

# Eastern Communication Association Newsletter Spring 2006

## Mentoring Workshops Offered in Philadelphia

Three mentoring workshops will be a highlight of the ECA convention program in Philadelphia. These workshops focus on issues of particular importance to newer faculty members and graduate students and are jointly sponsored by the First Vice President, Distinguished Research Fellows and Distinguished Teaching Fellows.

The first workshop, led by James W. Chesebro, Thomas W. Benson and James C. McCroskey, focuses on strategies for publishing one's scholarly work. Registration for this workshop is already full. The second workshop highlights strategies for developing new courses and is led by Virginia Richmond and Linda Lederman. The third workshop in the series discusses strategies for managing the academic job interview process. Deborah Borisoff, Mari Boor Tonn and Kathleen M. Long direct this workshop.

All three mentoring workshops are scheduled on the afternoon of Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Space is still available in the new course development and interviewing workshops but seating is limited, so please pre-register soon via the ECA website ([www.ecasite.org](http://www.ecasite.org)). There is no additional cost for participating in these mentoring workshops.

## Register NOW for Convention Early Bird Rates

Over 200 people are already registered for the upcoming ECA Convention to be held April 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> in Philadelphia. Registration forms are available at [www.ecasite.org](http://www.ecasite.org) and registration may be complete either online or via mail.

For the best registration rates, please take advantage of the early bird registration option. This option not only saves you money but also gives you first chance to register for our pre-conference session, mentoring workshops and convention short courses.

**The deadline for early bird registration rates is March 31<sup>st</sup>, so complete your registration today!**

# Calls for Editor – Communication Research Reports and ECA Executive Director

**Editor-Elect of Communication Research Reports:** ECA members are invited to submit nominations or self-nominations for Editor-elect of *Communication Research Reports*, Volumes 25-27 (2008-2010). All candidates who meet the membership requirements set forth in the ECA Constitution, Article III and the Bylaws, Article IV, are eligible to apply. Copies of the ECA Constitution and Bylaws are available at [www.ecasite.org](http://www.ecasite.org). *CRR* is published quarterly as an electronic journal and a bound volume is sent to subscribers at the end of the year. Questions about the position may be addressed to the current *CRR* editor, Lisa Sparks, at [lsparks@gmu.edu](mailto:lsparks@gmu.edu).

Nominees should be able to secure institutional support for this position, including financial support, secretarial support and release time as appropriate. Nomination materials should include:

- A letter of application
- Copy of current vita
- A letter of institutional support
- Three letters of recommendation

**ECA Executive Director:** ECA members are also invited to submit nominations or self-nominations for the position of Executive Director. The incoming Executive Director will be appointed by the Executive Council in April, 2006 for a term of office running from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010. All candidates who meet the membership requirements set forth in the ECA Constitution, Article III and the Bylaws, Article IV, are eligible to apply. Copies of the ECA Constitution and Bylaws are available at [www.ecasite.org](http://www.ecasite.org).

The Executive Director is responsible for administration of Association funds; preparation of financial reports, membership reports and minutes; coordination of Association budgeting; distribution and tabulation of election ballots; and publication and distribution of the ECA Newsletter. The Executive Director's daily responsibilities also include responding to inquiries about the Association and its work from members and other interested parties, directing the Association's administrative assistant for member services, working with other officers in planning the Association's annual meeting and additional duties as assigned by the Executive Council. The person selected must be able to attend all ECA and NCA annual meetings throughout the term of office. Questions about the position may be directed to the current Executive Director, Danette Ifert Johnson, at [djohnson@ithaca.edu](mailto:djohnson@ithaca.edu).

Nominees must be able to secure institutional support for this position, including financial support. Nomination materials should include:

- A letter of application
- Copy of current vita
- A letter of institutional support
- Three letters of recommendation that address the nominee's skills and experience in the following areas: interpersonal skills, organization skills, attention to detail, ability to prioritize and accomplish tasks in a timely manner, budget experience and personnel management

**Nomination materials for both positions are due by April 3, 2006.** Please send nomination materials by electronic mail to: Dr. John A. Courtright, ECA President, [johnc@udel.edu](mailto:johnc@udel.edu)

If letters of institutional support or recommendation cannot be sent electronically, please send them in paper form by April 3, 2006 to: Dr. John A. Courtright, ECA President, Dept. of Communication, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716-4399

# Convention Short Course Opportunities

Eight short course options are available for ECA convention attendees who wish to learn more about a particular topic related to teaching or research. Registration for the short courses is required and each short course has a \$15 registration fee.

The 2006 short courses open with a discussion of "The necessity of the intercultural classroom in communication", led by Christina Hicks-Goldston of Georgian Court University. This course focuses on defining intercultural communication, enculturation and acculturation; theoretical perspectives of intercultural communication; and defining cultural natures. The course will address practical application of these concepts by relating them to actual classroom experiences and is offered Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am – noon.

From 12:30 – 2:30pm on Thursday, Victoria Lichterman of New York City College of Technology will lead the short course, "Communication skills for teachers for whom English is a second language". This course addresses the issue of ESL teachers and strategies for helping these teachers develop skills necessary to be understood in English-speaking classrooms.

"How Internet mass communication impacts neurological patient demand: What is there, what it says, what it means" is the topic for short course 3, led by David Mulholland of Landmark College. This course builds on a study of how back pain information is presented on the Internet across the world and discusses implications of these findings for using search engines as learning tools. This short course meets on Thursday from 3:00-5:00pm.

Friday morning from 8:00-11:00am is the scheduled time for short course 4, "Body and mind: Incorporating physiology into communication teaching and research". This workshop provides an overview of recent advances in physiological research relevant to

human communication, strategies for incorporating physiological measurement into communication research, and methods of incorporating knowledge about physiology into communication teaching. Facilitators for this short course are Kory Floyd and Jeff Judd of Arizona State University.

Short course 5 is titled "Wired in the classroom: Transforming class communication or enabling student inattention?" and is offered by Natalie Crocker and Ellen Wood of Landmark College. This short course, scheduled on Friday from 2:00 – 4:00pm, attends to the potential dangers of ubiquitous computer availability and usage by students, with particular emphasis on how the wired classroom can be constructed to avoid these pitfalls.

"Teaching Business and Professional Communication: Connecting communication with community" is offered Friday afternoon from 4:00 – 6:00pm by Susan B. Malcolm of Duquesne University. This course focuses on designing the Business and Professional Communication course to focus on links between academic and non-academic communities.

Saturday morning from 10:00am until noon is the time for "Teaching with technology: Tools for transforming communication and community in the communication classroom". This short course focuses on adapting instructional methods to increasingly diverse and technology-savvy students. Steven L. Epstein of Suffolk Community College is the leader for this short course.

The final short course of 2006 is offered from 12:30 – 2:30pm on Saturday by Dennis Klinzing of West Chester University. This workshop, titled, "Recording and viewing student speeches" addresses the issue of recording and viewing speeches in an era of declining VCR availability, including the use of digital technology and web posting.

## Master's and Undergraduate Poster Sessions

ECA's master's and undergraduate students will be presenting their competitively selected work at two poster sessions. Sessions will be held from 1:30 – 3:30pm in the Exhibit Hall on both Friday and Saturday afternoon and presenters will be available to answer questions about their scholarship. Please support these students and their work with your attendance.

Join academicians and community leaders at the Preconference session on “The Discourse of Terror: Power, Leadership, Communication and Community”. This session will address communication dilemmas in the post-9/11 era and ways to transform communities through engagement. The Preconference will be held on Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 5:00pm. Advance registration is required.

### *Mark Your Calendars Now...*

...for ECA's 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, April 25 - 29, 2007 in Providence, RI at the Westin Providence Hotel.

The ECA Newsletter is published twice annually in September and March and is distributed to all ECA members. Past issues are available at [www.ecasite.org](http://www.ecasite.org). Individuals wishing to submit information for future issues should contact ECA's Executive Director, Danette Ifert Johnson, at [djohnson@ithaca.edu](mailto:djohnson@ithaca.edu)