

POLITICAL COMMUNICATION INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER

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March 2009

A Message from Kasie M. Roberson, Chair

Over the past five years that I have worked with the Central States Communication Association's Political Communication Interest Group, I have learned so much from the various roles I have had the honor of serving. From beginning as secretary-elect in 2004 to working as the program planner for last year's convention in Madison, I have found myself excited to be a part of such a dynamic group of people who conduct, what I believe to be, some of the most exciting and worthwhile research in the communication field.

Over the past five years I have seen our group grow in numbers and every year we have had exciting and well-received panels on some very important and timely topics in Political Communication. As we move forward it is my hope that we will see this trend continue and that our group will remain one of the strongest at Central States in terms of quality programs and number of participants. The only way this will continue is for our current members to remain committed to submitting and presenting some of their best work to our division. We also must continue to mentor current graduate students (our future faculty colleagues) and encourage them to become active members of our group. One way we

recognize their important contributions to our group is through continued funding of the *J. Jeffery Auer Award*, which recognizes the top graduate student paper award for the division.

It is with regret that I will be unable to "Meet You in St. Louis" this year. In March my husband and I are expecting our second child and I will be unable to travel for a while. I am very grateful that the immediate past chair Jenifer Lewis will fill in for me. I am also grateful for the hard work of Jay Childers, this year's program planner. It is my hope that you will be pleased with the slate of Political Communication panels that await you in St. Louis. I hope you have an enjoyable time at the conference and a productive 2009. I will look forward to seeing you in 2010 when Central States comes to Cincinnati.

Kasie M. Roberson
Chair
CSCA Political Communication Interest Group

Political Communication Interest Group Officers

Chair:

Kasie M. Roberson
Miami University
roberskm@muohio.edu

Chair-Elect:

Jay Childers
University of Kansas
jaychilders@ku.edu

Vice-Chair:

Erin Blocher
University of Missouri-
Kansas City
blochere@umkc.edu

Secretary:

Lora Cohn
Park University
lora.cohn@park.edu

Secretary-Elect:

Susan Novak
University of Kansas
novaks@ku.edu

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2009 Convention Information

This year we have 10 panels sponsored or co-sponsored by the Political Communication Interest Group. We are pleased to co-sponsor panels with the Media Studies Interest Group and the Communication Education Interest Group.

Featured Panels:

Top Paper Panel: Thursday, April 2
9:30a.m.-10:45a.m., Shaw Room

The Top Paper Panel will include paper presentations from Scott Walus, University of Missouri-Columbia; Darin J. Gully, University of Missouri-Columbia; James M. Schnoebelen, University of Kansas; and Laura W. Black, Ohio University.

A Historic Presidency: First Looks at the Political Communication of POTUS 44

Friday, April 3
4:00p.m.-5:15p.m., Jefferson E Room

Participants Karlyn Khors Campbell, University of Minnesota; Robert Rowland, University of Kansas; Judith S. Trent, University of Cincinnati; and David Zarefsky, Northwestern University will discuss the emerging communication patterns of the new presidency. The panel will combine individual presentations with audience participation and discussion.

2009 Political Communication Interest Group

Thursday, April 2, 2009

1114 8:00-9:15 a.m. Shaw
THE MANY METHODS FOR STUDYING POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

1214 9:30-10:45 a.m. Shaw
TOP PAPERS IN POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

1314 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Shaw
THE 2008 CAMPAIGN: CANDIDATES, CITIZENS, AND THE MEDIA

1414 12:30-1:45 p.m. Shaw
CHALLENGES TO THE HEART OF POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

1514 2:00-3:15 p.m. Shaw
THE POLITICS OF PLACE: FROM TOWN HALL DEBATES TO STATEWIDE RACES

2507 2:30-3:45 p.m. Atrium C
POLITICAL PEDAGOGY I, POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION PEDAGOGY: CONNECTING STUDENTS TO POLITICAL CONVERSATION

2605 4:00-5:15 p.m. Jefferson E
A HISTORIC PRESIDENCY: FIRST LOOKS AT THE POLITICAL COMMUNICATIONS OF POTUS 44

Saturday April 3, 2009

3515 2:00-3:15 p.m. Carondalet
RECONNECTING TO THE HEARTS OF AMERICA: IMAGE RESTORATION AFTER THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

3715 5:00-6:15 p.m. Carondalet
RHETORICAL MEMORIES OF THE 2008 ELECTION

Friday, April 2, 2009

2201 9:30-10:45 a.m. Jefferson A
OH SURE, WE CAN LAUGH ABOUT IT NOW: A MULTI-MEDIA PANEL DISCUSSION ON HOW COMEDY USED THE 2008 POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS

Jay Childers, 2009 Program Planner, would like to wish a special thank you to all of the panel and paper reviewers for your service to the Interest Group. We have a great slate of panels this year and I look forward to seeing everyone in St. Louis!

Business Meeting

Please mark your calendar for the 2009 Political Communication Interest Group Business Meeting on **Thursday, April 2**. The business meeting will be held in the **Shaw Room from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.** Among other things, we will elect new officers and begin planning for the 2010 convention. It is important to have good attendance at the business meetings so that we can each have a voice in the direction of our interest group. See you there!

2009 Top Papers Announced

Congratulations to **Laura W. Black**, Ohio University— her paper “What do we know about how people communicate during deliberative events?” was ranked the **top overall paper** for the Political Communication Interest Group.

Congratulations to **Scott Walus**, University of Missouri-Columbia —his paper “Getting "real:" Audience reactions to the levels of simulacra presented by different presidential debate formats 1996-2004” won the **J. Jeffrey Auer Award** for the Top Graduate Student Paper.

We Want YOU!!!

The Nominating Committee has called for nominations for Interest Group officers to be selected at our business meeting in St. Louis. As we do each year, the membership will elect a Vice-Chair and Secretary-Elect.



If you know of an Interest Group member who might like to serve in either of these capacities, or if you would like to nominate yourself, please contact Jay Childers, Nominating Committee Chair, by **Monday, March 30th** (jchilders@ku.edu).

Looking Ahead to Cincinnati 2010

In 2010, the CSCA conference theme will be **Communication and Civic Engagement: Challenge, Engage, and Change**. As the theme suggests, we are being encouraged by the 2010 conference planners to think about the role communication plays “in the development of civic engagement practices and research at student, community, and societal levels.”

The direct connection of the conference theme to the work of the Political Communication Interest

Group presents an exciting opportunity.

Mark your calendar for next year’s conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, April 14-18, 2010. If you have suggestions for the Political Communication Interest Group program planning for 2010 please speak with me at the convention or e-mail me at blochere@umkc.edu.

— Erin E. Blocher

Vice-Chair & 2010 Program Planner

CSCA Political Communication Interest Group