

# Women's Words

A newsletter for the AEJMC Commission on the Status of Women

In  
This  
Issue:

Midwinter  
Conference  
deadline is  
Nov. 30. See  
page 8.

Page 2

Letter from  
CSW President

Page 3

August 2012  
Business Meeting  
Minutes

Page 4

“Political  
Journalism is Still a  
Man’s World”

Page 5

Professional  
Promotions: News  
about member  
achievements

Page 7

Teaching in  
Armenia

## Mentorship Program Launches Year 2

By Carolyn Byerly and Anita Fleming-Rife

Nothing surpasses a successful first-year program launch like a bonanza second year. That describes CSW’s Mentorship Program, which is now well underway with 26 participants and a newly created Advisory Committee. In the first year (2011-2012), we paired nine junior scholars (mentees) with senior scholars (mentors) to develop working relationships around issues such as preparing for tenure, creating work/life balance, expanding publication records, strengthening teaching, and other goals. Our call for participants this year brought 13 applicants, most of them assistant or associate professors but also a few doctoral students nearing graduation. With the help of our newly formed Advisory Committee, and the gracious offer of two senior scholars to participate a second year, we located a great bunch of mentors to support the new cohort of mentees. Thus, the program has grown from 18 participants to 26 (!) and seen additional growth in personnel through the newly created Advisory Committee.

### Recognizing participants

Many thanks to the *second-year participants*, including:  
**Mentors:** Marianne Barrett (Arizona State U), Maurine Beasley (returning, U Maryland), Jannette Dates (Howard U), Lillie Fears (Arkansas State U), Kathleen Fearn-Banks (U Washington), Barbara Hines (Howard U), Carol Liebler (Syracuse U), Debbie Owens (Murray State U), Radhika Parameswaran (Indiana U), Sheila Reaves (U Wisc-Madison), Linda Steiner (U Maryland), Carolyn Stroman (Howard U), and Judy Turk (returning, Virginia Commonwealth U). We note that this list includes five former AEJMC presidents!

**Mentees:** Dunja Antunovic (PennState U), Petra Guerra (U Wisc-Madison), Sarah Jackson (Northeastern U), Crystal Yvette Lumpkins (U Kansas), Felicia McGhee-Hilt (U Tenn – Chattanooga), Mia Moody-Ramirez (Baylor), Laurie Phillips (U North Carolina), Katie Place (St. Louis U), Erica Pribanic Smith (U Texas-Arlington), Indira Somani (Howard U), Erica Taylor (Norfolk State U), Karen Turner (Temple U), and Sherri

See “Mentor” on page 8

## A Shot of Academic Activism Can Affect Women’s Health Policies

By Jen Vardeman-Winter

Across the nation, policy-makers are proposing laws limiting how women can seek care for their bodies, particularly around reproductive rights. Trans-vaginal probes are being required before a woman can terminate a pregnancy; access to basic contraceptives is being threatened. Although taxpayer dollars do not fund abortions, states are ensuring that Planned Parenthood gets less money to conduct their services, which largely include vital cancer screenings for low-income women, and some states are requiring that the physical buildings that house family planning services change to reflect those of hospitals. None of these changes are medically necessary, nor are they financially beneficial to women; rather, they are attempts to delay or halt women’s access to important and essential health care.

As a Texas resident, it’s been hard to ignore the attack on women’s health occurring in my state. For example, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas legislature convened in January 2011 and cut family planning services from \$111.5 million to \$37.9 million. Furthermore, Gov. Rick Perry turned away a \$9-to-\$1 matching program of federal-to-state dollars meant for women’s health. With the 83<sup>rd</sup> legislative session coming in January, I am scared to learn what additional cuts are coming.

In response, I have started collecting data about how communicators at grassroots, women-focused organizations conduct campaigns for and with women. The public relations director for a local organization providing free mammograms and breast cancer treatment to low-income women told me about a women’s health initiative being started with an advocacy

See “Women’s Health” on page 4

The Commission on the Status of Women encourages research and programming on the status of women in journalism and communication education and seeks to balance inequalities in the academic community.

## Chair's Corner: New Year Brings More Advocacy Work for Commission

Welcome to another year of advocating for women! The Commission on the Status of Women has several initiatives to help you navigate the academic world. Some of our programs include:

- Continuation of our mentoring program, which matches senior scholars with graduate students and junior colleagues. The program is now in its second year. It's designed to help move women faculty forward. Contact Carolyn Byerly, [cbyerly@earthlink.net](mailto:cbyerly@earthlink.net), or Anita Fleming-Rife, [anita.flemingrife@unco.edu](mailto:anita.flemingrife@unco.edu), for more information. They also are looking for volunteers to help administer the program.
- Participation in the AEJMC Midwinter Conference, March 1-2, 2013 at the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Oklahoma. Send your abstracts of between 600-800 words by noon on Nov. 30, 2012 to Midwinter Conference chair Jennifer Vardeman-Winter, [jvardema@central.uh.edu](mailto:jvardema@central.uh.edu).
- Contributions to a new website, the [Forum on Media Diversity](#). I am serving as assistant editor for gender research for the forum. Send me information about your journal articles, books, news articles, conference papers, reports, documentaries or other research on gender. They will be added to the diversity forum's research database. You also may want to peruse the database for helpful information. This is a great way to get your research out there for scholars, professionals and the public to use. Email me at [Everbach@unt.edu](mailto:Everbach@unt.edu).

Please keep us informed of what you are doing and let us know how we can help. Feel free to contact me anytime by email or on my cell phone, 214-995-8464. We are listening to you!



Tracy Everbach, Chair

## CSW offers members diverse ways to connect online

For the last several years, CSW officers have worked hard to create a number of online social networking opportunities for members. Our goals have been to find ways of apprising members about CSW news and information, as well as developing online spaces for members to connect and share between annual conferences. The CSW website, member email list, and Twitter account primarily serve to inform members of news, calls for papers, etc. Our LinkedIn and Facebook groups encourage networking and community building. With these diverse media outlets, members can choose the kind and amount of connection they have with CSW and fellow members. Please take a moment to connect in whichever way you choose and send any suggestions or requests concerning CSW's digital presence to Spring Duvall ([springd@usca.edu](mailto:springd@usca.edu)).



Twitter: @CSW\_AEJMC

LinkedIn group: Commission on the Status of Women, AEJMC



Facebook group: Commission on the Status of Women (AEJMC)

CSW website: [www.aejmc.net/csw](http://www.aejmc.net/csw)

## Meet the 2012-2013 Commission on the Status of Women Officers



Tracy Everbach,  
Chair,  
University of  
North Texas



Spring-Serenity  
Duvall, Vice  
Head/Program  
Chair, University  
of South Carolina,  
Aiken



Jennifer  
Vardeman-Winter,  
Midwinter  
Conference Chair,  
University of  
Houston



Katie  
Reynolds-Place,  
Secretary/  
Recorder,  
Saint Louis  
University



Candi Carter  
Olson, Newsletter  
Editor,  
University of  
Pittsburgh



Leigh  
Moscovitz,  
Research Chair,  
College of  
Charleston

# CSW 2012 Business Meeting Minutes: Awards, Bylaws Under Discussion

## Chicago, IL

August 10, 2012

Chair Stacey Hust called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

### Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the 2011 business meeting were unanimously approved.

### Officer and Committee Reports

Hust reported that at least 23 people attended the CSW mentoring luncheon and about half of them were new members. Mention was also made that the luncheon conflicted with a Minorities and Communication Division luncheon, which may have reduced participation.

Carolyn Byerly, co-chair of the mentoring initiative, reported that 18 people, nine pairs, participated in the program in 2011-2012. The program is continuing and hopes to attract more members. Those wishing to be mentors or mentees should contact Byerly via email for an application: [cbyerly@earthlink.net](mailto:cbyerly@earthlink.net). All mentees are female, but male and female mentors may participate. For more information: <http://aejmc.net/csw/?p=177>

Byerly said the program is designed for assistant professors or mid-career faculty who want to explore a pathway for advancement. She explained that a different type of mentoring was needed for graduate students.

Hust noted that the mentoring program has been acknowledged by the AEJMC board and other divisions as leading the way for other mentoring initiatives.

### CSW Awards and Research

Hust presented the following awards:

#### Mary Gardner Award for Graduate Student Research:

Timeka Williams, Michigan

Mary Ann Yodelis

**Smith Awards for Feminist Scholarship:** Shayla Theil-Stern, Minnesota

**Outstanding Woman in Journalism and Mass Communication Education:** Barbara Hines, Howard

Vice Chair Tracy Everbach reported on conference programming.

CSW sponsored eight panels of the 16 proposed. The panels spanned many divisions including advertising, international, critical-cultural, religion and media, and teaching. Examples include: "Mad Women" Attack Topic: Mothering and Careers," Title IX, and representations of the hijab.

Everbach urged members to begin considering panels for 2013.

Research Chair Spring-Serenity Duvall said the review process had run smoothly thanks to the more than 40 volunteer reviewers. She said every paper submitted to the division had received three reviews. A total of 37 papers were submitted to CSW and 20 were accepted, making for a 54% acceptance rate. Duvall also noted that she was pleased that so many CSW members volunteered to serve as moderators, discussants, and panel participants.

Duvall then presented awards for research.

#### Top Student Papers:

"Sweetness and Strength: Codes of Femininity and Body Image in Branded Social-Networking Messages," Anne Holcomb, Western Michigan

"A Correlation Study on Chinese Young Female Audiences' Exposure to American TV Drama, Perceived Realism, and Sex-related Effects," Qi Ling and Xin

Zhang, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

#### Top Faculty Papers:

"I Am Just an Ordinary Housewife: Congressional Television and the Disruption of the Public Sphere in the Early Fifties," Bastiaan Vanacker, Loyola-Chicago

"Catfights" Under the Male Gaze: Framing of the 2010 U.S. House Race Between Kristi Noem and Stephanie Herseth Sandlin," Miglena Sternadori, South Dakota

#### Top Faculty-Student Papers:

"How Female and Male J/MC Authors Perceive the Journal Peer Review Process: Differently," Brendan Watson, Minnesota-Twin Cities, and Daniel Riffe, North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"Women Bloggers: Identity and the Concept of Sports,"

Dunja Antunovic and Marie Hardin, Pennsylvania State

### New Business

#### Bylaws

Hust explained that there had been confusion about changes to the CSW bylaws, which had been amended and voted on, but the records of the meeting could not be located. As a result, CSW has been out of compliance for three years in regard to officer structure. The AEJMC board was informed of the "clerical glitch." Hust explained the background of the situation, then offered options to remedy it.

Hust said that in 2008, then-Chair Cory Armstrong put forth bylaw revisions but they were not accepted. The discussion, centering on whether the term-of-office for the chair should be changed from a two-year term to a one-year term, was discussed over the next year. Other considerations included the role of advocacy for the chair and whether the mid-winter chair should be a

permanent position.

In 2009 during the CSW business meeting, the changes were again discussed and voted upon, but the revisions were not submitted. The minutes from 2009 were unanimously approved, but a copy of those minutes could not be located. Therefore, the 2002 bylaws stand as the current bylaws.

Hust then outlined options for proceeding:

1. Send bylaws to CSW members via listserv and email and conduct an online vote via Survey Monkey. This could be a line-item vote or a vote for bylaw changes in their entirety

2. Members present at the meeting could revote because there was no official record of what was approved.

Judy Cramer asked why there was no role of advocacy in the bylaws. Carolyn Byerly said the role of advocacy needed to be written into the bylaws and that this role was one reason CSW had not become a division but had remained a commission. She said this advocacy role for the chair should be institutionalized in the commission's foundational document.

Byerly suggested approving the 2008 bylaws changes and proposed a friendly amendment that would highlight the role of advocacy. She suggested adding, "The chair's role is to serve as the primary advocate for women in AEJMC."

Byerly moved that proposed changes should be distributed to all members electronically and there should be online line-item voting. This was seconded and approved.

Byerly then asked what would happen if a change was not accepted. Hust responded that if a change was not accepted, that item would remain the

See "Minutes" on page 6

# Political Reporting and Editorializing is a Man's World

By Tracy Everbach

Why do few women journalists cover politics? Why do men write most opinion pieces?

Columbia Journalism Review recently tackled these topics in an article and a graphic. Several feminist scholars, colleagues, and students concerned about women's status in journalism alerted me to them.

Erika Fry's [May 29 CJR](#) article stated that only one-fifth of the opinion columns that appear in leading U.S. newspapers are written by women. Most of those pieces concentrate on so-called "women's issues." Women rarely write commentary about politics, the economy, national security, media or the environment.

The subsequent graphic, titled "[Silenced](#)," showed that in 2012 U.S. major media election coverage, women comprised only 13 percent of print sources and 16 percent of television sources. The graphic was from [4thEstate.net](#), an election-monitoring project.

Perhaps many of us, as feminist scholars, already know about

the lack of authoritative women sources on politics as well as the dearth of women opinion writers. But we need to constantly remind others about this. We must remember that advocacy is part of our mission on the Commission on the Status of Women. We can raise awareness with our research.

Despite being a jaded former journalist, I continue to be surprised at how some people react to studies and articles that point out gender inequities. (The headline for Fry's story was "It's 2012 already: why is opinion writing still mostly male?")

CJR allows anonymous comments on its stories, so there is no way to know the profession or gender of those who post. But since it's a publication aimed at journalists and journalism scholars, there's a reasonable chance that those who commented on Fry's piece are connected somehow with media.

Someone who goes by the name of "padkiller" posted this comment on May 29: "So now we'll take crappier op/eds from women, and reject better ones from men, in order to strike the 'ideal demographic balance'?"

See "Politics" on page 8

## Women's Health: There are Many Ways to Educate Yourself and Students

Continued from page 1

network of health affiliates, One Voice Texas. Its mission is to find common ground for health care needs across these groups and approach the legislature with requests to "ensure that the health and human services needs of all Texans are addressed."

Needless to say, these women piqued my interest and opened doors for me: they need access to people in universities, people who know how to do social media, and people who want experience learning about communication and policy. I am helping them find interns that I will help manage, and I may incorporate them into my issues management class as a class client to show students how communication can be used to influence policy. Students may travel with the director and her employees to Austin next year to talk to the legislature about the needs for women's health. Students will also help with posting information on various social media sites, chronicling outcomes of women's health policies throughout Texas. Finally, I am convening a meeting with my university's assistant vice president for health initiatives who is tasked with getting our university in front of major health and medical groups here in Houston and Texas as well as on the agendas at the Capitol in Austin. We are bringing in the director of the Women's Studies Program and the director of the Women's Resource Center. The hope is that One Voice Texas' Women's Health Initiative of Texas will

have the support of the University of Houston, and that UH will, in turn, gain more visibility across more than 100 health care organizations throughout Texas and be viewed as an institution for high-quality health, medical, and science education.

Personally, I will observe the process and interview members as it progresses. I want to learn how policy-makers and women—particularly those from resource-poor communities—work together to affect change. One Voice Texas will also be conducting "Advocacy 101" with my students and me to educate non-politicians like us about how to influence policy.

Below are some simple ideas for how to get involved at the local and national levels:

**Find out what is happening in your state.** Go to <http://www.womenarewatching.org> or another politically-active web site to learn what rights are at risk and how you can help.

**Convene groups on campus.** Network with professors, post-docs, and students in the women's studies and LGBT programs on campus as well as any student organizations that support equality rights. Ask your chair for \$100 to host an informal event to kick-start a group on campus that is addressing health and equality policy issues.

**Ask your students to think about these matters.** It's not appropriate to persuade students to adopt our stance in these issues, but we can at least present the information and ask them to form their opinions.

**Read.** My reading list lately has included

*50 Ways to Improve Women's Lives: The Essential Women's Guide for Achieving Equality, Health, and Success for All*, edited by the National Council of Women's Organizations; *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*, by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn; and *The New Feminist Agenda: Defining the Next Revolution for Women, Work, and Family* by Madeleine Kunin; and *Ms. Magazine*. And anything from the Commission on the Status of Women!

**Blog.** For me, a blog will be less about me imparting wisdom on others and more about me collecting and organizing my ideas in a central repository. My site will be about communicating with women about health. Although it will be pathetically sparse and unattractive for a while, the best thing I have learned about social media is that (a) everything can be revised, and (b) you can ask for help.

**Use AEJMC and CSW.** Propose a panel or workshop for feminist scholars to talk about how to respond to threats to women's and families' health. Find a mentor who has fought for such rights.

**Ask questions and listen.** Ask women you meet everywhere to tell you about their experiences with health. Ask them what they would like to see changed. Then you can figure out how you can make that happen.

*Jen Vardeman-Winter is the CSW Midwinter Conference Chair and an assistant professor at the University of Houston.*

# Professional Promotions: Celebrating Member Success

**Barbara Friedman**, an associate professor at the University of North Carolina, has been actively publishing and presenting recently. She recently published a chapter in a book: **Anne Johnston, Barbara Friedman and Autumn Shafer**, "What's the Problem and What Can We Do About It? Mass Media Explain the Global Sex Trade," in Carilli, T. and Campbell, J., eds., *Challenging Images of Women in the Media: Reinventing Women's Lives* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2012). She also has an article in press for *Feminist Media Studies*; the article, which was co-authored with **Anne Johnston** and **Autumn Shafer** is entitled "Framing the Problem of Sex Trafficking: Whose Problem? What Remedy?" Finally, she was an invited panelist on Oct. 23, 2012 for a UNC-Chapel Hill Program in Sexuality Studies discussion about "Legitimate Rape? Current Scholarship and the Debate over Consent and Choice."

**Barbara Selvin**, an assistant professor at Stony Brook University School of Journalism, won the Best Faculty Paper award at the 11th annual Convergence and Society Conference in October 2012 at the University of South Carolina. Her paper, "Teaching the Business of Journalism: A Double Dose of Reality," described a course she created on the changing news industry. The course is required for all journalism majors and minors. A condensed version of the paper was published in the October issue of *The Convergence Newsletter*.

**Sammye Johnson**, a professor at Trinity University, recently participated in a workshop for journalists sponsored by Search for Common Ground that focused on "Lifestyle Journalism and the Image of Muslims in the United States." Johnson made two presentations, talking about the power and influence of lifestyle journalism today and giving a historical overview of diversity and minorities in lifestyle magazines. The Washington, DC-based Search for Common Ground works to transform the way the world deals with conflict—away from adversarial approaches and towards collaborative problem solving. Media training is one of the tools used to promote mutual understanding among diverse groups.

This fall marks the publication of the third edition of *The Magazine from Cover*

to Cover by **Johnson** and **Patricia Prijatel**, professor emerita at Drake University, by Oxford University Press. New to this edition is the chapter "The Magazine in the Digital World," which offers a thoughtful and detailed perspective on the evolving area of websites, smartphones, tablets, e-readers, analytics, and SEO tactics. The book has been updated to reflect the economic crisis of the past few years and the impact of digital and online media in all aspects of the magazine field. This revised edition has larger photos, more charts and graphs, and the addition of a second color throughout—a vivid blue reminiscent of a computer screen. *The Magazine from Cover to Cover* is used in journalism and mass communication programs throughout the U.S. and around the world; it was translated into Chinese in 2010.

**Jane Marcellus**, an associate professor at Middle Tennessee State University, is anticipating the publication of her article, "Dear D': Sophie Treadwell's 1915 Correspondence from the 'Big War Theater'," in the next issue (29:4) of *American Journalism*. This article discusses Sophie Treadwell's reportage work. Although she is best known as the author of the Expressionist drama *Machinal*, Sophie Treadwell was also a journalist. In 1915, she traveled to France to cover World War I for the San Francisco Bulletin and Harper's Weekly. This paper examines her published and unpublished war correspondence, consisting of articles for the Bulletin framed as letters to "D," a hypothetical friend back home in California, and a Harper's Weekly article emphasizing women's experience. The paper argues that because Treadwell did not focus on soldiers and fighting, but instead looked at daily life in "the big war theatre," her work was an effort to develop a female-centered journalistic voice.

**Kathleen L. Endres**, of the University of Akron, just completed a new documentary, *Rebels on Lake Erie: A Pirate, A Prison, A Plot*. The program has been broadcast on public broadcasting stations WNEO/WEAO and WGTE and will be distributed nationally by American Public Television.

**Lynette Holman**, assistant professor of journalism at Appalachian State University, published a co-authored article, "A Healthy Mix: A Case Study

of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Interdisciplinary Health Communication Certificate Program," in the September issue of *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator*.

**Elanie Steyn**, an assistant professor at the University of Oklahoma's Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication, is co-Principal Investigator of a U.S. State Department grant for Professional Exchanges Program for Media Professionals from Bangladesh—a program with budding media professionals who will come to OU in two exchanges (April 2013 and October 2013) for a five-week program and professional placements with media organizations in the Oklahoma City metro area. This program aims to specifically focus on female professionals from Bangladesh.

**Camille Kraeplin**, Southern Methodist University, working with colleague **Jake Batsell**, completed the third phase of a longitudinal study examining how convergence, or multimedia, practices have evolved in both local television stations and daily newspapers nationwide. First undertaken in 2002, the study allowed researchers to follow changes across the past decade. The results will be published in *Newspaper Research Journal* in fall of 2013.

**Maurine H. Beasley**, professor emerita of journalism at the University of Maryland College Park, is the author of the recently published *Women of the Washington Press: Politics, Prejudice, and Persistence* (Northwestern University Press, 2012). Her work was featured at a luncheon at the National Press Club in Washington on Nov. 19. At the event Beasley was interviewed by Eleanor Clift, a veteran Washington journalist, on highlights of the history of Washington women journalists. In addition, a group of women whose experiences are reported in the book were recognized. The book details the obstacles that women had to overcome to establish themselves as journalists in the nation's capital from the 1830s until today. The foreword is by **Sandy Johnson**, the first woman to head the Washington bureau of the Associated Press.

**Candi S. Carter Olson**, Ph.D. candidate at the University of Pittsburgh, has been awarded an American Association of University Women American Fellowship for

See "Awards" on page 6

# Minutes: Board Considers No-show Penalties and Media Outreach

*Continued from page 3*

same as in the 2002 bylaws. Hust explained that changes to the bylaws require two-thirds approval of those “present and voting.”

## **No-show penalties**

Hust reported that the AEJMC board was considering instating a penalty for conference no-shows in response to an increase in no-shows particularly at poster sessions. One idea discussed at the AEJMC board meeting was to penalize no-shows who did not obtain prior approval with a one-year ban on submitting to that division and an order not to list the presentation on that person's vita. Hust noted that failing to present and putting the item on one's vita would be unethical.

Hust said the AEJMC board tabled its discussion on this issue and added that while the issue was not currently up for debate, CSW should be prepared to consider how to react to it.

Candi Carter Olson voiced concerns about the costs of printing posters. Byerly said she felt poster sessions were of little value to the presenter and questioned whether this may play a role in people failing to attend. Hust explained that poster sessions are not an indication as to the value of research and that the perception that posters carry less prestige is not true in AEJMC. Duvall echoed Hust in describing how research chairs group papers that go together. In CSW some papers in poster sessions were among the highest scoring, but did not fit with other papers to make a cohesive panel.

Kim Golumbisky said NCA is dealing with the issue indirectly by moving the registration deadline in order to delete names of no-shows from

the program.

## **Mentoring luncheon budget**

Hust gave a report on the mentoring luncheon financing, saying that this year's price was raised to \$35, but was still less expensive than most other luncheons, which were \$45 or more. Hust said CSW supplemented the costs \$6-\$10 per plate and that the event cost \$750.

Beverly Merrick wondered what happened to the Wild Woman auction. Hust replied that the members had decided not to do it.

Hust said the cost of a seated lunch was more than an hors d'oeuvres event, but that it changed the conversational dynamic. Members who had attended the luncheon said they preferred the seated lunch and the group conversation it facilitated and were concerned that would be lost in a less formal atmosphere. Beverly Merrick suggested CSW could get sponsorship for next year's luncheon, perhaps from the Washington Center. Hust said she wanted to be sure that members supported the roundtable seated lunch and were comfortable spending CSW money for that type of event. Members voted in the affirmative.

## **New media and listserv**

Hust explained that because of the death of Evonne “Von” Whitmore, who managed the CSW listserv via her home institution of Kent State, CSW does not have access to the listserv.

Hust said she would contact Kent State to let them know CSW was using its server space and wondered if we should explore other options.

Carolyn Nielsen asked if CSW should use a cloud-based server. Duvall pointed out that would make the

listserv vulnerable to Spam and hacking. Duvall said that of all the new-media initiatives CSW has experimented with (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, a website), only Facebook is seeing use. Fewer than 40 CSW members are on the LinkedIn board.

Hust said she is concerned there isn't a place to talk about advocacy and a place for members to converse about what they are doing. She said CSW needs to leverage social media because it would be beneficial to members.

Beverly Merrick suggested a well-promoted webinar where members could join in remotely.

Kim Golumbisky suggested that AEJMC should host the listserv. Hust said she would contact Kent State because it might be possible to keep the listserv on that server.

## **Mid-Winter Conference**

Vice Chair Tracy Everbach gave the Mid-Winter Conference Chair update. She reported that AEJMC is considering changing its “chip” system for allocating panel time among divisions. She said every division except four voted to change the system. A discussion of how it might be replaced would take place on Sunday at the AEJMC meeting.

## **2016 Conference locations**

Choices included: Indianapolis (\$179-\$184) 0 votes

Minneapolis (\$169-\$189) 1 vote  
Nashville (\$175) 1 vote  
New Orleans (\$129-\$169) 9 votes  
CSW chose New Orleans.

## **Officer elections**

### **2013 officers:**

Chair: Tracy Everbach  
Vice Chair: Spring-Serenity Duvall  
Research Chair: Leigh Moscovitz  
Mid-Winter Chair: Jennifer Vardeman-Winter  
Secretary: Katie Place  
Newsletter Editor: Candi Carter Olson

## **Other Business**

Dr. Ralph Izard from LSU spoke on behalf of the Forum for Media Diversity and asked CSW members to provide the center with notice of their work, notice of diversity-related events on their campuses for the center's research database, which currently has more than 3,000 entries. The goal is 10,000 entries. The center can be reached at: [mediadiversityforum.lsu.edu](http://mediadiversityforum.lsu.edu).

Judy Cramer noted that for the centennial next year, CSW should consider bringing back past heads of CSW.

Hust suggested a signature panel for next year. Judy Cramer and Kim Golumbisky agreed to propose the panel.

## **Adjournment**

## **Awards: Advancing Women's Careers**

*Continued from page 6*

the 2012-2013 school year. The American Fellowship funded Carter Olson's research presentation at the summer 2012 AEJMC conference in Chicago, IL and will allow her to finish her dissertation, which maps the 120-year history of the Women's Press Club of Pittsburgh onto the history of the broader women's movement.

*Send your professional news, including publications, promotions, and awards, to CSW newsletter editor Candi Carter Olson at [ccartero@gmail.com](mailto:ccartero@gmail.com). Please include your institutional affiliation and title.*

# Teaching in Armenia: Intersections of Pedagogy, Scholarship and Activism

By Carolyn M. Byerly

As a feminist scholar, I follow lines of inquiry that shed light on the efforts by women and other ordinary people to speak in their own voices and strategize for political change. Activist scholarship also has a funny way of spilling over into one's teaching. The point to be made here is that pedagogy, scholarship and social action can interface in interesting ways as the times demand it and opportunities open.

Such a moment came in August when I traveled to Armenia, a former Soviet state, to give a series of five workshops on "Media and Social Activism" for young leaders engaged in a range of advocacy projects. With travel and hotel covered by a small Muskie Max grant through the U.S. State Department, I planned and gave five workshops over a 10-day period in different locations—two in the nation's capital Yerevan, and one each in Ijevan, Gyumri, and Vanadzor. It was my first time in the Caucasus, a semi-arid mountain region where people refer to themselves as Caucasians as often as to their own nationalities. The Armenians are a gritty, enduring people who have suffered under successive waves of domination—in the last century by the Ottoman Turks, the Bolsheviks, and most recently, the Soviets. Their language, literature, religion, art and ways of life are rich and have survived, though these are difficult times today for this little nation (as I shall explain).

The eyes of young Armenians are bright with determination and hope in spite of the challenges. I first saw this in the eyes of Tsovinar Nazaryan, a former journalist in her mid 30s who came to study for her master's in 2009 at Howard on a Muskie fellowship through the U.S. State Department. Her own leadership future unfolded in the two years she spent with us, first through her courses that revealed, among other things, the critical scholarship of Paulo Freire and feminist scholars like Lana Rakow and Leslie Steeves (among others), and second through the tragedy of her brother's death. A young officer in the Army, Artak, was tortured and killed by Army personnel in the months Tsovinar was writing her thesis. She would finish her defense and return to join with other grieving Armenian families who had formed a group to protest military abuse and to

demand justice for the murders of their sons and brothers.

The larger context for her newfound political leadership was a wave of activism led by young Armenian feminists and men in their 20s and 30s who have begun to successfully establish human rights and other groups to demand prosecution of rape and child abuse, and to protest the taking of public spaces (by the authorities) for private development, police brutality, the displacement of people from their homes, environmental degradation, government corruption, and other social problems. Grassroots efforts are also more subtle, e.g., teen groups are starting local recycling programs and studying ways of taking part in the political process. A number of older teens, girls and boys, attended the workshops. Activists seemed well-networked and focused; they are realistic about their nation's problems but not daunted by them.

The building of civil society in a population that has not experienced participatory democracy is an inspiring thing to watch, and I possibly learned more than I imparted in those four-hour workshops I led. Tsovinar wanted me to teach her mostly feminist cohorts how to develop social change strategies around communications (something I had first done in the 1970s in the US anti-rape movement). Thus, the workshop agendas blended "how to" information with "what do you want to achieve" discussions, some written exercises (shared in group), and a sharing of personal experiences. New technologies were compared to face-to-face and conventional media as communication tools, and I noted that Facebook is all the rage, but Twitter is used by very few, in this age group. Tsovinar translated four of the workshops while I spoke, but one – an all-woman gathering of 50 young feminists in Yerevan – was conducted in English, and she had translated all the handouts and the PowerPoint into Armenian in advance of my arrival. Workshops averaged 25-50 people who came ready to work, share and plan their next steps. From the standpoint of teaching, I have rarely felt so fulfilled.

However, my own education during this trip is not to be minimized. It was instructional to meet the founder of the Gyumri Press Association, who hosted one of the workshops, and who edits Armenia's most progressive newspaper; to attend a presentation by Amnesty International's director for the region who gave an update on the war in Syria from a human rights perspective; and to spend a morning at the Genocide Museum learning about the slaughter of an estimated 1.5 million Armenians (more than half the nation's people) between 1894 and 1915 by Ottoman Turks. I was moved to tears at the noontime weekly protest at the Minister of Justice by mothers whose sons had been murdered in the military. In watching these angry, grieving women, who included Tsovinar's mother, carrying their children's photos, I was reminded of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo who helped bring down Argentina's military government in the 1980s.

Many I talked to in that short trip explained that the nation is still emerging from a Soviet era that provided everyone with education and job but left a crumbling infrastructure and a people alienated from their government. Activists – and so many of them women like Tsovinar – are moving in to fill the vacuum.

*Dr. Carolyn M. Byerly is a Professor in the Department of Journalism at Howard University*



*Dr. Carolyn M. Byerly and Tsovinar Nazaryan. Photo courtesy of Byerly*

# Mentorship: Senior Scholars Requested to Participate

*Continued from page 1*

Williams (Syracuse U).

We also wish to thank again the *first-year participants* who did so much to help us establish the program:

**Mentors:** Roya Akhevan (St. Cloud State U), Maurine Beasley (U Maryland), Carolyn Byerly (Howard U), Shirley Carter (U South Carolina), Pam Creedon (U Iowa), Joe Foote (U Oklahoma), Anne Hoag (PennState U), Julie Newton (U Oregon), and Judy Turk (Virginia Commonwealth U). We note that this list includes four AEJMC presidents!

**Mentees:** Claudia Bucciferro (Denver U), Serena Carpenter (Arizona State U), Spring-Serenity Duvall (U South Carolina), Ammina Khotari (Indiana U), Camille Kraeplin (Southern Methodist U), Marian Meyers (Georgia State U), Claire Serant

(CUNY), Natalie Tindall (Georgia State U), and Jennifer Vardeman-Winter (U Houston).

Thanks are also due to our new *Mentorship Advisory Committee* members, whose role is to identify mentors and make recommendations to strengthen the program in succeeding years. These include Linda Aldoory (U Maryland), Julie Newton (U Oregon), and Alice Stephens (Clark Atlanta U).

## Planning for a recognition celebration

We are working with CSW chair Tracy Everbach to plan a special recognition event at the Networking Luncheon at the next AEJMC conference to honor all the first- and second-year participants in the Mentorship Program. Watch for details and plan to attend the luncheon!

## Building a strong mentor base

We would like to expand the pool of senior scholars to serve as mentors in next year's program. Please contact us if you are a full professor and would be willing to serve in this role. The commitment is typically one or two phone calls a month, occasional email correspondence, and occasional review of materials (e.g., a manuscript or application for tenure). Mentors and mentees negotiate their plans in the beginning of the mentorship relationship so that there is agreement as to expectations and ability to meet those. Our contact info: Carolyn Byerly ([cbyerly@earthlink.net](mailto:cbyerly@earthlink.net)) and Anita Fleming-Rife ([anita.flemingrife@unco.edu](mailto:anita.flemingrife@unco.edu))

*Carolyn Byerly is a professor at Howard University. Anita Fleming-Rife is the Special Assistant to the President on Diversity and Equity at the University of Northern Colorado.*

## Kopenhagen Center Seeks Collaborators for Feminist Media Research

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Florida International University has established The Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication. Kopenhagen is dean emeritus and professor in the school and one of the founders of the SJMC.

The Center is intended to be a pioneering site for the advancement of women in the field of communication. The Center's mission is to foster and advance the academic and professional growth of women by supporting the next generation of professionals and academics and giving them the tools to take on challenges and pursue leadership positions in both the academy and the communication industries, encouraging them to be future

influencers and distinguished leaders. The Center will also have a Research Forum to pursue important issues related to its work.

The Lillian Lodge Kopenhagen Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication is seeking to develop collaborations and initiate research projects with scholars whose research interests focus on women in mass communication including, the portrayal of women in mass media, women in the media industries, the role of women in media and mass communication, women adoption of new media technologies, and more. If your scholarly work addresses one of these topics or any topic that focuses on women in mass communication, please contact Dr. Sigal Segev, Chair of the Research Forum at [segevs@fiu.edu](mailto:segevs@fiu.edu).

## Midwinter Paper and Panel Submissions due November 30

Authors are invited to submit research paper abstracts of between 600 and 800 words. (Word count excludes author information and references.) Abstracts should give a clear sense of relevant literature, research objectives, methodological approach, stage of research project (conceptual, data gathering, data interpreting), findings and conclusions. In addition, the organizers are also inviting panel proposals. Panel submissions should include the panel title, a description of the session's focus, the issues to be discussed, and a list of panelists (potential and confirmed), including affiliation. Panel proposals should not exceed two double-spaced pages.

Submissions should be e-mailed to Jennifer Vardeman-Winter, CSW Midwinter Conference Chair, University of Houston, [jvardeman@uh.edu](mailto:jvardeman@uh.edu), by noon, November 30. Authors of accepted papers will be notified by mid-January 2013.

## Politics: Researchers Help Expand Opportunities for Women Journalists

*Continued from page 8*

"Dumbing down for the purported common good... It's the liberal way!"

And "newspaperman" posted this clearly sarcastic missive: "The frustrated editorialists of the fairer sex need help. This calls for a federal program."

Whether women writers don't try hard enough, are denied access to elite media jobs, are interested only in "soft" news, are still considered secondary citizens in journalism, or are just dumber than men, as padkiller suggests, are all questions we can answer. That's why we do our research.

Our voices are vital in the work toward gender equity.

*Tracy Everbach is the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women and an associate professor at the University of North Texas.*