Preparations are underway for Albuquerque! I must admit that I am still buzzing from our experience in Sydney, and will try my best to capitalize on the incredible momentum generated in Australia and do even better.

A number of exciting events are already planned for the convention. First, on Thursday, May 25, 1995, we will once again be hosting our all-day doctoral honors consortium. The theme this year will be *Focus and Inspiration: Sourcing High-Impact Ideas about Organizational Communication*. Doctoral students who have completed their coursework but have not yet begun work on their dissertations are eligible to participate. Faculty participants include Stephen Banks, Larry Browning, Noshir Contractor, Gail Fairhurst, Patricia Geist, Kathy Miller, Linda Putnam, Patricia Riley, David Seibold, and Fred Steier.

In addition to the scholarly discussions, graduate students will have opportunities to discuss professional issues and concerns with faculty. If you wish to attend, complete the registration form on the last page of this issue of the NEWS. We are trying to limit participation to 25, so please register early.

Three exceptional showcase panels have also been scheduled. In the first, William Issacs, head of “The Dialogue Project” at MIT [Massachusetts Institute of Technology], will speak about *Dialogue and the Learning Organization*, work that is receiving worldwide recognition. A distinguished panel of communication scholars will respond to Issacs. A number of related panels dealing with dialogic approaches to research and consultation are also planned. I expect that there will be significant learning on all sides about the power of dialogue in organizational and interpersonal contexts.

A second showcase panel addresses *Communication and Culture Change at the National Laboratories in New Mexico*. Representatives of Los Alamos and/or Sandia Labs will be participating, and the respondent will be the head of corporate communication at Hughes Aircraft Company. Patricia Riley, U. of Southern California, is organizing the panel.

A third panel, organized by Fred Jablin, U. of Richmond, will celebrate W. Charles Redding.

With your support, I would like very much to begin this year a process of experimenting with different structures of discourse for our sessions. It has always struck me as ironic that communication conventions are characterized by one-way delivery of papers, and those of us
who study recent changes in organizational communication should feel even more uncomfortable replicating old patterns of organization in our academic associations that no longer apply elsewhere. Thoughts that I have had include scheduling fewer papers and more time for discussion, and substituting facilitators (who prepare questions for the audience based on the papers) for respondents. Please let me know your ideas for innovative formats in advance of the conference, and afterwards give me honest feedback about what did and did not work.

Elsewhere in the newsletter, Anita James indicates that anyone interested in helping with future issues contact her directly. I want to second this request, and repeat my remarks from the business meeting in Sydney. It seems to me that the idea of a newsletter—even an on-line newsletter—is already mostly obsolete, and doesn’t align well with the way most people are coming to seek out information. I would very much like to establish an interactive ORGCOM network, through which all 500 of us could be in touch about key issues. The “editor’s” job might become one of “list manager,” introducing new information and monitoring traffic flow. Let me know what you think about this direction.

Elections to determine our new secretary and paper readers were not complete when this newsletter went to press. Needless to say, the lucky winners will hear from me (actually, from UPS) the moment I know who they are. Expect a very large package of papers to review.

Finally, I wish to offer my heartfelt thanks to all of the individuals agreeing to serve as officers of the division during my tenure.

Eric M. Eisenberg, Chair
(813) 974-6823
EEISENBE@CIS01.CIS.USF.EDU

5. If an insufficient number of dissertations are received to hold an effective competition, the award panel reserves the right to carry-over dissertations into the next annual competition.


Entries should be sent to:
Connie Bullis, Secretary
ICA Division IV
Department of Communication
The University of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84112

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The W. Charles Redding Dissertation Award Competition

Division IV of the International Communication Association is pleased to announce competition for the 1994 W. Charles Redding Dissertation Award in Organizational Communication. This annual competition includes a cash award to the winner and recognition for the other outstanding dissertations selected. The award will be presented at the annual ICA convention in Albuquerque in May 1995.

Rules of the competition are as follows:

1. The advisor of the dissertation should submit the dissertation to the Division IV Secretary. Documents to be submitted must include a) one copy of the complete dissertation and b) five copies of a 25-150 page (text) paper complete with references, tables, graphs, etc. The paper must be solely written by the student and should serve as a summary of the dissertation by discussing: 1) relevant literature; 2) hypotheses or research questions; 3) research methods; 4) results; and 5) conclusions drawn from the investigation.

2. Because all dissertations will receive blind review by a panel of judges, the name of the author, advisor, and university should appear only in the letter of transmittal and title page of the dissertation.

3. Dissertations must have been defended between January 1 and December 31, 1994.

4. Candidates for the award must be members of Division IV. Membership may be in process at the time of submission.

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Announcements

Stan Deetz, Professor of Communication, Rutgers U., has had Transforming Communication, Transforming Business: Building Responsive and Responsible Workplaces published by Hampton Press. This book follows Democracy in an Age of Corporate Colonization (1992) which received critical acclaim. Comments about Transforming Communication include “An honest consideration of stifling control systems embedded in even empowerment and participation programs which keep companies from ‘learning’ and making responsible decisions. ... An unsettling analysis of how a pattern of corporate decision making has created social and economic harms which could be avoided if constituent groups were properly represented.”

Linda L. Putnam, Professor and Department Head, Speech Communication Department, Texas A&M, has been selected for recognition in Women in Communication, a bibilographic sourcebook of top women scholars in the field of communication. This source book will be edited by Nancy Signoriello and published by Greenwood Publishing Group.