

Eastern Communication Association

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Deadlines

Convention submission deadline **OCTOBER 15, 2006**

Fall election ballots due **OCTOBER 20, 2006**

Spring newsletter deadline **MARCH 1, 2007**

Executive Council meeting

ECA's Executive Council will meet in San Antonio on Friday, November 17th from 8:00-10:45am. The meeting will be held in the Hilton, Salon Del Ray South.

From the ECA President: Call for Organizational Self-Study Task Force Volunteers

If you are new to our association, we welcome you. The Eastern Communication Association is more than just one of the four regional associations. Over the last dozen years I have come to realize ECA is a place where we not only do intellectual exchange of ideas, but we also cultivate meaningful friendships. We are also an association that is always willing to look at where we have been without allowing that to constrain our progress. In other words, we are a forward-thinking organization. One needs only to look at the convention themes over the last 10 years or so to see that we continue to invite scholarly discourse about the nature of human communication in all its facets. As we continue to maintain our productivity as an organization, it is critical to do organizational audits of member satisfaction and service delivery from time to time. So, I will be seeking your feedback some time in the next few months. I have already handpicked a few individuals to join this data collection effort, but I could use a few more volunteers. If you are interested in assisting with this effort, please contact me at rlj6@psu.edu. Please place in the subject header "ECA Organizational Assessment Task Force."

A little over six months have gone by since the last ECA convention. With NCA looming near and the ECA 2007 deadline for submissions coming soon in October, I wish you well as you prepare for another exciting year.

All the Best,

Ron Jackson
President, ECA

Join us for our

98th Annual Meeting

April 26-29, 2007

**The Westin Providence Hotel
Providence, RI**

Call for 2007 ECA Awards

ECA members are invited to nominate colleagues for the Association's 2007 Awards. The deadline for all nomination materials to be submitted is January 10, 2007. Specific criteria for each award and where to send nomination materials appear below.

Donald H. Ecroyd & Caroline Drummond Ecroyd Teaching Excellence Award

The Ecroyd Award is presented annually to recognize excellence in teaching. The specific criteria include: (1) ECA membership for five continuous years; (2) a full-time teaching position at any level of education at the time of nomination and (3) a demonstrated record of employing communication principles as the foundation for constructing pedagogical principles applied in teaching practices.

Nominations for the Ecroyd Award must include the following information and four copies of materials: (1) a letter of nomination; (2) five letters of support; (3) a complete, current curriculum vita; (4) evidence of teaching competency and effectiveness for the last three years or more and (5) additional materials as appropriate. All nominations and materials should be sent by **January 10, 2007** to:

Lawrence J. Prelli
Department of Communication
Horton Social Science Center
University of New Hampshire
Durham, NH 03824

Past President's Award

The Past President's Award is presented annually to an outstanding ECA member. To be considered for the award, the nominee must: (1) be a current member of ECA; (2) be 7-15 years beyond the doctorate; (3) be a tenured faculty member; (4) have contributed a significant body of research to the communication discipline and (5) possess a significant record of continuing service to ECA.

All members of the Past Officers' Club as well as members of the Association at large are encouraged to submit nominations. ECA past officers are ineligible for the award. Electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Nominations must include: (1) a letter of nomination; (2) three copies of the nominee's current vita; and (3) additional supporting materials (e.g., books, reprints of articles, additional letters of endorsement, or other appropriate information). All nominations and materials should be sent by **January 10, 2007** to:

Dr. Mary L. Kahl
5 Hampton Place
Newburgh, NY 12550-3136

Everett Lee Hunt Award

The Everett Lee Hunt Award is presented annually at the discretion of the ECA Committee of Scholars. The Hunt Award reflects the philosophic commitment and scholarly contributions of Everett Lee Hunt, one of the founders of the discipline of communication and the eighth president of ECA (1927-1929).

ECA Website

<http://www.ecasite.org>

Check out our website for the latest ECA news, membership renewal and electronic access to our journals.

Contact Us:

ECA Executive Director
Danette Ifert Johnson
djohnson@ithaca.edu

The nominee should have provided a major contribution to the understanding of rhetoric and communication as a human function in the contemporary world; a means of explaining and realizing public responsibilities beyond the discipline of communication; and/or an intellectual and humane instrument for merging diverse fields of knowledge in a way that infuses them with moral purpose and public significance.

The guidelines for the Hunt Award include: (1) the nominee must be a member of ECA at the time of nomination; (2) the nominee's published work (e.g., an article, book, position paper or monograph) must be dated in the previous calendar year; (3) nominations must be for scholarly (including creative) work. Nominations should include: (1) a letter of nomination and (2) additional materials as appropriate. All nominations and materials should be sent by **January 10, 2007** to:

John A. Courtright
Office of Undergraduate Studies
203 Elliott Hall
University of Delaware
Newark, DE 19716

Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award honors an individual ECA member for his/her contributions to the field of communication in general and to ECA in particular. A committee appointed by the President, who acts as chair, selects the recipient.

Nominations for the Distinguished Service Award must include: (1) a letter of nomination; (2) three copies of the nominee's current curriculum vita and (3) additional support materials as appropriate. All nominations and materials should be sent by **January 10, 2007** to:

Ronald L. Jackson, II
234 Sparks Building
Department of Communication Arts and Sciences
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802

ECA Research Fellows

Research Fellow status may be awarded annually in recognition of distinguished research. The specific criteria include: (1) recognition of distinguished research in the field of communication; (2) the nominee must be a living member of ECA at the time of nomination who has been an ECA member for a minimum of ten consecutive years prior to the nomination and (3) a record of active and continuous service to ECA as manifested by such activities as an association officer, chairing an interest group, editing an ECA journal, etc.

Nominations for Research Fellows must include the following information and materials: (1) a letter of nomination; (2) a complete and current curriculum vita and (3) additional supporting documentation of an outstanding record of research as appropriate. All nominations and materials should be sent by **January 10, 2007** to:

Deborah J. Borisoff
100 Bleecker Street, #2D
New York, NY 10012

ECA's Fall Elections

Please vote in ECA's annual elections. This year's ballot includes votes for ECA First Vice President Elect-Select, ECA representatives to NCA Legislative Assembly and Nominating Committee and proposed procedures for awarding Centennial Scholarships. Ballots will be in your mailbox within the next week or so. Ballots must be returned by October 20, 2006

ECA Teaching Fellows

The Eastern Communication Association (ECA) is now soliciting nominations for "Distinguished Teaching Fellows" recognition. The teaching fellows program recognizes a distinguished career of teaching excellence in the field of communication and is limited to colleagues who have active and continuous service to ECA. Potential candidates must be a living member of ECA at the time of nomination and have a minimum of ten years of consecutive ECA membership. There are no self-nominations for the "Distinguished Teaching Fellows" program.

The submission process must include a letter of nomination, current vitae, up to five letters of recommendation, and representative supporting materials that suggest at least ten years of excellent teaching activity (e.g., student evaluations, peer reviews, citations). All nominations and supporting materials must be submitted electronically to Joan O'Mara at omara@hartford.edu. Deadline for all nomination materials to be received is **January 10, 2007**. For additional information, please contact Dr. O'Mara.

Candidate Statements: ECA First Vice President Elect-Select

Richard Thames, Duquesne University



What a privilege to seek office in America's oldest regional communication association and to enter the contest with so highly qualified an opponent as Dr. Candice Thomas-Maddox.

ECA has always been special to me. My first conference was with ECA at Hartford in 1982. There, a conversation with Trevor Melia and Herb Simons led to our organizing the 1984 Kenneth Burke conference

in Philadelphia which overlapped ECA and out of which the Burke Society was born. As a founder of that Society, I have appreciated how much ECA has contributed to the fortunes of Burke over the years. Since 1984 I have been privileged to serve both as local organizer for the Society's third international conference in Pittsburgh celebrating the Burke centennial in 1996 and as KBS Newsletter editor from 1993 to 2005. I have also been privileged to serve as an associate editor for QJS and a manuscript reader for the Eastern, Southern, and Western journals.

When I recall that first and all subsequent conferences, what I remember most is conversations in lobbies, restaurants, and bars. Why gather at conferences when we could easily and efficiently publish papers or transfer materials across the internet? Why set aside times and travel great distances to come together—except to *converse*. Our conversations may often prove esoteric. They may tend to ignore the world except to criticize.

Nevertheless they are central to our association, our discipline—and our humanity.

If elected Vice President of Eastern, I would call for a centennial theme of “conversing with each other and the world,” a fundamental theme as old as Aristotle’s “animal with *logos*” and recent as Burke’s “unending conversation.” Aristotle’s definition, often translated as the *rational* animal, may also be rendered the *political* animal in that only within the *polis*, a linguistic community, does each of us become that which he or she potentially is—an “animal with language” (or Burke’s “body that learns language”), an animal that communicates with words. The *apolis*, says Aristotle, are either beasts or gods. We speak because we have been spoken to. We are called into the specifically human world of language. We are formed by and through conversation.

As Vice President, I would encourage panels featuring conversation, such as extemporaneous responses to prepared questions that would promote interaction among panelists and with the audience, rather than standard paper presentations. I would also encourage panels promoting conversation between ECA and the world—the marketplace and the community at large. Finally, if we are formed through conversation, we are obliged to invite and support participation from graduate and undergraduate students. We have conversations into which we must call new voices to ensure their continuation. I would support seeking funds from marketplace and community sources to assist travel and other expenses for worthy student participants.

I wish to thank ECA for this opportunity. I look forward to our future conversations.

Candice Thomas-Maddox, Ohio University - Lancaster

It is truly an honor to be nominated by my colleagues for the office of First Vice-President of ECA. Over the past 16 years, this association has provided me with numerous opportunities for professional growth and service. I welcome the possibility to continue serving ECA as we prepare to celebrate our 100th anniversary.

I attended my first ECA convention as a graduate student at WVU in 1992. Having no idea of what to expect from a professional convention, I was pleasantly surprised by the many benefits of membership. Not only has ECA provided a forum to share scholarship and to network, but it has also given me the opportunity to gain valuable leadership experience. My involvement with ECA includes the following:

- *Executive Director* (1999-2004)
- *Editorial Boards – CQ & CRR*
- *Director of Marketing* (2006 & 1999 Annual Conventions)
- *Ecroyd Teaching Excellence Award Committee* (2003-2006)
- *2005 & 1998 ECA Representative to NCA Nominating Committee*
- *Convention Contract Review Committee* (2000-present)
- *Publication, Site Selection, Finance & Interest By-Law Committees*
- *Institutional Membership, Policies & Procedures, & Technology Task Forces*
- *Chair – Interpersonal and Organizational Communication Division* (1997-1998)

As Executive Director, I learned the day-to-day operations of our Association as a result of knowledge, insight, and encouragement provided by ECA leaders. During this time ECA encountered several changes – a new web presence was created, discussions regarding the future of our journals with Taylor and Francis were initiated, and our membership and convention attendance grew. While these milestones have been significant, our organization must continue to grow and prosper. Three goals I would like to focus on include the following:

Continue to Explore Opportunities for Graduate and Undergraduate Students. Over the past several years, student memberships and convention attendance have doubled. Students represent the future of our Association – after all, many members (including myself) who began attending ECA as graduate students have come to view ECA as their professional “home.” We have implemented strong programs to attract and recognize student contributions – poster competitions, student socials, and scholarship opportunities. It is important to continue this focus by developing mentor programs and providing opportunities for leadership development at both the interest group and executive council levels.



Focus on Bringing Communication to the People. Other communication associations have discussed options for sharing our research with those outside our discipline who could benefit from it the most. Given the strong reputation of our three journals, ECA has demonstrated that we have valuable contributions to offer. A task force could be developed to explore potential opportunities for sharing our research with those who benefit from it the most, and incentives or recognitions could be developed for those who focus on this goal.

Continue to Recruit and Welcome New Members to Our Association. We need to continue attracting new members and to keep those that we have. While planning the 2006 convention, ECA leaders were successful in their efforts to recruit from diverse populations. Additional recruitment efforts could involve working with state associations and other established organizations to explore opportunities for joint meetings and ventures. In addition, we need to identify new ways to solicit feedback from our current members to ensure that we are meeting their needs.

It would be an honor to serve ECA as First Vice-President, and if elected I look forward to continuing the tradition of excellence established by our Association’s past officers. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Proposed procedures for ECA Centennial Scholarship Awards

ECA is currently soliciting funds for graduate student research awards, to be called the ECA Centennial Scholarships, in honor of the Association’s 100th

anniversary. The Awards will be given annually to one Master's level student and to one Ph.D. level student for conducting research related to unfinished thesis/dissertation projects. Students who are enrolled in graduate programs in Communication and who are current members of ECA will be eligible to apply for the scholarships.

An anonymous donor has given seed monies for this project and all funds raised for the Awards are invested in a separate interest-bearing ECA bank account. ECA members can make tax-deductible contributions for the Awards by checking the designated box on the ECA Membership Form. No Association monies will go toward funding these scholarships, which will be given for the first time in 2009. In the event that the scholarship funds cannot be dispersed, for whatever reasons, any remaining monies in the Centennial Scholarship Fund would revert to the ECA general operating budget after a period of two years. The initial stipends will be awarded in the amount of \$250 each.

ECA's By-laws (Article XII) set parameters for creating awards and policies for approval of the award proposal by the Executive Council and the membership at large. The Executive Council has approved the proposal for this award, including the selection criteria outlined below. The general membership of the Association will have the opportunity to vote on this award proposal on the fall 2006 election ballot. These ballots will be mailed to members in September, 2006.

The ECA Centennial Scholarship Awards selection criteria are proposed as follows:

- Current student status in a Master's or Doctoral program in the Communication discipline
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- Current membership in the Eastern Communication Association
- Summary of unfinished master's thesis or doctoral dissertation project for which the scholarship is sought, not to exceed four pages in length or 1500 words
- Current curriculum vita
- Letter of recommendation from research director or major professor

The ECA Centennial Scholarship Awards Selection Committee would include:

Current ECA President, Committee Chair
Immediate Past President of ECA
Editor of CQ
Editor of CRR
Editor of QRRC

The calendar for the award cycle would be:

December 15th
April 1 (of following year)

Applications Due to Committee Chair
Decisions rendered and notifications
sent to award recipients
Awards given at ECA General Business Meeting

April/May

Associate Program Planners

Local Arrangements/2nd
Vice President

**Kevin Pearce, Bryant
University**

kpearce@bryant.edu

Director of Marketing

**Jason Wrench, Ohio
University – Eastern**

wrench@ohio.edu

Spotlight on Scholarship
Series Coordinator

**Betsy Bach, University
of Montana**

betsy.bach@montana.edu

Short Course Program
Chair

**Sally Vogl-Bauer,
University of
Wisconsin, Whitewater**

voglbaus@uww.edu

Basic Course Conference
Director

**Tim Mottet, Texas
State University**

tm15@txstate.edu

ECA 2007: Divine Providence! “INTERSECTIONS”

The location of our 98th annual Eastern Communication Association convention is in one of the most picturesque New England cities: Providence, Rhode Island. For those who have never been either to Providence or to New England, you are in for an engaging city. Founded in the 1600s, the charm and history of Providence are inescapable. Cultural, historical, educational, and shopping, and eating amenities in Providence will make your ECA experience one that will be memorable, thoughtful, and full of intellectual stimulation. And as scholars, teachers, practitioners, consumers, and creators of communication, our experiences in Providence will be rich with dialogue, debate, and collegiality.

It is within the spirit of connecting with others that the convention theme this year is *Intersections*. After considering this theme for the convention, I hope receive proposals that examine the myriad ways of thinking and relating that have characterized our Association for many years. Throughout our Association's history, our membership has welcomed innovative methods, provocative and cutting-edge scholarly topics, pioneering teaching practices, and has been at the forefront in the acceptance and tolerance of difference and diversity. In order to celebrate this unique and important professional legacy, the theme of *Intersections* is invoked at a time in our country where our expertise as communication professionals is needed more than ever. Sustaining a fundamental underpinning of the 2006 theme (“Transforming Communication and Community”), the 2007 theme draws attention to the different ways that ECA has reached out to others and how others can benefit from the many excellent scholarly and teaching efforts underway in our region.

The 2007 theme asks us to search for paths to connect with others in a variety of ways. For example, how do our research and our teaching affect society and how does society affect our research and teaching? The theme also prompts us to investigate possible connections between our personal and professional lives. How, for instance, are our jobs influenced by our home life and how is our home life influenced by our jobs? Further, the theme asks for a dialogue on multiple methodologies, theoretical frameworks, and provocative research topics. Many other avenues of exploration are possible and you are encouraged to tap into that creativity that typifies our great region!

In addition to traditional programming highlighting our excellent scholarship, the Providence convention features Short Courses, a Basic Course Conference, special Community Programming, and Student Poster sessions. And, for the first time in anyone's memory, we will replace the Keynote address this year for a more interactive and lively Town Hall debate. The debate will feature four communication scholars who will passionately (and sometime humorously) argue a resolution about the appropriateness of making our scholarship available to popular media such as *CNN*, *USA Today*, *Reader's Digest*, and talk shows such as *Oprah* and *Montel*. The debate will allow for ongoing audience involvement and it promises to be a very exciting and unpredictable event!

Undergraduate/Graduate
Poster Session
Coordinator

**Kelly Rocca, St. John's
University**

roccak@stjohns.edu

Special Programs
Coordinator

**Diane Millette,
University of Miami**

millette@miami.edu

Other important stuff: With an [OCTOBER 15, 2006 deadline](#) for most Interest Group submissions, you don't have a lot of time. But, please contact the Group planner listed on the Association's website (www.ecasite.org) to find out more details about submission possibilities. On the website, you will also find the names and addresses of our Associate Program Planners whom you are encouraged to contact directly about any questions or ideas you may have.

Finally, a word about our hotel: I've been attending regional and national conventions since 1984 and can attest to the fact that the Westin Providence (www.westin.com/providence) is among the most beautiful of all convention hotels! The rates are reasonable, the incredible amenities (e.g., Heavenly® beds, chocolates on pillows, indoor roof-top swimming pool and expansive work out facilities, etc.) impressive, and we have a hotel staff who is actually enthusiastic about our upcoming gathering (no whining with these people!).

So, here's the bottom line: Get your submissions in on time, go to the Providence website to read more about the city (www.providenceri.com), think about relaxing in the Westin and shopping at the adjacent luxury shopping complex (www.providenceplace.com), and come join the one convention that everyone will be talking about for quite some time! And, of course, don't forget to bring your MasterCard: This convention experience will be priceless!

Richard West
First Vice-President

2007 Interest Group and Affiliate Program Planners

American Society for History of Rhetoric

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Organizational Communication

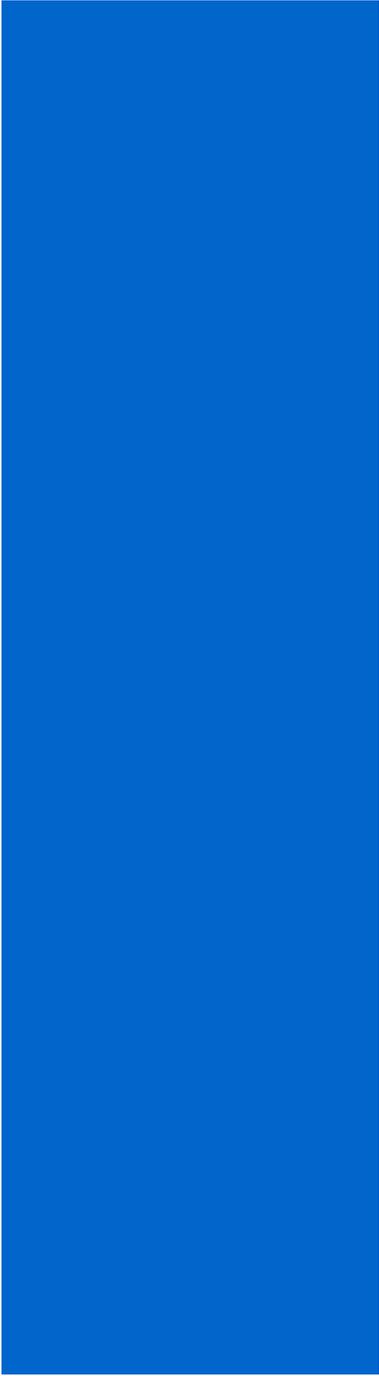
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