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WSCA Annual Meeting, March 5-9, 2010, Anchorage, Alaska

Mythbusters, Reality, and Anchorage



by Heather Hundley, President-Elect

During the 2009 convention luncheon in Mesa, Arizona the Executive Director, Mark Bergstrom dispelled several myths about our upcoming conference in Anchorage, Alaska. You can view the slideshow from the WSCA website at www.westcomm.org or click on <http://www.westcomm.org/conventions/WSCA-2010-Anchorage/anchorage.asp> to see it directly. For those who missed Mark's dynamic performance, allow me to hit the highlights, particularly by providing details regarding the cost associated with the conference.

AIRFARE

While admittedly airfare to Alaska is more expensive than traditional WSCA flights, remember we are travelling a much farther distance. From southern locations such as Southern California, Arizona, and New Mexico, it will take almost a full day to travel. I experienced two legs of the travel: the first from Southern California to Seattle and the second from Seattle to Anchorage. The segments seemed about equal distance; however, once in flight I realized that Alaska is in its own time zone, one hour earlier than PST. I made the most of the trip by adding a longer layover in Seattle to go to lunch with my mother on the way up and dinner with her on the way back.

Instead of traditionally flying in on Saturday just in time for the welcome reception, I urge conventioners to travel on Friday. That would ensure time with several Saturday activities including the Basic Course Conference, Preconference Workshops, the Iditarod, the train ride kick off, skiing, and the Welcome Reception. Then I recommend a return flight on Tuesday afternoon once the conference concludes.

The Anchorage Convention and Visitors Bureau strongly recommends that we frequently check airfares on kayak.com which is a website that compares various airlines on hotwire, Travelocity, Priceline and Expedia. Currently (at the time of writing this article) it is \$677 to fly from LAX to Anchorage on Delta from Friday to Tuesday of the conference in 2010. You might also want to try the software located at itasoftware.com, or Mobissimo.com (which searches consolidators as well as airline and travel websites). A recent search via ITA, for example, found a \$516 roundtrip fare on US Airways from John Wayne Airport in Orange County. Fares are at their least expensive on Monday through Wednesday each week, according to *The Wall Street Journal*, so searching on those days is likely to yield the best results. Not surprisingly, fares are often the highest on the weekends, when most people are searching.

HOTEL

While the airfare is slightly higher than "normal" WSCA airfare, the cost is offset with less expensive room rates. Mark Bergstrom and Sara Hayden negotiated rooms at our conference hotel, the Hilton, for just \$119 for faculty and \$99 for students. Imagine students and faculty can share rooms bringing the price down to approximately \$50 (double) or \$25 (quad) per night!

You can learn more about our beautiful hotel at: http://www1.hilton.com/en_US/hi/hotel/ANCAHHF-Hilton-Anchorage-Alaska/index.do

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MISCELLANEOUS

In addition to the travel and room, we have also priced food and drinks. The food and beverages prices appear consistent with average prices in California, Utah, and Colorado (we had representation from those states). Furthermore, there are numerous restaurants with varying prices. For instance, you can find an inexpensive diner or an extravagant meal such as [Sullivan's Steakhouse](#). In just a few minutes, I found menus and pricing on the Internet from one Anchorage restaurant, [Ginger](#), which features Asian cuisine. Click [here](#) to see the lunch menu, selection, and pricing. A restaurant mentioned in the last edition of *WSCA News* was one I recommend, Humpy's. On their takeout menu, appetizer prices ranged from \$10.99 to \$13.00, sandwich prices averaged \$11.99, ½ pound burgers were listed from \$11.99 to \$13.99 and steak and seafood entrees ranged from \$15.00 to \$39.99 (the higher priced item was a dinner including both a New York Steak and Alaskan King Crab). The kid's menu was \$5.99 featuring five different selections.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

The organization is happy to respond to inquiries and we are being proactive by making information available on the website and in *WSCA News*. While I hope you find our information useful, also note that it is very honest.

Monetary sources can include grants, scholarships, or your own campus. For instance, in the CSU system I have found campuses to be more generous with student funding than faculty funding. The ASI (Associated Students Incorporated) on my campus provides travel funding for undergraduates and the Office of Graduate Studies does the same for graduate students who are programmed to present their research. Historically they have given 100% funding to student presenters. Currently ORWAC is offering research grants to junior faculty and students that may be used for travel. Other research grants could be sought out as well.

Finally, the Executive Council voted to raise \$2500 for student funding for the convention and the Executive's Club agreed to meet that with an additional \$2500 for student travel. More details will follow to inform you and your students on how to apply for this student funding.

In sum, the best advice I have to offer is to plan ahead. Anchorage is a fantastic city and we are offering this opportunity to attend the conference and (after consulting your tax advisor), write the trip off your annual taxes. If you still find this adventure pricey, tell your family that you'd like airline credit for all your gift giving occasions (birthday, father's day, graduation, anniversary, Christmas, quinceanera, bris, etc.).

Anchorage 2010

Iditarod, Alyeska, and Other Guilty Pleasures



by David Stevenson, Local Co-host



Anchorage will always be here, but how many times will we host the WSCA Conference? This may be the chance of a lifetime: about as far as you can get from home and still call it "domestic travel." And, okay, maybe, you can't see Russia from Governor Palin's house in Wasilla, but it is true: you can see Russia from Alaska—from one island to another in the Bering Sea.

You can use the countdown to the start the 2010 Iditarod XXXVIII on the official website:

<http://www.iditarod.com/race>

to remind you how long you have to put the finishing touches on your WSCA presentation (just 304 days as I write this!). The race starts at 10:00 a.m. Saturday morning March 6 just a few yards from the Hilton. Called *the Last Great Race on Earth*, the Iditarod finishes in Nome, 1150 miles from its start. The Iditarod Trail is a National Historic Trail that served as a

route for the dog sled teams that carried life-saving serum to Nome in the diphtheria epidemic of 1925. In 2009 67 teams of up to 16 dogs each left Anchorage at two-minute intervals. If you have time for homework, Gary Paulson's *Winterdance: the Fine Madness of Running the Iditarod* is a great introduction. Believe me, neither reading nor watching it on the Discovery Channel can compete with the wild winter energy in the air on the actual starting line.



Alyeska is Alaska's premier ski resort in Girdwood about 35 miles south of Anchorage. Alyeska boasts 742 inches of annual snowfall on its summit and 1400 skiable acres. It's also the home of the North Face, the longest double Black Diamond run in North America. For the more recreational-minded: over half the runs at the resort are rated intermediate. I like to check out the webcam from the top of Chair 6 to see what I'm missing:

<http://www.alyeskaresort.com/page.asp?intNodeID=29978>

Alyeska offers true world class destination skiing, but for even more of the once-in a lifetime hardcore wilderness ski experience Chugach Powder Guides offers heli-skiing and snowcat skiing. Check their site at: <http://chugachpowderguides.com>

Guilty pleasures of the month: try the bread pudding at the Glacier Brew House, it's sensational. Anchorage has a thriving micro-brew culture. The Snow Goose Restaurant and Sleeping Lady Brewery serve \$3.00 pints in the winter, their *Fish On! IPA* is first rate!

See you in Anchorage!

Anchorage 2010

The 7th Annual WSCA Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference: An Excellent Opportunity for Undergraduate Scholars

by Cindy Griffin, Second Vice President



The Undergraduate Scholars Research conference is an extraordinary opportunity for undergraduate scholars and researchers. Students share original research in the form of critical investigation, experimentation, or analysis at our annual Western States Communication Association convention. We welcome papers from a diverse range of philosophical, theoretical, and methodological approaches to the study of communication. And, the USRC gives undergraduate scholars a place in which to showcase their work and receive feedback from experienced scholars.

The WSCA 2010 convention will be in Anchorage, Alaska, March 5-9. The USRC typically is held at the start of that convention, and we are planning to organize the conference so that our student scholars can attend many of the activities that are bringing us to Anchorage. Log on to WSCA's website for a fantastic slide show of Anchorage and the events planned for the convention.

Undergraduate 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.

The deadline for paper submissions still is far off: December 1, 2009. However, it's not too early to let students know of this fantastic opportunity and to begin helping them plan their submissions. 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, please spread the word! Please announce in your classes and distribute the call to advisors, colleagues, and student organizations. WSCA is working on securing some financial support for our undergraduate scholars so they can travel with us to Alaska, as well. For more information, please contact USRC Coordinator, Cindy Griffin (cindy.griffin@colostate.edu).

Calls

Rhetoric and Public Address Announces Anchorage Call

by Katie L. Gibson, California State University, Long Beach

The Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group invites submission of competitive papers and thematic panel program proposals for the 2010 WSCA Annual Convention. The convention theme is "Power and Communication" and submissions to the Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group should adhere to the following guidelines:

Competitive Papers

Authors are invited to submit completed papers dealing with rhetoric and public address from any theoretical, methodological, or critical perspective. Competitive papers should not have been presented previously at another convention/conference, be accepted for publication, or have been published. Competitive paper submissions must be submitted electronically and should include:

1. TWO separate attachments. The first attachment must be an information page with the title of the paper, names of all authors, their institutional affiliations, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. This must be attached as a **separate document**. Audio-visual requests should also be listed on the information page, but please note that 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/>);
2. The second attachment of your electronic submission should be the paper. The submitted paper should NOT include any author(s) identification anywhere in the document, including on the title page or in the header. The paper should include:
 - a. A 100-150 word abstract of the paper (with title appearing on this page);
 - b. A maximum of 25 pages of text (excluding title page and notes/references). Longer papers will not be sent out for review;
 - c. Authors "who have not presented a paper at a state, regional, national or international convention, or published in any academic journal" should include the word "**DEBUT**" in the upper right-hand corner of the title page. Papers authored by students should include the word "**STUDENT**" in the upper right-hand corner of the title page. All authors must meet debut or student criteria for the paper to be so designated.

Panel Program Proposals

Panel program proposals should focus on a unifying theme relevant to research, theory, or criticism in the area of rhetoric and public address. Programs may consist of a chair, individual paper 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, or those which address the conference theme directly are encouraged. Programs co-sponsored with other interest groups are also welcome. Panel program proposals should include:

1. Title and rationale for the thematic panel/program;
2. Title and 100 word abstract of each presentation;
3. Names, affiliations, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of all participants;
4. Expected size of audience;
5. Equipment needed (please note that equipment availability is extremely limited).

Paper/Program Submission Process

Submit competitive paper and program proposals to Katie Gibson, Chair of the Rhetoric and Public Address Interest Group, via email at kgibson@csulb.edu. Papers and program proposals must be submitted in Microsoft Word. **Paper submissions should include two separate attachments: 1. The title/information page and 2. A blind copy of the paper with no author name(s).** Only electronic submissions will be accepted. All submissions must be received by Tuesday, **September 1, 2009**.

Calls

Call for Nominations For WSCA Offices WSCA First VP, Second VP, & Legislative Assembly Delegates



by Sue Pendell, Immediate Past President

The WSCA Nominating Committee is in the process of compiling the slate of candidates to stand for election in November, 2009. You are invited to submit names for consideration; self-nominations are welcome. Many rewards come from this service, and those elected will work with a great group of people!

Election to the office of **First Vice President** requires a four year commitment. As First Vice President, beginning immediately after the convention in February, 2010, you chair the WSCA Scholar Award Committee. The next year as President-Elect/Primary Program Planner, you plan the 2012 convention in Monterey, CA. Then you serve as President from 2012 through the 2013 convention and as Immediate Past President from 2013 through the 2014 convention. You serve as a voting member of the WSCA Executive Council in each capacity.

The office of **Second Vice President** is a one-year commitment and includes conducting a membership campaign, serving on the Member Services Committee, and coordinating three programs at the 2011 convention: The Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference, the Graduate Student Workshop, and the Graduate Programs Open House. The Second Vice President also serves as a voting member of the WSCA Executive Council.

The FIVE **Delegates-at-Large to the Legislative Assembly** serve for two years. Upon election, the Delegates-at-Large attend the Legislative Assembly at the 2010 convention as well as the 2011 convention.

Nominations should include: 1) name and institutional affiliation of each nominee, 2) current email address of nominee, and 3) a brief list of the nominee's experience, credentials, and past service to WSCA. Email nominations are preferred.

Please send nominations by September 1, 2009, to Sue Pendell, WSCA Immediate Past President, Department of Communication Studies, Colorado State University, Fort Collins CO 80523-1783;
E-mail: Sue.Pendell@colostate.edu.

WSCA depends upon the quality of its elected officers and LA Delegates at Large to continue its place as the best of the regional associations. Please give serious thought to serving in one of these important roles or nominate someone whom you think will give good service to Western States Communication Association.

Thank you!

Calls

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



The Organization for Research on Women and Communication (ORWAC) invites applications for editor of its journal, *Women's Studies in Communication*. Published for over thirty years, the journal remains the leading outlet in Communication for feminist scholarship providing a forum for research, reviews, and commentary that advance our understanding of the relationships between communication and women, gender and intersectionality, and feminisms. *WSIC* is topically and methodologically inclusive, publishing manuscripts from all perspectives in all sub-fields of Communication. Reflected throughout the journal are commitments to publishing the finest scholarship that is innovative, risky and incisive and to encouraging the development of novice scholars.

Editorship spans fall 2010 through fall 2013, which involves publication of three journal volumes. The transition between the existing and incoming editor commences in early fall 2009 with the incoming editor to expect manuscript submissions soon thereafter. Also, there is a possibility that *WSIC* may move to an on-line review and submission process.

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 July 1st, 2009. Following review of applications by the Executive Committee of the ORWAC interviews will be arranged.

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 and/or Dr. Cindy Griffin, *WSIC* editor, at wsic@colostate.edu. For additional information about the journal or ORWAC, please visit www.orwac.org.

Calls

2010 Western States Communication Association Performance Studies Interest Group Outstanding Contributions to Performance Studies Award



by Karma Chávez, University of New Mexico

This award seeks to honor a WSCA member who has completed a terminal degree and has been active with performance studies for more than five years. The criteria for this award are as follows:

- Regular past or present attendance to the WSCA convention and active involvement in the performance studies discipline as well as the performance studies interest group
- A robust body of scholarship including both publications and performances
- A history of service to performance studies with specific service to WSCA.
- Persons must be nominated (including self-nominations) by a current WSCA member
- Winner should ideally plan to attend the convention in which she/he is being awarded

Deadline: Nominations are due by the WSCA submission deadline. Letters of nomination should be no more than 2 pages and include the following: a brief history of the individual's work, a justification for awarding the individual, and a description of the contributions made by this individual to WSCA. Please also include a copy of the nominee's CV. All letters must be sent via email to the Chair-Elect of the Performance Studies Interest group, who serves as the OCPA Committee Chairperson. This year, send nominations to Dr. Kate Willink, kwillink@du.edu.

Calls

2009 Call for Applications—ORWAC Research Development Grant



The Organization for Research on Women and Communication invites submissions for the second annual Research Development Grant. Members are eligible to apply for one of three grants that support scholars at different levels of their career: Category 1 for M.A. students, category 2 for PhD students, and category 3 for instructors or tenure/track faculty.* Each grant offers a maximum of \$1,000.00

Grants are designed to assist feminist scholars completing research or creative projects that privilege and advance understandings about the intersectionality and complexity defining women's lives. Broadly speaking, submitted projects are those that chart new ground in disciplinary knowledge about women and gender; that offer insights about the challenges and negotiations confronted by women in light of intersecting identities; and/or that favor the voices, experiences, discourses, performances and lives of women.

Applicants' research projects may be at any stage at time of submission. Grant funds may be used, for example, to pay for: conducting interviews, data transcription, archival research whether for xeroxing costs or travel to archives, clerical support, transportation and/or registration fees for a conference to present the submitted project, among other needs.

Application Requirements:

1. Hold membership in ORWAC. Members are responsible for ensuring their status. Executive officers of ORWAC are ineligible for the grants;
2. Submit a current curriculum vita, a completed application and a budget form.
3. Within one year of receipt of a grant, file a one page report documenting the use of funds;
4. Above documents should be submitted as a single word document via email to the President of ORWAC.

Deadlines:

1. Applications due June 15th, 2009 by noon time (pst). Late proposals will not be reviewed under any circumstances.
2. Applicants will be notified by the first week in September with funds being distributed shortly thereafter.

For more information, please visit ORWAC's website at <http://www.orwac.org> to read the complete call for grant applications and to retrieve the application, which is on the homepage. Inquiries about ORWAC should be directed to Michelle A. Holling, Ph.D., President of the Organization for Research on Women & Communication via email: mholling@csusm.edu.

Calls

NCA Applied Communication Division Seeks Award Nominations



by Michelle Miller-Day, Penn State University

The Applied Communication Division of the National Communication Association seeks nominations for its annual research awards. These awards acknowledge significant contributions in applied communication theory, research, and/or practice.

Awards may be given in three categories. One is given to the author(s) of an *outstanding article* published in a communication journal. A second award is given to author(s)/editor(s) of an *outstanding scholarly book*. Textbooks are not eligible. When warranted, the committee may choose to recognize edited books in a separate category. In addition, *special journal issues* on applied communication may be nominated and an award given. Articles, books, and special issues published with a **2007 or 2008** copyright date are eligible.

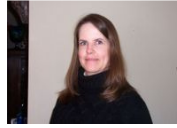
To apply, send a letter of nomination to the committee chair that includes a brief rationale and an explanation of the work's significance. Self-nominations are encouraged. Any published reviews of scholarly books should be included. Submit four copies of the work.

The awards will be presented at the business meeting of the Applied Communication Division during the **2009** NCA Convention. It is anticipated that the award recipients will share a special panel at the **2010** NCA Convention.

Nominations and materials must be RECEIVED by Friday, **August 14, 2009**. Please send to: Dr. Michelle Miller-Day, Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, Penn State University, University Park, PA 16802. For more information or questions, send an email message to mam32@psu.edu

Calls

Submissions for *Talking Tobacco*



by Joy Hart, University of Louisville

We are in the initial stages of an edited book on tobacco and communication tentatively titled *Talking Tobacco*. If you are working in this area, please consider submitting an extended abstract for consideration for the volume.

Although much work across a range of disciplines examines tobacco use and smoking, no recent volume in communication focuses squarely in this area. Chapter proposals on a broad array of communication and mass communication topics related to tobacco and/or smoking will be considered.

Abstracts should be 2-3 pages in length and should include the specifics of your proposed chapter (e.g., placing the work in the relevant literature, describing the chapter's focus, examining the key contributions of the work). Along with the abstract, please submit a writing sample—preferably a published work (by the lead author if the proposal is co-authored) on tobacco or smoking. The extended abstract and the writing sample should be emailed to Stuart Esrock (stuart.esrock@louisville.edu) by July 3, 2009. We expect to provide feedback to submitters by August 31, 2009.

The target audiences for the book are academics, researchers, and graduate students, primarily in communication but also in related areas (e.g., public health, marketing). The editors on the project are Kandi L. Walker, Stuart L. Esrock, and Joy L. Hart, Department of Communication, University of Louisville. Please email any questions about the project to Stuart Esrock (stuart.esrock@louisville.edu).

Editor: Bill Eadie, San Diego State University
Submit items for the June issue by June 12 to weadie@mail.sdsu.edu