Communication Studies Assistant Professor

The Department of Human Communication Studies at the University of Denver invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor position in the area of Culture and Communication to begin September 1, 2009. The Department of Human Communication Studies grants the B.A., M.A., and PhD degrees. The graduate program is focused on three areas of inquiry: Culture and Communication, Interpersonal and Family Communication, and Rhetoric and Communication Ethics.

The area of Culture and Communication investigates the communicative constitution and intersection of difference in its various codifications as culture, race, class, religion, ethnicity, nationality, gender, and sexual orientation. Its vision is to promote an ethic of inclusivity, racial and social justice, reciprocity, and mutual transformation in the encounter of difference. Courses reflect this emphasis, focusing on the social and performative construction of identity, the politics of representation, performances of affect, identity, and

community and vernacular and embodied rhetorics, all informed by critical, feminist and queer perspectives on cultural communication.

Given faculty research interests and foci, all candidates whose research and teaching take a critical approach to culture and communication are invited to apply, but we are particularly interested in applicants who have teaching and research interests in transnationalism, migration, the city and cultural spaces, feminist theory, queer theory, or class. We invite candidates from across the spectrum of research methods and approaches to apply

Our new colleague will be expected to engage in a program of original research in Culture and Communication, teach undergraduate and graduate courses in Culture and Communication, advise undergraduate and graduate students, direct dissertations and participate in service. Those hired are expected to publish and establish a strong presence within the Communication discipline. ABD is required. Ph.D. is preferred.

The University of Denver is committed to enhancing the diversity of its faculty and staff and encourages applications from women, minorities, people with disabilities and veterans. DU is an EEO/AA employer.

Review of applications will begin October 15, 2008 and will continue until the position is filled. Applicants who wish to apply must complete an online application at www.dujobs.org. Attach letter of application and vitae. Please mail evidence of teaching effectiveness (syllabi and sample evaluations), sample of scholarly publications, three letters of recommendation and other materials to:

Dr. Bernadette Marie Calafell
Search Committee Chair
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Sturm 200
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Editor: Bill Eadie, San Diego State University
Submit items for the October issue by October 6 to weadie@mail.sdsu.edu