

**Society for Risk Analysis  
Risk Communication Specialty Group (RCSG) meeting**

Date: Monday December 4, 2006, 11:45-12:15

Location: Renaissance Harbor Place Hotel Room Maryland-A

\*\* Meeting minutes taken by Ann Bostrom \*\*

(1) Felicia Wu, current Chair of the Risk Communication Specialty Group, opened the meeting and introduced Board Members who were present. Due to time constraints, there was no roundtable self-introduction of meeting attendees.

(2) The first item of business was the election of new officers for 2007. Lori Severtson is the current Vice Chair (becoming Chair this year). Felicia is the Outgoing Chair.

(3) Felicia announced that there were four open positions and asked for nominations. Open positions included: Vice Chair/Chair-elect, Secretary-Treasurer, two Board positions.

- **There were two self-nominations for Vice Chair:**

\* Tee L. Guidotti (George Washington University). Tee is director of the Center for Risk Science and Public Health, and is current President of the National Capital Area Chapter of SRA. He is also President (this year) of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

\* Xiao Tung also self-nominated. She directs research on risk and management, and is also interested in industry's perspective on risk communication

- **Nominations for Secretary Treasurer** -- Ann Bostrom volunteered.
- **Nominations for the Board** – Serving on the Board entails being on-call to discuss Specialty Group issues with other Officers.

\* Joe nominated Louie Rivers from NSF.

\* Cliff Scherer nominated Meredith Gore. Meredith is a postdoc at Michigan State University.

- **Results of election:**

By default, the above nominations for Secretary-Treasurer and Board positions were accepted:

\* New Secretary-Treasurer – Ann Bostrom

\* New RCSG Board Members: Louie Rivers and Meredith Gore.

- **The candidates for Vice Chair/Chair-elect were asked to step outside during voting, which took place via a show of hands.**

\* Tee Guidotti won the election and is the new Vice-Chair for the RCSG.

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(4) RCSG has the largest group of symposia at this year's SRA Annual Meeting. Felicia read several of the symposia titles to illustrate the variety and richness of risk communication sessions at the meeting.

(5) Next item of business was the ExxonMobil Student Paper Award:

- Bob Griffin and Felicia Wu organized this year's competition. Susanna Hornig Priest, Branden Johnson, Bob O'Connor and Craig Trumbo were judges.
- Jeff Lewis from Exxon-Mobil presented the award, in place of Steve Lewis (the previous presenter for many years).

\* Louie Rivers III (Ph.D., Ohio State University - now at the National Science Foundation) won the Award for his paper titled: "*Win some, lose some: Chronic loss and its implications for risk communication and management.*"

(6) David Slavin from Pfizer presented the first Pfizer award for Best Student Paper in risk communication that was published in the Journal of Risk Research (JRR) during 2006. The award process was overseen by Ragnar Löfstedt, editor of JRR.

\* The winner was Robyn Wilson (Ph.D., Ohio State – now a postdoctoral student at Ohio State)

\* Robyn Wilson won for her paper, co-authored with Professor Joe Arvai, titled:

Wilson, R. S., & Arvai, J.L. (2006). When less is more: How affect influences preferences when comparing low and high-risk options. *Journal of Risk Research*, 9, 165-178.

(7) Additional announcements:

- Robin Keller - INFORMS has a new journal called Decision Analysis. The journal looks at decision research that aids decision-making. Robin invites risk communication researchers to submit to the journal.
- Caron Chess announced that there is another new journal: Environmental Communication. Katherine McComas, a former chair of the RCSG, is one of the editors.
- Bob O'Connor of the Decision, Risk and Management Science (DRMS) program at the National Science Foundation made three quick announcements:

1. Dissertation enhancement grants are available to offset data collection costs for graduate students. Both Robyn Wilson and Louie Rivers received these awards.

2. Human and Social Dynamics (HSD) – deadline for applications is February. Application requires interdisciplinary work. Maximum award has increased to \$1.5 million. You can do a lot of risk communication-related research for that kind of money!!

Award has three separate areas, one of which is entitled DRU (decision, risk and uncertainty). This program probably only has one more year, so submit now!!

3. Most research the DRMS program has funded has been related to the decision side, rather than risk itself. Risk researchers have not been submitting proposals. DRMS is doing well financially. Nothing would make Bob happier than if the program could fund more risk research.

Bob's e-mail is: [roconnor@nsf.gov](mailto:roconnor@nsf.gov)

- DC SRA Chapter: Kara Morgan (FDA) requested that liaisons from each of the specialty groups join the DC area chapter and become more involved. Please contact Kara for more information.
- Kara is also involved in the Conferences and Workshops Committee and would like liaisons from each of the specialty groups for this committee as well. Liaisons would help form workshops and evaluate proposals for activities.
- Tee said that one sure way of really looking good in this organization is to follow in Kara's footsteps as President of one of the chapters.
- He also mentioned that the journal *Archives of Environmental and Occupational Health* may be of interest to RCSG members. This journal has been around for about 50 years and had fallen on hard times, but Tee and others have brought it back. They are seriously planning a special issue on risk science.

- Branden Johnson – Risk Assessment and Policy Assessment will be holding a joint conference in Las Vegas next June. Dave Hassenzahl is President-Elect. They will announce the meeting in the next SRA newsletter.
- Bert Hakkinen is now with Gradient (in the U.S.). There will be a workshop organized by the EC with WHO and SRA, as well as (ideally) SRA RCSG and SRA Europe. Workshop will take place from 2-4 May 2007, in Italy. Topic: effective communication regarding EMF. See write-up in current SRA newsletter for more information.

Web URL in that newsletter doesn't work – new URL is: <http://www.jrc.ec.europa.eu/eis-emf>. Will be active soon; it will also be posted on the SRA Europe website.

The final flyer for this workshop just came out last week. It will also be posted on the website. The workshop is titled: EMF: Effective risk communication in the context of uncertainty. Contact [phakkinen@gradientcorp.com](mailto:phakkinen@gradientcorp.com) with any questions.

- Chris Clarke has created a new RCSG website: <http://www.sra.org/rcsg>.
- Felicia closed by encouraging students to submit papers to the ExxonMobil Student Paper Competition next year, as well as to JRR and Pfizer (for their RC award).
- Students who want to be added to the risk-com email list should add their names to the list (paper circulating).
- Please let the Secretariat and Kim know how this reorganization of the Annual Meeting (specialty group meetings at lunch) worked. Also, sign up for specialty group membership on the SRA website.

\*\* Start thinking about interesting symposia for next year's Annual Meeting! \*\*

\*\* Note from the Secretary-Treasurer: The journal *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment* also welcomes risk communication research papers. If you are interested in putting together a special issue for this journal, please contact Ann Bostrom ([abostrom@gatech.edu](mailto:abostrom@gatech.edu)). \*\*