

# POLITICAL COMMUNICATION INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER

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## A Message from Michael Milford, Chair

Happy spring political communication scholars!

I can't think of a better time to be a communication scholar. In the midst of a contentious presidential race candidates and media have made political discourse a daily topic of conversation. What a great opportunity we have to show how political communication research can encourage civil disagreement and provide practical solutions to real-world problems. After all, if a chair from the University of Kansas can work with a vice-chair currently employed at the University of Missouri, anything is possible.

On that note I would like to sing the praises of our vice-chair Ben Warner. While serving as vice-chair Ben has finished his PhD and started a new job, all while putting together a great program for us to enjoy in Cleveland. Kudos to him! Our vice-chair elect Jim Schnoebelen has also done a super job keeping us informed. I would also like to recognize our past chair Erin Blocher. Erin, following in the footsteps of other past chairs like Mitchell McKinney and Mary Banwart, has been an incredible help.

She has been a ready source of information, help, and encouragement in my tenure as an office for the interest group. Her enthusiasm is inexhaustible and I know the group is better for her having been a part.

I know that the incoming leadership will continue the trend of excellence we've seen with Mitchell, Mary, Jay, Erin, and Ben. Thanks for letting me serve as a part of this group. That said, the future success of the interest group depends on you. If you're interested in serving as an officer make sure you attend our business meeting on Friday, March 30, at 11:00. We will discuss the 2013 convention (assuming the Mayans are wrong) and elections will take place. Please contact me at [milford@auburn.edu](mailto:milford@auburn.edu) if you have any questions about running for a position on the Executive Board.

Excelsior!

## Political Communication Interest Group

**Chair:**

Mike Milford  
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**Vice-Chair Elect**

James M. Schnoebelen  
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**Vice-Chair:**

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Ryan Neville-Shepard  
Indian University-Purdue  
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## Business Meeting

Please mark your calendar for the 2012 Political Communication Interest Group Business Meeting on **Friday, March 30**. The business meeting will be held in the **Blossom Room (4<sup>th</sup> Floor) from 11:00am-12:15pm**. Among other things, we will elect new officers and begin planning for the 2013 convention. It is important to have good attendance at the business meeting so that we can each have a voice in the direction of our interest group. See you there!

## We Want YOU!!!

The officers have called for nominations for new Interest Group officers to be selected at our business meeting in Cleveland. As we do each year, the membership will elect a Vice-Chair-Elect 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 and will not be present, please contact James Schnoebelen, Vice-Chair-Elect, by Monday, March 26 ([jim.schnoebelen@washburn.edu](mailto:jim.schnoebelen@washburn.edu))

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](mailto:jchilders@ku.edu)).



## 2012 Top Papers Announced

Congratulations to Ryan Neville Shepard, Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus—his paper “Triumph in Defeat: The Genre of Third Party Presidential Concessions” was ranked the top overall paper for the Political Communication Interest Group. Congratulations to Katie L. Irwin, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign—her paper “‘A Proper Soil in Which to Grow’: Margaret Sanger and the Problem of Citizenship” won the J. Jeffrey Auer Award for the Top Graduate Student Paper.

## Looking for a Short Course?

### You might want to consider...

25034:00-5:15pm

Humphrey (3rd Floor)

Engaging the Student as Citizen: Teaching the Political Communication Course in a Presidential Campaign Season (Short Course #5)

Presenters: Craig A. Smith, Trevor Parry-Giles, and Mitchell S. McKinney

Description: A presidential election season provides an ideal teaching laboratory to engage students as active citizens in the civic process. During this period, many instructors may teach a course in political campaign communication, or include activities surrounding the ongoing presidential campaign as part of other communication courses. Led by “seasoned” political communication faculty, this short course will examine different approaches to developing a political campaign communication course. Participants will be provided with a number of campaign instructional resources, course syllabi and assignments, and activities for engaging their students – and citizens– in the “real world” of a presidential campaign.

**Reminder: Short courses must be pre-registered (you can sign up for them when registering for the convention on the CSCA website) and cost \$10.**

## 2012 Convention Information

This year we have 14 panels sponsored or co-sponsored by the Political Communication Interest Group. We are pleased to co-sponsor panels with the Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group and the Performance Studies and Theatre Interest Group.

### Featured Panels

#### **Top Paper Panel: Friday, March 30, 9:30-10:45am, Blossom Room (4th Floor)**

The Top Paper Panel will include paper presentations from Ryan Neville-Shepard, Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus; Katie L. Irwin, The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Elizabeth A. Dudash, Missouri State University & Susan E. Waters, Auburn University; and Melissa Kaminski, Betsy Board, Lindsay Crighton, Isabel Fay, & Meghan Trice, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

#### **Analyzing the 2012 Presidential Election: Reflections on the Primaries and Predictions for the General Election Friday, March 30, 2:30-3:45pm, Blossom Room (4th Floor)**

Participants Mary C. Banwart, University of Kansas; Dianne Bystrom, Iowa State University; Brian T Kaylor, James Madison University; Mitchell S. McKinney, University of Missouri-Columbia; Trevor Parry-Giles, University of Maryland; Craig A. Smith, North Carolina University; John C. Tedesco, Virginia Tech; and Judith Trent, University of Cincinnati will offer analysis of the 2012 presidential election cycle. The panel will combine individual presentations with audience participation and discussion.

#### **Exploring Key Areas of Campaign Communication in the 2012 Elections Saturday, March 31, 11:00am-12:15pm, Blossom Room (4th Floor)**

Mitchell S. McKinney, University of Missouri-Columbia; John C. Tedesco, Virginia Tech; Dianne Bystrom, Iowa State University; and Brian T. Kaylor, James Madison University have each pursued lines of research focusing on key areas of campaign communication. Their presentations will provide a report of their ongoing research in each area and offer an assessment of the role these key areas of campaign communication will play in the 2012 elections. Audience discussion will follow the presentations.

#### **The Rhetoric of President Barack Obama**

##### **Saturday, March 31, 3:30-4:45pm, Humphrey Room (3rd Floor)**

Participants Denise M. Bostdorff, College of Wooster; Trevor Parry-Giles, University of Maryland; Robert C. Rowland, University of Kansas; and David Zarefsky, Northwestern University will assess the rhetorical style, substance, success and failures of President Barack Obama. Each will suggest how students of the presidency might best explore and understand the rhetorical efforts of our 44th President of the United States, and also suggest the message options available to candidate Obama as he seeks re-election. Following remarks by the panelists, the audience will be invited to join the discussion.

## 2012 Political Communication Interest Group Panels

### Thursday, March 29, 2012

- 1204 9:30-10:45am  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
#Occupy CSCA: The Political Implications of the Occupy Wall Street Movement
- 1304 11:00am-12:15pm  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
Iowa 2012: Connecting Social Media, Caucus-Goers and Candidates
- 1504 2:00-3:15pm  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
Who Are We and How Did We Get Here?: U.S. Collective Identity in a Post 9-11 World
- 1704 5:00-6:15pm  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
Connecting Candidates to Caucus-Goers: The Rhetoric of the 2012 Iowa Caucuses

### Friday, March 30, 2012

- 2104 8:00-9:15am  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
What's so Political about Performance? Bridging Discussions of Political Communication and Performance Studies (Panel co-sponsored by Performance Studies and Theatre Interest Group)
- 2204 9:30-10:45am  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
Top Papers in Political Communication
- 2304 11:00am-12:15pm  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
Political Communication Interest Group Business Meeting
- 2404 2:30-3:45pm  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
Analyzing the 2012 Presidential Election: Reflections on the Primaries and Predictions for the General Election
- 2504 4:00-5:15pm  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
Political Activism and the Rhetoric of Social Movements (Panel co-sponsored by Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group)

### Saturday, March 31, 2012

- 3102 8:00-9:15am  
Wade (3rd Floor)  
Framing Theory in Political Contexts
- 3204 9:30-10:45am  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
Gender and Candidate Communication, Evaluation and Success
- 3304 11:00am-12:15pm  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
Exploring Key Areas of Campaign Communication in the 2012 Elections
- 3404 12:30-1:45pm  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
Religion, Organization, and Violence: The War on Terror, the Power of Unions, and a Look Back at Catholicism in Politics
- 3504 2:00-3:15pm  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
Political Communication in Context: Twitter, Newsweek, and Questions of Place
- 3604 3:30-4:45pm  
Blossom (4th Floor)  
The Rhetoric of President Barack Obama (Panel co-sponsored by Rhetorical Theory and Criticism Interest Group)