Dear Division IV members,

Wait ‘til you see the quality and diversity in our divisional presentations at the upcoming conference in Washington, DC! It certainly has been a pleasure to work with our presenters, volunteers for respondent and chair positions, preconference speakers, and committee chairs and members. I can’t thank our members enough for their willingness to serve our division.

I’d like to recap acceptance and programming decision criteria then announce the “Top 3” Panel presenters and highlight some features of our May 2001 conference and pre-conference.

First, as always, our submissions were outstanding. For acceptance, each paper and panel was evaluated by three referees and had to receive at least two “yes” decisions. Out of 57 papers and 13 panels, 79% of the papers (n=45) and 100% of the panels were acceptable according to the two-plus “yes” criterion. For paper and panel rankings, I converted reviewer ratings to z-scores. I used the average of reviewers’ rankings only to differentiate between papers or panels with the same z-scores. If anyone would like a copy of the rankings and ratings for all submissions, send me an e-mail message and I’ll attach these data to my reply.

For programming, all division chairs were informed that program slots were reduced in numbers this year. We were allotted 16 slots and I negotiated for an extra panel on the program. Because our members have consistently said in our business meetings that they enjoy high density panels, I developed three of these panels with our accepted competitive papers. In addition, I moved two accepted panels into our Interactive Display sessions – one became a single poster display and the other was scheduled as four separate papers/posters. As a result, I programmed every paper and panel that was accepted, with one exception. I regret I could not find additional space to include the last accepted panel.

Our Top 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. For our Top Paper Panel, I thought it would be interesting to obtain two perspectives on the research. M. Scott Poole and Charles Conrad — both from Texas A&M University – have agreed to act as co-respondents. I have no clue how they’ll do this co-response – we’ll have to attend the Top 3 Panel and
watch them in action! We’ll stick to tradition and hold our business meeting after this panel and conclude the evening with our annual division reception, hosted by Ted Zorn, current editor of Management Communication Quarterly.


Each of these high density panels consists of six to eight presentations and two respondents. These panels start with presentations that last no more than five minutes each. After all presentations are completed, authors move to different parts of the room where they’ll post information about their research. At that time, audience members and respondents come to the presenters to talk about the research. Masking tape and pins are provided for small displays meaning that authors simply will be supplementing their presentations with some visual information (rather than developing interactive displays). For each high density panel, two respondents have received copies of all panel papers. They’ll decide between themselves how they’ll divide up their responses.

Besides our Top Paper panel, our high density sessions, and our regular panels, we also have two Interactive Displays with three respondents each. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, Cindy Gallois has promised to make poster sessions “as pleasant and first-class as we can.” Division chairs were encouraged to program very good work in our poster sessions and I believe you’ll enjoy seeing the high quality and variety of research in our interactive display sessions. Our division is going to award two certificates for the Top Interactive Displays from each session.

In addition to our conference program, our division also is holding our doctoral pre-conference on Thursday, May 24, 2001, from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. We are limiting registration to 25 doctoral students so if you are interested in participating in this pre-conference, I encourage you to register early.

We’ll begin our pre-conference with a discussion about theory building in organizational communication. I’d like to thank Dennis Mumby, Purdue University, Eric Eisenberg, University of South Florida, and Brenda Allen, University of Colorado at Boulder, for agreeing to address the morning session. Following break out discussions and lunch, some of our recently graduated assistant professors will talk about dissertation research and transitioning from graduate student to professor. Sarah Tracy, Arizona State University, Loril Gossett, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Tim Kuhn, University of Colorado at Boulder, Julie Apker, Wayne State University, and Lucinda Sinclair, Longwood College, will talk briefly then open the floor for questions and comments. Joshua Barbour, University of Illinois of Urbana-Champaign, has volunteered to share his work on ICA history. Specifically, Josh will provide a historical
overview of the Redding Dissertation Awards.

Finally, some “seasoned” division members will round out the afternoon by bringing up different areas to consider in selecting dissertation topics, advisors, publication outlets, methods, and other issues. My thanks go to Kathleen Krone, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Patrice Buzzanell, Purdue University, Larry Browning, University of Texas at Austin, Patti Riley, University of Southern California, and Patricia Sias, Washington State University.

The registration fee for the pre-conference is **US $60 for faculty** and **US $50 for students**. This fee covers all refreshments, including lunch, and the cost of a single overhead projector. Our division is not making any money on this pre-conference. I wanted to supply some kind of financial break for our graduate student attendees. Rather than paying the entire amount, our students have a $10 reduction in fees. A donor is funding this difference between faculty and student fees so that faculty (and the division) are not making up the cost.

Our division’s panels, business meeting, reception, and pre-conference are going to be spectacular! In the next newsletter, I’ll talk about our divisional committees and the “New Member Breakfast.” Please feel free to contact me (pbuzzanell@sla.purdue.edu) if you have any questions about the conference, pre-conference, committees, or other ICA matters.

Take care,

Patrice M. Buzzanell, Chair