

**Meeting Minutes of the Applied Communication Interest Group**  
**Eastern Communication Association**  
104<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention 2013: *Confluence*  
Pittsburgh, PA, Omni William Penn Hotel  
April 27, 2013

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**In attendance:**

Tatyana Dumova, Point Park University  
Sarah Flinko, Duquesne University  
Julia Daisy Fraustino, University of Maryland  
Janie Harden Fritz, Duquesne University  
Todd Kelshaw, Montclair State University (vice chair)  
Annette Madlock Gatison, Southern Connecticut State University  
Craig Maier, Duquesne University  
Susan Malcom, Robert Morris University  
Christy Marinchak, Duquesne University  
Linda Sampson, Southern Connecticut State University  
Nancy Wiencek, Rider University (chair)

**1. Call to Order**

- Nancy Wiencek, chair, called meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

**2. Approval of 2012 Meeting Minutes**

- Nancy called for 2012 Meeting Minutes approval
- Janie Fritz offered one correction of a name spelling on page two
- Meeting minutes were approved

**3. Guest Reminder of 2014 Convention**

- Next year's convention (the 105<sup>th</sup>) will take place April 23-27, 2014, at The Westin Providence in Providence, RI

**4. Applied Communication Interest Group 2013 Convention Highlights**

- Nancy announced a total of 8 program slots, which included 4 competitive paper sessions and 4 panel sessions
- *Discussion:* This is a decrease from 12 program slots in the prior year's convention, but Nancy was assured that Applied Comm will have 12 slots at the next convention if needed/wanted

**5. Thanks to Reviewers, Chairs, Respondents**

- Nancy extended thanks to the 2013 Interest Group reviewers, chairs and respondents
- Nancy also thanked Tatyana, last year's chair, for her good advice and assistance as Nancy planned this year's program
- 2013 Applied Communication Interest Group reviewers include:  
Tatyana Dumova, Point Park University  
Janie M. Harden Fritz, Duquesne University

Linda Gretton, High Point University  
Todd Kelshaw, Montclair University  
Christiana L. McDowell Marinchak, Duquesne University  
Sarah Ryan, Yale University  
Linda Sampson, Southern Connecticut State University  
Nancy Wiencek, Rider University

#### **6. Top Paper Award**

- Nancy announced the 2013 Applied Communication Interest Group Top Paper: “College Connectedness: The Student Perspective” by Laura C. Farrell, Julie Fudge, Derek Jorgenson, and Andrew D. Pritchard, all from North Dakota State University

#### **7. 2013 Convention Debriefing**

- *Discussion:* A group member requested debriefing on whether there were any hitches or issues during this year’s convention
- Nancy remarked that she had received only positive feedback
- Nancy noted that in general the scheduling this year was spread out nicely across the days and time slots
- There were a few sessions with low attendance, but that was rare and generally attributed to time of day and/or instances of competition from related groups. Particularly, the group’s top paper panel was at the same time as top papers in both philosophy and interpersonal groups. The group discussed various scheduling request options in response
- Several group members thanked Nancy, particularly for her excellent organization and communication with group members

#### **8. Executive Council Representative**

- Nancy remarked that she filled in for an Executive Council position left vacant when the seat holder, Sarah Ryan, took a new position as law librarian at Yale University (congratulations!). Nancy volunteered to finish the existing term but opened the seat for anyone else interested. All supported Nancy in finishing the current term for the group’s Executive Council Representative

#### **9. Thank you to Nancy**

- Nancy turned the meeting over to Todd Kelshaw, vice chair (2014 program planner)
- Todd thanked Nancy for her wonderful job, noting her instructions were extremely clear for those reviewing and presenting

#### **10. 2014 Convention Planning**

- Todd opened a discussion surrounding 2014 Convention planning
- He circulated a sign-up sheet for those willing to serve as reviewers, panel chairs, and/or panel respondents at the 2014 convention
- Dates and Location: April 23-27, 2014, Providence, RI
- Theme: “Communities of Dissent”
- Call for Papers: Todd solicited feedback from the group about potential

collaborations with other groups or innovative panel ideas to propose in the upcoming call. After extensive discussion and brainstorming, the group agreed on at least two options:

- i. Research in Progress Roundtable. Participants can discuss ongoing research projects and gain feedback on scholarship in progress
  - ii. One Case, Many Perspectives. Participants use the same predetermined case (TBD – Todd will work on this and is open to suggestions) to show how various perspectives and methodologies can inform understanding about the same topic/problem/question
- Todd urged members to send him and/or the entire group ideas and suggestions, including for potential co-sponsored panels with other groups, especially prior to the call

#### **11. Visit from ECA President Danette Johnson**

- Danette visited the group and thanked all for their participation
- She made a few announcements about immediately forthcoming convention events
- She thanked Nancy for her fantastic planning efforts and gave her a token of appreciation from ECA

#### **12. Election of Officers**

- Vice Chair: Janie nominated Annette Madlock Gatison for vice chair (and planning for 2015 in Philadelphia). Nomination was seconded and carried unanimously
- Secretary: Todd nominated Julia Daisy Fraustino for secretary. Nomination was seconded carried unanimously

#### **13. NCA Representative**

- ECA Applied Communication Interest Group representative needed for NCA 2015. Rep needs to arrive at NCA one day early and attend meetings, breakfast. Position remains vacant, but Craig offered for Janie to get in touch with him as a possibility

#### **14. Adjourn**

- Todd called meeting to close at 11:38 a.m.

Prepared by Julia Daisy Fraustino ([jdf@umd.edu](mailto:jdf@umd.edu)), filling in for 2013 Interest Group Secretary Jane Petrillo.

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#### **Applied Communication Interest Group Mission Statement**

The Applied Communication Interest Group focuses on the application of theory and research to practical issues, problems, and situations.

Applied Communication research highlights the connection between theory and practice by demonstrating theoretical applications and the usefulness for potential users to understand and implement recommendations. Topics of interest to Applied Communication are contemporary social issues and the concerns of local communities that are addressed through projects grounded in communication theory.

The Applied Communication Interest Group is committed to help the general public solve socially relevant problems and to test the usefulness of communication theory in "real-world" settings.