Organizational Communication:

ECA Business Meeting 2025

* **Friday, March 28th 4:00-5:15 PM, Niagara Room**
* 2025 ECA Organizational Communication Leadership:
  + Chair: Casey M. Stratton, Salisbury University
  + Vice-Chair: Robin Smith Mathis, Kennesaw State University
  + Secretary: Emily Reagan, Alice Lloyd College
    - Notes taken Casey M. Stratton
  + EC Representatives: Cari Loeffler, Baylor University (2023 through Thursday, 2025); Casey M. Stratton (2025 to Thursday, 2026).
* Attendance:
  + Victoria Bertram
  + Maxine Gesualdi
  + Robin Smith Mathis
  + Felicia Murphy
  + Amanda Damiano
  + Nicole Westrick
  + Casey M. Stratton

1. Call to order 4:02
2. Motion to approve old minutes
   1. Minutes found on ECA Website under “Organizational Communication” <https://www.ecasite.org/aws/ECA/pt/sp/interest_groups>
      1. Robyn motioned to approve the minutes. Felicia offered a second motion to approve the minutes. All agreed to approve the 2024 business meeting minutes.
3. 2025 Convention Review
   1. Thank you to our reviewers (10):
      1. Cathlin Clark-Gordon, Angie Corbo, Maxine Gesualdi, Miwa Ito, Corey Liberman, Tamutswa Mahari, Felicia Murphy, Uchenna Onuzulike, Candice Thomas-Maddox, Casey Stratton,
   2. Thank you to our chairs and respondents (6)
      1. Maxine Gesualdi, Corey Jay Liberman, Felicia Murphy, Tamutswa Mahari, Angie Corbo, Yvette Sterbenk
   3. Acceptance Data
      1. 12 submissions total (14 submissions in 2024), despite robust calls to organize and collaborate.
      2. 9 papers received, 9 accepted
      3. 3 panels received, 3 accepted
   4. Slot Data
      1. 8 slots given from ECA. 7 slots used, including the business meeting
         1. 1 Top Paper Session, 1 Student Paper Session, 1 additional paper session, 3 panel discussions, 1 business meeting
   5. Top Paper Awards:
      1. Top Paper: “**We’re Glad You’re Here: A Reinvestigation of Memorable Messages During Socialization.”** Victoria Bertram & Emily P. Nicholson (James Madison University)
      2. 2nd: “This Bud (May Not Be) for You: An Examination of Perceptions of the Budweiser Brand in the Wake of the Crisis Involving Transgender Influencer Dylan Mulvaney.” Amanda D. Damiano & Wenjing Xie (Marist College)
      3. 3rd: “Women in Law Mentoring Messages: It Takes a Creative Solution When Perceived Solutions to Contemporary Problems Contradict.” Robin Smith Mathis & Emma Claire Smalley (Kennesaw State University) & Erin Sheila Craw (Fairfield University).
4. Officer’s Report (Cari Loeffler)
   1. No officer report for this meeting; Representatives could not make the meeting.
5. Elections and New Officers
   1. Officers finishing their terms:
      1. Casey M. Stratton (Chair)
      2. Robin Smith Mathis (Vice Chair)
   2. Transition to new 2025-2026 Chair—

Facilitator: Robin

* 1. Current leadership, still serving:
     1. Secretary: Emily Reagan
     2. EP Representative: Casey M. Stratton (will attend the 2026 convention)
  2. Elections Needed for Vice Chair (2027 program planner)
     1. Maxine G. self-nominated.
        1. Casey seconded.
        2. All voted yes.

1. 2026 ECA Convention Information
   1. Theme: Emergence
   2. Location: Pittsburgh, PA: Sheraton Station Square
   3. Dates: April 9th to April 12th, 2026
   4. Submission deadline: October 19th, 2025 (11:59 PST)
   5. Information from the convention program:
      1. “The Steel City.” “The City of Bridges.” “The City of Champions.” “The Burgh.” “Dionde:gâ.” These phrases all name the place where the three rivers meet. This vibrant metropolis, now known as Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has transformed countless times over thousands of years. The collapse of the steel industry in the 70s and 80s devastated the area. Tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs were lost, families left in droves looking for better opportunities, and widespread economic depression took hold. Over recent decades, however, Pittsburgh has emerged anew as a bustling hub for technology, healthcare, and education. Its affordability; robust sports culture; and bustling arts, entertainment, and food scenes have now made it one of the country’s “most livable” cities. In recognition of the city’s rich history and evolution, “Emergence” has been chosen as the theme for the 2026 ECA Convention. This theme invites reflection on the emergence of new perspectives, enlightenment, or awakening; the rise of cultural or societal trends, movements, or norms; and the emergence of creative ideas, movements, or transformative works. I encourage submissions that creatively, innovatively, and openly engage with this theme, drawing on your unique experiences. I also encourage exploration of the following: (1) How can/will/must our discipline emerge in the context of the current political landscape? (2) What ideas, transformative works, and best practices are emerging in teaching, learning, practicing, researching, and theorizing? How should we respond? (3) How can we best support our students as they emerge from academics? (4) In what ways is our emergence as communication educators, researchers, and practitioners nurtured, encouraged, or strengthened? How can this be celebrated? Alternatively, in what ways is our emergence as communication educators, researchers, and practitioners impeded, stifled, or silenced? How should we respond? (5) How can we encourage our own emergence within ourselves? (6) What is not emerging that should, and what should we do about it? The 2026 Convention will also feature CONNECT sessions. These sessions will be embedded in the program and are free and open to all members and attendees looking to build or strengthen connections within our association and membership. CONNECT sessions are sponsored by the Community College Interest Group. I am also excited to share that the 2026 Convention will be at a new venue. The Sheraton Station Square is situated on the Monongahela River in the South Shore neighborhood of Pittsburgh and offers impressive river and skyline views. Many restaurants and shops are within steps of the front door along with a parking garage, the Duquesne Incline, and the Station Square “T” stop. I am honored to serve as your Primary Convention Planner and look forward to working with Interest Group planners, my Conference Planning team, and ECA leadership to offer a meaningful, beneficial, and invigorating convention. I hope to see you there!-Jessica Papajcik.
   6. Strategies discussed for recruiting more participants:
      1. Collaborate with the Undergraduate Scholars Conference organizers to identify 2026 student projects that we can fit into a “research escalator” session. These undergraduate students can come to this session to seek advice for improving their work.
      2. Potentially create a “spotlight” panel featuring a prolific researcher.
      3. Focus on panels related to emergence for the future, including more work on AI.
2. Adjournment.
   1. 4:22 PM