I. Message from the Chair, Ansgar Zerfass:

We look forward to seeing many of you in person at the 73rd Annual ICA conference in Toronto later this month. It will be the first “normal” gathering of our academic community in three years, as borders have been reopened in the wake of the pandemic. However, we know that may be difficult for many of you to travel internationally, as airfares have increased and many universities have cut their budgets. Some sessions held in dedicated conference rooms will be offered in hybrid formats. However, we will not be able to stream the business meeting and all session. The hands-on technology that was used in Paris last year caused many problems, so the conference organizers decided to use another set-up.

Please have a look at the conference program and note your favorite sessions; an interactive planner is available at [https://www.icahdq.org/mpage/ICA23](https://www.icahdq.org/mpage/ICA23). You’ll see many interesting topics and familiar names, and also rising young scholars presenting their research. Highlights include the Chair’s Panel “Innovation in Strategic Communication Research and Education” on Friday, May 26, noon, which features
insights from three continents (more information below). Other sessions not to be missed are the best papers sessions on Sunday afternoon, May 28, followed by the Division’s business meeting and a joint reception with the ICA organizational Communication Division.

As the Toronto conference marks the end of my tenure as chair of this esteemed Division, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who has served on the Division’s leadership team over the past four years, including the immediate past chair, Flora Hung-Baesecke, and the heads and members of our award committees. Due to the pandemic and personal travel restrictions of some members, we were not all able to meet in person as a group. But we worked smoothly together even in difficult times and accomplished much: the long-discussed series of awards organized by the Division was reorganized, approved, and launched; our communication policy was evaluated and streamlined; a new virtual format for doctoral seminars was successfully launched; and a concrete step toward greater inclusion of unheard voices was taken with a bilingual 2023 pre-conference focusing on PR research from Latin America. The growing number of ICA Fellows from our community demonstrates that the reputation of PR research in communication studies continues to grow. At the same time, the Division's membership has grown and our finances are healthy, allowing the next leadership team to develop new initiatives.

Of course, there is still much work to be done. Looking ahead, it will be important to think about new ways to organize a global academic community when traveling around the world is becoming increasingly difficult for many of us due to sustainability concerns, financial constraints, and a scarcity of travel connections. Virtual alternatives have their limitations: they rarely lead to spontaneous meetings, friendships formed during informal activities, and collaborations that begin after a joint meeting. We also see a trend toward more in-depth research on established research topics and small empirical studies among the conference submissions. Innovative ideas and conceptual papers are sometimes missed. But: Who else than the ICA PR Division could organize a community where experienced scholars representing the major research institutions in the field around the world meet with emerging researchers to discuss current and future findings? I encourage all members, young and old, from privileged and less fortified regions, to share their ideas on how this can be achieved with the new leadership team.

This newsletter provides an overview of the ICA Public Relation Division’s activities between November 2022 and May 2023 (since the last newsletter was published). I would like to personally thank everybody for their great service over the past few months!
Activities and development of the Division 2022–2023

The International Communication Association (ICA) aims to advance the scholarly study of communication by encouraging and facilitating excellence in academic research worldwide. ICA began more than 50 years ago and is now a truly international association with more than 4,500 members in 80 countries. Since 2003, ICA has been officially associated with the United Nations as a non-governmental association (NGO).

With 333 members globally in early May 2022, the ICA Public Relations Division is concerned with developing the theoretical basis and empirical insights for communication between organizations and specified publics. We are among the top range of all 32 Divisions and Interest Groups within ICA, although enrollment has gone down again after an all-time high in spring 2022. This reflects a strong correlation between the annual renewal of personal memberships and the conference participation, which raises strategic questions that cannot be solved on the level of individual divisions.

The Division is led by Dr. Ansgar Zerfass, Professor and Chair at Leipzig University, Germany (Chair) and W. Timothy Coombs, Ph.D., Centre for Crisis and Risk Communication, USA (Vice Chair), together with Officers Lisa Tam, Ph.D., Senior Lecturer at Queensland University of Technology, Australia (Secretary), Claudia Labarca, Ph.D., Associate Professor at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, School of Communications, Chile (International Liaison), and Alvin Zhou, Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota, USA (Student and Early Career Representative – SECR). Many members support the Division in specified roles, especially in Award Committees. Moreover, LaShonda Eaddy, Penn State University, USA, and Gabriel Sadi, University of Huddersfield, UK, serve as the ICA PRD’s representatives in the Commission on Public Relations Education (CPRE) for 2021–2023.

Introducing new officers and committee members

We welcome two members that will start their tenure as officers of this Division on May 30, 2023, right after the end of the ICA 2023 conference in Toronto, when Ansgar Zerfass and Alvin Zhou step down, and W. Timothy Coombs will take over the role as Division Chair.

The new officers have already been introduced in the last edition of this biannual PDF newsletter in October 2022. Nevertheless, here are the key facts once again:

**Erich Sommerfeldt** (University of Minnesota, USA) will be serving as the PR Division’s Vice-Chair, 2023–25 (and Chair, 2025–27). Erich already served as the Division’s Secretary from 2018 to 2020; he has recently published the edited book “Public Relations Theory III” together with Carl Botan. More information about him can be found at [https://hsjmc.umn.edu/news/2023-04-24-research-spotlight-erich-sommerfeldt](https://hsjmc.umn.edu/news/2023-04-24-research-spotlight-erich-sommerfeldt)
Julia Stranzl (University of Vienna, Austria) will be serving as the Division’s Student and Early Career Representative (SECR), 2023–25. She is a PhD student in the University of Vienna’s Corporate Communication Research Group. More information about her can be found at https://ccom.univie.ac.at/team/julia-stranzl/.

Acknowledgement of outgoing officers

The Division expresses its sincere thanks for the commitment of the officers whose term will end after the Toronto conference:

Alvin Zhou, Ph.D., Student and Early-Career Representative (SECR), ICA PR Division (2021–2023), did an excellent job during the last two years. Alvin, who completed his doctoral dissertation at University of Pennsylvania’s Annenberg School for Communication in 2022 and moved on to Minnesota as an Assistant Professor at the Hubbard School of Journalism & Mass Communication, reorganized the annual Ph.D. seminar of the Division into a virtual format and helped to make it more inclusive and more international than ever before. Thanks so much, Alvin!

Dr. Ansgar Zerfass, Chair, ICA PR Division (2021–2023), took over the position after serving two years as vice chair and program planner. This period was quite unusual as a fully planned conference in Australia (including a reception and a ICA PRD dinner at a great location spotted by colleagues on the ground in Brisbane), was cancelled and turned virtual, and a second conference in 2021 was entirely virtual with a somehow limited conference platform. The Paris conference in 2023 was the first chance to meet members in person during his tenure. He would like to thank everybody for their spontaneous support during those crazy days last year on the ground (as the program planner could not attend) and looks forward to supporting the division in whatever way possible in the future.

II. Message from the Vice Chair and Program Planner, W. Timothy Coombs

ICA 2023 Toronto Conference overview

The 73rd Annual ICA Conference will be organized as an in-person event between 25 and 29 May 2023 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. All events will take place at the Sheraton City hotel – it is a one-stop show this time!

The ICA PR Division will have a strong lineup with 13 sessions presenting competitive papers and extended abstracts, plus a Top Faculty Paper Panel, Top Student Paper Panel, and the Chair’s Panel along with the poster session presentations on a broad variety of research in our field. Sessions will have a strong focus on crisis communication, CSR, activism, ethics, listening and internal communication.

We appreciate the willingness of all presenters and chairs to join the conference.
Chair’s Panel: Innovation in Strategic Communication Research and Education

All members and conference attendees are invited to join this session on Friday, May 26, 12:00–1:15 PM, Room: 2-Kenora, Sheraton City Toronto. The panel will be chaired by Ansgar Zerfass, Leipzig University, Germany, and moderated by Kelly Page Werder, University of South Florida, USA. Panelists include (in alphabetical order) Matthew Goldberg, Yale University, USA; Sora Kim, Chinese University Hong Kong, China; Juan Meng, University of Georgia, USA; Howard Nothhaft, Lund University, Sweden; and Sophia C. Volk, University of Zurich, Switzerland.

The topic: Strategic communication—understood as all communication substantial for the survival and sustainable success of an organization, brand or individual—is gaining importance in all parts of society. The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of targeting relevant conversations around preventive healthcare rather than wasting resources on traditional mass campaigns. The Russian war in Eastern Europe has sparked debates about how to effectively use strategic messaging in military affairs and public diplomacy. And technological trends such as CommTech and the Metaverse, entities based on artificial intelligence and big data, offer new opportunities, as well as ethical challenges, for communicators around the world.

This interdisciplinary panel gathers voices from different regions and perspectives to discuss how innovative research in strategic communication can address these challenges. The goal is to identify meaningful avenues for future scholarship in strategic communication. This panel is hosted by the International Journal of Strategic Communication (Routledge / Taylor & Francis), a long-time partner and sponsor of the ICA Public Relations Division. This is an interactive session. Participants are invited to join the discussion and share their views.

Business Meeting and Reception

All members are invited to join the ICA Public Relations Division Business Meeting 2023 on Sunday May 28, 2023, 4:30–5:45 PM local time. Room: LC – Osgoode West, Sheraton City Toronto. A virtual participation is unfortunately not possible. No voting will be conducted during the meeting. The agenda for the meeting can be found on the last page of this newsletter. The minutes of last year’s business meeting are available on our website at https://bit.ly/ICAPRD-WEBSITE.

Please also mark your calendar for the Joint Reception of ICA’s Public Relations and Organizational Communication Divisions. It will be held as usual after our business meeting on Sunday May 28, 6:00–8:00 PM at the same place: LC – Osgoode West, Sheraton City Toronto. Drink vouchers for the reception will be given to PR Division members at the end of the business meeting – pick up your vouchers in person!

Due to logistics issues, the ICA PRD will not be hosting a conference dinner this year.
Submissions and Acceptance Rates

Once again, our Division was one of the ICA groups with high submissions for the annual conference. All in all, 158 submissions were received by the ICA PRD for the 2023 conference (compared to 195 for 2022). We do not have comparative data for other Divisions or the overall conference.

4 panel proposals were received and one was accepted (acceptance rate: 25%). All panels were reviewed by a special reviewer board of four senior colleagues to ensure an impartial comparison of those proposals.

95 full papers and 59 extended abstracts were considered for review. 56 papers (acceptance rate: 59%) and 10 extended abstracts (acceptance rate: 17%) were scheduled for a presentation or poster session.

The overall acceptance rate for all types of submissions was 42.4% (compared to 44.8% in 2022).

All abstracts were placed in one high-density panel based upon recommendations from other ICA planners. Papers submitted for remote presentation had limited slots (following ICA rules only 8 could be accepted). That meant only the top eight remote papers could be added to the program.

We would like to thank all reviewers for the hard work they put into assessing this year’s submissions. We are especially thankful for some of the reviewers who spent a tremendous amount of time providing helpful and insightful comments in a collegial and respectful manner. Your support as division member is desperately needed, even and especially if you did not submit yourself. We require three reviews per submission, and a lot of papers are handed in by junior scholars who are not or only partly eligible to review themselves. This is a joint effort across all age groups and ranks and it was good to see so many of you serving our community! We know that the online submission system is not perfect and we are consistently discussing with the ICA office about improvements.

III. Report from the SECR, Alvin Zhou

The 2023 ICA PRD PhD Student Workshop, organized by the Student and Early Career Representative Alvin Zhou and the Vice Chair W. Timothy Coombs, has been scheduled to take place on Friday May 12, 2023. The virtual workshop provides a platform where senior researchers give keynote lectures and one-on-one mentorship to PhD students on their dissertation projects and early careers.

Five students from Netherlands, Thailand, United Kingdom, Ghana, and United States – Alexandra Schwinges, Chanapa Itdhiamornkulchai, Fahad Alzahrani, Iddrisu Fuseini, and Olivia Truban – have been selected as student participants, respectively paired with five senior scholars in the field – Øyvind Ihlen, Urša Golob, Brooke Liu,
Dean Kruckeberg, and Matthew Seeger. Additionally, Jens Seiffert-Brockmann and Kelly Page Werder will share publication, job market, and academia tips in their lectures. We thank them for their commitment and services to the ICA PRD community.

We welcome applicants for our future PhD Student Workshops. Please spread the word about this great one-on-one mentorship-seeking and network-building opportunity with junior and prospective PhD students. The Call for Application will be available at the end of 2023.

For other student and early career-related questions, please email our incoming SECR Julia Stranzl at julia.stranzl@univie.ac.at.

### IV. Report from the International Liaison, Claudia Labarca

My first year as IL of the PRD is finishing and I am happy to report two important achievements. First, and following my predecessor, Gabriel Sadi, I am happy to inform that we have asked, again, to ICA headquarters to review the tier classification, especially with inflation costs rising and local currency devaluation in many countries.

Secondly, we have been able to put forward our ICA 2023 pre-conference “Organizational Communication and Public Relation’s Dis/encounters: A Dialogue from Latin America” at Toronto Metropolitan University (formerly, Ryerson University), co-sponsored by our division. This is the first time a Latin American group is able to coordinate a public relations pre-conference (this effort has also been supported by the Organizational Communication Division). Currently, we have 21 presentations from all around Latin America including scholars from Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Perú etc. The full day pre-conference is organized in five thematic sessions: Deontology and practices; Academic perspectives; Transparency and Social Responsibility, Agenda Setting and Political discourses; and finally Branding, Reputation and Legitimacy. To attend, you can still register at [https://www.icahdq.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?alias=ICA23-DiscourseLatinAmerica](https://www.icahdq.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?alias=ICA23-DiscourseLatinAmerica)

Finally, I am pleased to report that I held several meetings with ILs from other divisions. For the next year, I plan to continue to help increase the visibility of these less represented countries and help ICA become truly international.
V. Award Winners

ICA Annual Conference Awards 2023

The awards are based on the ranking (mean overall scores) in the peer review process. Plaques or certificates for top papers will be presented at the ICA PRD Business meeting in Toronto. Congratulations to all winners!

ICA PR Division Top Faculty Paper Awards 2023

*Role-Conflicts in Communication Practice in Times of Blurring Boundaries Between Public Relations, Advertising and Journalism*
Jens Seiffert-Brockmann, WU – Vienna University of Economics, Austria
Sabine A. Einwiler, University of Vienna, Austria
Lina Stürmer, University of Vienna, Austria & Uta Russmann, University of Innsbruck, Austria
Gisela Reiter, FH Wien – Vienna University of Applied Sciences, Austria

*The Authenticity of Place: The Contribution of Engaged Virtual Brand Communities to National Branding*
Leah Li, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia
Kim A. Johnston, Queensland University of Technology Brisbane, Australia & Juan Feng, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia

*Building Cross-Sector Alliances During COVID-19: A Network Approach*
Grace Ji, Chris Chao Su, Arunima Krishna, Jiacheng Huang, James Cummings, Rosalynn A. Vasquez & Michella A. Amazeen
Boston University, Boston, MA, USA

ICA PR Division Top Student Paper Awards 2023

The awards are sponsored by The Plank Center for Leadership in Public Relations.

*Warranted Inferences of Mediation and Evidence of a Threshold Effect: Applying an Experimental-Causal-Chain Design to Examine the Mediating Effects of Anger in SCCT*
Rongting Niu, Xiamen University, Xiamen, Fujian, China

*A Limit to How Much You Can Plan: Planned and Improvised Strategic Communication During COVID-19*
Truls Strand Offerdal, University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway

*Building Community Resilience and Calling for Collective Actions: How Organizations and Publics Communicate Disaster Aid on Weibo*
Xin Ma & Shilin Xia, University of Maryland at College Park, USA
ICA PR Division Top Reviewer Award 2023
Jens Seiffert-Brockmann, WU – Vienna University of Economics, Austria

ICA James E. Grunig and Larissa A. Grunig
Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Awards 2023

The award committee, chaired by Yi-Ru Regina Chen, Hong Kong Baptist University (Hong Kong, was once again composed by a diverse group of senior scholars: Bruce Berger, University of Alabama (USA); Sabine Einwiller, University of Vienna (Austria); Christian P. Hoffmann, Leipzig University (Germany); Michael Etter, King’s College London (UK); Michael L. Kent, University of New South Wales (Australia); Brooke Fisher Liu, University of Maryland (USA).

The 2023 competition received 12 dissertation submissions and 2 thesis submissions from the world: nine submissions were from the United States, one from Europe, three from Australia, and one from Hong Kong SAR. The figures were comparable to those of the previous year’s competition (23 dissertations and 4 master theses submitted for the 2022 edition that covered a two-year cycle).

After two rounds of judging, the award committee selected the winner of the Dissertation Award. Judging from the quantity and quality of the thesis entries, the award committee decided to roll over the two thesis submissions to next year’s competition.

ICA James E. Grunig and Larissa A. Grunig Outstanding Dissertation Award 2023 – Winner
Solyee Kim, University of Georgia, USA

DEI Sensemaking and Social Identity Signaling in Public Relations: Recruitment of Practitioners With Marginalized Racial and Ethnic Identities and Queer Identities Through DEI Cues
Doctoral dissertation at the University of Georgia, USA
Project supervised by María E. Len-Ríos, University of Minnesota, USA

This dissertation project aims to explore diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues at public relations (PR) agencies in the United States, with the goal of recruiting and retaining more practitioners with marginalized racial and ethnic identities as well as queer identities. The project consists of two studies. Study 1 uses the Foucauldian Discourse Analysis (FDA) to analyze interview data from 12 agencies, with the objective of identifying the agencies’ conceptualizations, practices, and effectiveness measures of DEI, taking into account external factors such as societal trends, client needs, and stakeholder expectations. Study 2 builds on the findings of Study 1 to develop experimental stimuli of DEI cues and test their effectiveness in recruiting PR practitioners with marginalized racial, ethnic, and queer identities. This project
provides a new view/perspective on PR for theory building, and is foundational, empirically (due to its novel empirical focus), theoretically (despite limitations in theory building), and methodologically (due to the operationalization of DEI cues).

ICA Robert Heath Award for Impactful and Innovative Public Relations Research 2023

This award recognizes foundational journal articles in the field of public relations and strategic communication based on their innovativeness and impact. The award is based on an endowment collected by numerous members and friends of the division around the world; winners will receive a prize money based on the endowment. The award is granted every second year to the author(s) of an outstanding article in the field published in English in one of the core academic journals of the field or in renowned academic journals in related disciplines during a period of five precedent years defined in the call for each round. The winning article will be selected in a two-stage process based on a) impact, as shown by the citations reached, and b) innovativeness, as judged upon by an internationally diverse Heath Award Committee.

The committee, chaired by Flora Hung-Baesecke, University of Technology Sydney (Australia) was composed of seven scholars reflecting the diversity of the ICA PR Division in terms of national affiliation, ethnicity, and gender: Vilma Luoma-aho, University of Jyväskylä (Finland); Lee Edwards, London School of Economics (United Kingdom); Yan Jin, University of Georgia (USA); Adam Saffer, University of Minnesota (USA); Katharina Wolf, Curtin University (Australia); Christine Huang, City University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong, SAR).

The Committee has received nominations from major public relations journal editors, except for Public Relations Inquiry, which the Committee Chair has made several attempts to contact but did not receive a reply. Therefore, the Committee started the reviews without the nominations from this journal.

There were five nominations from members of the PR Division. However, two of them were not eligible because those articles were published in major public relations journals. According to the Heath Award guidelines, it’s major public relations journal editors who nominate articles the three most impactful and innovative article published in their journals within the five previous years. ICA PRD members can only nominate articles published in other communication discipline journals. There were in all 18 articles nominated by major PR journal editors and ICA PRD members. The Committee members received review assignments in early August 2022, based on the Heath Award guideline.
ICA Robert Heath Award for Impactful and Innovative Public Relations Research 2023 – Winner

After two rounds of reviews, the committee has chosen the winning article – congratulations!

*Between tragedy, romance, comedy and satire: Narratives of axiological progress in public relations*
Peter Winkler, University of Salzburg, Austria; Jannik Kretschmer, University of Salzburg, Austria; & Michael Etter, King’s College, London, UK
Published in:
https://doi.org/10.1108/JCOM-11-2020-0145

The article was published online first in August 2021 and the issue was published in November 2021. Its impact is evidenced on the journals’ website with 1,117 downloads and one citation to date; its innovativeness is confirmed by the award committee, which scored it highest in the first round of review and received most votes from the committee in the second round.

All committee members were very devoted and committed to the review process. Many thanks to them and the committee chair for their hard work!

VI. Financial Report and Sponsors

The Division is happy to share with the members that, as of the end of 2022, the Division’s budget was US$ 22,533.84 (compared to US$ 17,035.09 one year earlier) which ranks among the four highest among all the divisions and interest groups in ICA. Even though we are financially healthy, we, on one hand, will continue developing initiatives for our members; on the other hand, we will also be careful how we spend the money.

We would like to thank our sponsors, who allow us to manage our activities. A special thank goes to *The Plank Center for Leadership and Public Relations* for once again sponsoring the Top Student Paper Awards at our annual conference, and to the *International Journal of Strategic Communication* (edited by our members Ansgar Zerfass and Kelly P. Werder) and its publisher Routledge / Taylor & Francis, for sponsoring the ICA PR Division Receptions for several years.
VII. Call for (Self-) Nominations for upcoming Elections until July 9, 2023

The ICA Public Relations Division is seeking 2–3 candidates for each of the following two roles:

**Secretary (2024–2026)**

- Term: May 2024–May 2026
- Will become part of the Division’s leadership team after the 2024 Gold Coast conference
- Will be responsible for the Division’s communication activities (editor in chief for the website, monthly email newsletters, Facebook page, etc.) Acts as recording secretary at annual business meetings, prepares and distributes minutes of business meetings to members, keeps record of decisions etc.
- Profile: an active member of the division with capacities and resources to fulfill the roles and attend the conferences 2024, 2025 and 2026. Might be attractive for assistant or associate professors.

**International Liaison (2024–2026)**

- Term: May 2024–May 2026
- Will become part of the Division’s leadership team after the 2024 Gold Coast conference.
- Will gather opinions and feedback from members of the division, especially new members from less represented cultures, for example, at times of the annual conference, and convey them to the division leadership team or other relevant bodies ICA; liaise across the divisions and interest groups on general issues that go beyond any given unit of ICA; assist in the planning of ICA annual conferences, helping the chair and vice-chair to pay attention to participants from ethnic-minority communities and the developing world who may need extra help; identify the needs of young scholars, especially those from non-English-speaking countries, who may need the training of particular skills (e.g., writing, data analysis), relay them to ICA Membership and Internationalization Committee or other relevant bodies, who will design ways to meet such needs; participate in and facilitate other ICA internationalization activities such as regional conferences, mentorship programs; take initiatives to suggest new ideas for improving ICA’s overall internationalization endeavors.
- Profile: The candidates should be active ICA members and (if possible) be able to attend the ICA conferences 2024, 2025, and 2026. Preference will be given to candidates from Tier-B and Tier-C countries or to candidates with a personal background in such a country.
Eligibility

- Only active members of ICA and the ICA PR division are eligible for nomination, election, or appointment to office. If you are interested in running for an officer’s role, or if you’d like to nominate a colleague, please check whether their membership is active. You can do so by searching for the name in the ICA PR membership directory online at https://bit.ly/ICAPRD-WEBSITE.
- Current officers are not eligible for their current position; i.e., officers may not succeed themselves in a particular office.
- Candidates may only run for one position. Candidates may not run for, or hold, more than one elected office at a time. You may not run for, or hold, an elected office across multiple Divisions or Interest Groups or general ICA roles. Candidates who submit themselves for more than one elected position will be disqualified.

More information about the different roles, eligibility and timeline can be found at: https://www.icahdq.org/general/custom.asp?page=div_ig_candidate_info

Nomination and election process

According to the ICA’s guidance to divisions, the candidates and the leadership team should reflect the diversity of the membership, i.e., regarding nationality, regional identification, gender, and ethnicity. The continuing members of the current leadership team after 2024 are W. Timothy Coombs (USA, North America), Erich Sommerfeldt (USA, North America), and Julia Stranzl (Austria, Europe).

**Nomination process:** Self-nominations from active members or nominations by members for a third person should be sent to the incoming division chair, W. Timothy Coombs (crisistcoombs@gmail.com) and the incoming vice chair, Erich J. Sommerfeldt (esommerf@umn.edu) by July 9, 2023. When submitting nominations, please make sure to copy the nominated candidate and confirm that nomination consent was sought prior to the nomination.

The incoming Division chair, W. Timothy Coombs, is happy to answer questions from all members who are interested to run for one of the positions. Contact him during the Toronto conference or via email to arrange a talk online.

According to the information from ICA, “an ideal ballot will have 2–3 candidates per role.” We will follow the suggested 2–3 candidates for each role. If more than three nominations are received for one role, then candidates will be contacted to ensure that we’ll provide a diverse and strong list of candidates for the election and also ensure one of the candidates can get majority votes in the election.

**Election process:** All members of the PR Division are invited to vote during this year’s ICA elections that will be conducted virtually in September/October 2023. Results will be communicated in late October 2023.
International Communication Association
Public Relations Division

Annual Business Meeting 2023

Sunday May 28, 2023
4:30–5:45 PM
LC – Osgoode West

Sheraton Toronto City, 123 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5H 2M9

Agenda

I. Welcome and introduction of officers

II. Announcements from the ICA Board meeting

III. Division Reports
   a. Report on Membership and Initiatives
   b. Financial Report and Recognition of Sponsors
   c. Report by the SECR
   d. Report by the International Liaison
   e. 2023 ICA Conference PRD Program Report

IV. Award Recognitions
   a. Top Faculty Paper Awards 2023
   b. Top Student Paper Awards 2023
   c. Top Reviewer Award 2023
   d. James E. Grunig and Larissa A. Grunig Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Awards
   e. Robert Heath Award for Impactful and Innovative Public Relations Research

V. New Business
   a. Call for nominations for the Secretary (2024–2026)
   b. Call for nominations for the International Liaison (2024–2026)

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment