5) Program Planner's Report (Kevin Barnhurst, Vice Chair)

a) Volunteers
   1. 173 reviewers, representing 35 research areas and 10 method areas, completed a total of 422 reviews (2.44 per reviewer).
   2. 20 session chairs
   3. To allow for more discussion, the papers sessions did not include discussants this year. Session chairs are moderating the discussions.

b) Papers
   1. 331 distinct authors submitted 201 papers. The division did not accept extended abstracts.
   2. 88 papers were accepted, for a 44 percent acceptance rate.
   3. Average scores ranged from 4.68 to 1.84 with a cut-off of 3.39.
c) Sessions:
   1. We had a total of 20 paper sessions, all topically organized.
   2. 10 papers were scheduled in the interactive (poster) session.

d) Panels:
   1. Of 12 panel proposals submitted, we accepted 5 (42 percent acceptance rate).
   2. Standardized scores ranged from 3.84 to 2.21 with the same cut-off as for papers.
   2. Our division originated 25 sessions (papers and panels), the poster session, and the business meeting and reception (thus, 28 sessions directly sponsored).
   3. Division sessions appeared in most available time slots, through Monday at 1:15 p.m.

e) Co-sponsorships:
   1. The division co-sponsored an additional 6 sessions.
   2. In total, we joined as sponsors or sponsored a total of 34 sessions.
   3. Co-sponsors include Feminist Scholarship, Journalism Studies, Mass Communication, Philosophy of Communication, Popular Communication, and Public Relations.

   4. The division also co-sponsored two pre-conferences: Mediating Global Citizenship (with 37 registered participants, Wednesday-Thursday), and Remapping Public Media: Imagining Public Media in an Open, Digital Environment (26, held Thursday).

f) Student participation.
   1. We manually identified five papers with student authors on the program.
   2. To increase student participation, we assigned student chairs to 8 of the papers sessions.

g) Student travel awards. With matching funds from ICA, the division granted 3 awards, ranging from $220 to $340 including a conference fee waiver:
   1. Uyanga Bazaa, University of Kansas, USA
   2. Ewa Musialowska, Technical University of Dresden, Germany
   3. Vasyl Kucherenko, Colorado State University, USA

h) Top papers (alphabetical order by first author)
   1. Dorothee Hefner, Marko Bachl, Christopher Blake, Verena Pompetzki, and Christoph Klimmt, for their paper ``Interpersonal talk about Media News as Factor in the Knowledge Gap Process: A quasi-experimental analysis of conversation content,''
   2. Jan Kleinnijenhuis, J. De Ridder, Anita van Hoof, and Dirk Oegema, for their paper, ``Knowledge diminishes, but news exposure enhances susceptibility to the news.''
   3. Marina Popescu and Gabor Toka, for their paper, ``The Impact of Media Systems on the Making of Informed Election Outcomes,'' and
   4. Dan Schill for his paper, ``The visual image and the political image: Finding a place for visual communication in the study of political communication.''
   5. Isabelle Stevens, for her paper, ``The government as risk communicator: good communication practices in the context of terrorism,''
   6. Stefaan Walgrave, Jonas Lefevere, Michiel Nuytemans, and Peter van Aelst, for their paper, ``Issue Ownership Dynamics. How political parties claim and maintain issues through media appearances,''
   7. Michael Xenos and Amy Becker, for their paper, ``Moments of Zen: The Daily Show, Information Seeking, and Partisan Heuristics,''

i) Thanks
   1. All of the division members who gave their time to the conference.
   2. At UIC, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Communication, and three graduate students: Ryan Henke, James Owens for computer programming, and Chris Bodmann for assisting throughout the entire planning process.
   3. Patricia Moy for her leadership and patience

Look forward to working with Yarif Tsafati on the 2009 conference in Chicago.