From the Chair

Greetings from the heartland! As I write this column, there are only a few short months until the Montréal convention. I’m looking forward to an exciting time -- planning our program has been fun and attending it should be even better! I hope to see many of you at one or more of our regular organizational communication events -- the Top Three paper panel, the business meeting, the cocktail party, the doctoral consortium, the new member breakfast, and the academic-industry task force meeting.

In other program sessions, our competitive paper panels should be particularly strong this year -- we had a large number of submissions and the papers selected represent a compelling cross-section of work in organizational communication. We also are hosting several special panels. Colleen Keough, chair of our academic-industry task force, was instrumental in putting together a pair of showcase panels considering innovation and teamwork within the Saturn Corporation. In the first panel, representatives of Saturn Corporation will talk about communication within a “different kind of car company,” and in the second panel Gail Fairhurst, Larry Browning, and Patrice Buzzanell will provide counterpoint to and conversation with the Saturn representatives.

We also have panels planned on the Dialogue process and on critical management perspectives on communication, discourse, and social organization.

At our business meeting this year, we will, as usual, be honoring recipients of the Redding Dissertation Award, Top Student Paper Award, and Outstanding Member Award.

This year, we’ll also present a cash award to the best interactive display from our division members’ participation in interactive and high density panels. I’ve instituted this award for this year in hopes of enhancing the quality of our interactive displays and thus encouraging more dialogue about our scholarship. The quality of displays will be judged by me and our two vice-chairs, Patrice Buzzanell and David Seibold.

At the business meeting, I also plan to open up a discussion about increasing our division membership and enhancing satisfaction within the division. Renee Houston of the University of Utah has agreed to spearhead membership efforts. I’ll also be recruiting a new editor for the newsletter. Geoffrey Gurd had to resign his post as newsletter editor, so this issue is being produced by a University of Kansas team. My sincere thanks go to Tracy Russo and Barbara Hillmer for filling in on this task. Anyone who’s interested in taking over the newsletter for a few years should contact me.

See you in Montréal.

Katherine Miller, Chair
University of Kansas
International News

Cali, Colombia, was the site for the III Latin American Symposium on Organizational Communication, May 8-10, 1996. The host organization for this and the previous two symposia was the División de Comunicación Social of the Corporación Universitaria Autónoma de Occidente. The symposium, planned by Alvaro Rojas Guzmán and Carmen Cecilia Rivera, dean and professor respectively, focused on “Postmodern Thought and the Balance of Communication in Organizations.”

A volume of the symposium presentations will be published by the host organization. For more information, contact Carmen Cecilia Rivera, División de Comunicación Social, Corporación Universitaria Autónoma de Occidente, Calle 9B No. 29 A -67, Apartado Aéreo 2790, Cali, Colombia.

George Cheney, University of Montana, served as co-facilitator of discussions of organizational communication at the Communication Conference of the Americas, Mexico City, February 1-3, 1997.

Calls for Papers

Organization Science and The Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication seek papers on Communications Processes for Virtual Communication to be published concurrently in the two journals. Theories are needed to identify essential structures in virtual organizations and specify the communication and other processes by which they operate.

Theoretically-grounded definitions distinguish virtual organizations from other organizational forms, such as bureaucracies and network organizations, and explore the role communication plays in creating, maintaining, and transforming them. Submission deadline is March 31. This joint issue will be edited by Peter Monge, University of Southern California (monge@usc.edu), and Gerry DeSanctis, Duke University (gd@mail.duke.edu).

New Editor and Call for Submissions

Management Communication Quarterly is devoted to both theory and practice in the fields of management and organizational communication. Authors are encouraged to submit original theoretical and empirical manuscripts from varied methodological perspectives. Applicable topics include, but are not limited to, managerial writing or media use; interpersonal communication and relationships at work; influences of technology, diversity, and globalization in the workplace; and reconceptualizations of traditional organizational communication constructs and practices.

Criteria for publication include: relevance to managerial and organizational communication; originality and significance of the research project and findings, timeliness and thoroughness of the literature review; and appropriateness of the theoretical basis and the research method. MCQ also features a Dialogue section that invites discussion of issues relevant to management and organizational communication. Possible formats for Dialogue contributions are interviews, conference addresses, commentaries, debates, cases with analyses, and book reviews.

Five copies of manuscripts should be submitted to Dr. Patrice Buzzanell, Editor, Management Communication Quarterly Department of Communication, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115, USA. For submission information, editorial policies, or questions regarding the journal, feel free to contact the editor and editorial assistants at MCQ@uni.edu or (815) 753-7102.
Upcoming Conferences


Organization for the Study of Communication, Language and Gender conference is scheduled for October 16-19, 1997, in Chicago. It is hosted by Bren Ortega Murphy of Loyola University.


Standing Conference on Organizational Symbolism (SCOS). Contact Dr. Paul Jefcutt, Department of Business Studies, The School of Management, University of Stirling, Stirling FK4LA, Scotland. Fax: 44-786-467-329.

The renowned summer conference for communication scholars at Alta, Utah, is being revived by the Department of Communication at the University of Utah for August 1996. The topic is “Communication and Self-organization.” For more information, contact Renee Houston at R.Houston@cc.utah.edu or Scott Hammond at schammon@BYUGATE.byu.edu.

ICA Conference Panels

Don’t miss these Organizational Communication Division panels in Montréal:

- Preconference Workshop: A consortium for Doctoral Students
- Competitive Papers: Top Three Papers in Organizational Communication
- Showcase Panel: Looking to the Heavens for Organizational Innovations: Lessons from the Saturn Corporation
- Showcase Panel -- Communication Scholars Dialogue with GM and Saturn Representatives
- Competitive Papers: Organizational Leadership and Communication
- Dialogue: Reaffirming our Relatedness in the Global Context
- Communication, Discourse, and Social Organization: Critical Management Perspectives on Organizational Communication
- Competitive Papers: Theoretical Frameworks for the Study of Organizational Communication
- Competitive Papers: Interorganizational Communication Processes
- Competitive Papers: Group and Team Processes in Organizations
- Competitive Papers: High Density Session on Gender and Organizing
- Competitive Papers: Communication Issues in a Global Organizational Environment
- Competitive Papers: Communication and “Fitting In” in the Organization.
Organizational Communication Division

Doctoral Student Consortium
May 22, 1997, 8:30 - 5:00
Montréal, Canada

Making Sense of Organizational Communication

Registration Form

Name: ______________________________
Department: ___________________________
Institution: ____________________________
Mailing Address: _________________________

E-mail: _______________________________
Phone: Office: ___________ Home: ___________

The registration fee of US$40 pays for breakfast and lunch. Please make your check payable to the International Communication Association and forward it with this form by April 15, 1995 to:

International Communication Association
P.O. Box 9589
Austin, TX 78766

Please register early because seats are limited.

If you have questions regarding the doctoral consortium, please feel free to contact Dr. Katherine Miller at (913) 864-3633 or via e-mail at kim@falcon.cc.ukans.edu