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Western States Communication Association
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Undergraduate Scholars Research Conference
Albuquerque Hyatt
Albuquerque, NM
February 18, 2012

Conference Events
8:30-1:00 USRC
2:00-3:00 Graduate Student Workshop
3-4:20 Graduate Program Open House
Welcome Enchantment A

9:00- 10:00 Enchantment C
Session 1: Rhetoric, Media and A Call to Action
Chair & Respondent: Professor Christina Yoshimura, U. of Montana
Melissa L. Milbourne, California State University, Sacramento, “Amusing Ourselves Towards Enlightenment.”
Marion A. Munn, University of Utah, “Substantive Silences: Erasing the Man, Making the Monolith.”
Aaron Zamora, University of LaVerne, “Lessons from Tucson: A Political Call to Action Through a Eulogy.”
Rachel E. Collyer, Arizona State University, “Constructing Coverage: An Exploration of How Media Shaped the People of Columbine.”

9:00-10:00 Enchantment D
Session 2: Media and Feminism
Chair & Respondent: Ann Darling, University of Utah
Brigid Hoffman, University of South Dakota, “Food, Femininity, and Family: The Discourse of Family Meals.”
Ava Nguyen, California State University, Long Beach, “The Fashion of Political Rejection: Lady Gaga’s Burlesque Style as Social Critique.”
Ariana Crisafulli, University of the Pacific, “The Controversy Behind Rihanna’s S&M: How the Expression of Sexuality is Liberating Women.”

10:10-11:10 Enchantment C
Session 3: Communicating in College and for Careers
Chair & Respondent: Professor Deanna P. Dannels, North Carolina State University
Pareesa Naghavi, Krista Rotondo, Cecelia Stewart, Bridget Tattersall, Rachael Winkler, Chapman University, “Sexual Culture on a College Campus.”
Maria S. Cruz, Chapman University, “A Qualitative Analysis of the Communication Challenges Professional Women Face.”
Brian Coleman, Shelby Parsons, Pepperdine University, “Sensemaking in the Communication Division.”
Joan Palmer, Utah Valley University, “Social Penetration and Other Nontraditional Students in the Mixed Age Classroom.”

10:10-11:10 Enchantment D
Session 4: Critical Explorations of New Media
Chair & Respondent: Professor David Zuckerman, California State University, Sacramento
Sarah L. Layne, University of the Pacific, “Flaming on YouTube.”
Tamlyn Kurogi, California State University, Long Beach, “Crystal Clear Sex-Box: Obscenity and Video Games.”
Laurel Barrett, University of the Pacific, “Facebook Usage and its Connection to Jealousy in a Romantic Relationship.”
Sheena Stucki, Tristan Wilkie, Utah Valley University, “Smart Phone Use and Relational Uncertainty.”

11:10-11:40 Break, refreshments served Enchantment A

11:40-12:40 Enchantment C
Session 5: Conceptualizing Identities
Chair & Respondent: Tracey Holden, University of Delaware
Brianna N. Muehl, California State University San Marcos, “A Controversial Redefinition of Pornography.”
Joelle Mestemacher, California State University San Marcos, “Feminist Rhetoric in Fictional Narratives: A Cluster Analysis of Kate Chopin’s ‘The Story Hour.’”
Sarah Beck, University of New Mexico, “Nerd Girls: Postmodern Identity and Representation of the Female Nerd on Television.”
Mark Wood, California State University, Long Beach, “Homosexuality Meets Christian Theology.”

11:40-12:40 Enchantment D
Session 6: Environment, Culture, and Communication
Chair & Respondent: Fran Dickson, Chapman University
Courtney Holand, Metropolitan State College of Denver, “Application of Affect Theory: How Does Nonverbal Communication Seen in Dogs Influence the Understanding of Affect.”
Kyle Alvarado, Diane Arrieta, Sarah Borrego, Tracy Wittebolle, University of Texas, El Paso, “Environmental Socialization: The Mass Media, Culture, Gender, and Human-Animal Interaction.”
Hayley Madsen, Taylor Stevens, Nicole Broch, Mac Wiseley, Chapman University, “Understanding the Complexities Associated with Managing Difficult Interactions Over Seas.”
Maria Aurora P. Deguzman, University of Hawaii at Manoa, “Remembering Hawaii Statehood in Hawaii’s English-Language Newspapers: How Biased Newspaper Coverage Affects Historical Narrative Creation.”

12:45-1:00 Awards Enchantment A