

Central States Communication Association

September 2014, Volume 82, Issue 3, Special Election Insert

Special Election Insert

It's election time, CSCA! To help you with this important process, CSCA Newsletter Editor [Tiffany R. Wang](#), in consultation with CSCA Executive Director [Jimmie Manning](#), has put together this special insert to help inform you in your voting decisions. Included are descriptions for each office, photos and statements provided by the candidates, and information about the voting procedure.

You will receive an email informing you when the polls are open. We will also post reminders about voting on the organization website (<http://www.cscs-net.org>) as well as on our official Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CentralStatesComm>). In short, we will do all we can to keep you informed about the process and to help you vote in this year's election.

As a final note, the CSCA office would like to thank the [2014 Nominating Committee](#) for the excellent work they have done in recruiting an outstanding slate of nominees! This committee has the essential task of encouraging members to apply for officer positions, carefully reviewing their credentials, and ultimately putting forth candidates to the membership. It takes time, energy, and social capital – and we are so fortunate that this year's committee was able to put together such an amazing slate. Thanks especially to [Amy Aldridge Sanford](#) of Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi who chaired the committee!

[Jimmie Manning](#), CSCA Executive Director

Meet the Candidates



Christine North
Ohio Northern
University
2nd VP Candidate



Blair Thompson
Western Kentucky
University
2nd VP Candidate



Joseph Mazer
Clemson University
Member at Large
Candidate



Donna Pawlowski
Bemidji State University
Member at Large
Candidate

Published by the
Central States Communication Association

DeKalb, Illinois

Phone 815-753-1563 | Fax 614-392-1559 | jman@niu.edu

<http://www.cscs-net.org> | <http://www.facebook.com/CentralStatesComm>

Second Vice-President Candidate Statements

The **Second Vice-President** shall serve for one year, and then succeed to the office of First Vice-President. The First Vice-President shall serve for one year, and then succeed to the office of President for one year. The President shall serve for one year, then succeed to the office of Past President for one year. Specific duties include planning a pre-conference and serving as an executive committee member during the Second Vice-President year; planning a full CSCA meeting during the First Vice-President year; and presiding over organizational business. The person who is elected to this position will also select standing committee chairs. Please see the **organizational bylaws** for full details about other officer duties. Candidates are presented here in alphabetical order. Each candidate provided the statements and photos presented here.

Christine North Ohio Northern University



CSCA is my **favorite** and **preferred** conference to attend each year. Indeed, if my travel funds allow me to attend only one conference, this is the one I choose to attend. The people in this association have been some of the **best friends** and **professional mentors** I have had, and while I may only get to see them once a year or so, those bonds remain strong over time. This association is also one that maintains and grows its **integrity**. The organization grows not only in size, but in quality of scholarship and reach. I am proud to be a part of that growth and would be **honored** to help that tradition continue.

I have been a member of CSCA since my doctoral years at the University of Oklahoma, beginning in 1993. I have attended almost every conference since then and look forward to them all. I have served as the Secretary, Vice-Chair, and Chair of the Health Communication Interest Group, and have been an active participant as a paper reader, respondent, and panel chair for both the Interpersonal and Small Group Interest Group and the Health Communication Interest Group. I have presented numerous papers and panels throughout the years and I have suggested a number of cross-disciplinary panels with other interest groups. I enjoy working with my colleagues in this cross-disciplinary way and would continue to promote these opportunities in CSCA.

As someone who does a lot of work with international and local aid, I am a person who is passionate about working **with** and **for** people. In short, I like to **serve**. I have taken the mentoring given to me and continued to share with my own students and new members to CSCA, supporting those who want to become involved in the organization. I am a highly driven and motivated individual. I love coming up with new ideas and organizing events—skills I think will only help with the work as a leader for CSCA. I would also like to try integrating some alternative panel formats that are even more participatory and include workshop-like panels that take place during the conference and are not as long as short courses where faculty can create and work on something as part of a project or activity as a way to jump start or fine tune high impact learning practices, classroom activities, or research designs. To me, CSCA has always been about the **interaction** that comes from the conference. The more opportunities for that interaction (both professionally and socially) the better! I would be honored to serve you all and be a part of continuing the great future of CSCA.

Blair Thompson

Western Kentucky University



I am honored to be nominated for Second Vice-President for CSCA. I believe at my core that communication constructs our relationships and realities; the communication with friends and colleagues at CSCA has shaped many of my most meaningful relationships (all my advisors and research partners), my perspective on communication, and my scholarship in interpersonal and instructional communication. CSCA represents a collage of the intellectual inspiration I have experienced, collectively spanning five states within the association. I am proud of CSCA's growth, offering new members similar enrichment opportunities. If elected, I will continue to work on recruitment and to link association members.

As a Western Kentucky University faculty member, my leadership experience includes serving as Basic Course Director and Undergraduate Curriculum Chair. I have chaired CSCA's Communication Education and Basic Course Interest Groups as well as the Cooper Award Committee. I have also recently been elected NCA Instructional Development Division Vice-Chair. These opportunities have allowed me to give back to these associations and garner planning experience. Involvement as a presenter, spotlight panelist, and reviewer/respondent/chair has shaped my pedagogy and research that includes qualitative, critical, and quantitative publications across seven journals.

Leadership positions such as Second Vice-President that entail conference planning provide opportunities to focus on specific themes. Communication conferences offer a chance to explore how communication creates and re-shapes our culture, education, workforce, politics, and relationships. "Create" could serve as an important theme, centering both on how communication constructs our lives in so many ways as well as how communication can facilitate meaningful change. For example, as new communication technology impacts nearly every aspect of our lives, there is no discipline better suited to address these advancements and challenges than ours, making the forward thinking, discussion, and collaboration at regional conferences perhaps more imperative than ever. As a researcher, I have tried to play a small part in advancing understanding of the role communication technology plays in the academic context. While individual research can facilitate improved practice, providing leadership at higher levels provides a valuable opportunity to make a much larger contribution. Interest groups across CSCA can collectively produce scholarship and discussion, serving as agents of change by suggesting how communication can construct new realities in relational, intercultural, rhetorical, and organizational contexts. My vision as conference planner would be to facilitate dialogue to construct knowledge that can address the communication challenges of present and future eras, helping to create and explore new communicative realities with practical applications. I would work with the interest group chairs to facilitate spotlight panels within and across interest groups focusing on how communication technology is constructing new realities, analyzing the role communication plays in constructing relationships, knowledge, and norms in various contexts, and how communication can promote change.

As Second Vice-President of CSCA, I would apply the same work ethic, forward thinking, and determination I have dedicated to all my scholarly efforts. I welcome suggestions which can further the association (blair.thompson@wku.edu). I deeply appreciate the nomination and humbly request your support.

Member at Large Candidate Statements

The duties of the two **Member at Large** positions include attending and participating in all Executive Committee meetings. There they serve as a voice for CSCA members. **Members at Large** also assist the Executive Committee in carrying out the work of CSCA. The person elected to this position shall serve a two year term. Candidates are presented here in alphabetical order. Each candidate provided the statements and photos presented here.

Joseph Mazer Clemson University



I currently serve as Assistant Professor and Associate Chair of the Department of Communication Studies at Clemson University. It is truly an honor to serve as a nominee for Member at Large to the Executive Committee of CSCA. I first joined CSCA during my MA program at Illinois State University and have enthusiastically served as a CSCA member for 10 years. Throughout this time, I have held several leadership roles within our organization. I have served as Chair and Program Planner for the Communication Education and Basic Course Interest Groups and as a member of the Cooper Award Selection Committee. In prior years, I served as Vice Chair and Secretary for the Communication Education and Basic Course Interest Groups, Chair of the Cooper Award Selection Committee, and as a member of the Nominating Committee. In addition to these leadership roles, I have regularly served as a paper and panel

reviewer, chair, and respondent and presented my own research through competitive paper presentations and roundtable discussions.

If I were elected as Member at Large, I would advocate that CSCA continue to explore how to best engage undergraduate and graduate students in the organization, as they are the future of our discipline. Building upon my past duties as an Interest Group Chair and Program Planner, I would seek to foster meaningful conversations across our interest groups to build interest and collaborations in areas vital to the future of our field and profession. I would support our organization's effort to build beneficial relationships with communication practitioners from outside the academy. As a nominee for Member at Large, I am fully aware that my service to our association influences my classroom teaching and mentoring relationships with students. My own mentors, who are active CSCA members, consistently emphasized the importance of effective teaching, scholarship, and service as ways to give back to the discipline and contribute to the field's vital future. Now, I actively seek to mentor and involve undergraduate and graduate students in my research and engage them at conferences. I was fortunate to be recognized for my teaching and service by CSCA through the Outstanding New Teacher Award, Pamela Cooper Award, and Outstanding Service Award. Indeed, our national and international organizations do much to engage members. However, CSCA is my home. I truly believe that our regional associations provide members with engaged opportunities that are central to sustaining the vitality of our scholarly community. I look forward to the possibility of serving as Member at Large and advocating for our organization as an important venue to discuss, share, and celebrate our scholarship, teaching, and service activities in our discipline. Should you need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions at jmazer@clemson.edu.

Donna Pawlowski

Bemidji State University



I am delighted and honored for the nomination to represent Central States Communication Association as a Member at Large. Fond memories of the mentoring received from prolific scholars as I developed my academic career are the reason CSCA is my regional home and why I have continued my active commitment to the association for over 25 years. Thank you for the opportunity to briefly share with you my background and experiences with the association.

My first convention was in 1987 as an undergraduate student while attending the University of North Dakota. My career remained in the Central region as I pursued a Ph.D. from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, taught at Creighton University for 19 years, and recently moved back closer to home where I am an Associate

Professor at Bemidji State University in Minnesota. Throughout my CSCA involvement, I have delivered over 60 papers, pedagogical, and panel presentations related to my research interests of interpersonal, family, health, service-learning, organizational, and instructional communication, some of which have been top papers; and have published in various journals, including *Communication Studies*.

As a lifetime member, I have been active in various interest groups, including charter membership in the Interpersonal & Small Group and Health Communication Interest Groups. I raised funds for various groups; wrote (or revised) bylaws for Interpersonal & Small Group, Health Communication, and Instructional Communication; was elected as Secretary and Chair (twice) for both Interpersonal & Small Group and Health Communication; and served as reader, chair, and respondent for several interest groups, including Communication Education. In addition to interest group involvement, I was fortunate to have received one of the Outstanding New Teacher Awards in 1999, as well as chaired that committee; helped plan and present at various pre-conferences; and have supported the Undergraduate Honors Conference as a reader, respondent, and research mentor for undergraduate students. While these experiences have blessed me with the understanding and leadership opportunities of CSCA, the personal relationships with colleagues, students and mentors at the annual conventions are what rejuvenate me to become a better teacher, scholar, and community steward.

This year's theme is **Convergence**, which is what I will do if selected as a Member at Large, to include the multiplicity of voices when making informed decisions. As a member of the Executive Committee, I will support CSCA as we embrace societal changes, take a stand where needed, and help mentor others in the discipline. I will also help bridge relationships between CSCA and NCA, being an advocate for issues and concerns. Within NCA, I have been on committees and held offices within divisions including Program Planner for Experiential Learning and have served the greater membership on the Nominating Committee, Committee on Committees, and as a member of the Legislative Assembly. These experiences will help me more fully represent CSCA as a whole.

Overall, I have been fortunate to pursue many opportunities in CSCA, and would enjoy continuing my leadership role in a greater capacity. I would be truly honored to represent CSCA as a Member at Large!

Central States Communication Association 2014 Election Voting Procedures

After reading about these exciting candidates, you are no doubt eager to vote in this year's election. 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 soon.

Members will receive an e-bulletin announcing that voting has opened. Only current CSCA members are allowed to vote in the election.

Once you receive the email telling you that voting is now open, simply

1. Log in to the [Members Only page](#) of the website.
2. Click on the ballot.
3. Select the candidates of your choice.
4. Then submit the ballot by clicking on the appropriate link.

Please note you will need your username and password to vote in the election. If you do not recall this information, look for the [Members Only page](#) link to request help. If you run into any problems during the voting process, contact [Kathie Cesa](#) at CSCA@kocmemberservices.com for assistance.

CSCA looks forward to counting your votes and announcing our new leadership in October!

CSCA Newsletter Staff & Executive Director



Tiffany R. Wang

University of Montevallo
CSCA Newsletter Editor



Becky Leach

University of Montevallo
CSCA Newsletter Editorial Assistant



Jimmie Manning

Northern Illinois University
CSCA Executive Director

CSCA Executive Committee

Leah E. Bryant, President
David T. McMahan, First Vice-President
Shawn Wahl, Second Vice-President
Chad Edwards, Past President
Jimmie Manning, Executive Director

Robert S. Littlefield, Journal Editor
David L. Bodary, Finance Committee Chair
Randy K. Dillon, States Advisory Council Chair
Andrew M. Ledbetter, Member at Large
Paul Schrodt, Member at Large