



September 2012

Special Newsletter *Candidate Edition!*

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"Communicating the Possible"

Kansas City Marriott Downtown
April 2nd—7th, 2013

Primary Program Planner:

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Voting Procedures for CSCA

Once again, voting for CSCA's slate of candidates will take place electronically. A link to cast your ballot will be on the Members Only page of the CSCA website. Members will receive an e-bulletin announcing voting-opening.

Upon receipt of the announcement...

- (1) login to the Members Only page of the website,
- (2) click on the ballot,
- (3) select the candidate(s) of your choice, and
- (4) submit the ballot.

Note: Members Only page access will occur only after you've registered & established your user name and password. To do so, follow the prompts under the Members Only tab labeled 'Register/Forgot Password'.

Please contact Kathie Cesa, CSCA@koc.memberservices.com, for assistance in registering.

An e-bulletin announcing when the voting will occur will be sent out in October.

Candidate Statement for 2nd Vice-President

Scott Jensen

My past experience in both full-time teaching positions and in the governance of other organizations equips me for the challenge of this position. Additionally, my fondness for the role of CSCA in the communication discipline makes me excited about this potential opportunity. My 27 years as an educator have been dominated with undergraduate teaching and forensic education. I am presently Professor of Speech Communication Studies and Director of Forensics at Webster University in St. Louis, MO. I am also Executive Secretary of the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri. I am married to a fellow communication and forensic educator and have four amazing children—the oldest of whom is completing his dual degree program in music performance and music education. Teaching is at the core of my life. My scholarly and creative activities are primarily in the area of forensic pedagogy and practice and include annually presenting at state, regional, and national conventions, and publishing in a number of national and state journals. My teaching experience reflects a generalist approach to the discipline, including substantial course and curriculum development.

I feel a strong affiliation with CSCA and its unique role as a regional professional association. I have presented at NCA each year since 1987 and deeply value its contributions to my own professional life. Similarly, I have been extremely active in our state association, being the only person in its history to serve in all executive officer roles. The regional association blends the best of these two worlds. As its Second Vice-President I will work to promote the important balance CSCA reflects among teaching and research. While both are clearly central to a growing discipline and the development of its professionals, convention programming, professional services, and recognition provided by organizations should reflect the importance of each. Central States continues to communicate clearly its valuing of all dimensions of our profession. I would seize this as a centerpiece in my tenure on the executive committee.

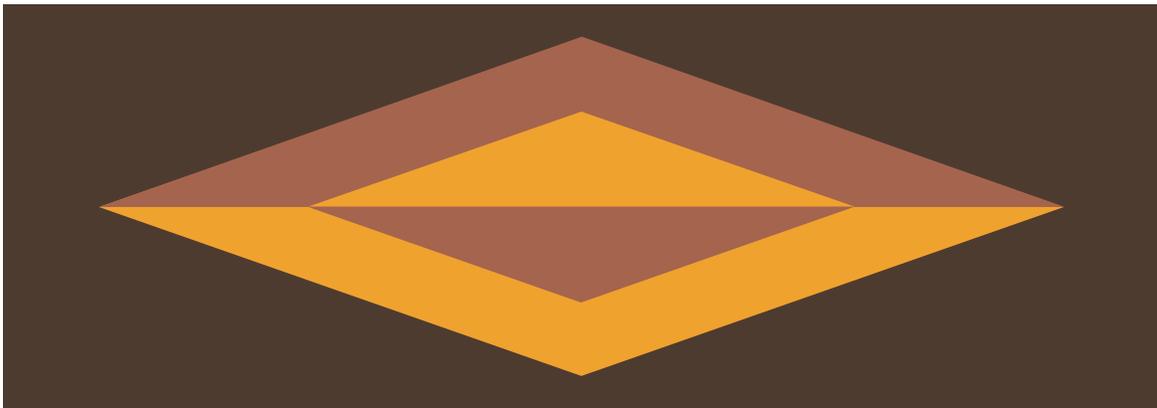


Along these lines, opportunities exist to promote the critical contribution communication plays in the preparation of our students for meaningful life and career experiences. More and more, research is becoming available that speak to our basic courses, and the skills taught in all of our courses, as paramount in any ideal collegiate curriculum. Framing this message means being leaders in the dialogue regarding assessment of critical skills, shaping general education and discipline-specific curriculum that reflects realities outside the classroom, and promoting the co-curricular dimensions of our discipline as essential compliments to formal curriculum. I currently chair a Webster committee charged with

2nd VP Candidate Statement-Jensen (continued)

implementing a new general education program. Part of that charge includes training my colleagues about assessment in general, and “selling” the importance of education that contributes to global citizenship and meaningful lives after graduation. This experience has reinforced what I have already known—and what CSCA and our discipline represents. Communication is at the core of preparing today’s students for tomorrow’s world. I will embrace this message as central to my vision for CSCA.

The uniqueness of my candidacy is my role as an educator whose teaching and research promote a generalist approach to the discipline, highlighted by nearly 30 years as a forensic educator—an area of our association with rich tradition but one that could be strengthened in its numbers of participants. I have also dedicated my entire professional life to being fully engaged in the Speech and Theatre Association of Missouri. Our state associations provide invaluable connections to teaching and service as multiple levels of the educational spectrum. I will work hard to further nurture the important connections CSCA has with our States Advisory Committee. I have extensive background in conference planning and governance. I have hosted seven national forensic tournaments and directed countless others. I have also planned state conferences, national developmental conferences, and am the executive secretary of Missouri’s state association, making me a key person in the annual conference planning and organizational governance of that group. I have been president of professional organizations on state, regional, and national levels. In short, I have the experience to carry out the responsibilities of this position. The breadth of my teaching and service also bridges several affiliates and interest groups within CSCA. In many ways I would be an ideal person to serve CSCA as its Second Vice-President. I am humbled to be a candidate for this position, and sincerely thank you for your consideration.



Candidate Statement for 2nd Vice-President

David McMahan

I am honored to be nominated for the office of Second Vice-President of the Central States Communication Association (CSCA). A product of the Central States region, I received my Associate's degree from Vincennes University (Indiana Community College), Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Indiana State University, and Doctoral degree from the University of Iowa. I am currently an Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Missouri Western State University and a life member of CSCA.

My relationship with CSCA began during my first conference as a Masters student in 1996, and I have attended the conference and have been actively involved in the association ever since. Sharing CSCA's dedication to the promotion of scholarship and to the advancement of communication instruction, I have been actively engaged in service to the association throughout my career. This commitment to our association has included service as chair and program planner for five different interest groups: (a) Basic Course Interest Group, (b) Communication Education Interest Group, (c) Community College Interest Group, (d) Instructional Resources Interest Group, and (e) Kenneth Burke Interest Group. In addition to numerous other positions within these interest groups, I have also served as chair of the Cooper Award and as a reviewer for the GIFT Program and the Undergraduate Honors Research Conference.

As Second Vice-President, I will work with all members of the association to establish connections among areas of study and to provide opportunities for diverse voices to be recognized and supported. As such, my primary goals will encompass (a) disciplinary convergence, (b) cultural convergence, and (c) academic convergence.

Through **Disciplinary Convergence**, scholars from different areas of the discipline will be encouraged and provided opportunities to interact and collaborate. Communication scholars often focus solely on their own area of study at the expense of other areas. While specialization and expertise are necessary up to a point, the interconnected nature of communication necessitates that attention be paid to other areas in order to fully understand one's primary area of study. Accordingly, scholars studying interpersonal communication and relationships should be aware of developments in the study of media and technology, and vice versa. Likewise, communication education scholars should be aware of developments in the study of relationships, media, and technology to fully understand the transformations occurring in communication classrooms and throughout education. Indeed, every area of the discipline can be advanced and strengthened through disciplinary convergence. Promoting and providing opportunities for convergence among our areas of study will advance our scholarship and teaching, and this approach is necessary for the continued vitality of the discipline and CSCA.



Cultural Convergence, through the recognition and promotion of diversity, is also

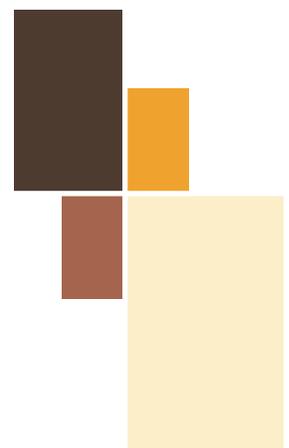
2nd VP Candidate Statement-McMahan (continued)

necessary for the advancement and vitality of the discipline and the association. If we as a discipline profess to study communication, we should study all communication and not just that of the privileged few within society.

Furthermore, we must encourage and respect the voices of everyone in the discipline. This encouragement should not be provided *regardless* of cultural diversity but *because* of cultural diversity. A diverse community of scholars provides multiple perspectives and positions which will broaden our research while strengthening the discipline and securing its global reach. While this discipline has encouraged diversity perhaps more than other disciplines in recent years, we are still lagging when it comes to providing opportunities for women, GLBTQ, people of color, and members of other groups who have been historically excluded from full participation within the discipline. In order to remain relevant in the lives of our students and in a global society, the discipline of communication and CSCA must recognize and promote diversity in its scholarship and among its members.

Academic Convergence involves bringing together scholars from all types of institutions in order to provide professional support and development opportunities for everyone within our discipline. As the son of a former high school speech teacher and having taught and studied at a community college, four-year school, masters program, and research one program, I have been able to take advantage of a unique and expansive view of the discipline. At all types of institutions, scholars specializing in the study of communication share an unwavering commitment to its exploration and are among the most dedicated instructors of any discipline. Although this commitment and dedication to the study and instruction of communication are shared, the concerns and professional needs of scholars from different types of institutions are not necessarily the same. Rather than uniform models for professional support and development, scholars from all types of institutions must be provided with unique development opportunities that address their needs. Special opportunities for personal, professional, and institutional enhancement can certainly be provided during the annual conference. Beyond focusing solely on the annual conference, however, the association can become a resource for scholars throughout the year. Academic convergence will enable CSCA to recruit larger numbers and more diverse groups of communication scholars, strengthen the association, and provide even greater opportunities for professional growth and assistance.

I am committed to the continued development of CSCA and to enhancing the experience of its members. Please feel free to contact me (mcmahan@missouriwestern.edu) with any questions, comments, or suggestions you may have. I look forward to hearing from you and would greatly appreciate your support.



Candidate Statement for Legislative Member at Large

Joseph P. Mazer

I currently serve as Assistant Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Communication Studies at Clemson University. It is truly an honor to serve as a nominee for Member at Large to the Executive Committee of the Central States Communication Association. I first joined CSCA during my MA program at Illinois State University and have enthusiastically served as a CSCA member for nearly 10 years. Throughout this time, I have held several leadership roles within our organization. I have served as Chair and Program Planner for the Communication Education and Basic Course Interest Groups and as a member of the Cooper Award Selection Committee. In prior years, I served as Vice Chair and Secretary for the Communication Education and Basic Course Interest Groups, Chair of the Cooper Award Selection Committee, and as a member of the Nominating Committee. In addition to these leadership roles, I have regularly served as a paper and panel reviewer, chair, and respondent and presented my own research through competitive paper presentations and roundtable discussions.



If I were elected as Member at Large, I would advocate that CSCA continue to explore how to best engage undergraduate and graduate students in the organization, as they are the future of our discipline. Building upon my past duties as an Interest Group Chair and Program Planner, I would seek to foster meaningful conversations across our interest groups to build interest and collaborations in areas vital to the future of our field and profession. I would support our organization's effort to build beneficial relationships with communication practitioners from outside the academy. As a nominee for Member at Large, I am fully aware that my service to our association influences my classroom teaching and mentoring relationships with students. My own mentors, who are active CSCA members, consistently emphasized the importance of effective teaching, scholarship, and service as ways to give back to the discipline and contribute to the field's vital future. Now, I actively seek to mentor and involve undergraduate and graduate students in my research and engage them at conferences. I was fortunate to be recognized for my teaching and service by CSCA through the Pamela Cooper Award and an Outstanding Service Award. Indeed, our national and international organizations do much to engage members. However, CSCA is my "home." I truly believe that our regional associations (CSCA included!) provide members with engaged opportunities that are central to sustaining the vitality of our scholarly community. I look forward to the possibility of serving as Member at Large and advocating for our organization as an important venue to discuss, share, and celebrate our scholarship, teaching, and service activities in our discipline. Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions at jmazer@clemson.edu.

Candidate Statement for Legislative Member at Large

Paul Schrodtt



I am truly honored to be nominated to serve as an at-large member of the Central States Communication Association's Executive Committee. I have been an active member of CSCA for the past 12 years, attending my first convention during the 2001 conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am a lifetime member and my participation in this regional association has been a truly rewarding experience that has contributed greatly to my personal and professional development within the discipline. Given limited space for this brief statement, I would like to highlight just a few of the experiences I have had with CSCA that I believe make me qualified to serve the association in this role.

First, I have presented more than 30 conference presentations over the last 12 years at CSCA, 15 of which have received top paper (or panel) awards. I have developed an active research program in family, interpersonal, and instructional communication, publishing more than 70 journal articles and book chapters in prestigious, national and regional outlets (including *Communication Studies*). Second, I am a former recipient of the CSCA Cooper Award for Outstanding Teaching by a PhD GTA (2003), the Gustav Friedrich Award (2002, 2003), and the CSCA Outstanding New Teacher Award (2006). Third, I have previously served the association as (a) a paper reader and respondent for the Communication Education Interest Group, (b) Secretary, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Interpersonal and Small Group Communication Interest Group, (c) member and Chair of the Nominating Committee, and (d) member and current Chair of the Federation Prize Committee. Finally, I am devoted to CSCA and consider it to be every bit as much my academic "home" as I do



the National Communication Association. Given my service responsibilities at NCA, (formerly chairing the NCA Resolutions Committee and currently on the NCA Publications Board), I believe I could serve as a strong advocate for our regional association. In short, CSCA has been wonderful to me over the course of my career and I would relish the opportunity to give back to the association by serving as an at-large member of the Executive Committee.