

NCA *Women's* Voices

Newsletter of the Women's Caucus and the Feminist & Women's Studies Division

volume 1, number 1, fall 2004



in this issue

brenda allen wins 2004
francine merritt award...4

2003 awards...4

merritt award
back story...4

from your chairs...2-3

grad student news...3

send us your news...5

contact us...5

links...5

calls &
announcements...6

Welcome to *Voices*.

Thanks for Joining Us.

On behalf of the Women's Caucus and the Feminist & Women's Studies Division of the National Communication Association, welcome to *Voices*, your new newsletter. We hoped you would see this first issue as a website. But since NCA's web hosting has moved slowly and the November convention approaches quickly, email seemed sensible.

This is *your* newsletter. Our mission is simple: to be an inclusive voice for our members. We also hope to facilitate communication between NCA women and our sister organizations.



We invite your feedback and suggestions. Actually, we hope you'll want to contribute ideas, features, and news. So let us hear from you. And forward this issue to a friend.

Your Eager Editors,
Kim Golombisky and Kristina Horn Sheeler

Womentoring & Academic Identity

Discussions Planned for Chicago

Don't miss this innovative new addition to the Women's Caucus program.

Thanks to the vision of some Bowling Green graduate students, the first annual "Generating and Mentoring Academic Identities" Women's Caucus sessions have been scheduled for three Thursday time slots in Chicago at NCA 2004.

The students—Victoria Newsom, Toneisha Taylor, Felicia Sanders, and Katherine Hickok-Burk—know that the ability to enter and rise through the ranks of the academy often depends on meaningful mentoring and a positive self-identity, particularly for women. So at the Women's Caucus business meeting last November in Miami, Newsom proposed "womentoring," a series of discussions and alternative panels for Chicago.

Newsom said that "womentoring" suggests a more rewarding process of learning and networking for women, rather than the traditional "bachelor scholar track," too often still privileged in many parts of the academy.

continued on page 5



Purple Day

Show Your Solidarity in Chicago.

Wear Purple on the Day of the Women's Caucus Business Meeting.

The NCA Women's Caucus invites you to participate in its tradition of Purple Day to show solidarity for NCA women.

Purple Day 2004 in Chicago is scheduled for the same day as the Women's Caucus Business Meeting, currently set for Friday, Nov. 12, at 3:30 p.m., in the Mobley Room, lower level, Chicago Hilton.

Check your program or NCA's online program (www.natcom.org) to double check the date, time, and location so you can join us.

And don't forget to pack something purple before you head to Chicago. If your closet is lean on that particular color, the Women's Caucus will be selling purple lapel ribbons in Chicago as a fund raiser.

Women's Caucus**Mary Rose Williams**

Prior to our next business meeting in November, I would like members of the Women's Caucus to begin an electronic dialogue to address recurring questions that the brief business meeting does not allow us to pursue.

Is it time to re-evaluate our goals?

These questions include: Are the goals that the Women's Caucus was formed to accomplish still relevant? Do we need to revise the goals for the Women's Caucus? And how can the Women's Caucus be more relevant to women's lives in our discipline?

Sonja Foss recalls our original goals

Long-time member Sonja Foss suggests that the original goals of the Caucus were: (1) To gain recognition for women's contributions to the discipline. (2) To help women negotiate obstacles to professional success. (3) To achieve greater acceptance of feminist scholarship in the discipline (a goal that probably transferred to the Feminist and Women's Studies Division after we split into two entities).

Let's begin the discussion now

I would be interested in hearing similar recollections and opinions from other members with Caucus history, as well as thoughts from all members on whether our goals need to change.

Once we clarify our goals, I would like the discussion to turn to generating ideas as to how we can achieve them. Ideally, then, we can bring several suggestions for development to the meeting, thereby making our time more productive and efficient.

Please send your comments, ideas, and suggestions to me at mrwillia@cnu.edu.

—Mary Rose Williams, Women's Caucus Chair

Feminist & Women's Studies Division**Heidi Hamilton**

Greetings from the Feminist and Women's Studies Division! In this letter, I wanted to mention a couple items of interest to Division members.

First, plans are underway for the 2004 convention in Chicago. Our Unit Planner and Vice Chair Aimee Carrillo Rowe has been busy putting panels together. Given the adjustment in allocation of slots to each unit, which benefited our Division but harmed other units of interest to us, we discussed at the business meeting in Miami the need for the Division to work closely with other units to co-sponsor panels.

Second, organizational changes to NCA's governing structure, particularly the formation of the Legislative Assembly, have affected the Division. For the first time, the Division will have three representatives (as compared to two representatives on the Legislative Council). Previously, NCA's Constitution required that the chair and past chair serve as the two representatives, but this is no longer the case. Additionally, the Division's representative to the Nominating Committee is no longer required to be the immediate past chair. These changes necessitate the Division putting into place procedures for how our representatives will be chosen. We, of course, may continue to choose our representatives as we have in the past, but this will be a matter for discussion at the business meeting in Chicago. The important issue will be how to make the best use of our opportunities for representation.

I urge you to attend the Division business meeting in November and to look for panels sponsored by the Division. I look forward to seeing you in Chicago!

—Heidi Hamilton, F&WS Division Chair

Business Meetings**NCA 2004, Chicago**

Women's Caucus

Friday, Nov. 12, 3:30 p.m.

Moble Lower Level, Chicago Hilton

Feminist & Women's Studies Division

Friday, Nov. 12, 5 p.m.

McCormick BR, Chicago Hilton





Women's Caucus news from your past chair, Sheryl Lidzy

2003 was a busy year for the Women's Caucus, but a couple of items should be noted:

Special thanks to linda pyscher jurczak for taking minutes at the Women's Caucus business meetings in both 2002 and 2003. Our *Voices* editors tell me linda gets credit for the newsletter's name, too.

Purple Day: We will honor Purple Day on the day of the 2004 business meeting in Chicago. A student from Colorado State University, Raena Quinlivan, created purple solidarity ribbons that were distributed in 2003. Second Vice Chair Elect Kim Golombisky will be responsible for creating ribbons for distribution/sale in Chicago. Funds raised by the sale of ribbons will be used to purchase the Francine Merritt Award plaque.

2004 Francine Merritt Award: Because of inexplicable errors on the part of NCA and *Spectra*, our call for nominations for the 2004 Francine Merritt Award—sent to NCA in January—never appeared in any of the spring editions of *Spectra*. Nonetheless, the quality of this year's nominations was very high, and I'm happy to announce our distinguished 2004 recipient, Brenda J. Allen. Dr. Allen joins good company.

Past Merritt Award recipients include:

1991: Anita Taylor
1992: Cheris Kramarae
1993: Sonja Foss
1994: Marsha Houston
1995: Julia Wood
1996: Karlyn Kohrs Campbell
1997: Lois Self
1998: Mary Roberts
1999: Fern Johnson
2000: Carole Blair
2001: Jane Blankenship
2002: Karen Foss
2003: Judy Pearson

Start thinking about 2005 nominations. In the meantime, I hope to see you in Chicago.

—Sheryl Lidzy, Past Chair, Women's Caucus

Graduate Student News

by Katherine Hickok-Burk, Victoria Newsom,
& Toniesha Taylor (Bowling Green)

Womentoring Panels Up and Running for Chicago

A discussion at the Women's Caucus meeting at NCA last year inspired us to plan the first annual "Generating and Mentoring Academic Identities" sessions at NCA 2004. The sessions are scheduled for three slots at NCA on Thursday. Through the generosity of several schools, departments, and organizations, a breakfast service is also tentatively planned to kick off the event. There is still a need for sponsors for the breakfast, so if your institution might be interested, contact Victoria Newsom at vaneewso@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

We proposed the sessions, arranged for the breakfasts, and recruited the participants. As student scholars, we know that the ability to enter and rise through the ranks of the academy successfully can be challenging without positive mentoring. Alternatives to traditional styles of academic mentoring, such as "womentoring," suggest a more rewarding process in which women mentor women.

We invite you to participate in the Women's Caucus discussion of re-creating mentoring in the academy. We have enlisted a number of inspiring scholars to participate as discussion leaders. Given the successful recruitment of "womentors" for this year, and the opportunity for graduate students to become involved in organizing, planning, and networking on behalf of the Women's Caucus, we hope that these Womentoring sessions will become an annual NCA event.

Some of this year's topics include: Gender in the Academy, Careers at Research Institutions, Careers at Teaching Institutions, Careers Beyond the Academy, Technology and International Access to Academic Ideals and Standards, De-Privileging Academic Stereotypes, and Young Scholars: Starting the Academic Identity Development Process.



Congratulations Brenda Allen!

2004 Francine Merritt Award Recipient

for Outstanding Contributions to the Lives of Women in Communication

S*pectra* scooped us on announcing Brenda J. Allen as the 2004 recipient of the Francine Merritt Award. But we couldn't be more pleased to offer our warm and slightly more personal congratulations.

Hearing she won the Merritt Award, Brenda said, "I'm honored and humbled."

No, Brenda, we're humbled by your accomplishments in organizational communication and your commitment to bringing serious discussion about intersections among race, gender, sexual orientation, class, and identity to the field.

Her fans say she has "'mothered minds' of countless scholars," and she "embodies the 'ethic of care' that the Women's Caucus honors through the Francine Merritt Award."

Her latest book, *Difference Matters: Communicating Social Identity*, explores how dominant and non-dominant identities affect organizations.

Brenda earned her BA in speech pathology from Case Western Reserve and her MA and Ph.D. in organizational communication from Howard University.

Her impressive vitae is too long to do it justice here, but highlights include over 20 publications covering organizations, critical race



Brenda J. Allen, 2004 Merritt Award winner.

The Francine Merritt Award reception is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 12, 5-6:15, Mobley Lower Level, Chicago Hilton.

and gender theory, social identity, and computer-mediated communication.

She currently serves as chair of NCA's Organizational Communication Division, 2nd vice president of the Western States Communication Association, and web spinner for the Organization for Research on Women and Communication.

She also co-edits the *International and Intercultural Communication Annual*, and she serves on the editorial boards of *The Howard Journal of Communication*, *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*, and *Women Studies in Communication*, among others.

2003 Award Winners

Judy Pearson won the 2003 Francine Merritt Award. Judy is North Dakota State University's associate dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, as well as director of the doctoral program and professor of communication. Judy also served as NCA president in 2003.

The Feminist and Women's Studies Division top paper award went to Amy J. Pierce from Saginaw Valley State University for her paper titled "More Than Just a Mom in Tennis Shoes: Exploring the Effects of Gender and Status in Patty Murray's Senatorial Campaign Rhetoric."

The F&WSD top student paper award went to Emilie Zaslów from New York University for her paper titled "Exploring Commodified Resistance: The Case of Girl Power in Media Culture."

Merritt Award Honors Memory of Longtime Women's Advocate

Francine Merritt taught at Louisiana State University from 1947 to 1984 in what was then the Department of Speech. Her distinguished career included tireless advocacy on behalf of the status of women at the university, regional, and national levels.

The award began as a bequest from Professor Merritt, to which her former students and colleagues lovingly contributed in order to endow it.

Today, the Francine Merritt Award honors "outstanding contributions to the lives of women in communication."

Presented by the NCA Women's Caucus, the Merritt award annually recognizes an individual for the kind of selfless work and service that characterized Francine's life and inspired her admirers among NCA women.

womentoring, continued from page 1

With an enthusiastic blessing from the Women's Caucus, the students then proposed and planned the program, enlisted participants, and recruited sponsors. Communication scholars representing a wide range of disciplines have agreed to be group leaders for the series.

Through the generosity of several schools, departments, and organizations, the students also tentatively have planned refreshments for the sessions, although sponsors are still in short supply. Institutions, individuals, and groups interested in supporting the event should contact Victoria Newsom at vaneuso@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

On behalf of the NCA Women's Caucus, the students invite everyone to participate in this discussion of mentoring in the academy. They have enjoyed the chance to network and be active in NCA, so they hope their idea will become an annual event, giving the same opportunities to other graduate students.

Generating & Mentoring Academic Identities
Thursday, Nov. 11, Moblely Lower Level, Chicago Hilton
Part I: 8-9:15
Part II: 9:30-10:45
Part III: 12:30-1:45

What's New?

Send us your news.

Voices welcomes news of interest to our readers. Send your calls, items, announcements, photos, and ideas for *Voices* stories to: Kim Golombisky, kgolombi@cas.usf.edu. Interested in getting a byline or two? Tell us what you'd like to write about. *Voices* is looking for contributing news and features writers.



Contact Us.

Your Editors:

Kim Golombisky

kgolombi@cas.usf.edu
School of Mass Communications CIS1040
University of South Florida
4202 E. Fowler Ave.
Tampa, FL 33620

Kristina Horn Sheeler, web spinner

ksheeler@iupui.edu
Communication Studies
Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis
CA307B
425 University Blvd.
Indianapolis, IN 46202



Hook up with our Friends

Visit their websites for information, announcements, and calls. Better yet, join them.

AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication
Homepage: <http://www.unlv.edu/orgs/cswaejmc>
Women's Words online newsletter:
<http://journalism/cmich.edu/womenswords>

ICA Feminist Scholarship Division

International Communication Association
Homepage: <http://www.icaheadq.org/divisions/feminist>
Feminist Con/text online newsletter (See FSD homepage)

ORWAC

Organization for Research on Women and Communication
Homepage: <http://www.orwac.org>
Journal: *Women's Studies in Communication*: <http://www.bk.psu.edu/faculty/ramsey/wsic.html>

OSCLG

Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender
Homepage: <http://www.osclg.org>
Online Newsletter: <http://www.slu.edu/colleges/AS/CMM/faculty/OSCLG%20August.pdf>
Journal: *Women & Language*: <http://www.womenandlanguage.org>





Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, and Gender:

27th Annual Meeting, Oct. 14-17

Saint Mary's College, Indiana

There's still time to make the conference, featuring the theme "Challenges in a Changing Intercultural Environment."

For more information, visit: <http://www.osclg.org>.

Eastern Communication Association, Voices of Diversity Interest Group, Communicating Greater Expectations, Pittsburgh, April 27 – May 1, 2005

Submissions Deadline: Oct. 15, 2004

Contact Bill Starosta: wjs@jstar.tv

3015 Rosemoor Lane

Fairfax, VA 22031

Women's Caucus of the Central States Communication Association, 2005 Convention, Kansas City

Submission Deadline: Oct. 1, 2004

The CSCA Women's Caucus invites submission of competitive papers and panel proposals on all aspects of gender communication studies. The 2005 conference theme is "Communication: At the Heart of Everything." For more information, contact Lucretia Scoufos: lscoufos@sosu.edu.

Call for Papers & Proposals, ICA Feminist Scholarship Division, 2005 Conference: May 26-30, "Communication: Questioning the Dialogue"

Deadline: Nov. 1, 2004, 11 p.m.

FSD is interested in receiving papers and panel or roundtable proposals that explore the relationship between gender and communication, both mediated and non-mediated, within a context of feminist theories, methodologies, and practices. Submissions may be completed papers (max. 25 pages), shorter works in progress (8-10 pages), or panel proposals (title, 400-word rationale, 150-word description of each panel paper, 75-word rationale for conference program, and complete list of participants). Visit the ICA website for complete guidelines, including online submission requirements.

calls & announcements

Call for Papers, Special Issue of the *Journal of International Women's Studies*: "Volumes: New Insights on the Gendered Construction of Space(s)"

Deadline: Nov. 15, 2004

From prisons to temples, red-light districts to office parks, malls to street markets, toilets to tea gardens, space reflects and reproduces power relations. This special issue of the *JIWS* seeks to examine gendered constructions of space(s). We seek scholarly and creative articles, essays, poetry, book reviews, and photography that explore space from a range of critical perspectives. Submissions should be directed to the special issue editor. All submissions must be received via electronic file: Valerie Begley, special issue editor, valeriebegley@yahoo.com.

Organization for the Study of Communication, Language, & Gender: Book Review Opportunities

Anyone interested in reviewing a book or in having a book reviewed should contact Patty Sotirin, OSCLG book review editor, at pjsotiri@mtu.edu.

Women & Language

Women & Language seeks to stimulate dialogue and inquiry centering on questions of how gender is constructed and how the processes of difference, dichotomy, and hierarchy are involved in such gender constructions. *W&L* aims to uncover the interconnections among sex, gender, race, class, and heterosexual hegemony, examining the role of symbolic communication, verbal and non-verbal, in those processes and connections, attending especially to the impacts of masculinist paradigms in communication. As a periodical that is both newsletter and journal, *W&L* provides an outlet for descriptive research and theoretical speculation and welcomes submissions of completed research, essays, poetry, information about work in progress, bibliographical materials, and news. *W&L* invites contributions from teachers, consultants, and practitioners, as well as researchers. For information on submissions and subscriptions, contact Anita Taylor, editor, at ataylor@gmu.edu. Or visit: www.womenandlanguage.org

Women & Language Opportunities

W&L invites abstracts from presented conference papers dealing with issues of gender, communication, and language. Submit to Anita Taylor, editor, at ataylor@gmu.edu.

Still available: *W&L*'s spring 2003 special issue "Global Issues in Feminism: Challenges, Opportunities, Insights," featuring an introduction by Deborah Ballard-Reisch.

Women's Studies in Communication

is a forum for scholarship, reviews, and commentary about the relationships among women, gender, and feminism. As a journal that begins by recognizing that the personal is political, *WSIC* is uniquely suited to serve a great population of scholars, teachers, and students without situating any particular research methodology or topic as more (or less) appropriate than any other. The journal is committed to methodological diversity and features work from quantitative, qualitative, and critical perspectives in areas such as interpersonal, organizational, and small group communication, rhetorical theory and criticism, and media and cultural studies. The editor is simultaneously committed to publishing the best scholarship within these parameters and to encouraging the development of novice scholars. For additional information, subscriptions, and/or submission guidelines, please contact: Sarah Hayden, *WSIC* editor, Department of Communication Studies, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812-1028. Or email at: wsic@mso.umt.edu

NCA Women's Voices, Newsletter of the Women's Caucus and Feminist & Women's Studies Division:

Call for Articles, Features, and Essays that Explore & Document our Histories
Voices seeks contributors interested in submitting articles that document the histories of the Women's Caucus and the Feminist & Women's Studies Division, explore the changing roles of women in NCA, and help us honor the key figures who have made significant contributions to the status of women in NCA or to the study of women or feminism in communication. Contact Kim Golombisky, kgolombi@cas.usf.edu.