

**Meeting of the Doctoral Education Committee**  
**Thursday, November 15, 2012**  
**Minutes**

I. Welcome & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Tim Kuhn, U. of Colorado.

II. Report on the Miller Dissertation Award (Larry Frey, U. of Colorado)

An extended report on the process for choosing the Miller dissertation awards was provided by Larry Frey. He was assisted by Tamara Afifi, Pat Arneson, Lynn Harter, John Oetzel, Mary Vavrus, and Joe Walther. The two winners were:

**Thomas Dunn** (Colorado State University), whose dissertation, "Queerly Remembered: Tactical and Strategic Rhetorics for Representing the GLBQT Past," directed by Dr. Lester Olson (University of Pittsburgh)

**Christy Ledford** (Department of Biomedical Informatics at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences), whose dissertation, "Improving Patient Outcomes through Physician Communication: Message Frame and Presentation Mode Influence on the Walking Behavior of Type 2 Diabetics," directed by Dr. Gary Kreps (George Mason University)

Discussion followed on the process, noting especially the difficulty in recruiting members to serve on the awards review committee. Some who did serve were unwilling to read dissertations outside their areas of expertise, which some members noted should not be a reason not to award. This year, 2 of a possible 3 awards were given. Those who had advocated submitting a dissertation noted the difficulty of "blinding" a dissertation for review. Several members noted benefits of blind review, including more valid choices of awards. Trevor Parry-Giles of NCA noted that the award listing has been enhanced on the NCA awards webpage.

III. Report on NCA 2012 Panel on Doctoral Education

A panel was created in Orlando in cooperation with sponsorship by the Student Section to reach out to graduate students and give them some useful information and advice. We would like to continue to have a panel each year, although DEC does not have an allotted slot.

**Advancing the Communication Discipline: Professional Development in Doctoral Education**

Sun, 11/18: 9:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Swan, Lark 2

A key element of "advancing the communication discipline" is to strengthen doctoral education. This panel pursues that end by addressing contemporary challenges, as well as opportunities, for both PhD students and for doctoral programs. The contributors will focus on how both students and curricula might develop distinctive identities, find sources of support and inspiration, and situate themselves in broad interdisciplinary fields.

- *Eric M. Eisenberg*, Univ of South Florida
- *Ronald Walter Greene*, Univ of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- *Trevor Parry-Giles*, National Communication Association
- *Linda L. Putnam*, Univ of California, Santa Barbara
- *Emily A. Rauscher*, University of Southern Indiana

#### IV. Report on USC's 2012 Doctoral Honors Seminar

Tom Goodnight of the University of Southern California reported on hosting the 2012 Doctoral Honors Seminar. They had over 110 submissions, selected 40, and had 39 presenters. A dozen faculty participated in 8 panels and 2 plenary sessions. Goodnight reported he met personally with all participants, and appreciated NCA giving flexibility to work with the seminar to suit local culture. He noted a wish to involve his own graduate students more, and needed more "network takeaways" from the event. He described the discussions as "lively" and had a wonderful experience. Trevor Parry-Giles noted that NCA does not want a "if you host it, you will not get to play" feeling about hosting the seminar.

#### V. Report on planning for 2013 Doctoral Honors Seminar at University of Maine (July 18-21)

The University of Maine will host the 2013 Doctoral Honors Seminar, calling for submissions in the areas of communication and the environment, rhetoric and materiality, and digital media convergence. It will take place in a beautiful location: the Schoodic Education and Research Center, Schoodic Point, Acadia National Park, Maine. Participants will even be supported in renting a car to get there.

Tim Kuhn has proposed increasing the NCA contribution to hosting institutions to \$20,000. It often costs the hosting university about that same amount. Travel and lodging make up the large part of expenses. Some have considered cutting honoraria for faculty participants for the sake of staying in budget.

#### VI. Nominees for Membership on the DEC:

The five individuals below were nominated for new membership, four to be chosen by the committee on committees. It was suggested to nominate only four each year who are willing to serve, to avoid "rejections" and encourage all who are willing to serve to do so. This year's "odd person out" and last year's (reportedly Jeff Child of Kent State) will be asked to serve starting next year, with two other proposed individuals.

- Kevin Barge, Texas A&M (Nominator: T. Kuhn)
- Carl Botan, George Mason U. (Nominator: L. Frey)
- Adrienne Kunkel, Kansas (Nominator: S. Tracy)
- Craig Scott, Rutgers (Nominator: P. Buzzanell)
- Nathan Stormer, Maine (Nominator: T. Kuhn)

#### VII. Report by Trevor Parry-Giles, NCA Associate Director for Academic and Professional Affairs

- An upcoming Reputational Study is in the works, but it needs to be done thoughtfully and carefully, in the wake of flaws in the 1998 and 2004 versions. It is a complicated endeavor and they are trying to do it well. Although the last survey called for an updated survey every three years, all had been anxiously awaiting the NRC survey. The latter proved complicated and of questionable usefulness. In responding to questions about "why do this again?" when the top programs get reinvigorated but the bottom 50% feel downgraded by their own organization, members noted three benefits: it is useful for many programs to make the case to their administrations of the effectiveness of their graduate program; it is useful for recruiting prospective graduate students; it is useful for constructively shaping department goals through understanding what kinds of criteria are valued by the field.
- NCA has promoted paths to external funding and external relations through a video series posted on obtaining grants along with building relationships with partner organizations. Representatives of several have attended NCA in past years and talked with members and given

advice. Noted that “we can guide people in how to apply for grants, lead people to grants, but we cannot get them to apply for grants.”

- The NCA Career Center is evolving to assist people with looking for jobs, especially given the changes in the academy and some need to look outside it for available positions.
- The NCA Research & Publication Guide on the website seeks to guide members toward success while being honest about the process. Communication studies is quite varied and includes many differences in the publication process, so this is a challenge.

#### VIII. New Business

##### A. Election of Incoming Vice-Chair

Sarah Tracy of Arizona State University was nominated and elected by acclamation.

##### B. Election of Incoming Miller Dissertation Award Chair

Tim Kuhn of the University of Colorado graciously offered to fulfill this role, noting that the process may need to be moved up so that reviews do not primarily happen over the summer as people are out and travelling. (Deborah Cai suggested she might be willing to serve next year.)

##### C. Proposal: DEC member responsibility to serve on Miller Award Committee once during 3-year term.

This proposal was previewed early in the meeting, discussed further, and passed without dissent.

Suggestions followed that past recipients and even the faculty advisers of past recipients should be asked to serve, as well.

##### D. Continuing as needed on the NCA agenda is the question of a budget line for the DEC.

#### IX. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Submitted by John Meyer, Vice Chair.

## Doctoral Education Committee

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Term End: 12/31/2012  
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**From:** Timothy R Kuhn  
[Tim.Kuhn@colorado.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 28, 2012 12:04 PM  
**To:** Lawrence R. Frey Ph.D.; Pat Arneson;  
cellis@cas.usf.edu; vavru001@umn.edu;  
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**Subject:** Nominating a Colleague for NCA's Doc  
Ed Committee

Hello, Members of NCA's Doctoral Education  
Committee:

Though the NCA convention is still a couple of  
months away, I'm writing to you because we—  
as members of the Doctoral Education  
Committee (DEC)—have the responsibility of  
nominating new members to fill out this  
committee. We need to select 4 people to send  
along to NCA, with selection to happen in  
Orlando. So, could you contact a couple people  
in your personal network and see if they'd be  
willing to be nominated for a 3-year term? Feel  
free to twist arms as necessary.

As you know, this committee doesn't demand a  
great deal of one's time, but it provides a useful  
opportunity for those interested in developing  
our field's doctoral education practices. And,  
with the next version of NCA's reputational  
study on the horizon, there's an opportunity to  
be part of the development of an important  
assessment tool.

If possible, could you send the nomination  
materials to me by **Wednesday, Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>**?  
Nominating a friend isn't too labor-intensive:  
all you need to do is to write a brief letter of  
nomination and have the person submit a short  
(5 page max) CV (I've copied the NCA bullet  
points on nominating someone, or doing a self-  
nomination, below). And, to help you as you  
craft your persuasive appeal, I've also copied a  
description of the DEC to make it clear what  
these folks will be getting themselves into.

(Also, I've attached a list of who's currently on  
the DEC ...)

Thanks--and let me know if you have any  
questions!

~ Tim Kuhn (DEC chair)

#### WHAT IS THE DEC?

The Doctoral Education Committee is charged  
with promoting the highest standards of  
communication scholarship through excellence  
in doctoral education. The Committee works in  
communication and collaboration with the  
Research Board and other Association bodies as  
appropriate to its activities.

The committee is comprised of 12 doctoral  
faculty members elected by the Committee on  
Committees and 2 ex-Officio members (Chair of  
the Research Board, Chair of the Educational  
Policies Board). Individuals from doctoral  
degree granting departments at the mid-career  
stage or beyond are usually recommended to  
the Legislative Assembly. Members are selected  
with the intent of maintaining a committee that  
is representative of doctoral programs  
geographically, intellectually, and in other  
appropriate ways.

To achieve its purpose the Committee shall  
undertake activities to pursue such goals as:

Fostering a culture of intellectual excellence as  
the standard for doctoral education and  
scholarship in the communication discipline;

Encouraging a diversity of suitable models for  
doctoral education and promulgating the  
highest standards of excellence appropriate to  
different models of research and creative  
activity;

Cultivating the linkage of teaching and research  
through their common commitment to  
excellence in scholarship; and,

Advocating the interests of doctoral programs  
to the Association. The Committee shall work in  
communication and collaboration with the  
Research Board and other Association bodies as  
appropriate to its activities.

## NCA GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATIONS

**For self-nominations**, a completed nomination must include:

- A short letter summarizing why you seek the position and what you hope to accomplish if appointed. In this letter you must confirm that *you agree to serve* if appointed
- A current abbreviated curriculum vitae of no more than five pages *highlighting your professional qualifications*, especially those that apply to the committee position for which you are applying

**If you are nominating someone**, a completed nomination must include:

- A short letter summarizing why you are nominating this person and what you believe s/he will accomplish if appointed. In this letter you must confirm that the person you are nominating *has agreed to serve* if appointed
- A current abbreviated curriculum vitae of no more than five pages highlighting the nominee's professional qualifications, especially those that apply to the committee position for which he/she is being nominated