



Organization for Research on Women and Communication

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ORWAC President Katie L. Gibson

From the President

Dear ORWAC members,

Greetings everyone! I hope this newsletter finds you happy, healthy, and looking forward to the start of summer. We had a great conference this past February in Anaheim. A special thanks to our outgoing President, Stacey Sowards, for planning a great conference and for her dedicated leadership over the past two years. I am also very happy to welcome Marnel Niles Goins, who volunteered and was elected to serve as the incoming Vice President of ORWAC. Welcome Marnel! Our business meeting and reception at WSCA were well attended and we were especially excited by all of the graduate students who expressed a desire to become involved in our organization.

Did You Know?

The 2015 WSCA Convention is February 19-25 in Spokane, WA.

The ORWAC submission deadline is September 2, 2014. For more information, see page 4.

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From the President (contd)

Please be sure to pass this newsletter along to your students, friends, and colleagues who may not be members of ORWAC – we are always looking to recruit those who are interested in women’s and gender studies to become members of ORWAC. Membership prices are very reasonable, especially for students, so please encourage them to join at www.orwac.org.

There is still time to apply for our annual Research Development Grant, although the July 1st deadline is quickly approaching. This is the fifth year ORWAC has provided grants designed to assist feminist scholars in their research and creative projects. Be sure to check out the details in the call that appears on page 5 in the newsletter. In this issue of the newsletter, you can also read about the important research that our 2013 grant recipients are doing with the support they received from ORWAC.

You will also find ORWAC’s call for papers/panels for the 2015 WSCA conference in Spokane, Washington on page 4. The conference will be held February 19-24 and the theme for 2015 is “Accentuate the Positive.” I look forward to receiving your submissions by September 2, 2014.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter. Have a great summer!

Katie L. Gibson, ORWAC President



ORWAC Quick Links

Learn More About Us

<http://www.orwac.org/about.html>

Become a Member

<http://www.orwac.org/membership.html>

Submit to *Women’s Studies in Communication*

<http://www.orwac.org/journal.html>

Download a Grant Application

<http://www.orwac.org/grants.html>

“Like” Us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ORWAC>

ORWAC Grant Recipient Report

Alison Fisher Bodkin, Janell Bauer, and Melissa Aleman received a 2013 ORWAC grant.



We are building an online resource hub for educators who are interested in starting a student-run feminist blog on campus. Resources from the grant are being used to develop the website, namely the infrastructure support and the graphic and web design. The website will include video and interactive tutorials, pedagogical materials, including syllabi, and resources. The website will be shared with all members of the organization in Fall 2014.

Ask the Oracle

Senior scholar Sharon D. Downey answers questions from ORWAC's Graduate Student Representative, Raisa Alvarado. Dr. Downey is Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at California State University, Long Beach.



What advice would you give emerging scholars in regards to academic networking? What, in your opinion, are the most successful approaches and what should every emerging scholar be mindful of?



If you aspire to live in the world of academia, success entails balancing your responsibilities as a teacher, scholar, and citizen in the university, community, and discipline. Although academic networking is a critical part of achieving all three professional goals, it is especially important for scholarly and scholarly-related activities early in your career. Your participation and volunteer leadership in NCA, ICA, and regional associations will allow you to be in the know, come to know colleagues with shared scholarly interests, and help set the subject matter agenda for future conventions and collaborative research opportunities.

Don't be too quick to cut the apron strings with your cohorts and mentoring faculty at the university where you earned your doctorate. Many of the early published articles I have seen from doctoral candidates and new faculty stemmed from papers authored or co-authored while in graduate school, or as a result of service on a grant-funded research team headed by a seasoned senior researcher. Not only can you be assured that your graduate cohorts and you share the same perspectives and knowledge, but senior scholars have an already established academic network to which you can gain admittance.

As soon as you report for duty at your new university, seek out and glom onto the leading researchers and

scholars in your department. Even if you don't have access to senior scholars, collaborating with your department colleagues is essential. I was fortunate to team up with Karen Rasmussen years ago, in part because we were hired at CSULB at roughly the same time, but mainly because we shared interests in myth, war, and dialectical tensions. Without a doubt, we produced our best scholarly work together.

While the above are your best bets to create and sustain the worth of academic networking, here are additional options to consider. One is to read CRTNET every day for opportunities to submit your scholarly work. Another is to commit to attending at least one national/international and one regional communication convention each year, even if you don't receive university funding for convention travel. The scholarly ends will justify the means even if your pocketbook protests. The last recommendation stems from my former position as editor of *Women's Studies in Communication* and my current editor-elect position for the *Western Journal of Communication*. If you have not already been approached, you should contact the editors of our major journals and volunteer to review manuscripts for potential publication. I assure you that your offer will be well received. Not only is this a terrific scholarly-related activity, but it will give you first-hand knowledge of the cutting-edge research being done in our discipline, and where your own scholarly interests and potential contributions intersect.

Having lauded the benefits of academic networking, still nothing is as satisfying as finding your own individual scholarly niche within the larger academy. You don't need an academic network to give vent to your inventiveness, and you never know when your own creative powers will come in handy—which is why I remain a life-long Disney aficionado, despite being somewhat of an outlier. So don't give up on your best novel ideas because they distinguish you within the academic network.

ORWAC Call for Papers and Panels Western States Communication Association Annual Convention



The Organization for Research on Women and Communication invites submissions for program proposals and competitive papers for the Western States Communication Association conference to be held in Spokane, Washington (February 19-24, 2015). ORWAC seeks submissions that speak to both its emphasis on research regarding women and intersectionality, gender, feminism, *and* the convention theme: “Accentuate the Positive.” Of particular interest are papers and programs that address contemporary issues such as transnational feminism, citizenship, community, globalization, and new media technologies as they relate to women, gender, and feminist activism around the world.

Paper submission guidelines: ORWAC does not accept works in progress nor should papers have been previously presented, published, or be accepted for presentation or publication. Authors who have not previously presented a paper at a conference or published in a journal should mark their papers as “Debut” in the upper right-hand corner of the title page as well as indicate their status (e.g., bachelor’s, master’s or doctoral student). All student submissions should be marked as “Student” for consideration of the “Top Student Paper” award.

Paper submissions should include the following: 1) A separate title page that includes the paper’s title, names of all authors, affiliation(s), email address(es), phone number(s) as well an abstract of approximately 200 words; 2) A paper that does not exceed 25 pages, including references; 3) No information identifying the author(s) should appear beyond that which appears on the title page; and 4) Each document—title page and paper—should be saved as a separate PDF.

Program Panel submission guidelines: Include the following information: 1) Thematic title of the program; 2) Description and rationale of program; 3) Title and brief description of each presentation or questions to be pursued by panelists; 4) Names, affiliations, email addresses and phone numbers of all participants. Alternative formats are encouraged as are innovative program proposals that provide opportunities for engaged interaction among participants and attendees. Proposals should be saved and submitted as PDFs.

To all submitters, please stipulate any requests for equipment with your initial submission. Requests for equipment submitted after the submission deadline will not be met. For additional details about the WSCA convention, please consult www.westcomm.org.

Finally, all submissions must be received by Katie L. Gibson, Ph.D., President of ORWAC, no later than **September 2, 2014 by 11:59 pm PST in order to be considered**. Forward documents electronically to: katie.gibson@colostate.edu.



2014 Call for Applications Research Development Grant

The Organization for Research on Women and Communication invites submissions for the sixth annual Research Development Grant. Members are eligible to apply for one of three grants that support scholars at different levels of their career: Category 1 for M.A. students, Category 2 for PhD students, and Category 3 for instructors or tenure/track faculty*. Each grant offers a maximum of \$1,000.00.

Grants are designed to assist feminist scholars completing research or creative projects that privilege and advance understandings about the intersectionality and complexity defining women's lives. Broadly speaking, submitted projects are those that chart new ground in disciplinary knowledge about women and gender; that offer insights about the challenges and negotiations confronted by women in light of intersecting identities; and/or that favor the voices, experiences, discourses, performances and lives of women. Applicants' research projects may be at any stage at time of submission. Grant funds may be used, for example, to pay for: conducting interviews, data transcription, archival research whether for copying costs or travel to archives, clerical support, transportation and/or registration fees for a conference to present the submitted project, among other needs.

Application Requirements

- ❖ Be a current member of ORWAC (ORWAC membership is independent of WSCA and vice versa).
 - Applicants are responsible for becoming members or ensuring their membership is current prior to submitting their grant application. You can join / renew your membership online <http://www.orwac.org/membership.html>.
 - Executive officers of ORWAC are ineligible for the grants.
- ❖ Submit a single document containing the completed application form, budget, and current curriculum vita. Grant applications retrievable from <http://www.orwac.org>.
- ❖ Forward application materials electronically (PDF or Word document) to: Dr. Stacey K. Sowards, President, ORWAC. Email: ssowards@utep.edu; Office phone: 915-747-8854
- ❖ Within one year of receipt of a grant, awardees agree to submit a one page report detailing the results of the submitted project and use of funds to the President at ssowards@utep.edu.

Deadlines

Applications are due Tuesday, July 1, 2014 by noon (MST). Late proposals will not be reviewed under any circumstances. Applicants will be notified in August or September with funds being distributed shortly thereafter.

Review Process

All applications are reviewed by the grant committee (i.e., composed of ORWAC officers and/or past recipients). Grant applicants will receive notification about receipt of their materials, and again later when final decisions are made. Review criteria and decision making are based upon a project that: 1) most strongly fits and supports ORWAC's mission statement, 2) the overall quality of a submitted proposal, 3) potential and/or likelihood for intellectual contribution to feminist scholarship in the field of Communication, and 4) potential and/or likelihood for scholarly dissemination such as a conference paper, thesis, dissertation or book chapter, journal article, or creative project. At least one grant will be awarded in each of the categories.

**Note: We aim to support all scholars conducting feminist work regardless of rank. Simultaneously we are mindful of varying levels of institutional support extended to graduate students and faculty. Hence, in Category 3, preference will be extended equally to instructors and tenure-track followed by tenured faculty.*

Your 2014-2015 Leadership Team

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ORWAC Grant Recipient Report



Fatima Zahrae Chrifi Alaoui received a 2013 ORWAC grant.

With the generous ORWAC Research Development Grant, I was able to cover most of the expenses of my airline ticket to Tunis, Tunisia. In Tunisia, I was able to understand the uprisings and be “out in the world.” I conducted an ethnographic study and collected my data for my dissertation. I also conducted personal interviews with the revolutionists, took fieldnotes, observed and participated in some of the peaceful protests, and took photographic and video recordings of the uprisings over a 40-hour period during a four-week visit to Tunis, Tunisia from mid-August to mid-September 2013.