

# POLITICAL COMMUNICATION INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER

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## A Message from Erin Blocher, Chair

I look with anticipation to our 2011 CSCA Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The conference theme will be “home,” and I know that we are all glad to call the Political Interest Group our academic home. During my term on the Executive Board, I have been continually impressed with the quality of scholarship in our division and the involvement of our members. Current events, trends, and faces continually change on the political landscape, but one thing we can always rely upon is the opportunity for collaboration and idea generation that our interest group offers.

The conference in Cincinnati provided a varied and interesting set of panels and papers and I look forward to the same diversity in this year’s sessions. Our 2011 Program Planner, and Interest Group Vice-Chair, Mike Milford, has worked very hard to develop a great program for April’s conference. Mike has approached the task of program planning with excellent ideas, his trademark humor, and true passion. It has been a pleasure to work with him this year. Please plan to attend as many of our group’s planned panels as possible.

A “quick guide” appears at the end of this newsletter to easily facilitate finding the Political Communication Interest Group panels in the 2011 program.

In our continuing effort to support and encourage the work of young scholars and graduate students, the division will once again offer the *J. Jeffrey Auer Award* to the top graduate student paper. We are also excited to offer several sessions featuring the foundational scholars in our discipline and their insights.

The future success of the interest group relies on active members and your involvement. Please plan to attend the Political Interest Group Business Meeting on Saturday April 9, from 3:30-4:45. We will discuss the 2012 conference and elections will take place. Please contact me at [erinblocher@gmail.com](mailto:erinblocher@gmail.com) if you have an interest in running for a position on the Executive Board, all nominations are welcome.

## Political Communication Interest Group Officers

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## Business Meeting

Please mark your calendar for the 2011 Political Communication Interest Group Business Meeting on **Saturday, April 9**. The business meeting will be held in the **Executive B room from 3:30 – 4:45 p.m.** Among other things, we will elect new officers and begin planning for the 2012 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!

## Looking Ahead to Cleveland 2012

In 2012, the CSCA conference will be held in Cleveland, OH.

Mark your calendar for March 27-April 1, 2012. If you have suggestions for the Political Communication Interest Group program

planning for 2012 please speak with me at the convention or e-mail me at [brwarner@ku.edu](mailto:brwarner@ku.edu).

— Benjamin R. Warner  
Vice-Chair & 2012 Program Planner  
CSCA Political Communication Interest Group

## Learn the Ropes of Research

This year's convention features a pre-conference programmed designed to assist junior faculty members in publishing and securing funding for their research.

The program features many Political Communication interest group members. Those interested should e-mail Mitchell McKinney ([McKinneyM@missouri.edu](mailto:McKinneyM@missouri.edu))

## Participate in the Interest Group!!!

The Nominating Committee has called for nominations for Interest Group officers to be selected at our business meeting in Milwaukee. 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 Erin Blocher, Chair, before the convention.

## 2011 Top Papers Announced

Congratulations to **Jayne R. Henson**, University of Missouri-Columbia and **William Benoit**, Ohio University— their paper “A Hierarchical Regression Analysis of Political Advertisements, Competitiveness, and Incumbency on Margin of Victory” was ranked the **top overall paper** for the Political

Communication Interest Group.

Congratulations to **Benjamin R. Warner**, University of Kansas —his paper “Toward a Theory of Comic Agonism” won the **J. Jeffrey Auer Award** for the Top Graduate Student Paper.

## 2011 Convention Information

This year we have 12 panels sponsored or co-sponsored by the Political Communication Interest Group. We are pleased to co-sponsor a panel with the Communication Ethics and Freedom of Expression Interest Group.

### **Featured Panels:**

**Top Paper Panel:** Friday, April 8  
11:00a.m.-12:15p.m., Executive B

The Top Paper Panel will include paper presentations from Jayne R. Henson, University of Missouri-Columbia & William Benoit, Ohio University; Kristina Horn Sheeler, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; Benjamin R. Warner, University of Kansas; Kelly L. Winfrey, University of Kansas.

**Senior Scholars Discuss the Midterm Elections**  
Saturday, April 9  
9:30a.m.-10:45a.m., Executive B

Participants Robert Rowland, University of Kansas; Mitchell S. McKinney, University of Missouri-Columbia; Mary C. Banwart, University of Kansas; Judith Trent, University of Cincinnati; and David Zarefsky, Northwestern University, discuss the 2010 midterm elections.

The 2010 midterm elections were tumultuous to say the least. The emergence of a third party, the reversal in the House, the ousting of many incumbents in state governments gave this election a unique character. The panel will combine individual presentations with audience participation and discussion.

## 2011 Political Communication Interest Group

### Thursday, April 7, 2011

**1106 8:00-9:15 a.m. Executive B**  
Media Framing and the Mid Term Elections

**1206 9:30-10:45 a.m. Executive B**  
Ads to the Extreme: A Guided Discussion of Mid Term Attack and Extreme Ads

**1306 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Executive B**  
Roundtable to Restore Sanity and/or Fear

**1506 2:00-3:15 p.m. Executive B**  
Tea'd Off: The Tea Party's Effect on Mid Term Elections

### Friday, April 8, 2011

**2106 8:00-9:15 a.m. Executive B**  
Assessing the Rhetorical Strategies of President Barack Obama Two Years into His Presidential Term

**2206 9:30-10:45 a.m. Executive B**  
Publishing Research in Political Communication

**2306 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Executive B**  
Top Papers in Political Communication

### Saturday April 3, 2009

**3206 9:30-10:45 a.m. Executive B**  
Senior Scholars Discuss the Midterm Elections

**3213 9:30-10:45 a.m. Juneau**  
Public Deliberation, Policy, and Political Communication

**3306 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Executive B**  
Political Communication and the Oval Office

**3406 12:30-1:45 p.m. Executive B**  
Public Reasoning in Political Communication

**3506 2:00-3:15 p.m. Executive B**  
Teaching Political Communication to Undergraduates

**Mike Milford, 2011 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 Milwaukee!**