Greetings! The Organizational Communication Division’s Program for this year’s ICA promises to be one of the largest and most exciting in recent years. The 80 papers and 7 panels programmed this year reflect the growing intellectual health and breadth of our Division. Our Top Paper Session this year includes four papers because there was a tie for 3rd place. They are:

- “Organizations as Discursive Constructions: Unpacking the Metaphor” by Gail Fairhurst, University of Cincinnati, and Linda Putnam, Texas A&M University.
- “Maintaining Inter-Organizational Relationships that Build Nations” by Marya Doerfel, Rutgers University, and Maureen Taylor, Rutgers University.
- “Organizational Discourse and New Media: A Practice Perspective” by Pablo Boczkowski, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Wanda Orlikowski, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- “...But That’s What You Call Sisu: Blue-Collar Discourse of Work, Career, and Success” by Kristen Lucas, Purdue University, and Patrice Buzzanell, Purdue University.

The Top Student Paper is:

- “The Art of Well-Being: Managing Emotional Dissonance in the Workplace” by Amy Schmisseur, University of Texas at Austin.

Congratulations!!!

For the first time, all paper and panel submitters received detailed written comments provided by paper readers. We are deeply indebted to the 14 paper readers who provided these thoughtful reviews. They are: Patrice Buzzanell, Purdue University; François Cooren, State University of New York at Albany; Jennifer Gibbs, University of California at Irvine; Renee Houston, University of Puget Sound; Dean Krikorian, Cornell University; Tim Kuhn, University of Colorado at Boulder; John Lammers, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Laurie Lewis, University of Texas at Austin; Bob McPhee, Arizona State University; Dennis Mumby, University of North Carolina; Ron Rice, Rutgers University; Craig Scott, University of Texas at Austin; Jennifer Thackaberry, Purdue University; and Sarah Tracy, Arizona State University. I also want to thank Meikuan Huang, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, for helping me extract these comments from the online review web site and relay them to each of the paper and panel submitters.
I would also like to take this opportunity to alert you to seven upcoming Division-related activities. First, our Division is planning to create a web-based expertise directory to help our members share with and identify expertise of others within our Division. We plan to pilot this venture in the next two months with the community of scholars who submitted papers and panels for this year's ICA. We expect to expand it to the entire Divisional membership before San Diego. I sincerely hope you will participate in this potentially fruitful venture. We will announce further details via the Org Comm Division’s web site (at http://www.ohio.edu/ica-orgcomm/) and the Division listserv (ICAOrgCom@ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu) both of which are being ably managed by Secretary-elect, Caryn Medved, Ohio University.

Second, our Division will be hosting an Organizational Communication Doctoral Consortium in San Diego on May 23rd, 2003, from 8.30 am to 5 pm. The daylong pre-conference focuses on intellectual and professional issues for doctoral students interested in organizational communication. Steve Corman, Arizona State University, the Vice-Chair of the Organizational Communication Division has assembled an outstanding team of 19 senior and junior faculty and has planned a variety of working sessions dealing with conceptual as well as pragmatic concerns for doctoral students. More details about faculty participants and registration for the doctoral consortium can be found at: http://www.icahdq.org/events/conference/2003/PreConDetails.html (Scroll down to PreConference 6). You can register for the doctoral consortium online by following links at: http://www.icahdq.org/events/conf2003.asp. The number of student participants is limited to 25 and registrants will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. I hope you will consider encouraging all doctoral students to participate in this event.

Third, our Division is planning to host eight "Birds of a Feather" (BoF) sessions at this year's ICA. This two-hour event will provide an informal/social opportunity for senior and junior scholars to cluster informally at assigned tables to meet and learn more about others who share similar intellectual interests. We have identified the following eight BoFs: (i) Critical Theory, (ii) Discourse, Discourse Analysis, and Organizations, (iii) Feminist Theory, (iv) Organizational Change, (v) Organizational Image, Identity and Identification, (vi) Organizational Networks, (vii) Organizational Socialization and Relationships, and (viii) Organizational Technologies. We have enlisted prominent scholars in each of these areas to Chair these sessions. I hope you will attend these sessions and benefit from the experience.

Fourth, the Division’s Academic-Industry Task Force, co-chaired by Mary Eicholtz, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Paagle Turner, Saint Louis University, and Aline Wolff, New York University, is assembling a special spotlight Academic Industry Task Force Roundtable discussion. Representatives from papers that were selected for presentation at this year's ICA will contribute to this roundtable discussion. It will serve as a forum for dialog about results (or the conduct of research) that have implications for academic-industry knowledge transfer. There are tentative plans to edit a special Forum section based on this panel for the journal, Management Communication Quarterly. I hope you will all plan to attend and participate in the
discussion.

Fifth, this year our Division worked closely with the Teri Harrison, State University of New York at Albany, the Program Planner of the Communication & Technology (CAT) Division, to ensure that virtually all papers that addressed issues related to communication technology and organizational communication were paneled in 7 sessions that were jointly sponsored by the two Divisions. We hope this helps scholars interested in this area to avoid dealing with potential conflicts on the program schedule.

Sixth, our Secretary, Steve May, University of North Carolina, has received nine nominations for the 2003 W. Charles Redding Dissertation Award and is in the midst of assembling a distinguished panel of judges. The award will be presented at the annual ICA convention in San Diego, CA in 2003.

Finally, our Membership Committee -- Renee Houston, University of Puget Sound, Loril Gossett, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Federico Varona, San Jose State University -- is about to launch a New Member Recruitment Campaign. Current and lapsed Division members will be receiving email messages requesting them to renew their own membership and enlist new members, including graduate students. With your help we will be able to sustain and grow our vibrant Division!

Noshir Contractor
Division Chair
nosh@uiuc.edu