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WSCA Annual Meeting, February 13-17, 2009, Mesa, Arizona

Your Voice in WSCA Decision Making at the 2009 Phoenix/Mesa Convention

by Sue D. Pendell, WSCA President



Your voice can be heard in formal WSCA decision making several times during the 2009 Phoenix/Mesa Convention. You may have a direct voice in the WSCA Legislative Assembly, the WSCA Executive Council, or your Interest Group Business Meeting, and you also have an indirect voice at the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council meetings through your elected representatives.

The WSCA Legislative Assembly (LA) is the principle policy-making body of the Association and meets Monday evening at the convention. It consists of Interest Group (IG) chairs and vice chairs, two ORWAC representatives, ten delegates elected at large in the November general election, and one member from each department with five or more Association members.

On this year's LA agenda is approval of the annual budget and election of two members-at-large to the Executive Council (EC), two members of the Association's Nominating Committee, and one representative to the National Communication Association Legislative Assembly Council representing K-12. Additional items of business may be brought to the LA by the IG's and the EC.

Decision making at the LA is crucial to the well being of the Association as every member of the Association's voice is heard there in making major decisions. You can have a direct voice in WSCA decision making at the LA in two ways. First, if you're an Interest Group chair or vice chair, you have a direct voice, but if the IG chair or vice chair is unable to attend the LA meeting, you can volunteer to do so in their place. If your department has five or more WSCA members, ask your department chair if you can be the departmental representative to the LA.

In addition to providing your direct voice to the LA, I strongly urge you to consider being nominated for the EC member-at-large positions during the LA by your IG representatives or your colleagues. Having a wide range of members-at-large on the EC brings valuable, differing perspectives and experiences to EC decision making. I also urge you to consider being nominated for the Association's Nominating Committee to have your voice heard regarding who stands as candidates for elected offices.

The second place your voice is heard in formal WSCA decision making is on the WSCA Executive Council. The EC serves many functions for the Association—it has fiduciary responsibility for the financial wellbeing of WSCA; it administers the affairs of the Association, executes the policies adopted by the LA, decides on convention registration fees and publication fees, and selects convention locations, among other functions. At the WSCA convention, the EC meets on Friday prior to the start of the convention and on Tuesday morning of the convention.

The EC consists of the elected officers of the Association including the Immediate Past President and four members-at-large elected by the Legislative Assembly as voting members. The appointed officers of the Association and the president of the Executives Club serve as non-voting members.

Your voice is heard on the EC directly if you are an officer of the Association or a member-at-large elected by the LA. Your voice is heard indirectly through voting on those officers and members-at-large.

The third place your voice is heard in formal WSCA decision making is in your Interest Group. At your IG meeting, officers are elected who will, among other things, represent the IG at the LA. IG's also send resolutions (motions) to the LA for action, thus bringing issues of concern directly to the principle decision-making body of the Association.

As a WSCA member, you have a number of important ways to participate in the formal decision-making processes of the Association. And you also can participate informally by talking with your LA representatives-at-large, your departmental LA representative, your Interest Group officers, and WSCA's elected officers. What items of concern do you have? What

should we be doing that we're not? What are we doing well? Your input is welcome and valuable--we look forward to hearing from you!

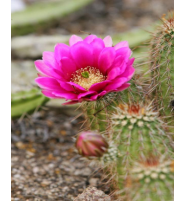
Mesa's Still the Place'a – Come on Over to WSCA 2009!

by Paul Mongeau, 2009 Local Host

Your travel plans have been set, your paper has been edited that one last time, and you have started thinking about what you are going to do with your time in the sunshine at WSCAZ2009 in Mesa, Arizona. Given that it's a long weekend in February in the Valley of the Sun, you might expect that there's no shortage of things to do... and you would be right.

Let's start with the events near the conference hotel. As I discussed in my September column, there's plenty to do in Downtown Mesa (home of the Marriott and the Mesa Convention Center). Perhaps the best place to start for local information and news is the *Downtown Focus*. You can find the current (i.e., January-February 2009) issue at:

<http://www.downtownmesa.com/JanFeb09Focus.pdf>



A couple of my personal favorite items in this issue include the description of the Mars exhibition at the Arizona Museum of Natural History (page 15) and the MACFest (Mesa Arts and Culture Festival near the Mesa Arts Center) scheduled for Saturday afternoon (page 11). There are also several events at the Mesa Arts Center over the conference weekend (page 14) as well. The last few pages of the *Focus* include a listing of local businesses (e.g., restaurants, liquor stores, pharmacies, etc.) and a map of the downtown area. We will have plenty of copies at the local information desk at the conference.



Our big transportation news is that the Valley Metro Light Rail service started just after Christmas. The light rail runs from near the hotel (the eastern terminus of the line is about 2 miles west of the Marriott), through Tempe and downtown Phoenix (passing 2 ASU campuses on the way), to the west side of Phoenix. You can catch a shuttle bus from near the hotel to the light rail (see page 8 of the *Downtown Focus* for the article on the LINK). The cost of the bus ride is included in the light rail fare (\$1.25 for a one-way trip or \$2.50 for an all-day fare) or maybe it's the other way around, but you don't have to pay twice. So it is simple to get from the hotel to the light rail and to other parts of the Valley. In addition, we have arranged for a shuttle bus to run from the hotel to the Mill Avenue district in Tempe (and near ASU's Tempe campus) for two nights during the conference. Again, we'll have plenty of information about transportation and local events at our local information booth.

There's much more to the Valley of the Sun than Downtown Mesa. During the conference weekend, how about attending the NBA All Star Game at US Airways Arena in Downtown Phoenix? Actually, the All Star Game is more than just the game, with the Slam-Dunk and 3-Point contests on Saturday night and the NBA Experience running throughout the weekend at the Phoenix Convention Center. You can see more at:

http://www.nba.com/jamsession/09_tickets.html?cid=197

The light rail runs right past the US Airways Arena if you want to catch any of the action. In addition, if you want to rent a car, you could catch the world-famous Arizona Arabian Horse Show at West World in Scottsdale (see <http://www.scottsdaleshow.com/>) or the Arizona Renaissance Festival near Apache Junction (<http://royalfaires.com/arizona/>).

So it's safe to say that there will be plenty of things to do while you are at WSCAZ2009 in Mesa. On the other hand, given the intellectually stimulating and entertaining (remember the WSCA mantra of work hard, play hard) lineup Dan Canary has developed for the convention itself, will there be time to actually *do* all these things?

ORWAC to Sponsor Border Tour

by Karma Chavez, University of New Mexico



At the upcoming WSCA 2009 conference, the Organization for Research on Women and Communication (ORWAC) is hosting a "Keynote Speaker Panel" entitled "Mixing Metaphors of Gender, Border (In)Security, and Life on the Frontlines of U.S. Immigration Politics, Parts I & II" on Sunday, February 15 from 9:10-11:40 am. In conjunction with the Speaker panel, interested WSCA members have the opportunity to take a tour of regions of the Arizona-Sonora border sponsored by ORWAC on Saturday, February 14th (day prior to the start of WSCA).

Kathryn Rodriguez, Coordinating Organizer for Coalicion de Derechos Humanos (www.derechoshumanosaz.net), and a featured speaker on the keynote panel, has offered to take members on a day-long trip to the border in order to see the impacts of border militarization projects, to explore the environmental damage caused by border walls, to discuss the problems

facing border communities and to obtain a first-hand look at the humanitarian and grassroots political projects on the border. Rodriguez is a knowledgeable immigration and economic justice activist who is regularly featured on both local and national news programs.

The trip will leave the WSCA Conference hotel in Mesa, AZ at **7 am** on Saturday February 14 and arrive at the Derechos Humanos office so as to depart Tucson, AZ by **9 am**. From Tucson, participants will travel to Sasabe, and then on to Arivaca, both border communities. From there, participants will travel to Nogales (Arizona and Sonora) where they will have an opportunity to meet with activists on the frontlines. Departure from Tucson will be 5 pm, and arrive in Phoenix/Mesa by 7 pm. ORWAC will cover the cost of transportation; participants are encouraged to bring money for meals along the way. There will be no other costs to attend this event. Participants may want to bring cameras as we will have an opportunity to take pictures along the border.

This is a very unique opportunity to see border politics up close and personal with a guide who is intimately involved in border struggles. Yet, due to heightened border security measures passed by the U.S. federal government, interested individuals should ideally have a passport in order to cross into Mexico. However, a driver's license and birth certificate should enable participants to cross. Individuals not in possession of the documents are not recommended to cross the heavily militarized U.S. border.

The number of participants is limited, so to ensure your seat or obtain more information about this trip, contact Karma Chavez at karma01@unm.edu or (480) 586-5848 by **January 30, 2009**.

There Are Programs Scheduled on Saturday, too!

by Kathryn Sorrells, Second Vice President

Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference (USRC)—Saturday, February 14, 2009; 8:30-1:00

Now in our 6th year, the USRC 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. All are welcome to attend and support our young scholars!



Graduate Student Workshop--Saturday, February 14, 2009; 2:00-3:00

Panelist representing M.A. and Ph.D. granting institutions offer suggestions and advise on selecting, attending and succeeding in graduate school. All prospective graduate students are welcome.

Graduate Programs Open House-- Saturday, February 14, 2009; 3:00-4:20

The Open House provides an excellent opportunity to showcase your graduate program and allows prospective graduate students an opportunity to talk with professors and students from a wide range of programs in the western states. Deadline for registration is January 15, 2009 but if your department is interested in participating and have not registered, contact Kathryn Sorrells at kathryn.sorrells@csun.edu

Newcomers Reception—Saturday, February 14, 2009; 4:30-5:30

The Newcomers Reception offers the chance to meet and greet newcomers to WSCA. Many of our newcomers are undergraduate and graduate students interested in following up on information they may have received at the Graduate Programs Open House. This is a great opportunity to personally highlight the benefits of your program.

Communication Reports Calls for Papers, Reports Acceptance Rates

by William (Bill) Sharkey, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Editor

Call for Manuscripts



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. *CR* is published biannually. If you are not sure of the appropriateness of your manuscript in terms of its length or content, please contact the Editor at creports@hawaii.edu. Additional information can be found by visiting: http://www.westcomm.org/publications/comm_reports.asp

Communication Reports Acceptance Rates for 2008
(January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008)

Manuscripts Received:
R&R's

98
13

Current Disposition of Manuscripts:

Total Manuscripts Rejected	84
Revise and Resubmit (R&R)	04
Manuscripts Currently Under Review	03
Withdrawn by Author	01
Number of Accepted Manuscripts	06
Total =	98

Total Acceptance Rate 6% (6/98)

Average time for first round reviews	44 days
Min/Max time for first round reviews	1 – 98 days
Median time for first round reviews	49 days

Interpersonal Interest Group Announces Top Papers

by Mark Morman, Baylor University

In just a few more days, we will gather together again at the 2009 WSCA convention in Mesa, Arizona. At this year’s annual meeting, the Interpersonal Communication Interest Group will provide 14 different opportunities to interact with your colleagues in the discipline, learning, discussing, and experiencing the very best scholarship in interpersonal communication in the West.



Overall, nine program panels were submitted and five were accepted for presentation. Also, 41 competitive papers were submitted and 29 of them were accepted for presentation, representing a 71% acceptance rate. Congratulations to all who will be presenting their work and ideas in Mesa.

Thanks again to all who submitted their work to our interest group. I am most especially grateful for our current and former officers (Jody Koenig Kellas, Mary Claire Morr-Serewicz, Stephen Yoshimura, and Christina Yoshimura) and for our interest group’s paper readers (Lisa Farinelli, Kory Floyd, Colin Hesse, Dayna Kloeber, Masaki Matsunaga, Perry Pauley, Alice Veksler, & Erin Willer) —clearly, I could not have done this without your help, support, and wise counsel.

Top Paper in Interpersonal Communication

Unwanted Pursuit Unfolded: A Turning Point Analysis of Obsessive Intrusion and Stalking
Sai Sato (University of Nebraska) & William Cupach (Illinois State University)

Top Student Paper in Interpersonal Communication

“Stuck Between Two Worlds”: Mothers Raising Children With and Without Disabilities
Lucie P. Lawrence (University of Denver)

Top Student Debut Paper in Interpersonal Communication

MySpace or Yours? Connections Between the Use of Social Networking Sites and Cyber-Surveillance in Romantic Relationships
Makenzie Phillips (San Diego State University)

Top Three Papers in Interpersonal Communication

Sunday morning, February 15th at 10:30 a.m.

Interpersonal Communication Interest Group Business Meeting

Sunday morning, February 15th at 11:50 a.m.

ORWAC Sponsors Two-part Panel on Gender and Border Issues

by Michelle Holling, California State University, San Marcos



Since the passage of NAFTA and the U.S. federal government’s institution of the “Southwest Border Strategy” in the mid-1990s, the state of Arizona has become the central site for migrant crossings from Mexico and Central America into the United States. Local activists, public servants and scholars have long critiqued and worked against U.S. border militarization processes and human rights abuses on the border, and worked to help those in the community who are de-humanized by draconian immigration policies and a culture of fear. In recognition of such efforts, coupled with the conference theme of “Mixing Metaphors” and locale, the Organization for Research on Women and Communication (ORWAC) is proud to announce its keynote speakers at the upcoming WSCA conference.

Entitled “ORWAC Keynote Speaker Panel: Mixing Metaphors of Gender, Border

(In)Security, and Life On The Frontlines Of U.S. Immigration Politics,” the two part panel will take place on Sunday Feb. 15th beginning at 9:10 am in the Crimson room (please consult the final convention program for any room changes). The individuals asked to speak offer unique and important insights into the human impacts of immigration policy and politics, and work at the intersections of gender, sexuality, language and other identity categories. Confirmed speakers are: Isabel Garcia, Co-President, *Coalición de Derechos Humanos*; Pima County Public Defender; Kathryn Rodriguez, Coordinating Organizer, *Coalición de Derechos Humanos*; and Ana Ochoa O’Leary, Mexican American Studies and Research Center, University of Arizona; Steering Committee Member, *Coalición de Derechos Humanos*. A question and answer period will follow the speaker presentations before part II of the panel session. Any questions, contact Michelle A. Holling, Ph.D., President of ORWAC, at mholling@csusm.edu

WSCA Election Results

by Sara Hayden, Immediate Past President

The results of WSCA’s annual elections are in; congratulations go out to the following people:

Dr. Pat Ganer of Cypress College has been elected First Vice President. There are many duties associated with this four-year, ascending position. Among other things, Dr. Ganer will plan the 2011 convention in Monterey, CA, and will assume the presidency of the association in 2012.



Dr. Cindy Griffin has been elected Second Vice President. In addition to overseeing membership recruitment over the next year, Dr. Griffin will run the 2010 Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference and the

Graduate School workshop and open house.

Five delegates to Legislative Assembly were elected to two-year terms. The new delegates are Dr. Mary Claire Morr Serewicz, Dr. Kirsten Broadfoot, Dr. Brian Heisterkamp, Dr. Greg Dickenson and Dr. Katie Gibson.

Thanks very much to all of the people who agreed to run for these positions!

Dr. John Reinhard Named as Next Executive Director

by Sara Hayden, Immediate Past President



The WSCA Executive Director is perhaps the hardest working yet most under-appreciated member of the association’s leadership. According to WSCA’s Policy and Procedures manual, among other things, the person who holds this job is responsible for maintaining WSCA’s website, overseeing member services, convention planning, financial affairs, and meeting administration. Yet this list, while daunting, does not begin to reflect the daily duties and responsibilities we ask our Executive Director to meet. It was with some trepidation, then, that I began work as chair of the Executive Director Search Committee. In the back of my mind I wondered who would have the time, energy, and commitment to WSCA to take on this difficult but rewarding position.

I needn’t have worried. I and the other members of the search committee were pleasantly surprised by the enthusiastic response we received to our call for applications. In fact, we were faced with the happily difficult job of choosing which excellent candidate was the right person to assume the Executive Director position at this time. After careful deliberation, we agreed that person is Dr. John Reinhard. John brings an impressive body of experience to the job, developed through a long history of participation in the association. It would be impossible to list all of his service to WSCA in a single article, however, as an example: Since attending his first WSCA convention in 1970, John has regularly presented his research at our annual meetings, appearing nine times on “top three” programs. He has chaired several interest groups or served as President of organizations in WSCA including the Freedom of Expression and Legal Communication Interest Group (twice), the Communication Theory Interest Group, and the Western Forensic Association. He has been a member of numerous WSCA committees including the Member Services Committee, the Steering Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Committee on Publicity and Public Relations. He has served as an editorial board member of the *Western Journal of Communication*. He has been a regular participant in Legislative Assembly, serving as Parliamentarian in 2002 and as a delegate 18 times. There is no doubt that his depth of experience will serve him well as he tackles the many responsibilities associated with his new job. John will begin shadowing our current Executive Director, Dr. Mark Bergstrom, at our 2009 convention. John’s term runs from 2010-2013.

Many thanks to all of the people who expressed interest in and applied for the position, as well as to the members of the search committee-- Jan Anderson, Dan Canary, Patricia O’Keefe, and Sue Pendell. Thanks too, to Mark Bergstrom who has served as our Executive Director for the past several years and to Dr. Reinhard for agreeing to take on this post.

Editor: Bill Eadie, San Diego State University
Submit items for the March issue by March 9 to weadie@mail.sdsu.edu