Greetings and Happy New Year!

As I write this column, we are in the midst of finalizing an impressive ensemble of Organizational Communication panels and sessions for the ICA annual convention in San Diego, May 23-27, 2003. We received 132 paper submissions and a dozen panels this year – over three times as many as we received last year! Special thanks to our 14 elected paper readers for working tirelessly over the past month to evaluate your submissions. The paper readers were the following: 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.

For the first time, ICA’s Organizational Communication Division and Communication & Technology Division have worked together to jointly panel sessions featuring papers that focus on communication technologies within organizational contexts. This initiative will help eliminate the need for attendees to choose between concurrent sessions on similar topics. In addition to the papers and panels selected from those submitted, the Organizational Communication Division will also be hosting two very special events. First, we will host a day-long pre-conference Doctoral Consortium where doctoral students will have an opportunity to engage with organizational communication scholars about, “Everything you ever wanted to know about completing a doctoral program and beyond … but were afraid to ask.” Steve Corman, Arizona State University, the Vice-Chair of the Organizational Communication Division has assembled an outstanding team of faculty and has planned a variety of working sessions dealing with conceptual as well as pragmatic concerns for doctoral students. Second, the Academic-Industry Task Force, co-chaired by Mary Eicholtz, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Paagie Turner, Saint Louis University, and Aline Wolff, New York University, have organized a special roundtable panel session that will feature a select group of presenters to discuss broader challenges and opportunities in Academic-Industry partnerships.

I extend a special invitation to those of our paper submitters who are minority students to contact me (nosh@uiuc.edu) as soon as possible if they wish to be considered for a travel grant of $500 each. The Organizational Communication Division
has a good track record of submitting such nominations to ICA. Further, if you are from a developing/transitional economy country, please consider applying for a travel grant from the Conference Program Chair. For more details about eligibility, please see the Travel Grants section of the ICA 2003 Call for Papers.

We have several ballot results to report in addition to the election of paper readers mentioned earlier. Our Division has elected Caryn Medved, Ohio University, as the Division’s Secretary-elect. Congratulations, Caryn! Caryn is exceptionally well prepared to assume her new responsibilities, having managed both the Division’s web site at http://www.ohio.edu/ica-orgcomm/ over the past year and the Division listserv at ICAOrgCom@ouvaxa.cats.ohiou.edu for the past six months. I am also pleased to report that the membership voted to update the Division’s mission statement and bylaws. The revised mission statement and bylaws are posted on our Division web site.

Meanwhile, our current Secretary, Steve May, University of North Carolina, is soliciting submissions for the Redding Dissertation Award on or before February 1, 2003. The award will be presented at the annual ICA convention in San Diego, CA in 2003. Dissertations must have been defended between January 2, 2002 and December 31, 2002. For more details, please see the Division web site or the October-November ICA Newsletter.

Finally, I am very pleased to announce that the Organizational Communication Division has negotiated a special $40/year discount subscription rate for the journal Management Communication Quarterly (MCQ). This price, which will be held constant over the next two years, represents a discount in excess of 50% over the standard subscription rate. Details on taking advantage of this special offer will be disseminated via the Division listserv and the Division web site. Many thanks to Ted Zorn, University of Waikato, past editor of MCQ and Patrice Buzzanell, Purdue University, past Chair of the Organizational Communication Division, for initiating these negotiations. Thanks are also due to Charlie Conrad, Texas A&M University, incoming editor of MCQ and Alison Labbate at Sage (the publisher of MCQ) for working with me to craft an offer that benefits both the members of the Division and the Division itself. We hope that these and other Division activities will spur you and your colleagues to keep renewing your membership to ICA, and to maintain an affiliation with your Organizational Communication Division.

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