

# POLITICAL COMMUNICATION INTEREST GROUP NEWSLETTER

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## Message from Jenifer L. Lewis, Chair

Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to us all! Our events at this year's Central States Communication Association Conference in Madison, Wisconsin mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Political Communication Interest Group. I encourage you to review the list of programs for this year's conference. Kasie Mitchell Roberson, our program planner, has compiled a great slate of panels and sessions for us in Madison. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.

As an interest group, we owe much to Mitchell McKinney who served as our first interest group Chair and program planner. His leadership has continued behind the scenes throughout these ten years and I know we appreciate his dedication and

support. We also should say thank you to the many who have served as officers who helped our Interest Group grow to the third largest CSCA Interest Group in just ten years.

I have asked Mitchell McKinney to finish the message from the Chair in this newsletter. His perspective on our growth over the last 10 years is important and I'm sure you will appreciate hearing from him. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve as your chair this past year. I look forward to seeing everyone in Madison.

--Jenifer L. Lewis, Ph.D.

## Message from Our 1st Chair, Mitchell McKinney

Ten Years and Growing!

The adage "time flies when you're having fun" comes to mind when contemplating the past ten years with CSCA's Political Communication Interest Group. It is hard to believe that a decade has now passed since our Interest Group was approved by the CSCA Execu-

tive Committee on April 1, 1998 at our annual meeting in Chicago.

I'm especially proud that we've addressed the three primary goals that were stated in the original justification for the formation of our group.

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## Political Communication Interest Group Officers

**Chair:**

Jenifer L. Lewis  
Western Kentucky Univ.  
Jenifer.lewis@wku.edu

**Chair-Elect:**

Kasie M. Roberson  
Miami University  
roberskm@muohio.edu

**Vice-Chair:**

Jay Childers  
University of Kansas  
jaychilders@ku.edu

**Secretary:**

Nichelle McNabb  
Otterbein College  
nmcnabb@otterbein.edu

**Secretary-Elect:**

Lora Cohn  
Park University  
lora.cohn@park.edu

**Nominating Committee:**

Jay Childers (Chair)  
Karen Anderson  
Jay Self

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## Message from Mitchell McKinney, cont.

First, we wanted to increase the presence of political communication scholarship at our annual meeting; second, we wanted a professional service venue that would facilitate the development of junior scholars; and, finally, we wanted to promote our future political communication scholars and teachers by encouraging and recognizing political communication research among graduate students. On all three fronts, I'm happy to report, we've been quite successful.

When I review the list of Interest Group officers for the past decade, I note names of colleagues who have successfully transitioned from graduate students to Assistant and now Associate Professors; and several of our past CSCA Political Communication Interest Group officers have gone on to serve as officers of NCA's Political Communication Division. In terms of developing our future political communication scholars, each year since 2003 we have

awarded the J. Jeffery Auer Award to the top graduate student paper. Among this group of recipients, many have already assumed faculty positions and are now mentoring our next generation of political communication scholars. And, of course, each year at our annual meeting some of the highest attended and most interesting panels are sponsored by our Interest Group (even if I am a bit biased in making this assessment).

Perhaps the most gratifying part of the past ten years has been the many friendships and collaborations that have developed. I feel fortunate to have been part of this wonderful group and look forward to many more years of fun!

## We Want YOU!!!

The Nominating Committee (Jay Childers, Karen Anderson, Jay Self) has called for nominations for Interest Group officers to be selected at our business meeting in Madison. As we do each year, the membership will elect a Vice-Chair and Secretary-Elect.



If you know of an Interest Group member who might like to serve in either of these capacities, or if you'd like to nominate yourself, please contact Jay Childers, Nominating Committee Chair, by **Monday, April 7** (jchildrs@ku.edu).

## 2008 Top Papers Announced

Congratulations to **Jason J. Teven**, California State University – Fullerton – his paper “An examination of perceived credibility of the 2008 presidential candidates: Relationships with believability, likeability, and deceptiveness.” was ranked the **top overall paper** for the Political Communication Interest Group.

Congratulations to **Neal E. Stewart**, Kansas State University – his paper “Apologia, narrative coherence and antecedent ethos: An analysis of the ‘Macaca incident.’” won the **J. Jeffrey Auer Award** for the Top Graduate Student Paper.

## 2008 Convention Information

This year we have 12 panels sponsored or co-sponsored by the Political Communication Interest Group, which is two more than originally allotted. We are pleased to co-sponsor panels with the following interest groups and caucus: Rhetorical Theory and Criticism, Media Studies, and the Women's Caucus.

### **Featured Panels:**

**Top Paper Panel:** Saturday, April 12  
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., Senate Room A

### **The Political Times: A Review of the 2008 Presidential Primaries and a Preview of the General Presidential Election**

Saturday, April 12  
9:30 – 10:45 a.m., Senate Room A

Participants Mitchell S. McKinney, University of Missouri; Judith S. Trent, University of Cincinnati; David Za-

refsky, Northwestern University; and Charles J. Stewart, Purdue University will discuss the 2008 presidential primaries as well as preview the upcoming 2008 general presidential election.

### **CSCA Celebrates a Decade of Political Communication Research**

Saturday, April 12  
4:30 – 5:45 p.m., Conference Room 4

In 1998, CSCA established the Political Communication Interest Group; and over the past decade this group has become one of the association's larger units. This panel features presentations by past Chairs of Political Communication who have each developed specific programs of research. These presentations highlight research within each of these areas, suggesting an agenda for future research.

## 2008 Political Communication Interest Group

### Thursday, April 10, 2008

**1104 8:00-9:15 University Room D**  
FEMININE AND THE POLITICAL: HOW THESE TOOLS INTERWINE AND ARE BEING AND OR CAN BE ACTIVATED FOR THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

**1307 11:00-12:15 Conference Room 3**  
THE MANY FORMS OF ACTIVISM IN POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

**1506 1:30-2:45 Conference Room 3**  
POLITICAL ACTIVISM BEFORE AND DURING THE WAR IN IRAQ

**1603 3:00-4:15 University Room C**  
POLITICAL COMMUNICATION: THE Pervasiveness of Persuasion

### Friday, April 11, 2008

**2211 9:30-10:45 Caucus Room**  
POLITICAL APOLOGIA: ADVANCES IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

**2303 11:00-12:15 University Room C**  
THE MENTORSHIP OF CHARLES J. STEWART

**2308 11:00-12:15 Conference Room 4**  
THE INTERNET AS AN ACTIVIST'S TOOL: HOW INTERNET-BASED POLITICAL CAMPAIGN COMMUNICATION FUNCTIONS, MARKETS AND CREATES COMMUNITY

**2513 3:00- 4:15 Alumni Parlor**  
DIVERSITY IN PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS: EXPLORING ISSUES OF GENDER, RACEM AND RELIGION  
**Saturday April 12, 2008**

**3310 9:30-10:45 Senate Room A**  
THE POLITICAL TIMES; A REVIEW OF THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES AND A PREVIEW OF THE GENERAL PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

**3412 11:00-12:15 Senate Room A**  
TOP PAPERS IN POLITICAL COMMUNICATION

**3612 1:30-2:45 Caucus Room**  
THE INFOTAINMENT CULTURE

**3804 4:30-5:45 Conference Room 4**  
CSCA CELEBRATES A DECADE OF POLITICAL COMMUNICATION RESEARCH

**3903 6:00-7:00 University Room C**  
POLITICAL COMMUNICATION BUSINESS MEETING

**4102 7:30-8:30 Conference Room 1**  
POLITICAL COMMUNICATION 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

**Thank You from Kasie Roberson, 2008 Program Planner**

## Business Meeting

Please mark your calendar for the 2008 Political Communication Interest Group Business Meeting on **Saturday, April 12**. The business meeting will be held in **University Room C from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** Among other things, we will elect new officers and begin planning for the 2009 convention. It is important to have good attendance at the business meetings so that we can each have a voice in the direction of our interest group. See you there!

A small anniversary reception will immediately follow the business meeting, made possible through the donations of several current and past officers (Mitchell McKinney, Mary Banwart, Karen Anderson, Jenifer Lewis, Kasie Roberson). After the reception, we'll go to dinner as a group at a local restaurant. We need to know how many people plan to attend that dinner so please **RSVP** to our chair, Jenifer Lewis (jenifer.lewis@wku.edu) **by April 7**.

## J. Jeffery Auer Award

*Presented in Recognition of the Political Communication Interest Group's  
Top Graduate Student Paper*

2003	Omaha	Shane Semmler	University of South Dakota
2004	Cleveland	Jenifer L. Lewis	University of Kansas
2005	Kansas City	Jay Childers	University of Texas at Austin
2006	Indianapolis	Dan Schill	University of Kansas
2007	Minneapolis	Michael C. Souders	University of Kansas

### ***“Thank you to those who have served as our Interest Group Chair over the past ten years.”***

1998	Chicago	Interest Group approved April 1, 1998 by CSCA Executive Committee
1999	St. Louis	Mitchell McKinney, Chair-Elect & Program Planner, Univ. of Oklahoma
2000	Detroit	Mitchell McKinney, Chair, University of Oklahoma
2001	Cincinnati	Robert Gobetz, University of Indianapolis
2002	Milwaukee	Janis Edwards, Western Illinois University
2003	Omaha	Julia Spiker, University of Akron
2004	Cleveland	Terry Robertson, University of South Dakota
2005	Kansas City	Mary C. Banwart, University of Kansas
2006	Indianapolis	Lee Ann Brazeal, Kansas State University
2007	Minneapolis	Karen Anderson, University of North Texas
2008	Madison	Jenifer L. Lewis, Western Kentucky University
2009	St. Louis	Kasie Mitchell Roberson, Miami University of Ohio

## Looking Ahead to St. Louis 2009

In 2009, the CSCA conference theme will be **Conversations about Connections: Gateway to Communication at the “Heart of It All.”** As the theme suggests, we are being encouraged to think about how Political Communication connects with other areas of communication research. And we should be thinking about how all of these connections are at the heart of everything we political animals do.

If you have suggestions for the Political Communication Interest Group program planning for 2009 please speak with me at the convention or e-mail me at [jchildrs@ku.edu](mailto:jchildrs@ku.edu).

— Jay P. Childers  
Vice-Chair & 2009 Program Planner  
CSCA Political Communication Interest Group