



September 2011

Special Newsletter *Candidate Edition!*

Volume 79, Special Issue

"Connecting in Cleveland"

Marriott Renaissance
Cleveland, Ohio
March 28 - 31, 2012

Primary Program Planner:
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Voting Procedures for CSCA

Once again, 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. Members will receive an e-bulletin announcing voting-opening.

Upon receipt of the announcement...
simply (1) login to the Members Only page of the website,
(2) click on the ballot,
(3) select the candidate(s) of your choice, and
(4) submit the ballot.

Note: Members Only page access will occur only after you've registered & established your user name and password. To do so, follow the prompts under the Members Only tab labeled 'Register/Forgot Password'.

Please contact Kathie Cesa, CSCA@koc.memberservices.com, for assistance in registering.

An e-bulletin announcing when the voting will occur will be sent out in October.

Candidate Statement for 2nd Vice-President

Together We Can “Elevate” CSCA!

Leah Bryant

It is truly an honor to be nominated for 2nd Vice President of the Central States Communication Association. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself, outline my commitment and involvement in CSCA, and share my vision for the association.

I am an Associate Professor in the College of Communication at DePaul University in Chicago. My areas of interest, in both teaching and research, include interpersonal, family, instructional, and health communication. I have served in an administrative capacity as Chair of the Academic Integrity Board for the past six years and am currently serving as Special Assistant to Academic Affairs for Academic Integrity. In addition, I was named a Wicklander Fellow, charged with ethics related teaching and research.

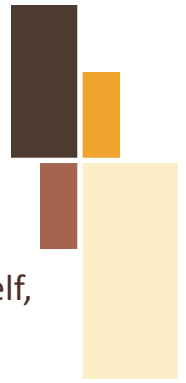
In the beginning of my academic path, when I was a brand new doctoral student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, hailing from the Western States region and with a newly minted M.A. degree from [Southwest] Texas State University, I was encouraged to submit my research to CSCA, but was concerned with the cost of attending multiple conferences each year. One of my professors kindly explained that there was no better way to spend student loan money than on academic conferences. Looking back, I am truly indebted to CSCA. And fortunately, it is a debt of gratitude.

My first CSCA convention felt like “Home,” so I became a life member and have attended every conference since then, with only one exception, to defend my dissertation. Early in my years at CSCA, I was honored to receive the Cooper Award for Outstanding Graduate Instruction. And I have remained committed to CSCA by participating in dozens of panels and serving as paper reader for multiple divisions. Over the years, I served as Secretary, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Interpersonal and Small Group division. In addition, I led the charge to revise the bylaws for the Interpersonal and Small Group division.

It would be an honor to continue to repay my debt (of gratitude) as 2nd Vice President and it would be my goal to encourage all members to give back, so that we can all “Elevate” CSCA. The past convention theme of “Home” was inspiring and captured the



spirit of what CSCA is to its members. I would like for us to continue to build our “Home” together and propose the theme of “Elevate.” It took some gentle encouragement to convince me to submit my teaching ideas and scholarship to CSCA. So first, I want to work with current members to provide some gentle encouragement to potential members to help “Elevate” the membership of CSCA by creating more opportunities for teaching, scholarship, and fellowship. Many of my



2nd VP Candidate Statement-Bryant (continued)

lifelong friends were made at CSCA. Second, I want everyone who is a member CSCA to have a rewarding experience and want to work with our members to “Elevate” the social networking opportunities. CSCA should be a priority conference, where scholars and teachers are excited to submit their work. Third, I want to work together with members to create thought-provoking and compelling programming to continue to “Elevate” the status of CSCA. These are just a few of my ideas that demonstrate how excited and enthusiastic I am to give back, and with your help, “Elevate” CSCA.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any additional information or have questions, comments, feedback and/or ideas at lbryant2@depaul.edu, (773)362-7948, or Facebook (username bryantleah)

Candidate Statement for 2nd Vice-President Kevin Wright

It is truly an honor to be nominated to run for the position of 2nd Vice President of the Central States Communication Association. I am currently a Professor and Chair of the Department of Communication at Saint Louis University. It is also exciting to run alongside Leah Bryant from DePaul University who is certainly a fine scholar and nominee. In this short candidate statement, I hope to share some of my background as a communication scholar, my previous service to the communication discipline, and my vision for contributing to the leadership of CSCA.

The bulk of my scholarly efforts have been in the areas of health communication and computer-mediated communication. These areas are well represented within CSCA, and it has been a pleasure to interact with so many wonderful scholars from affiliated institutions over the years. As a research pluralist, I am proud of the fact that CSCA embraces diversity of scholarship, including respect for a variety of philosophical and methodological approaches to the study of communication.

Service to the communication discipline has always been something that I have valued over the course of my career, and I have been eager to serve in a variety of roles. These



2nd VP Candidate Statement-Wright (continued)

have included being a paper reader, panel chair, division officer, award committee member, and an editorial board member for a number of ICA, NCA, and regional journals. In addition, I recently completed a three-year term as editor of the Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication (JCMC). Through these experiences, I have recognized the crucial role of leadership throughout these organizations.

As 2nd Vice President of the Central State Communication Association, I would strive to continue the practice of honoring the different traditions of communication research by assuring that the diversity of communication research is represented in the future program planning for the CSCA convention. I applaud Mitchell McKinney's call for greater connection among scholars from the different divisions of CSCA, and I feel that creating conference sessions, forums, and other events that increase connectivity between diverse scholars can enrich the experience of CSCA members by exposing them to new ideas, areas of common ground, and opportunities to build collaborative research relationships that draw upon the strengths of combining different interests, perspectives, and methodological approaches.

Moreover, I am interested in collaborating with the CSCA membership and leadership to explore opportunities to raise the visibility of CSCA by finding innovative ways to connect with individuals within the communities surrounding our campuses, especially by encouraging research and creative activities that can ultimately transform people's lives and improve their well-being.

Finally, our graduate and undergraduate students rely on CSCA as an organization and the convention as an occasion to build important relationships with established communication scholars that may lead to career and research opportunities. One of my goals would be to find innovative ways to enhance conversations and research collaboration between professors and students.



Candidate Statement for Legislative Member at Large

Adrienne Kunkel



I cannot adequately convey how much it means to me to be nominated to serve as Legislative Member at Large for CSCA. I have attended a huge range of conferences from those of the largest national and international communication associations to the most intimate gatherings that have featured a specific theme such as healthy relationships or masculinity. None of these experiences have come close to surpassing the scholarship, camaraderie, and collegial conversation I have enjoyed with all of you at Central States since I drove from West Lafayette (Purdue) to Indianapolis for my first conference as a student in 1995. As a researcher with a major interest in social support and close relationships, this has been vital to my development. By 2004, I was awarded the prestigious CSCA Outstanding New Teacher Award. I also enjoyed serving as the Vice-Chair and Chair, respectively, for the CSCA Interpersonal Communication Interest Group in 2005 and 2006. From 2006-2009, I was a Legislative Member at Large for NCA. In 2009, with my colleagues in Psychology at the University of Kansas, I sponsored, organized, and hosted the International Association for Relationship Research's (IARR) mini-conference on close relationships. In addition, we are currently in the final stages of completing our edited book that developed as a result of the conference.

Of course these highlights of association service vary little from the qualifications and accomplishments of my fellow candidates. What I do wish to convey here are the particular initiatives that I would endorse as Member at Large above and beyond the other responsibilities of the position. First, as the winner of multiple mentoring awards at various levels (e.g., KU John C. Wright Mentor Award, KU Silver Anniversary Award for Excellence in Teaching, KU Outstanding Woman Educator Award, three-time recipient of the KU Communication Studies Graduate Faculty Mentorship Award), I believe I can help enhance the close connection between advising faculty and students that is so critical to ensuring the success of our discipline and its members. Second, having brought together neuroscientists, evolutionary biologists, social psychologists, critical cultural researchers, and communication scholars at the IARR mini-conference, I understand the need to foster not just multidisciplinary but fully integrated interdisciplinary approaches to research. Finally, as part of a team with Dr. Suzy D'Enbeau and our graduate students at KU that is investigating, volunteering at, and informing the efforts of, a women's domestic violence shelter, I plan to pursue widening all routes by which CSCA members can effectively perform similar applied, meaningful, and action-based research. I will certainly also remain open to dedicating myself to the important initiatives advocated by my fellow members of CSCA. I invite you to contact me at adkunkel@ku.edu or through Facebook to continue this important dialogue.

Candidate Statement for Legislative Member at Large

Lance Lippert

Hello! My name is Lance Lippert and I'm an Associate Professor in the School of Communication at Illinois State University. Thank you for this nomination to serve as a member-at-large for the Central States Communication Association and this opportunity to share some time with you. CSCA has been my "home" since my introduction to the discipline as an undergraduate at Fort Hays State University over 20 years ago. I have been a member for over 15 years and am currently a life member because CSCA has been extraordinarily important in my professional life and is obviously critical to our discipline. What started out as just another "professional organization," has become a necessary gathering place for me to connect with my friends, colleagues, students, and our scholarship. My activities and interactions through CSCA have definitely informed multiple aspects of my professional life and made me a better person. On my academic journey, I have been fortunate to be recognized for my teaching by CSCA (Outstanding New Teacher Award) as well as Southern Illinois University and Illinois State University. Membership in CSCA also influences my classroom in other ways too as I encourage my graduate and undergraduate students to expand their learning by getting involved in our organization. I have participated in CSCA on numerous levels including serving as chair and paper reviewer for both the Health Communication and Organizational and Professional Communication Interest Groups. I have consistently presented papers, participated on panels, been a paper respondent, and chaired panels. Previously, I have assisted with conference programming and served on the editorial board of *Communication Studies*. If selected to serve, there are several issues I would like CSCA to continue to explore including: 1) increasing student engagement, 2) exploring external funding and grant opportunities, 3) encouraging conversations across interest groups, and 4) building relationships with professional practitioners. If selected, I feel prepared and look forward to serving the association. I am proud to call CSCA my home.



Candidate Statement for Legislative Member at Large

Donna Pawlowski



I would be honored to represent Central States Communication Association as a Member at Large. My first Central convention was in 1987 as a graduate student at the University of North Dakota, and I remember riding on top of the luggage in the back of a crowded van on my “bird’s nest” with everyone eating skittles; this started the chain of many Central memories, and I have not missed a convention since! My Ph.D. is from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and I am currently an Associate Professor at Creighton University, where I have been since 1994. Thus, you could say I am truly grounded in the Central States. CSCA is a place for *rejuvenation* and *responsibility*. Some of my fondest memories come from being *rejuvenated by others* to continue in this discipline, which is probably the very reason why Central States is so important to many of us. The memories of meeting scholars as a graduate student, presenting papers, creating lasting friendships and collaborating with research colleagues, introducing students to others and exposing them to wonderful opportunities at CSCA, the President’s reception, the pub crawl, and becoming involved in leadership opportunities among the interest groups and the association as a whole bring people back to Central year after year.

My past 20+ years within Central States give me the breadth of experiences to serve the association well and represent its members, which brings up the notion of *responsibility*. I hope my involvement in Central is a testament of my commitment and *responsibility* to service, teaching, and research in this discipline. For example, I was a charter member for the Interpersonal & Small Group and Health Communication Interest Groups. I helped raise funds for various groups, written (or revised) bylaws for Interpersonal & Small Group, Health Communication, and Instructional Communication; served as Reader for various groups, Secretary, and Chair (twice) for both Interpersonal & Small Group, and Health Communication; presented papers, participated on panels, facilitated as a chair and respondent; and was



honored to have received one of the Outstanding New Teacher Awards in 1999, as well as chaired that committee. I helped plan and present the service-learning pre-conference; and supported the Undergraduate Honors Conference as a reader and research mentor for undergraduate students. My research also parallels these areas within familial, health communication and service-learning; and I will serve as the guest editor for the upcoming special issue of the *Iowa Journal of Communication: Communication and the Family*. I am thankful for all of these CSCA relationships and opportunities and would be happy to serve as a Member at Large!