



## **Central States Communication Association**

### ***Election Insert Special***

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**Special Insert**

Election time is almost upon us once again, CSCA members! As you probably well know, voting in the annual elections is one of the most significant duties that the members of CSCA can enact. The officers of the organization make important decisions throughout the year that affect every aspect of CSCA. To help you with this important process, CSCA Interim Newsletter Editor Jimmie Manning, in consultation with CSCA Executive Director Nancy Brule, has put together this special insert to help inform you in your voting decisions. Included here are descriptions for each office, photos and statements provided by the candidates, and information about the voting procedure. **You will receive an email informing you when the polls are open.** We will also post reminders about voting on the organization website (<http://www.csc-net.org>) as well as on our official Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CentralStatesComm>). In short, we will do all we can to keep you informed about the process and to help you vote in this year's election.

As a final note, the CSCA office would like to thank the 2013 nominating committee for the excellent work they have done in recruiting an outstanding slate of nominees! This committee has the essential task of encouraging members to apply for officer positions, carefully reviewing their credentials, and ultimately putting forth candidates to the membership. It takes time, energy, and social capital – and we are so fortunate that this year's committee was able to put together such an amazing slate. Thanks especially to **Elizabeth R. Lamoureux** of Buena Vista University who chaired the committee!

# Central States Communication Association

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Candidates

The Second Vice President shall serve for one year, and then succeed to the office of First Vice President. The First Vice President shall serve for one year, and then succeed to the office of President for one year. The President shall serve for one year, then succeed to the office of Past President for one year. Specific duties include planning a pre-conference and serving as an executive committee member during the Second Vice President year; planning a full CSCA meeting during the First Vice President year; and presiding over organizational business. The person who is elected to this position will also select standing committee chairs. Please see the organizational bylaws for full details about other officer duties.

Candidates are presented here in alphabetical order. The statements and photos presented here were provided by each candidate.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Candidate:**

### **Mike Allen, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**



My connection to Central States goes back to 1984, when I attended my first Central conference. Over the years I have seen Central come back from the brink of financial collapse (with the help of NCA) to become a robust and healthy. I have served as editor of *Communication Studies*, as chair of Interpersonal and Small Group Communication interest group, helped start the Central States endowment, and was part of establishing the Friedrich and Burrell paper awards. I have served on the executive committee of this organization and remained an active participant for about 30 years. At the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee I have served as chair of the following committees: Tenure and Promotion, Budget, Academic Planning, Course and Curriculum, Lectures, Policy Codification, Parking Fee, and the Program Array

Review. In my department I have served as chair, graduate director, and course director for public speaking. My research record has more than 250 published works.

The most important part of the candidate statement is what I feel about the future of the Central States Communication Association. The organization is no longer faced with financial hardship, instead the challenge is how to best serve the membership. We have some financial security, in fact, we have an opportunity to make investments in activities or services that will help the members reach professional goals.

I would like to see an ongoing examination of our organization's role in providing assistance for both individual members and departmental members in achieving their missions and goals. For example, we have moved to an increased role of the undergraduate honor's conference. How can we best structure this to serve members? Would another journal help the members? If we create a new journal, what kind of journal would benefit the membership most? Can we find means to strengthen and enlarge the roles of the interest groups?

We are larger than we ever have been, the convention is well attended and our journal increased in quality and timeliness. We have a tremendous opportunity to use our collective success as a means to formulate and achieve new long-term goals.

We need to ask ourselves how our organization can best serve us individually and collectively. This is a conversation I would very much like to begin facilitating as your next President.



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**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Candidate:**  
**Shawn Wahl, Missouri State University**



Dear CSCA Friends and Colleagues:

I am honored to be nominated for 2nd Vice-President-Elect of the Central States Communication Association. The experience and friendships I have gained in my membership and service to CSCA have truly touched my life and inspired me to accept this nomination. As a Department Head and Professor of Communication in the School of Communication Studies at Missouri State University and CSCA member, I have served as Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary of the Communication Education interest group. I have chaired the Cooper Committee and have served numerous times as a paper/panel reviewer, panel chair, and respondent for the annual convention. Recent conference themes have helped CSCA engage imagination as Dr. Chad Edwards reminds us to reflect on what is Possible. Dr. Leah Bryant's theme, Elevate, encourages us to think about CSCA's expansion, growth, and quality. Considering these recent conference themes, I am reminded of the quote by Henry David Thoreau —“If you have built castles in the sky let not your dreams go to waste; just build the foundations under them.” Indeed, CSCA is more than just a professional association; it is about our *foundation*. That is, CSCA is a place where colleagues can discuss new teaching and research ideas, friends can reconnect, and all of us can maintain and build a *foundation* as communication scholars--it is where we find grounding and stability. I believe in four important principles that I would connect to my potential CSCA leadership theme: *Foundation*.

**Strategic planning** is often ignored by associations across the nation. My view is to work together with all of the CSCA members and interest groups to bring the

diversity of artists and scholars together to plan strategically. We must plan together to continue the strong history and vision of our professional associations. Thus, I believe strategic planning must occur across the association to connect to a clear mission, vision, and plan. ***Strategic planning fosters CSCA as our Foundation.***

**Collaboration** is another factor that shapes my leadership philosophy. As a researcher and teacher, collaborating with my CSCA colleagues has been one of the most valuable and insightful experiences in my career. Collaboration can help CSCA fight to save jobs in education, inform law makers about the importance of the communication discipline, partner with citizens in the community, enhance the tenure and promotion process for our colleagues, and more. Collaboration is at the core of my leadership philosophy because it brings people together and helps teacher scholars from various backgrounds come together to develop professionally. ***Creative collaboration shapes CSCA as our Foundation.***

**Engagement** also shapes my leadership philosophy. I believe that engagement fosters citizenship, service, and creative activity in all CSCA members. Whether conducting research on a regional initiative, performing at a local high school, attending professional conferences, gearing up for a debate tournament, or reporting on an important campus initiative—engaged teachers, faculty, and students are at the core of educational excellence. ***Engagement supports CSCA as our Foundation.***

Finally, it is important for all CSCA members to **reflect** and think about what is working and not working regarding professional duties and goals. Promoting all CSCA members to reflect about their performance in the classroom, service responsibilities, and creative projects is another facet of my leadership philosophy. We must look at ourselves in the current moment as well as look back at what we have accomplished. In this current moment of CSCA, I would like to partner with all members and look forward. What can we build together? ***Strategic planning, collaboration, engagement, and reflection will help us strengthen CSCA as our Foundation.***

Feel free to contact me (shawnwahl@missouristate.edu) with any questions, comments, or suggestions. I am committed to serve CSCA and respectfully ask for your support. I look forward to hearing from you and would greatly appreciate your support.

# **Central States Communication Association**

## **Member at Large Candidates**

The duties of the two Members at Large positions include attending and participating in all executive committee meetings. There they serve as a voice for CSCA members. Members at Large also assist the executive committee in carrying out the work of CSCA. The person elected to this position shall serve a two year term.

Candidates are presented here in alphabetical order. The statements and photos presented here were provided by each candidate.

### **Member at Large Candidate:**

**Andrew Ledbetter, Texas Christian University**



CSCA '04 was the first academic conference I ever attended. Perhaps that's why, as our '11 convention theme suggested, I think of CSCA as an academic "home," and therefore am honored by this nomination to serve as Member-at-Large. In that role, I would strive to maintain CSCA as a site for vigorous scholarly discourse, pedagogical insight, and professional development. Here, I will briefly explain a few reasons why I believe I am qualified for this important role.

I have been a member of CSCA since that 2004 convention, and my involvement has spanned all stages of my career—as a graduate student at the University of Kansas, an assistant professor at Ohio University, and now an associate professor at Texas Christian University. My scholarly interests lie at the intersection of interpersonal communication and communication technology, and I have published over 35 articles in peer-reviewed journals (including *Communication Studies*). At CSCA, I have presented

8 panels and 12 competitive papers, with 9 of those 12 papers receiving top paper panel honors. I have served as paper reader, secretary, vice chair, and chair/program planner of the Interpersonal & Small Group Communication Interest Group, and on the nominating committee for CSCA as a whole. I have performed similar service within the National Communication Association, including as a representative to Legislative Assembly. Also, in 2011 I was honored to receive the Outstanding New Teacher Award from CSCA.

Given these experiences, I would love to continue giving back to our Association, and I believe I am well-positioned to advocate for it. Specifically, I want CSCA to remain a strong, vibrant, and welcoming place for new generations of scholars. I welcome questions, suggestions, and comments at [a.ledbetter@tcu.edu](mailto:a.ledbetter@tcu.edu) or tweeted to [@dr\\_ledbetter](https://twitter.com/dr_ledbetter), and you can learn more about my teaching and research at [www.andrewledbetter.com](http://www.andrewledbetter.com).

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**Member at Large Candidate:**

**Danielle M. Stern, Christopher Newport University**



As a member of the Central States Communication Association since 2005, please consider voting for me for a Member-At-Large position. As a newly tenured Associate Professor, I am committed to interdisciplinary professional service, undergraduate education, and research. I currently serve and have served in various leadership roles in CSCA, which I proudly call my academic home. I am the Chair and co-founder of the newly formed Popular Culture Interest Group, as well as a past chair of the Media Studies Interest Group. I have organized and presented multiple CSCA short courses and pre-conferences over the years, mostly on topics of teaching with technology. Additionally, I serve on the Associate Editorial board for CSCA's *Communication Studies*, among other journals. My experiences with undergraduate mentoring facilitated by CSCA inspired me to found and co-advise a chapter of the NCA Student Club at my university last year. If elected Member-At-Large, I would represent the interests of CSCA members regionally. As Member-At-Large, I would continue to discuss connections among interest groups, especially in the interest of undergraduate and graduate research and to build opportunities for mentorship at multiple education and career points. I would also work with the Executive Committee to enhance our social media initiatives, including hosting a webinar for Interest Group officers interested in learning about using social media to promote calls, scholarship, and networking. I would also support my CSCA position nationally, by bringing in my leadership experiences in the National Communication Association. I am a current officer for the NCA Feminist Women Studies Division, a past officer for the GLBTQ Communication Studies Division, as well as a current member of the NCA Nominating Committee and Legislative Assembly. Thank you for the opportunity to serve CSCA.

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**Member at Large Candidate:**  
**Shannon VanHorn, Valley City State University**



I am truly honored to be nominated for Member at Large to the Executive Committee of the Central States Communication Association. I currently serve as Associate Professor and Chair of the Communication Arts Department at Valley City State University as well as one of six instructional designers for the university. I have been a member of CSCA for more than ten years and borrowing from the convention theme of a few years ago, I feel “at home” connecting and re-connecting with the members at our yearly conference. As a member of the Executive Committee, I would work to find ways to engage and embrace our newer scholars to make them feel at home with CSCA, also. Additionally, I would strive to make connections with our more “seasoned” scholars to help mentor these rising scholars and continue to call CSCA “home” no matter where their academic career may take them. CSCA is made up a diverse group of members, from high school teachers to full professors, from those teaching at community and technical colleges to Research I institutions, from undergraduates to post-doctoral fellows, from adjunct to full-time professors. That’s the beauty of this organization—that we can all come together and come “home” to learn from each other. I will continue to promote these connections if elected.

During my time at CSCA, I have served as Secretary, Vice Chair and Chair of the Instructional Resources Interest Group. Additionally, I have reviewed papers, chaired panels, and responded to panels for the Basic Course and Communication Education Interest Groups as well as for the Undergraduate Conference and GIFT sessions. I have participated in numerous panels, some which have received the top panel award from the sponsoring Interest Group. I have attended pre-conference sessions and short courses to better myself as an instructor. My leadership at the state level (editor

of my state's journal) and national level (through the leadership rotation with the Human Communication and Technology Division and the Donald Cushman Award for Top Student Paper, as well as beginning the rotation in the Communication and the Future Division of NCA) have provided me with the skills and connections to advocate for CSCA at the state and national level. Central States has provided me with many opportunities to meet professionals in the field and learn from their scholarship. I would be honored to serve CSCA and continue to promote, enhance, and grow the programs it provides to its members in instruction, scholarship, and service.

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## **Voting Procedures for CSCA**

After reading about these exciting candidates, you are not doubt eager to vote in this year's election. 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 soon. Members will receive an e-bulletin announcing that voting has opened. Only current CSCA members are allowed to vote in the election.

Once you receive the email telling you that voting is now open, simply

1. Log in to the Members Only section of the website
2. Click on the ballot
3. Select the candidates of your choice
4. Then submit the ballot by clicking on the appropriate link.

Please note you will need your user name and password to vote in the election. If you do not recall this information, look for the link under the Members Only tab to request help. If you run into any problems during the voting process, please contact **Kathie Cesa** at [CSCA@kocmemberservices.com](mailto:CSCA@kocmemberservices.com) for assistance.

CSCA looks forward to counting your votes and announcing our new leadership in October!

