

# Organizational & Professional Communication

Central State Communication Association Newsletter

March, 2006

## *Celebrating 75 years of the Central States Convention!*

Anniversaries are great opportunities to celebrate the length and strength of a relationship. Implicitly these celebrations are occasions for reflection and renewal. We are excited to report that our division's panels embrace this year's CSCA convention theme. This year we celebrate our scholarship, reflect on our teaching practices and engage in several unique opportunities for renewal.

Several panels celebrate our scholarship, including a spotlight panel that articulates ways we can engage audiences beyond our campuses. We have several opportunities to critically reflect on who, what and how we teach students inside and outside of the academy. We have a variety of renewal opportunities as scholars, teachers, and training and development facilitators.

Finally we shape our future with two unique mentoring opportunities for our developing scholars and a networking opportunity. On Saturday morning our 8:00 am session celebrates debut papers and debut respondents. After the debut respondents provide their feedback, Kevin Barge provides his perspective on both the papers and the respondents' critique. At 11:00, directly following the spotlight panel, experienced scholars are available for a fast paced mentoring and networking section—a great opportunity for those who are new to scholarship and those who are renewing their commitment to research! An additional attribute to this year's conference is the post-business meeting gathering—a great opportunity to celebrate friendships and establish relationships with division members.

*Sarah Bonewits Feldner, Chair*

*Scott Dickmeyer, Vice Chair*

## *Spotlight Panel—Celebrating our Scholarship Beyond the Ivory Towers*

Organizational executives have come to recognize the importance of effective communication in the day-to-day and long-term success of their enterprises. Therefore, it is not surprising that communication faculty members are being invited into organizations to train employees in communication skills and consult management on a variety of communication issues. Unfortunately, a common misperception persists as organizational members consider communication to be a skill that when done well yields the desired results. Meanwhile communication scholars recognize that because organizations are symbolic constructions, communication is the problem and the solution to most organizational challenges. The purpose of this panel is to argue that several popular organizational concerns are communicative in nature and the solutions are found in communication scholarship. The panelists will demonstrate their efforts to illuminate strong communication scholarship to organizational audiences through a variety of practices such as writing for this audience, organizational consulting, and crafting and facilitating training and development seminars. The spotlight panel will be on Saturday at 9:45 in Pennsylvania Station A.

*Scott Dickmeyer*

### ***Organizational & Professional Communication Diamond Anniversary Paper Award***

Soon you will be receiving a letter inviting your support to establish the Organizational & Professional Communication Diamond Anniversary Paper Award. In order to formally celebrate and recognize CSCA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, our OPC interest group voted to establish this endowed award at our April 2005 business meeting in Kansas City. This award will recognize the Top Paper Award in our interest group each year, in addition to the certificate we already award.

In order to endow this award, we must raise at least \$1000. Each year the interest generated from our endowment, combined with a portion of our \$100 annual interest group allotment, will be the amount awarded to recognize our top paper. The account will be maintained by CSCA.

An award foundation group of OPC scholars, including Kevin Barge, Sarah Bonewits Feldner, Scott Dickmeyer, Debra Ford, Lynn Harter, Mary Hoffman, Joann Keyton, and Kathy Krone, have started us on our way. We are already over the half-way point at \$600. It would be wonderful to announce during our conference in Indianapolis that OPC has established this award with \$1000 or more to celebrate CSCA's anniversary. If you would like to contribute, please write your check to CSCA and send it to Debra Ford, Endowed Award Coordinator, at the address below. Please note "OPC" in the memo line. Help us celebrate 75 years of our regional professional organization and honor our top scholars in years to come!

*Debra Ford*

### ***Mentoring Opportunities at this Year's CSCA Meeting***

While conventions serve many purposes, this year we're highlighting the mentoring opportunities created by the active participation of influential and experienced organizational communication scholars in the Central States Region.

As graduate students and new faculty members begin to develop their professional identities, many find themselves in places where they are not in close proximity with others who share their research interests. Mentors are often two states over, rather than right next door. This year, we are bringing together experienced scholars and new scholars for a fast paced mentoring and networking section. Taking its cue from the new trend in many cities, "speed dating," this will be a speed mentoring session. Whether you consider yourself to be seasoned or new, bring your questions and your research ideas to gain feedback, perspective, and direction or simply come to make a personal connection with others who are shaping the discipline. The speed mentoring session will be on Saturday at 11:00am in Pennsylvania Station A.

Another unique panel format that we are adding this year allows for some mentoring in terms of responding to panels. While conferences often feature "debut papers" to highlight the work of newer scholars, there are not always opportunities for debut respondents. At this year's conference, we have a panel featuring both student papers and debut responders. Following brief presentations of competitively selected papers, "debut" respondents will offer comments on the papers. After this, an experienced respondent will offer some insight on the papers and the respondents. The remainder of the session will be devoted to dialogue about the papers and how we formulate productive responses to work presented at conferences. This session, Call & Response: Research Presentations On Socialization & Dialogue About Our Socialization To Academic Response, will be held on Saturday at 8:00am in the Grand Central D.

*Sarah Bonewits Feldner*

### ***Celebrating OPC Top Papers!***

Congratulations to the authors of the top papers in OPC division—especially to Julie Novak (NDSU) who authored the top paper and top student paper in the division! All of our top papers represent the best of the work submitted to the division this year. Plan to join us on Friday, April 7 at 9:30 in Grand Central D to celebrate the divisions outstanding scholarship.

“Socialization and the First-Year College Experience: Managing the Tension of In(ter)dependence.” Alane K. Smith, Ohio University; Heather J. Carmack, Ohio University; B. Scott Titsworth, Ohio University

“Communication in Knowledge Organizations: Communication Apprehension as a Predictor of Knowledge Acquisition, Creation, and Application.” C. B. Crawford, Fort Hays State University; C. Sue Strohkirch, Fort Hays State University

“The Meaning of Work/Life: An Analysis of Corporate Discourse on Work/Life Issues.” Mary F. Hoffman, Texas State University; Renee L. Cowan, Texas State University

“Using Informant Interviews to Explore Organizational Culture in a Food Processing Plant: How Foregrounded Communication Impacts Risk Management.” Julie M. Novak, North Dakota State University\*

*Respondent:* Robert L. Krizek, Saint Louis University

### ***Sharing Ideas and Making Connections at the Business Meeting and Networking Session***

This year’s convention plans were developed at the business meeting in Kansas City. We hope to see you at this year’s business meeting where we’ll continue the trend of developing strong and innovative programming. Also, we’ll discuss other issues and topics of concern for the division. Also, be sure to block out some time to join other members of the division for conversation and cocktails immediately following the business meeting when we’ll head to a local establishment for a networking session/happy hour. The business meeting will be Friday at 5:45pm in Pennsylvania A. The happy hour will be immediately after the meeting adjourns at a location to be announced.

### ***Thanks for Giving Time and Talent to the OPC Division***

We are very excited about this year’s convention and want to thank several division members for their work in shaping an invigorating conference. The following division members reviewed, ranked, and critiqued competitive paper and panel submissions:

Janel Anderson—University of Saint Thomas  
Scott Dickmeyer—University of Wisconsin—La  
Crosse  
Mary Hoffman—Texas State University—San  
Marcos  
Lori Joseph—Hollins University

Mark Leeman—Ohio University  
Lance Lippert—Illinois State University  
Irwin Mallin—Indiana University Purdue Fort  
Wayne  
David Novak—Ohio University  
Gerald Slaughter—Indiana State University

The following division members planned the Spotlight and Speed Mentoring Panels:

J. Kevin Barge—University of Georgia  
Sarah Bonewits Feldner—Marquette University  
Patrice Buzzanell—Purdue University  
Scott Dickmeyer—University of Wisconsin—La  
Crosse

Erika Kirby—Creighton University  
Debra Ford—University of Kansas  
Lynn Harter—Ohio University  
Paaige Turner—Saint Louis University

## Organizational & Professional Communication Division Schedule

### Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

**11:00 AM-12:15 PM** **Grand Central B**  
*NEW SCHOLAR PERSPECTIVES ON CRITICAL & CULTURAL STUDIES OF ORGANIZATIONS*

**2:30 PM-3:45 PM** **Grand Central C**  
*PEDAGOGY OR ANDRAGOGY: WHAT ARE WE DOING IN OUR CLASSROOMS AND TRAINING ROOMS?*

### Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

**9:30 AM-10:45 AM** **Grand Central D**  
*TOP PAPERS IN ORGANIZATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION*

**11:00 AM-12:15 PM** **Grand Central C**  
*LEADERSHIP, SUPERVISION & MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATION*

**2:30 PM-3:45 PM** **Grand Central D**  
*ESTABLISHING AN AGENDA FOR NONPROFIT AND ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS: A CONVERSATION AMONG NONPROFIT AND ORGANIZATIONAL SCHOLARS*

**5:45 PM-6:30 PM** **Pennsylvania Station A**  
*BUSINESS MEETINGS Organizational & Professional Comm. (Networking Session to Follow)*

### Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

**8:00 AM-9:15 AM** **Grand Central D**  
*CALL & RESPONSE: RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS ON SOCIALIZATION & DIALOGUE ABOUT OUR SOCIALIZATION TO ACADEMIC RESPONSE*

**9:30 AM-10:45 AM** **Pennsylvania Station A**  
*SPOTLIGHT PANEL: BEYOND THE IVORY TOWERS: EXPANDING COMMUNICATION SCHOLARSHIP TO NEW AUDIENCES*

**11:00 AM-12:15 PM** **Pennsylvania Station A**  
*ORGANIZATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION SPEED-MENTORING*

**1:00 PM-2:15 PM** **Pennsylvania Station C**  
*(RE)SHAPING ORGANIZATIONAL IDENTITY, PLACE AND SPACE IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE KATRINA*

**2:30 PM-3:45 PM** **Victoria Station C**  
*EMPHASIZING MARGINALIZED VOICES AND NON-DOMINANT PERSPECTIVES IN ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATION COURSES*