



**Western States
Communication
Association**

**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

Overview of Events

Time	Event	Location
7:00 – 7:45am	Registration	Ballroom Foyer
8:00 – 8:15am	Welcome Reception	Teton
8:30 – 9:30am	Session 1	Sinclair, Casper, Cheyenne
9:45 – 10:45am	Session 2	Sinclair, Casper, Cheyenne
10:45 – 11:30am	Break	Teton
11:30 – 12:30pm	Session 3	Sinclair, Casper, Cheyenne
12:30 – 1:00pm	Awards Reception	Teton
2:00 – 3:30pm	Graduate Student Workshop	Sun Valley
3:45 – 5:00pm	Graduate Programs Open House	Ballroom C

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

Casper

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

Cheyenne

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

Sinclair

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

Casper

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

Cheyenne

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
Fatima Zahrae Chirfi 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
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Greg Dickinson, Colorado State University
Qingwen Dong, University of the Pacific
Sam Dorros, Chapman University
Sharon Downey, Cal State University, Long Beach
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Amira De La Garza, Arizona State University
Robert Gehl, University of Utah
Donna Gotch, Cal State University, San Bernardino
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Mary Husain, Fresno State
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Falon Kartch, 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
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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 Tukachinsky, 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)

Sponsors

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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!

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