

Dear colleagues,

Overall, we have had a very successful, large and diverse conference. Our division directly sponsored 30 paper sessions and panels (not counting one business meeting and one crowded reception at a local bar), an online session on advertising effects and a graduate student preconference.

The top faculty paper was "The Online Flow of Environmental Advocacy Clips from The Daily Show and The Colbert Report" by Geoffrey Baym of the U. of North Carolina, Greensboro and Chirag Shah of Rutgers University.

Our top student papers were: "Augmenting or Ameliorating the Knowledge Gap? A Panel Analysis of the Effects of Political TV Exposure on Campaign Learning " by Susana Dilliplane, U of Pennsylvania; "Effects of the Obama Presidential Campaign on White Racial Prejudice " by Seth K. Goldman, U of Pennsylvania; and "Brandishing Broomsticks and Dumping Dow: Rhetoric of Alternative Media Texts Related to Bhopal Gas Tragedy Activism" by Rahul Mukherjee, U of California, Santa Barbara.

The full planners' report will be available available through the division's website.

Several issues were discussed at our business meeting. First, the division decided to turn our Best Political Communication Article of the Year Award into a cash award and dedicate it to the memory of Keith R. Sanders and Lynda Lee Kaid. Sanders and Kaid were both distinguished and highly prolific scholars, mentors and academic administrators, whose work had a lasting impact on the field of political communication research. Both Sanders and Kaid spearheaded the founding of the Political Communication Division of ICA in 1973. Members who wish to contribute to the Award Fund will be able to do so through the ICA website in the coming weeks.

Second, Patricia Moy, Chair of the ICA-APSA Joint Publications Committee, reported to the membership on the current terms of our contract for our co-sponsored journal *Political Communication* and the numerous conversations she had with the publisher, Taylor & Francis, last year. This started a discussion regarding whether or not the division should renew this contract which we see as grossly unfair. The resolution that had passed was that as chair, I will contact the publisher and express our strong dissatisfaction with the terms of our contract. I have already wrote Taylor & Francis and a copy of the letter could be found on our website. I will update the Joint Publications Committee and our membership when we hear back from them.

The 2010 Political Communication Article of the Year Award was also announced at our annual business meeting. The winning article for 2010 was: Rojas, H. (2010). "Corrective" actions in the public sphere: How perceptions of media and media effects shape political behavior. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 22, 343-363. Many special thanks to the Article of the Year Award Committee: María José Canel (Spain), Clarissa David (The Philippines), William Eveland (Chair, USA), and David Weaver (USA).

This is an opportunity to thank all of the division members who gave their time to their conference as reviewers, presenters, respondents, and other duties. Special thanks to the Graduate Student Preconference Committee: Kevin Barnhurst, Geoffrey Baym, Claes de Vreese, Patricia Moy, Jim Shanahan, and Tamir Sheafer. I am also indebted to our Vice-Chair and Program Planner, Claes de Vreese (who have had extra loads of work overseeing the review process and putting the program together in this record-breaking submission year), our Newsletter Editor and Webmaster Talia Stroud, and all our committee chairs and members, whose work year-round is essential in order to keep our division strong.

We look forward to working on the 2012 conference in Phoenix. The call for papers will be circulated in several weeks.

Yariv Tsfati, Chair