As we approach the 2001 conference, there are some special events that promise to make our DC conference memorable. I’ll discuss these events as well as our New Members’ Breakfast and some division committees.

Thanks to Marie Garland, Ithaca College, members of our division can tour an exhibit, “Design and the American Office,” at the National Building Museum close to our conference hotel. This exhibit tells the story of the American office but also describes the evolution of the modern workplace with its different occupations, technologies, desks, and boundaryless offices. For additional information, you can scan through the exhibit description on the National Building Museum website (http://www.nbm.org./Exhibits/New_On_The_Job_Text.html).

Marie has arranged a tour on Saturday, May 26, from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. There will be a brief introduction by the museum staff prior to the tour. Our division will cover the fee for our group tour. Given the close proximity of this exhibit to our conference hotel, division members can make it back in time for our 5:15 panel, “Communicating Change.” For further information about the tour and a meeting place for members and friends who’d like to travel together, please attend our Friday afternoon business meeting.

In addition to our business meeting, there are a number of other events on Friday that make it the busiest conference day for our division. For those who like to begin the day early, we’ll host our New Members’ Breakfast at 7 a.m. in the Conservatory room. This is a great opportunity to catch up with “old” friends and colleagues and meet some of the newcomers to our division. Thanks to Jeff Kassing, Arizona State University West, we will have plenty of division abstract copies at this breakfast (with abstracts not only of our papers and panels, but also of our interactive display contributors’ research). These abstracts also are available on our website prior to our conference, thanks to our division secretary and webmaster, Steve May, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. If you have not attended previously, please join us -- this breakfast is a great deal of fun and is one of the events funded through division membership fees.

Besides a number of regular and high density panels on Friday, our Top Papers panel begins at 3:45 p.m. with the three highest ranked competitive papers and what should provide to be an exciting co-response! For details, see our last ICA Newsletter column (or check our website for newsletter columns). Our top papers are available on our division website. I’d like to thank our presenters for allowing us to post these papers: Mary Eicholtz, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Sarah Tracy, Arizona
State University, and Vivian Sheer, Johnston, Zabor, McManus, Inc. These papers will remain on our website until June 2001.

As always, our Top Papers panel will be followed by our business meeting at 5:15 and our annual division reception at 6:45 p.m. This year, Ted Zorn, editor of Management Communication Quarterly, will host the reception. Like our New Members’ Breakfast, our division reception is a great place to bring friends, colleagues, and students who may be interested in joining or becoming more active in our division. Many past and present officers, committee members, paper/panel readers, and award winners are available at each event to discuss their experiences.

In addition to our Friday schedule, we also have an excellent selection of panels all day Saturday and Sunday, and on Monday morning. Keep in mind that Sunday from 11:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., our division’s interactive display will be taking place in the International Ballroom East. We’ll be presenting awards for the best posters in two groups. Although there are no overall themes for these interactive displays, the first set contains a few research projects on corporate mission statements as well as investigations of workplace aggression, trustworthy organizational behaviors, and effects of performance on small group cohesion and social loafing. Our respondents for this first group of interactive displays are Noshir Contractor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Rita Rahoi-Gilchrest, Winona State U, and B. Christine Shea, California Poly State U, San Luis Obispo.

The second set of posters primarily features work-life issues and a couple of displays on technology, including international information technology research being conducted through a FIPSE grant. Our respondents for this group are: Mary Eicholtz, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Beverly Davenport Sypher, University of Kansas, and Jennifer Wood, Towson U.

Finally, we have a number of committees that are working on award selections and other division business. Because this newsletter features a column on our division with details about how we operate, I’ll only mention a few committees here, including a couple of new ones.

This year, our nominating committee is being chaired by Vernon Miller, Michigan State University. Members include Patti Riley, University of Southern California, and Kathy Miller, Texas A&M University. This committee recruits and selects our vice chair and our paper/panel reader candidates for our summer elections. Although nominations are taken from the floor at our business meetings, sometimes our members cannot attend our meetings but still would like to be considered for these positions. Please contact these committee members for inclusion in our division slate, particularly if you’ve just earned your Ph.D. and want to read papers and panels in November 2001. I especially urge our international members who cannot attend our conference this year to send an e-mail message to committee members about positions you’d be interested in filling.

I’ve asked Nosh Contractor, our vice chair, to head a committee that is reviewing our mission statement and bylaws. Committee members include Fred Jablin,
University of Richmond, Gail Fairhurst, University of Cincinnati, and myself. As you can see from looking at our website, our bylaws are outdated. The copy on file at ICA is marked 1985. A number of changes were made during Fred’s and Gail’s (as well as others’) chairpersonships and during our business meeting at Acapulco, chaired by Dave Seibold, University of California at Santa Barbara. We’ll post suggested revisions and updates immediately prior to our conference so that you can examine proposed changes and make recommendations informally during our conference events or formally during our business meeting and e-mail correspondence with committee members.

Another committee that has been formed recently is chaired by John Lammers, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and focuses on our division criteria and procedures for paper and panel programming. Although only a couple of people ask about the procedures each year and we certainly have an outstanding line-up of panels and interactive displays in May (as we have had in previous years), we want to reconsider these issues. This seems like an ideal time to rethink divisional processes given the committee I mentioned above on division mission and bylaws.

At this point, John and I are unsure about the level of division interest in reconsidering and possibly revising our criteria and procedures. Some issues that could be addressed are fairness and quality of programmed materials. But there are other issues that could be addressed such a social relevance, representation of the field, and greater inclusion of international scholarship. Our division at NCA is in the process of assessing a two-part process by which papers and panels are ranked using z-scores. Then the top papers identified by this usual method are forwarded to a different group of readers who select the top three papers. We could try something like NCA’s test procedure or retain our current system. If you have suggestions, questions, or comments, please feel free to contact John (jclammer@uiuc.edu). If there is interest, then we may send out a survey to division members, form a full committee to propose changes, and so on. If there is no interest in the division to revisit these criteria and procedures, then we’ll let things stand.

Our W. Charles Redding Dissertation Award chair, Beth Ellis, Arizona State University, reports that everything is proceeding nicely with this award committee. Committee members are Marcy Meyer, Ball State University, Eileen Berlin Ray, Cleveland State University, Lars Thoger Christensen, The Copenhagen Business School, Denmark. We have 11 submissions this year from Howard University, University of Colorado, Arizona State University, University of South Florida, University of Nebraska, Michigan State University, Ohio University, Cornell University, and the University of Texas. By mid-April, we’ll know who won this award. As is tradition in our division, all nominees will receive a complimentary one-year subscription to Management Communication Quarterly, courtesy of Ted Zorn, Cynthia Stohl, Purdue University, has agreed to hold a silent auction to benefit the W. Charles Redding Dissertation Award funds. As you know, the original release of The New Handbook of Organizational Communication contained one particularly memorable feature – the misspelling of Linda Putnam’s name as “Putman” on the front cover. This aspect alone
has made these original copies extremely valuable to members of our profession.

To proceed with the silent auction, we are requesting the following:

If you have a copy of the "Putman" misspelling and are willing to donate it for this auction, please send it to Cynthia. Thanks to Margaret Seawell, Executive Editor of Sage Publications, Inc., Sage will provide a replacement copy with the correct spelling for you. Cynthia also promises to send a letter expressing eternal gratitude for your help in this process! (Since she’s my Department Head, I can assume that a letter of this sort also would be very valuable!!)

If you are interested in bidding on this rare and valuable book, send a bid to Cynthia at cstohl@sla.purdue.edu by Friday, May 18th.

Please include all your contact information. You may revise your bid during the process if you feel as though your original bid was a bit low.

The highest bidder will be notified via e-mail by May 21 and will be announced at our division business meeting.

If you made the highest bid, you’ll receive the handbook in the mail after ICA (or at the business meeting if you are present). Checks can be presented to Cynthia on behalf of the Redding Endowment at the business meeting (or mailed to ICA if you cannot attend our business meeting).

If you would prefer not to enter into the bidding but still want to donate funds to the Redding Endowment, feel free to present checks at the business meeting or mail them to ICA with the Redding Endowment stipulated in the subject line on your check. All donations are tax deductible!

I’d like to thank our members again for their generous support of our division. Steve May deserves a special note of appreciation for updating our website as does Josh Barbour, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, for supplying historical records for our website, and Caryn Medved, who is working with Steve on a total website redesign.

As you attend our 2001 conference, jot down comments for aspects that you’d like us to change or for things that we do well! Please e-mail them to me during the conference or afterwards. I look forward to seeing you in a few weeks!!!