Dear Division IV members,

As I am writing this note, Dave Seibold is taking an extended bike trip and well-deserved rest from his ICA and other duties. Thank you once again, Dave, for your service to our division as our immediate past Chair! The records Dave passed on to me have been very helpful and thorough.

Papers are starting to arrive for our 11/1/00 paper and panel proposal deadline. I already have a list of divisional members who agreed to chair or respond to panels. However, if you were unable to attend the Acapulco conference and would like to act as a panel chair or respondent, please e-mail me full contact information as well as the kinds of issues in which you are interested and I’ll add you to my list. I’ll be continuing our division practice of giving a best poster award and having respondents for our poster sessions. Mary Eicholtz won the Acapulco best poster award for her presentation of “Who am I? The rhetoric of organizational identification in 19th Century university publications.” I could use one or two volunteer respondents for the poster sessions. It’s a lot of fun for the participants and the respondents!

At this point, we have not yet elected our six paper readers or division secretary. Although the full slate was sent to ICA headquarters by the deadline, the names of paper readers did not appear on the ballot. As a result, ICA sent out an e-mail ballot to 479 division members with e-mail addresses (and letters to division members without internet capabilities: 25 US and 12 international members) with the same deadline as the regular ballot. I’d like to hear your feedback about this ballot process. I’ll contact readers ASAP and will ask our new secretary to update our division website immediately. At this point, the information is a bit old! Our current secretary, Beth Ellis, is changing some contact information but we’ll hold off on other changes until we have a new secretary/webmaster and until we hear from you how we can better design our website to serve your needs.

In the meantime, we’ll post the most recent call for the Redding Dissertation Award. Beth Ellis (now at Arizona State University) is chairing the committee again and has submitted a call that appears in this newsletter. The deadline is 2/1/01. If you have any questions, please contact Beth at Beth.Ellis@asu.edu. We’ll also provide current information on some of our divisional committees in our next newsletter column. If you’re interested in participating in divisional committees, just let Beth, Nosh Contractor (our VP, nosh@uiuc.edu), or me know.

Ongoing committees include the membership and Redding Endowment committees as well as the Academic-Industry Task Force. One committee, a divisional
international relations committee, was described in our July 2000 newsletter and is being headed by George Cheney. Since that newsletter, Joe Capella contacted George to oversee the ICA’s Internationalization Committee. Committee members are: George Cheney (Chair), Federico Varona, Jim Taylor, John Lammers, Josh Barbour, and Cynthia Stohl. At this point, George would like to solicit input from divisional members for expanding our association’s international participation. The committee is not designed to draft specific pieces of legislation but (a) to offer guidance about specific practical issues related to ICA initiatives already underway (see pp. 4-5 in the July 2000 ICA newsletter); and (b) to make some general recommendations for future progress in internationalization. At a later point, this committee will focus on divisional concerns in these areas. If you have suggestions or questions, please contact George at gcheney@selway.umt.edu.

I just want to mention a couple of other issues. First, the new editor of Human Communication Research, John Greene, has noted that HCR typically lacks organizational communication research and is looking for empirical research from divisional members. He has included several organizational communication researchers on his editorial board. Second, I should be able to get paper and panel acceptance notifications to members by the end of January 2001. Third, I hope you will all attend our conference in DC. It should be spectacular!

Patrice Buzzanell