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**WSCA Elections**

**Lisa Flores, Michelle Holling  
Named WSCA Vice Presidents**



by Sue Penell, Immediate Past President

The election results are in, and I'm pleased to announce that the following have been elected to these WSCA offices:



Lisa A. Flores (University of Colorado), First Vice President



Michelle Holling (California State University, San Marcos), Second Vice President



Eric Aoki (Colorado State University), Delegate-at-large to the Legislative Assembly



Teresa Bergman (University of the Pacific), Delegate-at-large to the Legislative Assembly



Kurt Lindemann (San Diego State University), Delegate-at-large to the Legislative Assembly



Cindy Koenig Richards (Willamette University), Delegate-at-large to the Legislative Assembly



Erin Sahlstein (University of Nevada, Las Vegas), Delegate-at-large to the Legislative Assembly

Please join me in congratulating these individuals and in thanking all the candidates for their willingness to serve the Association.

According to Executive Director Mark Bergstrom, the online voting was a great success, with more people voting than in any previous election we're aware of. So thanks to those of you who exercised your right to vote for participating in the process!

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## WSCA Editors

### New WJC and WSCA News Editors Named



by A. Susan Owen, Publications Committee Chair

At the WSCA Executive Council Meeting of November 11, 2009, two members were elected as incoming Editors of the *Western Journal of Communication*, and *WSCA News*. The new editors are:



Bill Eadie (San Diego State University) - Editor, *Western Journal of Communication*



Michele Horner Jackson (University of Colorado) - Editor, *WSCA News*

Bill will begin reviewing manuscripts for *WJC* beginning approximately January 2011, and his first issue will appear in 2012. Michele's first issue of *WSCA News* will debut in August 2010.

Congratulations to our new editors.

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

### Reflecting Back and Moving Forward: Engaging Mesa and Anchorage

by Elizabeth K. Rush and Jennifer Marmo  
Arizona State University  
WSCA 2009 Co-Public Relations Chairs

As WSCA 2010 in Anchorage nears, an important aspect of planning aside from flight schedules and hotel rooms is investigating ways to connect communication research to the local area where the convention is held. When we prepared press releases announcing the 2009 convention in Mesa, we were both especially interested in panels that were tied to larger local and social issues. Two of the primary ways this occurred in Mesa were (1) having practitioners included on or in panel discussions and (2) getting out of the hotel and exploring pressing local concerns that could benefit from communication scholars' assistance. Engaging through our research is a vital focus in our discipline, and the Mesa convention provided opportunities for this through exploring work-life tensions, non-profit health organizations, and immigration issues.



These themes began with a pre-conference hosted by Arizona State University's Project for Wellness and Work-Life (PWWL). Through presentations and breakout sessions, 27 participants from both the academy and the professional work-life sector explored the notion of a sustainable-self and what such a self might look like. Participants asked big questions, such as how can we begin to make progress and move to a supportive infrastructure when work-life issues are often still constructed as a personal problem? According to the pre-conference organizer, Dr. Heather Canary from ASU, engaged scholarship and events like this pre-conference highlight "the usefulness of our theories and methods for addressing issues that affect people's lives."

Such a focus was mirrored in a double-panel, also chaired by Canary, which explored non-profit health organizations and their unique communication challenges. Researchers and organization leaders met to discuss: shelters and health campaigns to help with intimate partner violence, families with children with disabilities, health literacy through the use of plain language, and arts as a means for inspiring and healing children. Both researchers and practitioners dialogued about each groups' challenges and ways to aide non-profit health organizations in the future. For example, Connie Phillips, the Executive Director of the Sojourner Center in Arizona, offered challenging questions like, "How do we present our case for support from the community and not fall into hiding truths and recreating stereotypes of domestic violence victims?" This panel illustrated the continued need for communication scholars to examine non-profit health organizations and how much our knowledge can impact their livelihoods.

Last, since Arizona is a border state, the convention being held in Mesa offered a unique space for addressing the topic of immigration. Dr. Karma Chávez from the University of New Mexico and Kathryn Rodriguez, the Coordinating Organizer for *Coalición de Derechos Humanos* (CDH), led a border tour to Nogales. This border tour was tied to a double panel at WSCA hosted by ORWAC that featured CDH presenters and communication researchers discussing issues of immigration, race, and gender. Chávez explained, "I believe we have a lot to learn and contribute to social justice communities as so much of social justice depends on effective communication and the use of rhetoric." Chávez, CDH members, and participants and attendees of the border tour and ORWAC panel have continued to stay in contact with one another and advocate for immigration issues since the convention's end, such as by writing letters to President Obama and attempting to restructure mediated messages on immigration. These panels and local events were only a few of the ways WSCA members were engaging important



social issues while in Mesa. Members can continue this trend into the new decade with their attendance at local events and by connecting community groups to their work in Anchorage.

One space for engagement in 2010 is the Organizational Communication Interest Group's tour of the Port of Anchorage on March 7th. Brenden Kendall from the University of Utah has organized this event for the convention to experience a distinctively Alaskan organization. According to Dr. Greg Larson from the University of Montana, "Much of what you will eat, drink, or buy in Anchorage will come through this Port. There will be an opportunity to view the operations of the Port, ask questions, and likely meet with the Port director and the state's former governor (no, not *that* former governor)." The tour will be relatively inexpensive and will just include the travel cost to the Port. Contact [greg.larson@mso.umt.edu](mailto:greg.larson@mso.umt.edu) to RSVP or for more information. Please also visit the Port of Anchorage's website: <http://www.muni.org/departments/port/pages/default.aspx>.

This is the first of many opportunities possible in Anchorage. We encourage you to explore the new convention program as it is released and seek out opportunities for engagement, such as by inviting local guests to attend or be a part of your panel discussions. Be sure to participate in pre-conferences and community events and consider investigating local, communication research needs and issues while on your trip. We look forward to coming together as WSCA members to embrace the new decade, our 2010 host city, and its communicative needs.

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#### **Anchorage 2010**

### **Alaska Travel Highlighted at Smithsonian.com**

"Alaska plays havoc with your senses and turns everyday logic on its head. It's the westernmost state of the Union, as well, of course, as the northernmost, but I was surprised to learn, the day I arrived, that it is also (because the Aleutians cross the 180th meridian and extend to the east longitude side) the easternmost. Alaska is more than twice the size of Texas, I had read, yet has fewer miles of highway than Vermont."

Read more: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/The-Great-Wide-Open.html#ixzz0Xr1UQ5Ug>

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#### **Anchorage 2010**

### **Membership, Convention Registration Site Now Open**

by Cindy Griffin, WSCA Second Vice President

Even during these troubling economic times, one thing remains constant, WSCA is committed to our "work hard-play hard" motto. Western States Communication Association appreciates your on-going support, conference attendance and membership. As WSCA's Second Vice President, one of my responsibilities is to coordinate the membership drive. You should have received a membership renewal letter, and I want to encourage you to renew your membership now. Please visit <http://www.westcomm.org> and join or renew online. By updating your membership, you will continue to receive the following member benefits:

- *Western Journal of Communication*
- *Communication Reports*
- *WSCA News*
- Access to the WSCA listserv
- Reduced annual convention rates
- Lowered fees for other regional communication journals

I look forward to seeing you at our 2010 convention at the Hilton Anchorage in Alaska from March 5th-9th, 2010. Program planner, Heather Hundley is building an involving conference around the theme "Power and Communication" encouraging participants to think about and engage in the ways power is communicated in everyday life. Power is not confined to top down, imperializing power, but can include localized (bottom up) power and self empowerment through agency, subjectivity, and voice. Heather is encouraging us to take this opportunity to examine, reflect upon, and critique how people implicitly, explicitly, consciously or perhaps unconsciously communicate power. Convention information is posted on our website as it becomes available, and preregistration materials will go out in early December.

In addition, WSCA is sponsoring the 7th annual Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference. Please encourage your undergraduate students to participate in this exciting opportunity by submitting their research papers to me by December 1st for consideration. Submit to: [Cindy.griffin@colostate.edu](mailto:Cindy.griffin@colostate.edu). The USRC will take place on Sunday March 7th from 8:30-12:00. More information can be found at: <http://www.westcomm.org/conventions/wscA-2010-Anchorage/USRC.asp>



Shortly after the USRC on Sunday the 7th, WSCA is hosting a Graduate Student Workshop from 1:00 – 2:10 and the Graduate Student Open House from 2:45 – 4:00. These events are organized to support graduate students' scholarly development and success in moving towards their academic goals. If your friends or colleagues are interested in pursuing an M.A. degree or Ph.D., please encourage them to attend these events. The Graduate Student Open House also offers departments the chance to showcase their graduate programs.

We thank you for your past support of WSCA and hope you will continue your membership. We look forward to seeing you in Anchorage.

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**Conference Calls**

**The Obama Effect: Oct. 27-30, 2010**



submitted by Sam Cox, University of Central Missouri

Call for Papers:

The Obama Effect: Transatlantic Perspectives Past and Future

Multi-disciplinary conference, Oct. 27-30, 2010, Middelburg, Netherlands

This conference seeks to explore, through perspectives ranging across the social sciences and the arts, both the past and the future of the transatlantic relationship by using the election of President Obama as a potential turning point. The conference welcomes post-graduate students as well as more established scholars. Papers, poster sessions, and panels related to the above background issues and themes are welcome that

- 1) develop historically-based arguments;
- 2) concentrate on examining and tracking bilateral transatlantic relations;
- 3) compare the different forms that US military, political, economic, legal, and cultural influence takes (and has taken) abroad, be it as a decisive factor or only as a contribution to driving change elsewhere;
- 4) investigate specific themes over time that have had differing impacts and drawn differing responses from various nations in the region

Deadline for abstracts: 1 April, 2010

Conference organizers are the Middelburg Center for Transatlantic Studies and Roosevelt Study Center. Venues will be provided in Middelburg by these two organizations and the Roosevelt Academy.

For more conference information and submission of proposals, visit the website at <http://www.transatlanticstudies.org>

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