



**Slayage**  
The Journal  
of the Whedon Studies Association



# *Slayage* Conference on the Whedonverses 4

Flagler College, St. Augustine , FL, June 3-6, 2010

**Co-Conveners: Rhonda V. Wilcox and David Lavery**

**Local Arrangement Co-Chairs: Tamara and Jim Wilson**

## **Throughout the Conference . . .**

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### **Registration/Information:**

Thursday: Ringhaver Student Center 5:00 -7:30 pm

Friday: Flagler Auditorium 8:00—9:45 am; Ringhaver Student Center 10:00 am—7:00 pm

Saturday: Ringhaver Student Center 8 am to 5 pm

Sunday: Ringhaver Student Center 8 am to 5 pm

### **Flagler College Bookstore Book Table:**

Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10 am to 5 pm (by Registration)

### **Tours of Flagler College:**

12:30-1:30 on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (meet at the Flagler Legacy Shop in the Rotunda of Ponce Hall at 12:20)

**Roving Superchairs: Kris Woofter, Ananya Mukherjea, Elizabeth Rambo**

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## **Welcome**

The freshly-minted Whedon Studies Association welcomes you to the fourth biennial *Slayage* Conference on the Whedonverses. At the first three—in Nashville (Middle Tennessee State University, 2004), Barnesville (Gordon College, 2006), and Arkadelphia (Henderson State University, 2008)—over 400 papers on the works of Joss Whedon were presented. Last time we met, *Dr. Horrible's Sing-along Blog* had not yet been webcast and *Dollhouse* had not yet aired (or been cancelled). So we have much to talk about, including fresh takes on *Buffy*, *Angel*, *Firefly*, and *Serenity*. **Nota bene:** the first general meeting of the Whedon Studies Association will be held during the Saturday and Sunday lunch breaks. We hope to see you there.

Whedon's oeuvre has inspired unprecedented international scholarly interest. Hundreds of essays and articles, over thirty books (including a soon-to-be-published book-length bibliography), a dozen conferences (in the UK, Australia, Turkey, the US)—these make Whedon the most investigated popular culture author of our time, and we've only just begun.

The officers of the WSA—Rhonda V. Wilcox, President; David Lavery, Vice-President; Tanya Cochran, Secretary-Treasurer—want to thank you for being part of SC4. We also wish to offer a special thanks to Local Arrangements Co-Chairs

Tamara and Jim Wilson and to everyone at Flagler College: Elaine Damasco, who designed our poster, President Bill Abare, Dean Alan Woolfolk, Holly Hill, Laura Stevenson, Justin Abare, Darien Andreu and the Department of English, the Department of Art, and Trevor Smith and the Flagler College Bookstore. Thanks, too, to Claudia Pech, graphic artist, and to Gordon College Art Professor Marlin Adams for once again generously taking the time to fashion the wood for the Mr. Pointy Awards (originally designed by Atlanta artist Robert Cheatham).

Last of all, praise be to Dr. Tanya Cochran, who handled all the Secretary/Treasurer duties of WSA skillfully while somehow completing her dissertation and being awarded her Ph.D.

–David Lavery and Rhonda V. Wilcox, co-editors of *Slayage* and Co-Conveners of SC4



# SC4 Program

## Thursday Evening, June 3, 2010

700 pm: Reception: Virginia Room, Ringhaver Student Center. Wine and beer courteous of Flagler College.

815: Featured Speaker: David Lavery (Middle Tennessee State University)—Joss Whedon, Conversationalist

## Friday, June 4, 2010

900-1030—Opening Session (Auditorium)

Keynote I: Janet K. Halfyard (Birmingham Conservatoire, University of Central England)—Listening to *Buffy*: Music, Memory, Meaning, and Moping

### Friday 1045-1215

<p><b><i>Dollhouse</i> I</b>  <b>[1A] Session 1 [Ringhaver 234]. Chair: Andrew Aberdein</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Mike Starr (U of Northampton)—An Echo in the Shell: Identity and Becoming in Joss Whedon’s <i>Dollhouse</i></li> <li>■ Cait Coker (Texas A&amp;M U)—What Her Language Tells You: A Radical Feminist Reading of <i>Dollhouse</i></li> <li>■ Andrew Aberdein (Florida Institute of Technology)—The Apocalyptic Bordello</li> </ul>	<p><b>Vampires and Other Monsters I</b>  <b>[1B] Session 2 [Gamache-Koger Theater]. Chair: Shelley Rees</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ J. Bowers (U of Missouri)—British Vampire, ‘American Disease’: William the Bloody as 19<sup>th</sup> Century Neurasthenic</li> <li>■ Shelley Rees (U of Science and Arts of Oklahoma) and Tom Connelly (Independent Scholar)—Robots, Zombie Slaves, or Liars: Identity and Labor in Joss Whedon’s <i>Dollhouse</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>The Whedonverses and Other ‘Verses I</b>  <b>[1C] Session 3 [Ringhaver 235]. Chair: Jennifer F. Stuller</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hugh Marlowe (Flagler College)—Buffy &amp; Aang: Modern Heroes Tussle with Angst</li> <li>■ Jennifer K. Stuller (Independent Scholar)—The Ink-Stained Amazon Presents: A Brief History of the Best, Worst, Known, and Not So Known Pop Culture Influences on the Whedonverses</li> </ul>
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### Friday 1215-145 Lunch: Bugg’s Bistro

### Friday 145-315

<p><b><i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i> I</b>  <b>[2A] Session 4 [Gamache-Koger Theater]. Chair: Vivien Burr</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Vivien Burr (U of Huddersfield)—Buffy as Role Model: Her Significance for Female Viewers</li> <li>■ Ensley F. Guffey (Cleveland Community College)—“We Just Declared War”: Buffy as General</li> <li>■ Neil Lerner (Davidson College)—A Musical Alpha to Omega: Comparing Musical Languages between the First and Final 150 seconds of <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Characters I: Faith, Willow, Dr. Saunders, Illyria</b>  <b>[2B] Session 5 [Ringhaver 234]. Chair: Alysa Hornick</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Virginia Grant (Independent Scholar)—Faith in Feminism</li> <li>■ Heather M. Porter (Independent Scholar)—“If you could be ... you know, plain old Willow or super Willow, who would you be?”: Examining Willow’s Use of Intelligence and Violence in <i>BtVS</i>.</li> <li>■ Alysa Hornick (Independent Scholar)— “There Is No Cure For That: Illyria, Dr. Saunders, and the Gendered Body in <i>Angel</i> and <i>Dollhouse</i>”</li> </ul>	<p><b>Teaching and Learning in the Whedonverses</b>  <b>[2C] Session 6 [Ringhaver 235]. Chair: Elizabeth Rambo</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Elizabeth L. Rambo (Campbell U)—Teaching <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i> 7.16 “Storyteller” as Metafiction</li> <li>■ Molly Oberlin (U of Cincinnati)—Writing Echoes: <i>Dollhouse</i> in the Composition Classroom</li> <li>■ Christine Jarvis (U of Huddersfield)—“I’m Cookie Dough”: Viewers and Personal Development</li> </ul>
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**Friday 330-500**

<p><b>Angel</b>  <b>[3A] Session 7 [Ringhaver 234]. Chair: Stacey Abbott</b>                  ■ Sara Freeman (Independent Scholar)—His Girl Doomsday: The Professionalism of Lilah Morgan                  ■ Natalie Stevens (Independent Scholar)—Objectification and Power in Season 5 of <i>Angel</i>                  ■ Stacey Abbott (Roehampton U)—“Enough of the Action, Let’s Get Back to Dancing”: Joss Whedon directs <i>Angel</i></p>	<p><b>Dollhouse II</b>  <b>[3B] Session 8 [Gamache-Koger Theater]. Chair: Ian Klein</b>                  ■ David Fritts (Henderson Community College)—Science, Religion, and Magic in <i>Dollhouse</i>                  ■ Kevin Oberlin (U of Cincinnati)—Winning at Dolls: <i>Dollhouse</i> as a Zero-Sum Game                  ■ Ian G. Klein (Columbia U)—“I Like My Scars”: Claire Saunders and the Narrative of Flesh</p>	<p><b>Beyond the Buffybot: Joss Whedon’s Posthumanism</b>  <b>[3C] Session 9 [Ringhaver 235].</b>                  ■ Julie Hawk ■ Vickie Willis ■ Casey McCormick (Georgia State U)</p>
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**Friday 515-645**

<p><b>Firefly and Serenity I</b>  <b>[4A] Session 10 [Gamache-Koger Theater]. Chair: Katheryn Wright</b>                  ■ Adele H. Bealer, (U of Utah)—Treatise on <i>Fireflyology</i>: The Rhizomatic Whedonverse                  ■ Emily Carroll Shearer (Middle Tennessee State U)—Malcolm Reynolds: Campbellian Hero                  ■ Katheryn Wright (Florida State U)—River's Gift: The Production of the Affective Body in <i>Firefly</i> and <i>Serenity</i></p>	<p><b>Memory in Dollhouse</b>  <b>[4B] Session 11 [Ringhaver 234]. Chair: Erika Johnson-Lewis</b>                  ■ Laura ten Thije Boonkamp (Leiden U), “We are not anybody because we are everybody”: Identity without Memory in Whedon’s <i>Dollhouse</i>                  ■ Erika Johnson-Lewis (Florida State U)—“I'm awake now. I don't want to go back to sleep.” Memory and Experience on <i>Dollhouse</i>                  ■ Katie Whitlock (California State U, Chico)—Imprinting Gender: The Collision of Memory and Body in <i>Dollhouse</i></p>	<p><b>Power and Passion in the Whedonverses</b>  <b>[4C] Session 12 [Ringhaver 235]. Chair: Tamara Wilson</b>                  ■ Elizabeth Story (Ohio U)—Foucault and the <i>Dollhouse</i>: Examining Joss Whedon's <i>Dollhouse</i> through the Work of Michel Foucault                  ■ Tracy L. Bealer (The Citadel)—Who Watches the Watchers?: Gender and Power in <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i> and <i>Dollhouse</i>                  ■ Tamara Wilson (Flagler College)—“Don’t Know Much About Chemistry”: Attraction and Delayed/Denied Passion in <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i> and <i>Dollhouse</i></p>
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**Friday Evening**

**730 pm—Conference Banquet (Ponce de Leon Dining Hall); Banquet Speakers—Nikki Stafford and Matthew Pateman**

**"Oh, wouldn't it be tragic if you were here being kinda silly with your comically paralyzed sister while Willow was dying?" or "Excellent. Now. Do we suspect that there may be some connection between Ben and Glory?": The tragi-comic / comic-tragic methods of miscommunication in *Buffy***

## Saturday, June 5, 2010

900-1030—Opening Session (Auditorium)

Keynote II: Lorna Jowett (University of Northampton)—Stuffing a Rabbit in It: Character, Narrative, and Time in the Whedonverses

### Saturday 1045-1215

<p><b><i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i> II</b> [5A] Session 13 [Ringhaver 213]. Chair: Shiloh Carroll</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ryan Warden (Northwestern U)—Dead and Still Pretty: The Subversion and Subsequent Elimination of the Final Girl in <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i></li> <li>■ Shiloh Carroll (Middle Tennessee State U)—“Maturity in <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i>”</li> <li>■ Joe Velazquez (Stonehill College), and Agnes Curry (St. Joseph’s College), “Skies of coupled color”: Humor and Fright in <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Narrative</b> [5B] Session 14 [Gamache-Koger Theater]. Chair: Cynthia Burkhead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cynthia Burkhead (U of North Alabama)—Sometimes “A dream is a wish your heart makes,” and sometimes it’s a necessary nightmare: The narrative function of dreams in <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i></li> <li>■ Marc McKee (U of Missouri)—“You’re Not Crazy”: The Use of Meta-Fiction in <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i></li> <li>■ David Kociemba (Emerson College)—From Beneath You, It Foreshadows: Why the First Season Matters</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Whedonverses and Other ‘Verses II</b> [5C] Session 15 [Ringhaver 234]. Chair: Linda Jencson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Linda Jencson (Appalachian State U)—Brilliant Insights and Tired Stereotypes: Hellmouth and Apocalypse in the Buffyverse through the Lens of Disaster Studies</li> <li>■ Jennifer Bar Lev (Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem, Israel), <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i> and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict</li> </ul>	<p><b>Characters II: Cordelia, The Nerds, Dr. Horrible, Penny</b> [5D] Session 16 [Ringhaver 235]. Chair: AmiJo Comeford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ AmiJo Comeford (Dixie State College of Utah)“‘I think it, I say it. That’s my way.’: Cordelia Chase, Finding the Tact in the Tactless Approach”</li> <li>■ Jennifer Butler Keeton (Independent Scholar)—Aspiring to Evil: <i>Buffy’s</i> Three Nerds and Dr. Horrible</li> <li>■ Evelyn Fisher (American U)—“The Perils of Penny: Subverting Genre in <i>Dr. Horrible’s Sing-Along Blog</i>”</li> </ul>
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1215-145 Lunch: Bugg's Bistro. First Meeting of the Whedon Studies Association [Part I]

### Saturday 145-315

<p><b><i>Firefly</i> and <i>Serenity</i> II</b> [6A] Session 17 [Gamache-Koger Theater]. Chair: Mary Alice Money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ B. J. Keeton (Martin Methodist College), Curse Your Sudden but Inevitable Death: Exploring the Reasons and Purpose in Wash’s Demise</li> <li>■ Mary Alice Money (Gordon College)—<i>Firefly’s</i> “Shindig”: Clashing Cultures in the 26<sup>th</sup>-century West</li> </ul>	<p><b>Vampires and Other Monsters II</b> [6B] Session 18 [Ringhaver 213]. Chair: Sabrina Boyer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Kristin “Cheyenne” Riggs (Texas State U)—“Him” and “It”</li> <li>■ Sabrina Boyer (U of North Carolina Greensboro)—“The girl needs a little monster in her man”: Riley Finn, Angel and Spike</li> </ul>	<p><b>Whedonbots</b> [6C] Session 19 [Ringhaver 234]. Chair: Lisa K. Perdigao</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Alan Rosiene (Florida Institute of Technology)—Little to No ‘Bots: The Limits of AI in <i>Firefly</i></li> <li>■ Matt Ruane (U of Central Florida)—Metal Love: Dolls, Robots, Cyborgs, and Cylons in the Whedonverse and Beyond</li> <li>■ Lisa K. Perdigao (Florida Institute of Technology)—“This one’s broken”: Rebuilding Really Real Bots in the Whedonverse</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sexuality in the Whedonverses</b> [6D] Session 20 [Ringhaver 235]. Chair: Ananya Mukherjea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ H��l��ne Frohard-Dourlent, <i>Buffy/Satsu: Pure Genius or Out Of Character? Complicating Fan Responses to Modern Narratives of Sexuality</i></li> <li>■ Kai Shuart (San Jose State University), <i>I Kissed a Boy: Depiction of Male Fluid Sexuality in the Buffyverse</i></li> <li>■ Ananya Mukherjea (City University of New York, College of Staten Island), <i>Men are Beasts, Women are Pussycats: Gender, "Nature," and</i></li> </ul>
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			Animal References in <i>BtVS</i>
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**Saturday 330-500**

<p><b>The Whedonverses and Other 'Verses III</b>  <b>[7A] Session 21 [Ringhaver 213].</b>  <b>Chair: Tami Burnett</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Erin B. Waggoner (ITT Technical Institute)—Rebel With/Out a Cause: Angel as Beatnik in “Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?”</li> <li>■ Melissa Miller (Georgia State University), We Can't All Be Slayers: A Comparative Analysis of Buffy Summers and Bella Swan as Feminist Icons</li> <li>■ Tami Burnett (U of Nebraska, Lincoln)—“A Stunning Revelation of My True Path in Life”: The American Captivity Narrative from Mary Rowlandson to Fred Burkle</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i> III</b>  <b>[7B] Session 22 [Ringhaver 234].</b>  <b>Chair: Jesse James Stommel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Malgorzata Drewniok (Lancaster U, UK)—‘I feel strong. I feel different’: Transformations, Vampires and Language in <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i></li> <li>■ Jesse James Stommel (University of Colorado at Boulder), “The Ecstatic Corpse: The Buffyverse and What Becomes of Bodies Once They’re Dead”</li> <li>■ Jennifer Baldwin (Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago), Going Crazy in the Buffyverse: Mental Illness, Trauma and Femininity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Flagler Student Group</b>  <b>[7C] Session 23 [Ringhaver 235].</b>  <b>Chair: Tamara Wilson</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Victoria Warenik—The Secret's Out: Defying Archetypal Archetypes in Joss Whedon's <i>Firefly</i></li> <li>■ Samantha Holcomb—Exploring the Fantastic Mundane: A Comparison of the Works of Joss Whedon and Neil Gaiman</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Laws and “Mind” of Joss Whedon</b>  <b>[7D] Session 24 [Gamache-Koger Theater]. Chair: Jeff Bussolini</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Sharon Sutherland (U British Columbia) and Sarah Swan—“It’s not Council Policy to Cure Vampires”: The Watchers Council as Lawmakers and Judges</li> <li>■ Sherry Ginn (Rowan-Cabarrus Community College), Joss’ Brains: Exploring Neurological Tampering in <i>Firefly</i> and <i>Dollhouse</i></li> <li>■ Jeffrey Bussolini (CUNY)—Joss Whedon’s Technologies of the Mind</li> </ul>
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**Saturday 515-700**

<p><b>Featured Speakers</b>  <b>[8A] Session 25 [Auditorium]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cynthea Masson (Vancouver Island U)—Who Painted the Lion?— <i>Dollhouse’s</i> “Belle Chose”</li> <li>■ Tanya Cochran (Union College)—Whedon Fan-Scholars and Scholar-Fans: Life in the Shadowlands</li> <li>■ Rhonda Wilcox (Gordon College)—“Let it simmer”: Tonal Shift in “Pangs”</li> </ul>
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**Saturday 815 [Gamache-Koger Theater]—Screenings of Two Episodes from the Whedonverses**

## Sunday, June 6, 2010

### 900-1030—Opening Session (Auditorium)

Keynote III: Dale Koontz (Cleveland Community College)—*Twelve Steps Forward, One Step Back: Redemption Through Recovery in the Works of Joss Whedon*

### Sunday 1045-1215

<p><b>The Whedonverses and Other 'Verses III</b>  <b>[8A] Session 26 [Gamache-Koger Theater].</b>  <b>Chair: Richard S. Albright</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Sharon Mastracci (U of Illinois at Chicago)—The Political Economy of Sunnydale</li> <li>■ Mary Ellen Iatropoulos (State U of New York at New Paltz)—Orwell and <i>Angel</i>: (Re)Negotiating the Dystopian Dilemma</li> <li>■ Richard S. Albright (Harrisburg Area Community College)—Superstars, Buffybots, and Cylons, or “I Was Made to Kill You”: Jane Espenson’s Parallel Universes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Actors, Production Design, Wardrobe</b>  <b>[8B] Session 27 [Ringhaver 234]. Chair: Sarah Jacknis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Sarah Jacknis (U of Pennsylvania)—The Whedonverse as a Doppelgänger: The Repercussions of Recycling Actors</li> <li>■ Clare Floyd DeVries (Independent Scholar)—“I Ate A Decorator Once”: Production design in the Whedonverses</li> <li>■ Mary Kathryn Williams (Independent scholar)—Sociopath in a Sweater Vest: What Clothing Tells Us About the Dollhouse</li> </ul>	<p><b>Gender in the Whedonverses II</b>  <b>[8C] Session 28 [Ringhaver 235]. Chair: Lauren Schultz</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Soniyma Munshi (Graduate Center, City U of New York)—“You faced the monster inside of you and you fought back”: Masculinity, Violence, Accountability and Transformational Politics in <i>Buffy the Vampire Slayer</i></li> <li>■ Lauren Schultz (Montgomery College), “It’s Showtime”: The Spectacle of the Female Body in Joss Whedon’s Work</li> <li>■ Candra K. Gill (U of Michigan)—On Soldiers and Sages: Problematizing the Roles of Black Men in the Whedonverses</li> </ul>
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### 1215-145 Lunch: Bugg's Bistro. First Meeting of the Whedon Studies Association [Part II]

### Sunday 145-315

<p><b>Religion and Philosophy</b>  <b>[9A] Session 29 [Ringhaver 234]. Chair: Madeline Muntersbjorn</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ J. Douglas Rabb &amp; J. Michael Richardson (Lakehead U)—Memory and Identity in Whedon’s Narrative Ethics: Reading the Whedonverses Through <i>Dollhouse</i> and <i>Dr. Horrible</i></li> <li>■ Marcus Recht (Goethe U Frankfurt / Germany)—Gender and Christian iconology in <i>Angel</i>’s &amp; <i>Spike</i>’s visualization.</li> <li>■ Madeline Muntersbjorn (U of Toledo), Disgust, Difference, and Displacement in the Dollhouse</li> </ul>	<p><b>Slaying with Pedagogy: Teaching <i>Buffy</i> to the Millenials (A Roundtable)</b>  <b>[9B] Session 30 [Gamache-Koger Theater].</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Meghan K. Winchell (Nebraska Wesleyan U)</li> <li>■ David Kociemba (Emerson College)</li> <li>■ Kristopher Woofert (Dawson College)</li> <li>■ Rod Romesburg (Rollins College)</li> <li>■ Jodie A. Kreider (U of Denver)</li> </ul>
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### Sunday 330-500

<p><b>Closing Session: Buffy Bookers</b>  <b>[10] Session 31 [Gamache-Koger]</b>          David Lavery, Rhonda Wilcox, Dale Koontz, Stacey Abbott, Lorna Jowett, Matthew Pateman, Tanya Cochran, J. Michael Richardson and J. Douglas Rabb, Nikki Stafford, Cynthia Burkhead, Beth Rambo, Erin Waggoner, Jennifer Stuller, Tami Burnett, AmiJo Comeford</p>
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