Greetings!

At the time you read this newsletter column, we are less than two months away from our conference in Korea. Because award and committee announcements were in last month’s newsletter, I’d like to use this column to talk about some recent division changes and provide an update on some issues.

With regard to division changes, if you haven’t checked the Organizational Communication Division website recently, our Top Three Panel papers are now available on our website in pdf form along with the top papers from last year. In the next few weeks, we’ll also put our division abstracts on the website. Caryn Medved, our Division webmaster, is in the process of constructing a division listserv called “icaorgcom.” She will be e-mailing several hundred division members and providing each member with details on how to subscribe to the listserv. She also is adding a link to the website to invite additional listserv participants.

Other changes have to do with committees -- and a contest!! The Academic-Industry Task Force is looking for a co-chair to help Mary Eicholtz develop ICA conference programming and contribute to other task force activities. The A-I Task Force addresses working relationships between researchers and practitioners of organizational communication. These relationships often result in co-respondents on panels, co-researchers, and design of panel content that would be interesting to our academic and non-academic members. The Task Force welcomes other suggestions for ways to best serve division members. Contact Mary at mmeicholtz@ualr.edu if you would like to know more about getting involved.

We also are in the process of reconstituting our membership committee. Renee Houston and Sarah Tracy have been co-chairing this committee for the last couple of years. Sarah would like to move into other division work. So we are looking for a co-chair of the membership committee. Feel free to contact either Renee (rhouston@ups.edu) or Sarah (Sarah.Tracy@asu.edu) about details. Even if you don’t think you’d like to co-chair, you may want to get involved in other membership committee activities.

Josh Barbour, our Division historian/archivist (Barbour78@aol.com), and I have been constructing some primary questions and a standardized format for the faculty profiles that we’d like to feature on our division website. We really would like your input on the questions. We also would like to locate graduate students who would be interested in conducting and writing up these interviews. Some possible interview questions/sections of the faculty profile are: (1) How did you come to the field of organizational communication? (2) Who was influential in your graduate program and
first position(s)? (3) How would you describe your career? What would you identify as pivotal or memorable moments in your career? (4) What's your favorite article/research project? Why? (5) What's your favorite story about your experiences in organizational communication? (6) Where do you see the field going? What part would you like to play in this future? (7) If you could have one wish for our field, what would it be? Please contact Josh or myself if you are interested in participating in this project or have some suggestions about questions and how to proceed.

As far as our division contest goes, we are soliciting ideas for the "Top 10 reasons" to be an ICA organizational communication division member. These ideas will be displayed in the division brochure and on our website. The contest is open to all division members; entries can be submitted by individual members or groups of members. To enter, please submit your lists to Sarah Tracy, Renee Houston, and myself via e-mail by JUNE 15, 2002. The top 10 reasons can be organizational communication division specific, more general about being an ICA member, or a mix. Furthermore, you need not provide ten reasons to enter the contest (e.g., you could submit five reasons). We want to put together something both substantial, creative, and perhaps even humorous! We look forward to your entries. The prize is $100 check!!! An announcement will be made on our new listserv around the time you receive this newsletter.

Every now and then, division officers receive inquiries about the ICA Audit. These queries usually include questions about how to obtain permission to use audit scales, locate the central database for comparisons with findings from other audits, and other details. As Anita James recently noted in response to an inquiry from one of our international division members, there are a number of organizational and managerial communication textbooks (including the original print source for the instruments in the Goldhaber and Rogers text published by Kendall Hunt in 1979), Management Communication Quarterly articles from the 1980s, Human Communication Research articles in the late 1970s, communication consulting texts, and other sources for information about the audit. There no longer is a central database kept for the audit data. However, Anita has been maintaining a Regional Data Bank for the audits she has conducted since 1979. If you’d like further information, feel free to contact Anita at james@oak.cats.ohiou.edu.

Finally, this year’s Organizational Communication Miniconference is being held at Purdue University on October 12-13, 2002. This miniconference is designed to enable organizational communication graduate students to receive feedback on their research projects from faculty and students from numerous universities. As we have done in years past, a link to miniconference details will be added to our website by the end of this summer. In the meantime, mark your calendars if you are interested in participating in this event.

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Division Chairperson