14th Annual
Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

Saturday, February 18, 2017
Salt Lake City, UT
#usrc2017
Welcome to the 14th Annual Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

The 14th annual Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference is finally here! I received over 90 stellar submissions that were reviewed by faculty throughout the Western States Communication Association (WSCA). Kudos to all those who submitted their work!

This year’s conference includes presentations on a variety of timely topics. The papers represent a breadth and depth of ideas, methodologies, and standpoints that are reflective of our diverse Communication faculty. I am impressed by the work that our undergraduate students have done and will continue to do. Be sure to attend the 12:30pm Awards Reception where we will recognize those students who are receiving Top Paper awards.

Following the conference, please join me for the Graduate Student Workshop. A number of Graduate Coordinators and Graduate Advisors will provide suggestions for how to apply to and successfully complete graduate school. We’ll conclude with our Graduate Programs Open House, where you can find out more information about graduate programs within our region.

I’d like to thank last year’s Second Vice-President, Eric Aoki, for his advice and detailed records, as well as WSCA’s Executive Director, Heather Hundley, for knowing just about everything. I’m also grateful to all of the panel chairs/respondents, workshop panelists, reviewers, and sponsors for making the planning of this event enjoyable.

When you see me, don’t be surprised if I’m taking pictures of all the exciting events at the Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference. You can find the pictures on social media: #usrc2017. Join me online in documenting this momentous occasion!

Dr. Marnel Niles Goins
WSCA Second Vice-President
# Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

## Saturday, February 18, 2017

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Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference

Welcome Reception & Continental Breakfast
8:00 - 8:15am
Teton

Session 1
8:30 – 9:30am

Panel 1: Who Has the Power?  Sinclair
Chair and Respondent: Christopher M. Duerringer, California State University, Long Beach
America the Beautiful: Examining America’s Racially Inclined Notion of Beauty
   Brenda Barniga, California State University, San Marcos
Borne by the State: Inmate Pregnancy Termination and the State’s (Re)Productive Power
   Marguerite Nguyen Lehman, University of San Diego
Figuring Out the Power Dynamics of a Strip Club: Power Dynamics, Gaining and Regaining
   Power, and the Dehumanization of it All
   Ashley Neal, California State University, Los Angeles
Ute Nickname Research Project: The Rhetoric Surrounding the University of Utah’s Nickname
   on Social Media and its Influence on Representation of the Northern Ute Nation
   Sarah Patterson, University of Utah

Panel 2: American Politics  Casper
Chair and Respondent: Gerri Smith, Sacramento State
Unveiling Prejudice: Addressing Islamophobic Rhetoric’s Role in the 2016 Election
   Kaleemah Muttaqi, Cosumnes River College
Political Efficacy and Online Political Participation
   Jessica Jasso, University of the Pacific
California’s 7th Congressional District Race in 2016: An Ethnography about American Politics
   Tyler Gunn, Cosumnes River College
Researching Media Coverage of the 2016 First Presidential Debate
   Jillian Self, Cosumnes River College
Session 1 (Continued)
8:30 – 9:30am

Panel 3: Communication Strategies in Context
Cheyenne
Chair and Respondent: Tara G. McManus, University of Las Vegas
The Influence of “Big Talk” on Communication Apprehension Among Students at the University of Wyoming
   Sara Kirkpatrick, University of Wyoming
A Life Full of Challenges: Exploring the Stressors and Coping Strategies of Emerging Adult Undergraduate Student Parents
   Kaleb C. Esplin, Utah State University
The Relationship Between Nonverbal Mirroring and Reciprocal Self-Disclosure
   Tyler J. Read, Northwest Nazarene University
Authenticity and the Lyrical Strategies Employed by White Rappers
   Irene Sanders, University of Colorado, Denver

Session 2
9:45 – 10:45am

Panel 1: Communicating in Close Relationships
Sinclair
Chair and Respondent: Christina Granato Yoshimura, University of Montana
Humor Functions Throughout Platonic Relationships: Knapp’s Staircase Model
   Greg Shipman, University of Puget Sound
   Duyen Vo, University of Puget Sound
   Alesha Brown, University of Puget Sound
Brothers Here, Brothers There, Brothers Everywhere: An Intersection of Gender, Communal Identity, and the Contingency of Language
   Javi Fuentes, Southwestern University
Communication Strategies Used by Individuals in Multicultural Families to Negotiate Differences
   Haley Pasquariello, University of Colorado, Denver
Does Your Coach Affect You? An Exploration of the Influences of Coaches’ Communication Styles on Team Sports Players
   Joseph Fontana, California State University, Fullerton
   Joseph Leung, California State University, Fullerton
Session 2 (Continued)
9:45 – 10:45am

Panel 2: Organizational Influence and Socialization
Chair and Respondent: Carlos Tarin, University of Texas, El Paso
Georgetown University: Slavery, Legacy, and Reconciliation as Understood Through Communication Theory
   Olivia Cook, Pacific Lutheran University
   Brooke Wolfe, Pacific Lutheran University
A Perfect Storm: Organizational Politics
   Elizabeth McGree, University of Portland
Always, Always, Always an RA: A Study in Socialization of Resident Assistants
   Peter Sotos, University of Portland
Population Paradox: Envision Utah and the Not-So-Infinite Environment
   Weston G. W. Wood, University of Utah

Panel 3: Acceptance, Inclusion, and Humanity
Chair and Respondent: Donna M. E. Allen, Northern Nazarene University
Humanizing Through Method: A Communication Ethnography of Homelessness in Fresno
   Cathleen M. Fagundes, Fresno State
Freak Show and the Need for Inclusion in American Society
   Brandon C. Beach, California State University, San Marcos
The Harry Potter Novels as a Tool for Increasing Acceptance of Diversity
   Katy Eldridge, California State University, San Marcos
“I Just Want to Smile Like Everyone Else”: Patients’ Narratives of Dental Health, Communication, and Identity
   Lorain Rice, San Diego State University

Break & Snack
10:45 – 11:30am
Teton
Session 3
11:30 – 12:30pm

Panel 1: Talk, Food, and Family
Chair and Respondent: Greg Dickinson, Colorado State University
Talk of Religion and Spirituality in Mother-Daughter Communication
Kahryn Pedroza, University of San Francisco
You Don’t Know Me: Discourse and the Identity of Chefs and Cooks
Brianna Pitcock, Boise State University
Reconceptualization of Food through Metaphors in Food Documentary Films to Motivate Lifestyle Changes
J, University of Colorado, Denver
Rituals and Family Identity: An Interview Communication Study of Mealtimes
Christy Xiong, Fresno State

Panel 2: Media and Engagement
Chair and Respondent: Derek Buescher, University of Puget Sound
Perpetuating Perceptions: Global News Coverage of the East African Drought, Responsibility, and Views on Climate Change
Mara Midiere, University of Portland
Environmental Journalism: Deriving Best Practices from Environmental Communication and Journalism Strategies
Clare Duffy, University of Portland
“If It Bleeds, We Can Kill It”: Conservative Responses to Gender in Predator
Michael Foist, Indiana University-Purdue University, Columbus
Finding Dory: Challenging Counter-Hegemonic Representations of Disability
Danielle C. Biss, California State University, San Marcos

Panel 3: Culture and Politics
Chair and Respondent: Robert Gehl, University of Utah
A Latina Judge’s Voice: A Look at Sonia Sotomayor’s American Dream Racial Narrative
Yasmine X. Robles, Willamette University
The Impact of the Media on Vietnam War Veterans Returning Home from the War
Jordan Thomas, Utah Valley University
The Game, The Prize, and War Crimes: Geopolitics and Soft War in Syria
Christine L. Brady, University of Utah
The Theatrical Myth of Obama in Cuba
Patrick Conroy, Willamette University
Awards Reception
12:30 – 1:00pm
Teton

Graduate Student Workshop
2:00 – 3:30pm
Sun Valley

A panel of Graduate Advisors and Graduate Program Coordinators from a diverse set of graduate programs and academic institutions offers suggestions and advice for applying to, attending, and succeeding in graduate school.

Donovan Conley, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Lisa Flores, University of Colorado, Boulder
Michele Foss-Snowden, Sacramento State
Helene A. Shugart, University of Utah
Tricia Taylor, University of California, Santa Barbara

Graduate Programs Open House
3:45 – 5:00pm
Ballroom C

The Graduate Programs Open House provides undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity to meet representatives from universities that have master's and doctoral programs in Communication.
Acknowledgements

Faculty Reviewers

Andy Alali, California State University, Bakersfield
Fatma Zahrae Chrifi Alaoui, San Francisco State
Donna M. E. Allen, Northwest Nazarene University
Jennifer Asenas, Cal State University, Long Beach
Jennifer Bevan, Chapman University
Nick Brody, University of Puget Sound
Dan Brouwer, Arizona State University
Derek Buescher, University of Puget Sound
Bernadette Calafell, University of Denver
Donovan Conley, University of Las Vegas
D. Robert DeChaine, Cal State University, Los Angeles
Audrey Deterding, Northern Arizona University
Greg Dickinson, Colorado State University
Qingwen Dong, University of the Pacific
Sam Dorros, Chapman University
Sharon Downey, Cal State University, Long Beach
Christopher Duerringer, Cal State University, Long Beach
Shinsuke Eguchi, University of New Mexico
Deanna Fassett, San Jose State
Lisa Flores, University of Colorado, Boulder
Douglas Fraleigh, Fresno State
Amira De La Garza, Arizona State University
Robert Gehl, University of Utah
Donna Gotch, Cal State University, San Bernardino
Jennifer Guthrie, University of Las Vegas
Sara Hayden, University of Montana
Kirstie Hettinga, California Lutheran University
Amy Heyse, Cal State University, Long Beach
Mary Husain, Fresno State
Kevin Johnson, Cal State University, Long Beach
Falon Karch, Fresno State
Jinah Kim, Cal State University, Northridge
Julianna Kirschner, Claremont Graduate University
Brandi Lawless, University of San Francisco
Daisy Lemus, Cal State University, Northridge
Kurt Lindemann, University of San Diego
Chris Maben, Sacramento State
Amin Makkawy, Fresno State
Peter Marston, Cal State University, Northridge
Lynda McCroskey, Cal State University, Long Beach
George McHendry, Creighton University
Tara G McManus, University of Las Vegas
Michael Keith Middleton, University of Utah
A. Susan Owen, University of Puget Sound
Jelena Petrovic, Stetson University
Pavithra Prasad, Cal State University, Northridge
Allison Prasch, Colorado State University
Rodney Reynolds, California Lutheran University
James Saucedo, Cal State University, Long Beach
Natasha Shrikant, University of Colorado, Boulder
Donna Simmons, Cal State University, Bakersfield
Gerri Smith, Sacramento State
Stacey Sowards, University of Texas at El Paso
Russell Stockard, California Lutheran University
Carlos Tarin, University of Texas at El Paso
Lindsey Thomas, University of Puget Sound
Allison Thorson, University of San Francisco
Riva Tuckachinsky, Chapman University
Cynthia Wang, Cal State University, Los Angeles
Larry Williamson, University of San Diego
Christina Granato Yoshimura, University of Montana
Stephen Yoshimura, University of Montana

Panel Chairs / Respondents and Graduate Workshop Panelists
(as noted in program)

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Western States Communication Association
Fresno State Department of Communication
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Thank you to the departments, faculty, and families who supported their undergraduates in attending this year’s Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference!