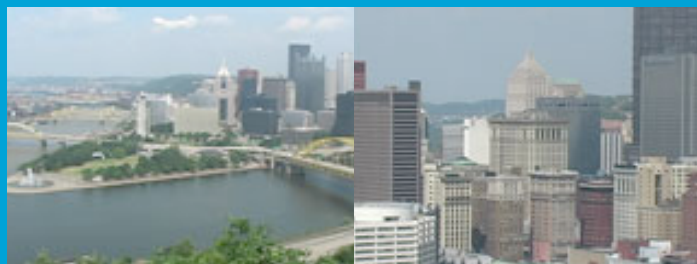


ECA The Eastern Communication Association



99th Annual Convention
Making a Difference
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Omni William Penn Hotel
May 1-4, 2008

Spring 2008 Issue

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

So many ECA members have been busy this year! Several initiatives are happening and the excitement about our new website is palpable! First things first: Vice President Sara Weintraub's Pittsburgh convention looks absolutely amazing. The programming is creative and it's further testimony to the imaginative spirit in ECA. Please make sure to look at the Preliminary Program on the website.

Additional efforts are underway by ECA members that merit some note. I've appointed several *ad hoc* committees this year and the members have not let us down. First, Kristin Wolfe (Duquesne University) and her *Website Reconstruction Committee* did a fantastic job of offering suggestions, ideas, and cautions as we developed a new website for the Association.

Second, the *Syllabi Exchange Committee*, chaired by Valerie Swarts (Slippery Rock University), put together an interesting and valuable framework for syllabi exchange. Although more details appear on the website, essentially the group will

solicit syllabi from interested ECA members and place those syllabi on the website. In turn, any ECA member may download a syllabus of interest. Until we get this process humming along, Val has agreed to shepherd this process to ensure fluency.

The third committee, *ECA in the USA: Celebrating ECA Heroes*, is overseen by Cathy Wright (George Mason University). This ECA team is charged with showcasing how ECA members are making a difference in their communities—whether at school or at home. Given this year's convention theme, this effort will resonate even more in the Association. Look for more details in the 2008 Convention program on how you can get involved or have your accomplishments highlighted.

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Message from the President (Cont'd)

Finally, I am in the process of putting together two *ad hoc* committees. First, to align our association with national trends, I am appointing a working committee to establish a "Declaration of Ethics" for ECA. Second, responding to last year's charge by then ECA President, Ron Jackson, I am chairing an *ad hoc* group on our journal editor selection process. Both groups will report preliminary information in San Diego at the NCA convention.

As you can tell, this is truly a "season of activity" for the oldest professional communication association in the country! ECA is poised to, once again, lead the nation in its scholarship, teaching, and service to the field of communication. I'm enjoying my time facilitating a number of different activities and I thank you all for giving me this opportunity to serve!

Best to each of you as the term comes to an end!

Rich West

Report of the First Vice President

The countdown begins!

In less than three weeks, we will convene in Pittsburgh. We are hard at work to make sure the 99th annual convention will be a great one. Janie Harden Fritz, 2nd Vice President, and Jeanne M. Persuit, Local Arrangements Coordinator, are putting the final touches on some of the events that will take place during the convention and will provide us with information on fun things to do and great places to eat while in Pittsburgh. Those of you who have been to Pittsburgh before know that the Omni William Penn is beautiful and that there are great museums and concerts as well as wonderful shopping and dining experiences to enjoy.

If you have looked through the preliminary program online, you have seen the wide range of exciting and enriching programs that will make up the convention. They include short courses, roundtable discussions, poster sessions, performances, G.I.F.T.S., panels, spotlight on scholarship programs and meetings. In addition, there will be several opportunities to gather for our famous coffee breaks, newcomer and welcome receptions, our "All Convention" program, our general business meeting, and our presidential reception to celebrate the accomplishments of Richard West, the 2007-2008 ECA President.

If you were not able to book your hotel room at the Omni, there are two other hotel options for you. Both the Doubletree and the Westin will serve as our overflow hotels. Their information may be found on our website (www.ecasite.org).

Over 750 participants from over 35 states and four countries will meet in Pittsburgh from May 1 to May 4, 2008. Undergraduate and graduate students, those new to the discipline and those who have been in academia for years will share their knowledge and learn from each other.

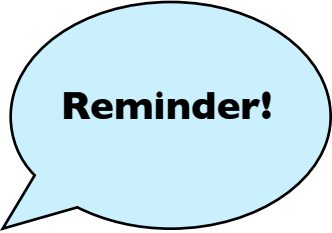
Overall, our annual convention provides us with the opportunity to enhance our knowledge of communication, consider new paths and future directions for our research and of course, to ***make a difference!*** I look forward to seeing you in Pittsburgh!

Sara Weintraub
First Vice President

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LPH Planner Needed for 2009

Are you the faculty advisor for Lambda Pi Eta at your campus? Want to promote LPH student participation at ECA? Then consider serving as the 2009 planner for the LPH affiliate group for ECA's 100th anniversary convention! The planner is the person responsible for facilitating the review of student submissions and putting together the convention panels for LPH. If you're interested in serving as the LPH planner for 2009, please contact Candice Thomas-Maddox at thomas@ohiou.edu.



Reminder!

Want to find your panel or event quickly without scrolling through page after page of programs? It's easy! Just open the preliminary program in Adobe and type your name or favorite subject in the search box at the top.

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