

# CENTRAL STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

## POLITICAL COMMUNICATION INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER

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### MESSAGE FROM JAY CHILDERS, CHAIR

Over the past four and a half years, I have had the wonderful privilege of working closely with our Political Communication Interest Group in numerous capacities. I have been impressed throughout with our group's commitment to a vibrant scholarly community. With each passing year, we grow stronger, and I have no doubt that this coming year will continue this trend.

Last year, I had the honor of serving as the Political Communication program planner for the CSCA conference in St. Louis! Our group received numerous paper and panel submissions. With the help of many of you who contributed

your invaluable time and insights during the review process, our interest group ended up with a total of 10 outstanding and well attended panels, 8 sponsored by our division and 2 co-sponsored with other interest groups: Communication Education and Media Studies.

With a new presidential administration in office and the midterm elections just around the corner, I have no doubt we have a lot to talk about at our next conference in Cincinnati. We have, moreover, a clear interest in the conference theme: *Communication and Civic Change: Challenge, Engage, and Change*. I encourage you to take a look at the call in-

cluded in this newsletter and submit your papers and panels to Erin Blocher, the Chair-Elect & Program Planner for this year's conference. The deadline for submissions is just around the corner (October 2<sup>nd</sup>!) so start thinking about your submissions today.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Chair of our division this year. I am looking forward to the work ahead of us. If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact me at [jchildrs@ku.edu](mailto:jchildrs@ku.edu).

Jay Childers  
University of Kansas

### 2009-2010 POLITICAL COMMUNICATION INTEREST GROUP OFFICERS

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**Secretary-Elect:**

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## REVIEWERS NEEDED FOR 2010 CONFERENCE

Erin Blocher, our Chair-Elect and Program Planner, is busy preparing for the submission deadline for the 2010 conference in Cincinnati. Please be sure to read the call on the next page and pay special attention to the submission procedures when you submit your paper and/or panels.

We hope to have a great schedule of panels for the 2010

conference as we move into the start of our second decade as an interest group. To start the next ten years off well we need your help in submitting high quality, innovative papers and panels.

If you have any ideas for unique programs or questions regarding submissions, please contact Erin as soon as possible. If you were not able to attend the business

meeting in St. Louis but are interested in serving the CSCA Political Communication Interest Group as a reviewer for the 2010 conference, please contact Erin Blocher by Friday, September 18 at [erinblocher@gmail.com](mailto:erinblocher@gmail.com).



### PAST CHAIR OF POLITICAL COMMUNICATION INTEREST GROUP CANDIDATE FOR CSCA LEADERSHIP



All PCIG members are encouraged to participate in the upcoming election of CSCA leadership. The founding chair of our interest group, Dr. Mitchell McKinney from the University of Missouri, is a candidate for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of CSCA (and, if elected, would subsequently serve as 1<sup>st</sup> VP and CSCA President). Dr. McKinney's candidate statement can be found at: <http://communication.missouri.edu/people/mckinney.html>

The election will be conducted electronically with members going to the CSCA web site and entering the Members Only area to access their ballot. An e-mail will be sent to all members in late September / early October to announce the opening of voting.

PCIG members are strongly encouraged to take the few minutes to log in and vote when they receive notification that balloting has begun. Members should also encourage their colleagues and students who are CSCA members to participate in the upcoming CSCA leadership election.

## 2008 ELECTION RESEARCH

PCIG members will find the latest issue of *Communication Studies* of particular interest. Editor Bill Benoit (Ohio University) devoted the 2009 September / October volume to research on the 2008 presidential campaign. All CSCA members receive a print copy, and can also access the journal at the CSCA web site ([www.cscs-net.org](http://www.cscs-net.org)).

**“Have You Come a Long Way, Baby? Hillary Clinton, Sarah Palin, and Sexism in 2008 Campaign Coverage”**  
*Diana B. Carlin & Kelly L. Winfrey, University of Kansas*

**“The 2008 Election: Highlighting the Need to Explore Additional Communication Subfields to Advance Political Communication”**  
*R. Lance Holbert & Nick Geidner, The Ohio State University*

**“American Exceptionalism in a Democratic Idiom: Transacting the Mythos of Change in the 2008 Presidential Campaign”**

*Robert L. Ivie, Indiana University; & Oscar Giner, Arizona State University, Tempe*

**“Using the 2008 Presidential Election to Think about ‘Playing the Race Card’”**

*Ronald Lee, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; & Aysel Morin, East Carolina University*

**“Not Your Parents' Presidential Debates: Examining the Effects of the CNN/YouTube Debates on Young Citizens' Civic Engagement”**

*Mitchell S. McKinney, University of Missouri; & Leslie A. Rill, Portland State University*

**COMMUNICATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT: CHALLENGE, ENGAGE, AND CHANGE  
2010 CALL FOR PAPERS AND PANELS**

POLITICAL COMMUNICATION Interest Group  
2010 Central States Communication Association Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio  
April 14-18, 2010

The Political Communication Interest Group invites the submission of competitive papers and thematic panel proposals to be considered for presentation at the 2009 CSCA convention. This Interest Group recognizes and encourages research that addresses political communication topics in all contexts and levels of analysis, employing a variety of methodologies. The scope of this Interest Group is broad, as the study of politics and communication may encompass the communicative activities of citizens, individual political figures, governmental institutions, the media, political campaigns, advocacy groups, and social movements.

We encourage submissions that focus on the convention theme. Student submissions are welcomed as are co-sponsored submissions. We seek interactive and innovative formats designed to increase audience member participation.

Examples of possible formats are listed below:

- **Traditional paper panel** – Three to four scholars and a respondent with Q & A from the audience.
- **Roundtable discussion** – Four to six people with a moderator featuring brief presentations followed by audience interaction and discussion.
- **Dialogue Sessions** – Select a key issue, debate, or article that will serve to open the session and then become the focus of conversation.
- **Spotlight Sessions** – Focus on a noted scholar and a particular aspect of teaching or research.
- **Research Café** – Similar to Spotlight Sessions, the Research Café would have a scholar offer a piece of research as exemplar. Attendees would then discuss the research. Although this session is to be highly interactive, the format is to include advance preparation and a discussion structure.
- **Debates** – This format encourages a town hall atmosphere with a prearranged resolution. Teams argue for and against the resolution.
- **High Density Program** – Six to eight people each presenting a brief synopsis of his/her research, then moving to an area where copies of the paper are available. Attendees move about and participate in a dialogue with the different presenters. The Interest Group presents the J. Jeffrey Auer Award for the top competitive graduate student paper, which also includes a monetary award.

**Guidelines for Submission (Submissions will only be accepted electronically)**

Please submit all papers and panel proposals as a MICROSOFT WORD attachment to the interest group planner listed below. **Papers and Panel Proposals that do not follow the listed guidelines will be returned.** An e-mail acknowledging receipt of paper and panel proposals will be sent for each submission.

**Paper submissions:**

- Papers must conform to APA standards and must include a 50-75 word abstract
- Papers must have a cover page with the paper title
- All author references **must** be removed completely from the paper
- If appropriate, please indicate, "debut" (papers authored solely by individuals who have **never** presented at a convention) and/or "student" in the upper right-hand corner of the cover page. All papers marked as student papers will automatically be considered for the Auer award.
- **Submitters MUST include the following in the e-mail text to the program planner: title of the paper; name(s), mailing address(es), email address(es), phone number(s), and institutional affiliation(s) of the author(s); and any media equipment requests.**

**Panel proposals:**

- Submit a word document to the interest group planner that includes the panel title, brief panel abstract/rationale, identification of the panelists (name, mailing address, email address, phone number, institutional affiliation), detailed abstracts for each proposed paper (if paper panel), and any media equipment requests.
- If appropriate, please indicate in the word document if the panel consists of all students (excluding chair and/or respondent).
- Complete a 2009 CSCA Panel Proposal Request Form available at <http://www.csc-net.org/>. Submit the form to the interest group planner. Formatting information is provided as a link on the form indicated above.
- Submitters interested in having a panel co-sponsored should contact both program planners **prior** to the submission deadline to discuss the submission.

**Erin E. Blocher, M.A.**

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## BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The following are the minutes from the 2009 Interest Group Business Meeting. If you would like to make any changes, corrections, or additions, please contact Susan Novak (novaks@ku.edu). Any updates to the minutes will be published in our March newsletter and the minutes will be on the agenda for approval at the 2010 business meeting.

**CSCA Political Communication Interest Group**  
Minutes from the April 3, 2009 Meeting  
St. Louis, Missouri

Twenty-two attendees

**I. Called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Jenifer Lewis in lieu of Kasie Roberson.**

**II. Approval of minutes**

- A. Jenifer called for changes to minutes of previous meeting; no changes. Jay Self moved to accept, Jim Schnoebelen seconded. Approved unanimously.

**III. Old Business**

- A. Convention Planner Jay Childers.
1. Thanks to everyone who reviewed papers, panels, and to chairs, respondents.
  2. We originally received only eight slots for presentation times; Jay got that number upped to 10 sections
  3. We accepted 12 of 16 submissions for this year's meeting
  4. Invitation to all to attend tomorrow's session in Jefferson E room: "A historic Presidency: First Looks at the Political Communications of Potus 44." Mitchell McKinney will chair; speakers are Karlyn Kohrs Campbell, Robert Rowland, Judith S. Trent, David Zarefsky
  5. Scott Walrus (University of Missouri) won the J. Jeffrey Auer top graduate student paper; and Laura Black, Ohio University won the top paper.
- B. Report from Vice Chair Erin Blocher.
1. Most recent newsletters included a list of all sessions in Political Communications section; can be accessed for use in the rest of the meeting.
- C. Jenifer Lewis: Thanks to Jay for great work in putting together our 2009 section

**IV. New Business**

- A. Elections
1. Mike Milford for Vice Chair Elect; no nominations from floor; Mike approved by acclamation.
  2. James Schnoebelen for Secretary Elect; nominations from floor none; James approved by acclamation.
- B. Conference planning for the 2010 conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.
1. Mary Banwart: Who in Cincinnati could we get for a speaker?
  2. Mayor to talk about former race riots; "Mean Jean" from Ohio
  3. Erin Blocher: Regional politics? Ohio geographically so different from region to region.
  4. Jenifer Lewis: Political engagement in the classroom, maybe someone from Carnegie Foundation (Mahaffie?)
  5. A critique of what's going on in Obama admin, how he's doing, how it will affect midterm elections.
  6. Institute for Policy Research in Cincinnati
  7. Political Communication Interest Group "Founding Father" Mitchell McKinney nominated for CS Second Vice President.
  8. Denise Thomas and Stephen Hunt came in to discuss next year's meeting. They suggest "civic engagement" be defined broadly, beginning with preparing undergrads to be good citizens. Consider where Central States has been and take it to next level; consider showcasing teaching, pedagogy.

**V. Adjourned at 6:50 p.m.**