

## **Annual Report to the International Communication Association**

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- (i) For the ICA Board Meeting, May 2010
- (ii) For the ICA Annual Report, June 2010

**Division/Interest Group:** ..... **Communication History Interest Group**

**Chair:** ..... **David W. Park**

**Vice chair:** ..... **Jefferson Pooley**

### **Report**

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The Communication History Interest Group was officially created as of the annual ICA meeting in San Francisco, in May of 2007, after the requisite petitioning and approval processes. As of November 1 of 2007, the Communication History Interest Group had 116 members. Our number of members grew steadily until the fall of 2009, when it peaked at 236 members. After the ‘purge’ of non-renewing members in February of 2010, our number of members went down to 164.

The Interest Group elected a new incoming vice-chair during the summer of 2009. Philip Lodge (Napier University) will commence his service as vice-chair at the end of the 2010 conference in Singapore. In keeping with ICA bylaws, he will serve two years as vice-chair, and then the two years after that as chair.

After the paper submission and review process was completed, the Communication History Interest Group recognized two papers with awards in 2010. Michael Meyen (of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) and Anke Fieldler (also of Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) were awarded the top paper award, and Deborah Lubken (of University of Pennsylvania) was awarded the top student paper award.

The next year will find the Communication History Interest Group looking to grow. Going to Singapore in 2010 seems to have been an important factor in the recent downturn in membership in the interest group. Much of our membership is from the U.S., Canada, and the UK, and Singapore was clearly too much travel (or too expensive of a trip) for much of our membership. The good news here is that this means that we have about 60 former members who seem likely to re-join when the conference comes back to North America (Boston) in 2011. The bad news, and something that will need to be addressed in years to come, is that we do not have much membership outside of North America and Western Europe.

Last year’s report mentioned the fact that it will be important for this group to develop a more international membership. The move to Singapore led the leadership to try to find more non-North American members during 2009, with mixed results. We had a slight uptick in our membership in Australia and Asia. Internationalizing the group continues to be a challenge, though it is a challenge well worth pursuing.