Dear Division IV members,

I am pleased to announce our Fall 2000 election results. **Steve May**, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, has been elected our division secretary for a two-year term. Our six paper readers already have done an outstanding job turning around paper and panel decisions in record time. I want to extend my deep appreciation to our paper/panel evaluators: **Michele Violanti**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville; **Tim Kuhn**, University of Colorado, Boulder; **Caryn Medved**, Ohio University; **Alexandra Murphy**, DePaul University; **Laurie Lewis**, University of Texas, Austin; and **Julie Apker**, Wayne State University.

When I sent our submissions to these readers, I first matched methodological expertise then sorted papers by theoretical and topical interests. Of course, there was some variation because I tried to keep the numbers of submissions per reader fairly consistent. In total, we received 57 papers and 13 panels for our 2001 DC conference. Twelve papers (21%) were authored solely by students. Very few submitters requested any kind of audiovisual equipment for their papers or panels.

Cindy Gallois has e-mailed all division program planners that rooms are tight for our DC conference. We are anticipating numbers of program slots similar to what we have had in the past. According to Cindy’s records, we often have had 16 panel slots plus a poster session. This figure differs from the unusually high number of slots (21) that we had in Acapulco and the 18 total slots that we have in our divisional records for San Francisco. Cindy is considering two poster sessions at different times to accommodate submissions, but no decisions have been finalized yet. Cindy has promised to make poster sessions “as pleasant and first-class as we can.” I am planning on using as many high-impact and poster sessions as necessary to accommodate as many of our accepted papers and panels as possible. Based on our reviewers’ recommendations, 45 or 79% of our 57 paper submissions earned 2 or 3 “yes” decisions from reviewers to program.

In addition, all 13 of our panel submissions met our programming criteria, but all may not be programmed because of space limitations.

Our **Top 3 Paper Panel** for Div. IV in DC will feature: “Locking Up Emotion: Emotion Labor and Correctional Officers,” by **Sarah J. Tracy**, an assistant professor at Arizona State University; “Negotiating Organizational Identification: Dialectical Forces of Influence,” by **Mary M. Eicholtz**, an assistant professor at the University of Arkansas...
at Little Rock; and “Improving Media Richness Theory by Considering Interaction Goals, Message Valence, and Message Complexity,” by Vivian C. Sheer, a Senior Analyst at Johnston, Zabor, McManus Inc.

Our Top Student Paper is “I Spent 18 Years of My Life in Jail. A Convict is Who I Am’: A Study of Social Identity in Communication Networks,” by Geoffrey R. Tumlin, Amy M. Schmisseur, and Stephanie A. Hamel, from The University of Texas at Austin. Congratulations to all our award winners!!!

In DC, we intend to continue the following divisional traditions: Newcomer Breakfast and Abstract Dissemination; Academic-Industry (A-I) Task Force meeting; and reception following our late afternoon Business meeting (hosted by Management Communication Quarterly, edited by Ted Zorn, University of New Zealand). For our doctoral preconference, we’ll be incorporating Michael Cody’s suggestion at the Communication Theory editorial board meeting in Acapulco (and division members’ response at our last business meeting), to discuss theory building. In conjunction with the Student Affairs Committee Co-Chairs’ (Kristine Nowak and Sarah Tracy) suggestion for our pre-conference, we’ll include a session on backstage work of doing organizational field research (e.g., tips on writing a proposal for access; what to avoid; ethical dilemmas; responsibilities of reporting information to the organization). I’d like to express my appreciation to Sarah for helping plan this portion of our pre-conference.

Our pre-conference and conference at the end of May 2001 promises to be outstanding. I’ll supply more details about this pre-conference in our next newsletter. Thanks to all our members who volunteered to chair or respond to panels.

Happy New Year!

Patrice M. Buzzanell, Chair