

Static

The Newsletter of the Radio-Television Journalism Division of AEJMC

Vol. 42, No. 2

January 2003

In Memoriam. . .



TRAVIS LINN
(1938-2003)

Travis Linn, a former CBS newsman who was the first dean of the journalism school at the University of Nevada, Reno, died January 17th following a brief illness. He was 64.

Linn enjoyed distinguished careers both in electronic journalism and in the academy. As a reporter at WFAA in Dallas between 1962 and 1966, Linn covered stories such as the assassination of John F. Kennedy and the subsequent trial of Jack Ruby for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald. Between 1966 and 1973, he served as news director of WFAA-TV, building the station's news department from 15 to 75 employees, the budget from \$75,000 to \$1.25 million, daily newscasts from 45 minutes a day to four hours a day and leading the station from third to first in the ratings. Linn was the South-

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EDWARD L. BLISS JR.
(1912-2002)

Edward L. Bliss, emeritus professor in American University's School of Communication, died in Alexandria, VA, on November 25th. He was 90.

Born in China in 1912, Bliss was the son of missionaries. He started his journalism career in the 1930s in Ohio working as a reporter and editor for newspapers in Bucyrus and Columbus.

Moving to New York, he was hired as a writer for CBS Radio News in 1943. During his 25 years at CBS radio and television, Bliss wrote and edited the news summary for Edward R. Murrow's 15-minute broadcasts, worked with Fred Friendly on "CBS Reports" and served as CBS News President Dick Salant's executive assistant. Along with Alexander Kendrick, George Polk, David Schoenbrun and others, Bliss was part of the sec-

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Head Notes

by LEE HOOD
RTVJ Division Head

A note about this special issue: Radio-TV news and broadcast journalism education have lost two important figures over the past two months. The death of Ed Bliss in late November left many of us with a great sense of loss. Then, sadly, came the death of Travis Linn on January 17. In both cases, the flood of e-mail tributes on the RTVJ listserv spoke volumes about the impact these men had on our professional endeavors and, more personally, on us as people. Their contributions will have a profound and lasting influence on our field. Therefore, we are proud to dedicate this special edition of *Static* to their memory. Many thanks to *Static* editor Larry Burkum, who enthusiastically agreed to produce this special edition, and to everyone who contributed material to make this issue possible.

Wanted: Research Paper Judges

Thanks to all of you who have volunteered as division paper judges. There is still room for a few more judges if you are available to provide this service to the division. Skill and knowledge are paramount, but we're seeking psychographic - as well as demographic - diversity in our pool of judges. If you're willing to blind review some of the papers that will be submitted in April with a quick turnaround, please let us know now. E-mail RTVJ Research Chair Phil Auter at auter@louisiana.edu or call me at 337-482-6106.

Everything's Up-To-Date In Kansas City

by KATHY BRADSHAW
RTVJ Vice Head & Program Chair

You will find fresh new approaches to programming at the Kansas City convention along with the issues with which we continue to struggle.

The division will honor the teaching of the late Ed Bliss in a useful panel presentation. As a result of demand from the membership, there is a much deserved space on the program to honor Bliss. Bill Silcock is organizing the panel.

In what may be the first appearance at an AEJMC convention, you will see panels devoted to Weather and Sports. Bill Davie is crafting the weather panel, "Weather News: Sensational Journalism or Scientific Reporting?" Considering the continuing demand from students, we will all appreciate the sports panel organized by Bill Knowles, "Teaching Media and Sports: Keeping Academic Focus on 'The Toy Department'."

The possibility of war was felt by many divisions at the convention. If travel funding is approved, we will hear from a man directly associated with the new media voice in the middle-east. Phil Auter is organizing a panel with several people who have expertise in the Arab world. It is titled, "Al-Jazeera TV: The Arab World's CNN or Fox News?" RTVJ Division is the co-sponsor of "Boot Camp War Correspondents: When Journalists Train Like Soldiers, Is War Coverage Taken Hostage?"

RTVJ Division joins with three other Divisions to present a mini-plenary session, "State of the Freedoms, 2003: Civil, Individual, and Social Liberties." This session was the result of a shared concern about the treatment of American citizens since 9-11, and the likely limits that will be imposed on the press if there is a war.

RTVJ Division returns to a previous practice in cooperation with the Newspaper Division. We have reserved a panel session slot on the program for breaking news. The panel will be filled with content concerning a breaking news story. Depending on what emerges this spring, we may need your help programming this session.

Bob Papper is organizing an excellent panel on industry research, "The Latest Research In Print and Broadcast Journalism." We will learn more about teaching visual journalism from, "Teaching Visual Story Telling as News and Art." And RTVJ Division specifically addresses the gender issue in, "The Gender Difference: What Happens When Women Determine News Content?"

Our research will be presented in both panel presentations and in scholar-to-scholar sessions.

Here is the complete line-up of panel programming, day by day in Kansas City:

WEDNESDAY, July 30, 2003

1. Teaching Visual Story Telling as News and Art 8:15-9:45 a.m.

2. Weather News: Sensational Journalism or Scientific Reporting? 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

3. Managing Television Stations in the New Media Marketplace 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

4. State of the Freedoms, 2003: Civil, Individual, and Social Liberties 3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

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Travis Linn: An Appreciation

by JOHN TRENT

Even with Travis Linn's passing, you can still walk the halls of the Reynolds School of Journalism and hear that unmistakable voice of his. It was a gift from God, really, that voice of his, resonant, intelligent, commanding.

It was the voice of a man who excelled in everything he did: from graduating from Harvard to rising through the ranks of radio and television in Texas to becoming Southwest Bureau Chief for CBS News to earning the appointment as the first dean of the Reynolds School of Journalism. Travis passed away in the early morning hours of Friday, Jan. 17, at age 64 following a brief illness, and already those of us who knew him miss him.

Why?

In the spring of 1987, I remember a meeting with Travis. He was dean of the School of Journalism then, and I didn't know him very well. All that I knew was that I had a iron-clad plan to get out of the foreign language requirement demanded of all journalism majors.

Travis, as was his custom, listened intently as I pleaded my case. I didn't really need foreign language. Plus, I already had some job prospects in the newspaper world. Why short-circuit my meteoric rise to the top of that profession with some silly foreign language requirement?

Travis' response was simple. "Young man," he said, pausing for emphasis on the "young," "have you ever realized that the world is smaller than you think? A good journalist isn't only a citizen of his community or his country – he is a citizen of the world."

The Internet revolution was still years away – shrinking the world to the size of a computer screen – but already Travis was on the vanguard of the information age.

I grudgingly took Spanish via correspondence course that summer, cursing Travis Linn under my breath a number of times as I struggled through the subject. A year later, though, during my first newspaper job at the Las Vegas Review-Journal as a baseball writer, I discovered that Travis was right – the world was much smaller than I had thought.

Thanks to the Spanish I had learned, I struck up a friendship with a young Latin baseball player named Sandy Alomar Jr. Sandy would go on to become an All-Star catcher for the Indians, but at the time he was a scared 23-year-old not sure what the future held.

Thanks to Travis, I was the only reporter in the Las Vegas Stars' clubhouse who spoke Spanish, leading to Sandy giving me a number of important exclusives.

And in perhaps the best Travis Linn tradition – a tradition grounded in the basic decency of all human beings – I was the only working journalist invited to Sandy's wedding that summer, in a small chapel just off the Strip.

"The fact that you went to the trouble to speak to me in Spanish made all of the difference," Sandy told me later. "It showed you cared."

No, Travis was the communicator who cared.

The man was an insatiable learner. As early as 10 years ago, he realized what a powerful tool electronic communication would be. He mastered it the way Heifitz fiddled: with a wholehearted, lyrical, insistent joy of someone conquering a new frontier.

Travis' influence on the school he helped create was immense. He was the first dean in the school's history. He was the only person to serve as interim dean twice. He created many of the school's new media courses from scratch.

But beyond that was the man himself.

It was a tradition, at the end of every semester, for Travis to take his students to breakfast at Archie's, only a stone's throw from campus. A man who is Harvard educated and who has stared down Walter Cronkite obviously has high standards, and Travis was indeed a demanding professor. But he was also extremely fair. The breakfast, somehow a variation of his beloved eggs, bacon, toast and coffee – was his way of thanking his students for their own hard work.

What a treat it was, to sit over breakfast with a man who could recall Murrow, Cronkite, Seavareid and Rather, not as vague apparitions of TV broadcasting past, but as real human beings.

Yet as much as he was a great storyteller, rooted to some extent in the past, Travis kept pushing forward, into the future.

One of my favorite bits of research about Travis revolves around a project he was involved with on Sept. 9, 1995. He was selected as one of a group of people living in 24 time zones along the earth's 40 degree North latitude line. For one hour, the group reported what they saw, which was reported on a Web site.

For Travis, this meant that he, along with his wife Sheila and son John, along with friend Val Chappel, reported on what was happening from 3 to 4 a.m. from Reno.

Their camera and Travis' words captured the rest:

"Because it is the middle of the night, you can see only city lights, not the mountains, still with some snow, behind the city to the south ... Crickets, traffic sounds, occasionally the si-

please see Trent, page 8

Ed Bliss – Our Friend and Colleague

by JAMES HOYT and JOHN DOOLITTLE

Ed Bliss was, without question, one of the most accomplished broadcast journalists AND broadcast journalism educators either profession has ever known. If you were lucky enough to know Ed – as we were – you had a friend, a colleague, and a mentor for life.

You see, Ed Bliss was engaged and he was passionate. That was true of his relationships with his colleagues at CBS and in journalism education, with his students and former students, with his family and friends, and especially with his beloved wife, Lois.

Ed practiced broadcast journalism at its highest levels – as writer for Edward R. Murrow and editor for Walter Cronkite. He was quietly competent and never made a show of his extensive command of broadcast journalism or the English language. As Cronkite put it, “Ed was one of the most extraordinary persons I have ever known. He was a quiet man who accomplished so much without apparently any realization of how greatly he was influencing the history of his times.”

As we said, Ed was engaged...both with words and people. He seldom met a sentence he couldn't improve upon. But when he thought he had communicated his thought with a maximum of clarity and a minimum of words, this quiet man was always ready to defend it. Ask the editors at Columbia University Press, some of whom tried to “improve” his copy. Ed would frequently answer their suggestions with something like, “I wrote it that way because those words express what I want to say as clearly as possible.”

If you came to Ed with a problem (either with your writing or your life), he wouldn't just listen to it; he would try to help solve it. The profession – and life – weren't about to pass him by. He was a full-fledged participant – 24/7, as they say now.

But Ed was also gentle. His former CBS colleague and friend, Merv Block, said one of Ed's favorite sayings was “to be hard on copy, but not on people.” Legions of former students tell about how Ed quietly, clearly, and with good humor, would correct their writing blunders. Ed was a demanding instructor. He once proudly claimed the most meaningful compliment he ever received was from a former student who said, “You were the first person to demand of me what I thought I could not do.”

Jim Hoyt invited Ed to share his thoughts on teaching broadcast news writing with his AEJMC colleagues at a Radio-Television Journalism Division convention session in Houston in 1979. Some of Ed's advice to his fellow RTVJ division members went like this: “Students in broadcast journalism, as in any form of journalism, must be adminis-

tered heavy doses of writing. You not only should prescribe it; you should see it through. Look over their shoulders (not all the time). See how they're doing, note their leads, lend a hand. Tell them WHY what they're doing won't work. Be a coach. Mark up their copy. Write in the margins. Suggest how the sentence SHOULD be worded. Note the spelling that should have been given, the source that should have been named. Students – most of them – learn from these markings. And they know you read their copy...that you are involved, with them, in developing their skill.”

Ed also understood that you couldn't write about something you didn't understand: “There is a correlation between clear writing – clarity of language – and clear thought. You must know in your mind, clearly, the meaning of a story before you can report it clearly. The listener cannot understand until, first, YOU understand. You can't be lucid about something that is murky to you. Your grasp of the story is required.”

On the same occasion in Houston, Ed also discussed his deep feeling that in addition to teaching broadcast news writing, we should also teach ethics. As he put it, “It is argued, pro and con, whether courses in ethics should be offered. But shouldn't what is right...what is fair...what is honest...be taught all along? Journalism education without education in responsibility is a farce.... Students should be told that it is possible to have every fact right...and be unfair. To develop accuracy...and be cold. To write clean sentences...and distort. To sound and look good on the air...and be ignorant. To know all the grammar...and not know what to say.”

Anyone who knew Ed could feel his enthusiasm...for broadcast journalism, for education, and, yes, even for life. At his 1979 RTVJ appearance, he also emphasized the importance of this attribute, challenging division members: “How enthusiastic are YOU? Are you excited about writing? Properly excited? Excited about what the right noun or right verb can do to a sentence which, otherwise, limps? Are you excited about your subject...and its importance? Its relationship to society? Our whole way of life? And are you excited about your students? Does their potential excite you? Do you get a kick out of seeing how this one...or that one...suddenly catches on to what broadcast writing is all about...and writes with accuracy, clarity, and grace?”

One of Ed's former students, Jackie Judd of ABC News, has wondered, “How did someone so kind and so gentle succeed so well in such a tough business?” Another of his

please see Hoyt, page 7

Travis Linn has left the building

by JEAN TRUMBO

University of Nevada-Reno

Travis' faculty gathered today in Travis' building to talk about Travis. All of us felt as though we were brought together by him and taught to love what we do because of him. His great heart, intellect, humor and devotion to his students, his friends and his family filled the building. This faculty exists because of Travis. This School exists because of Travis. We all feel the loss profoundly but we are all so very grateful to have known him.

The stories that we shared were a wonderful comfort to all of us. There was lots of crying but there was also a great deal of laughter punctuating our Travis tales. He loved to tell stories and he had thousands of stories to tell that were all fascinating. My favorite Travis stories were those he told about his family. He loved his family so much. He was so proud of his sons and he shared every wonderful accomplishment with us. I think we all felt as though Stephen, Larry, John and his wife Sheila were part of our extended family.

Personally, I feel cheated because he owes me lunch! Travis loved burgers and we both share a peculiar

fascination with the weather. There were many sunny or stormy Nevada days when Travis and I would play hooky, grab a burger, and drive around northern Nevada or into California talking about cloud formations. Travis was also an avid golfer and so am I. We spoke wistfully of hitting a bucket of balls on days when some sort of technology something-or-other was torturing us. I am pleased to report that while our love of the game was never in question, our level of skill and our ability to count were always dicey. Both of us were certain that if this whole academic thing didn't work out, we'd hit the professional golf circuit. Travis was pure joy!

I suspect that I could write a book or two of Travis stories and I am one of hundreds who could do the same. I will share just one last thought. Travis was the heart and soul of this University. As one colleague put it, "Today there are at least 10,000 people in Reno who have lost their best friend." I am among them.

A memorial service was held on the UNR campus on January 21. We are also interested in collecting memories

or tributes from colleagues. These can be sent to me jmtrumbo@earthlink.net and I will collect them for a memorial publication that we will share.

Please know that this loss is enormous to all of us, but we also know how much he means to so many people. The UNR web site www.unr.edu is filled with information about him. In fact, most of the technology innovation on this remarkable campus is the result of Travis' vision.

Two memorial funds have been established by the Linn family:

A Memorial Fund in Travis B. Linn's name at First United Methodist Church, 209 W. 1st St., Reno, NV 89501-1202.

The Travis B. Linn Scholarship Fund in Journalism and New Media. Checks should be sent to the UNR Foundation, Mail Stop 162, UNR, Reno, NV 89557-0040 (Checks should be made out to UNR Foundation for the Travis B. Linn Scholarship).

Linn, from page 1

west Bureau Chief for CBS News between 1974 and 1984.

He became the first dean of UNR's Reynolds School of Journalism in 1984. His appointment brought instant recognition to the fledgling school. He helped the school develop its first courses in Internet reporting, programming and communication. In recent years, he was UNR's leading voice in broadcast news and new media. He also taught media ethics.

Linn stepped down as dean in 1990, but served as acting dean on two other occasions, most recently last year. In recognition of his contributions, the school's new media lab was named in his honor

In 1995 he was recognized as UNR's "Outstanding Faculty Member" upon nomination of the Faculty Senate. RTVJ

named Linn the Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Educator for 1997.

Linn was a strong supporter of Reno's public television station, KNPB, and its initiatives. He hosted the long-running history series *Nevada Experience*, recently recording the introduction and narration for the latest documentary, "The Great War." The program is scheduled to premiere February 19, 2003.

Linn earned his B.A. in 1961 at Harvard University with a major in English and cum laude in General Studies. He earned an M. A. from North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas) with a major in political science and a minor in journalism.

Linn is survived by his wife, Sheila, and three sons, Stephen, Larry and John.

Remembering Ed

by DEBORAH POTTER

It's always hard to find the right words to say when someone dies. Harder still when you're writing about someone who cared so deeply about choosing the right words and using them in the right order. When Ed's daughter Anne asked me to speak at his memorial service at American University in December, she said to be brief. It's a good thing her father taught me how, or I'd have been tempted to run on about Ed Bliss.

Those of us who were lucky enough to have been Ed's students well remember how he made our writing better. He wasn't able to mark up my copy today—but he was with me as I wrote. I'll bet he's been with others, too, over the years, as their fingers hovered over a keyboard, derailing freight train phrases, and making sure they write out United States in full, because U-S is NOT a proper noun. And, of course, being careful to put a hyphen between the U and the S, so no one could mispronounce it as “us.”

The truth is, we've *all* been Ed's students—his CBS colleagues, his fellow teachers, the TV news directors who heard him speak at RTNDA conventions—and he's still teaching today. Right after he died, the RTVJ listserv was buzzing with comments from college journalism teachers who said they play tapes of his presentations to *their* students. I've always felt that his book, “Writing News for Broadcast,” was the best pure writing text on the market. It's also pure Ed, reflecting his reverence for the written word and his sense of humor. Who will ever forget hearing Ed tell the story of Claude Fly, the American businessman who was kidnapped years ago in Uruguay. He was 66, and on the air, was referred to as “the 66-year-old Fly.” Ed would have pulled out his hair, had he any to spare.

We all learned from Ed—not just

how to write but how to *get* it right, and why that matters. He taught us to care about what we wrote and the people we wrote about. And we learned much more than broadcast journalism from Ed. He offered us not just a model career—two model careers, really, in the newsroom and the classroom—but also a model life. At his memorial service, more than one person said of Ed, “He was the sweetest man.” If anyone needed proof, they could have watched him with his wife, Lois, and seen his love for her grow stronger as she slipped deeper into the fog of Alzheimer's.

Ed reminded us by example that life is what matters; family and friendship above all. Some years back, he sent me a note after a whirlwind visit to Washington for a dinner to honor Eric Sevareid. Everyone was there—all the leading lights of network news. It was a huge occasion. Know what Ed said first about his trip? “Saw grandson play and help win two basketball games.”

Those of us who first knew Ed as Professor Bliss felt ourselves privileged to move from the status of student to friend. We might even have felt unique when he sent us notes praising our progress or asking advice on his latest project. As it turned out, we had lots of company. Ed had a huge collection of friends and nourished their friendship with a flood of letters. Years ago, my husband and I visited Ed and Lois at their home in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Down in the basement, I discovered where he kept his friends: neatly stored in rows of metal filing cabinets. If you ever wrote Ed a letter, you had your own file.

Ed relished life, from Shaowu, China, to Newburyport and back again. His idea of retirement was to keep right

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Bliss, from page 1

ond generation of “Murrow Boys” at the network that was then the dominant force in broadcast journalism.

In 1963, he became the news editor for the “CBS Evening News With Walter Cronkite.”

In 1968, Bliss started the broadcast journalism program at American University's School of Communication and taught the school's first broadcast journalism course. He retired in 1977, the year he was named professor of the year by the Society of Professional Journalists.

Bliss was awarded the Radio-Television News Directors Association's Paul White Award in 1993. RTNDA established the Paul White Award in 1956 to honor the broadcast news pioneer who served as the first news director at CBS. The award recognizes an individual's lifetime contribution to electronic journalism.

In June, Bliss was given the 2002 Distinguished Service in Local Journalism Award by the Society of Professional Journalists D.C. Chapter, to honor his contribution to the development of local journalism and journalists as well as his contribution to the metropolitan Washington community.

Bliss wrote “Writing News for Broadcast,” a widely used journalism textbook first published in 1971. After retirement, Bliss continued to write, publishing “Now the News, The Story of Broadcast Journalism,” in 1991. He also published “Beyond the Stone Arches,” a book about his father, and edited a book called “In Search of Light: The Broadcasts of Edward R. Murrow”.

Bliss is survived by his daughter, Anne Mascolino.

Share your memories of Ed Bliss and Travis Linn on the RTVJ web site. E-mail rtyj@drury.edu and we'll add them to the memorial pages.

Hoyt, from page 4

former students, Bob Edwards of NPR, introduced Ed at a dinner last summer where the Washington Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists honored Ed with its Distinguished Service Award. Edwards saluted his mentor's continuing productivity of books about journalism and people who mattered to Ed. He concluded with the observation that when he, Edwards, turns 90 he will be happy to be reading books, let alone writing them.

Last spring when John Doolittle asked Ed to speak to a journalism history class, Ed agreed to do it, but somewhat reluctantly. Ed said he was worried about his energy level in front of students. Once in the classroom, however, Ed displayed a keen edge. During Q and A, a student asked Ed if he was working the day President Kennedy was shot. Ed gently said he had watched the first news of the tragedy as it was fed across the wires and when Walter Cronkite returned from lunch, he was the one who gave the anchorman the shocking news. When another student asked why none of her contemporaries knew much about the career of pioneering anchorwoman Pauline Frederick, Ed shot back that he, too, wondered why there was so little done to preserve her contributions to getting women into the profession. Ed added that he would contribute to the scholarship fund that was created for the American University alum, if it would help make her name and opportunities for women in journalism more salient. On the drive back to Virginia, Ed didn't talk of any concerns of being fatigued, but seemed pleased how he had once again reached students.

Ed wouldn't hesitate to deviate from traditional broadcast journalism conventions either. Once, when commenting on the broadcast writing style that places ages before names, Ed said, "There's got to be a more conversational way. I would never refer to my wife as 'the 70-year-old Lois.'"

People were as important to Ed as were words. Jim Hoyt tells about how when they began their collaborative effort to co-author "Writing News for Broadcast," Third Edition, they would discuss drafts of the book on the phone almost nightly. Jim says when the project began Ed wanted to know the names, ages, and interests of each of his three children. Why? Because if one of them answered the phone when he called, he wanted to have something to discuss with them. Jim says his kids were always impressed and excited when Ed was on the line, and would ask them about Boy Scouts, middle school, or speed skating. Ed cared. He was genuine. And it showed.

Ed enjoyed telling of the time he was dispatched to a New York hotel to pick up the poet Carl Sandberg for an appearance on an Edward R. Murrow program at CBS. He said Sandberg invited him into his hotel room, told him to

sit down, offered him a drink, and proceeded to ask Ed questions about himself. Ed said, "Can you imagine that? HE wanted to find out about ME." Then, with a smile, Ed would conclude, "He sure didn't act like an old person."

Ed Bliss didn't act like an "old person" either. His enormous role in the profession continued well into his final year. On July 25, 2002 – just five days before his 90th birthday – Ed was honored with a surprise birthday party by the Washington, DC chapter of RTNDA. And his deep interest in world affairs was still apparent a week before his death, when he wrote to Jim Hoyt, in an e-mail message, "This crazy idea of going into Iraq is dragging me down. Have no lessons been learned from Vietnam? How many wars do we want? We haven't cleaned up Afghanistan yet and because we are unwilling to make a sufficient commitment, I am beginning to doubt we ever will. We have this idea, this conceit, that we're all-powerful."

To us, there is no question that the professions of broadcast journalism and broadcast journalism education have benefited immensely from the professional – and very human – involvement of Ed Bliss.

(Jim Hoyt, Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, co-authored "Writing News for Broadcast," Third Edition, with Ed Bliss. John Doolittle, Associate Professor at American University, was Ed Bliss' broadcast journalism colleague at that school.)

Potter, from page 6

on teaching, traveling and writing. He labored for a decade to produce the definitive history of broadcast journalism, "Now the News," that only he could have written. Somehow, he also found time to write a touching, personal memoir of his father's life in China, "Beyond the Stone Arches." It took him more than a year to find a publisher, but he was relentless and success was sweet.

Ten years ago, in his Christmas letter, Ed wrote: "Lois and I have less energy now that we are octogenarians, but find life, if anything, even more fascinating." He never stopped finding life fascinating; heck, he never even slowed down! The week before he died, he was in New York, signing another book contract. "For the Love of Lois" will be published this spring.

Ed was 90 when he died. I guess we knew he wouldn't last forever, but his death still came as a shock. We'll miss him. I miss him already.

(Deborah Potter first met Ed Bliss as a graduate student at American University. She later worked for CBS News and now leads journalism workshops.)

RTNDA update

by JEANNE NORTON ROLLBERG

RTVJ Liaison to RTNDA

RTNDA@NAB will be APRIL 7-9 in Las Vegas, and will feature several RTVJ'ers prominently, with the program still being finalized as Static goes to press. More than 35 sessions will cover television and radio news, reporting and producing, leadership, interactive media/technology, education and more.

Among items of special interest to our division will be educator/student sessions about producing more TV news producers, successful collaborations between broadcast journalism programs and newsrooms, job hunting tips and no-no's, international journalism opportunities, and how to win RTNDF scholarships. There will also be programs dealing with high school journalism.

Division members currently slated to produce, moderate, or participate in those sessions include professors Bill Silcock of Arizona State, Bill Davie of the University of Louisiana, Lafayette, and Don Heider, of the University of Texas at Austin. Bob Papper of Ball State will be produc-

ing the Educator Breakfast on Monday, wherein the focus will once again be ethics in the electronic media. A meeting of the Education Task Force is also scheduled, with all interested parties welcome. Current plans call for student tape critiques to take place Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Meanwhile, Bob Schieffer, anchor and moderator of CBS News' Face the Nation, has been named 2003 recipient of the Paul White Award, with honors scheduled for presentation at the dinner on April 7 at the convention. Schieffer has covered Washington for CBS News for more than 30 years and is one of the few journalists to have covered all four major beats in the nation's capital: the White House, Pentagon, State Department and Capitol Hill. Schieffer has reported from the podium and the floor at all of the Democratic and Republican national conventions since 1972.

You may keep up to date on convention news by subscribing to a free e-mail update at <http://www.rtna.org/convention/2003/signup.asp>.

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THURSDAY July 31, 2003

5. The Latest Research on Broadcast and Print Journalism 8:15 – 9:45 a.m.

6. Media Ethics and Crime Coverage 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

7. AL-Jazeera TV: The Arab World's CNN or Fox News? 3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Members Meeting & Bliss Award (DBJE) presentation 8:30 – 10:00 p.m.

FRIDAY August 1, 2003

8. The Gender Difference: What Happens When Women Determine News Content? 8:15 – 9:45 a.m.

SATURDAY August 2, 2003

9. Breaking News 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

10. The Teaching Legacy of Ed Bliss 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

11. Teaching Media and Sports: Keeping Academic Focus on "The Toy Department" 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

12. Boot Camp War Correspondents: When Journalists Train Like Soldiers is their War Coverage Taken Hostage? 3:15 – 4:45 p.m.

Trent, from page 3

ren of an ambulance or other emergency vehicle somewhere in the city can be heard ”

A moment in time. Travis listed his passions on the project's Web site: "It is probably computers and the internet at the moment. In a larger context, it is communicating with people and hearing stories."

What did he believe in on Sept. 9, 1995?

"God, the innate goodness of people, the joy of learning."

And finally, what did the concept of "Time" mean to him?

"Time is a medium in which we live, giving us a way at remembering, looking ahead, and placing events in context."

Travis' time on earth was distinguished by his innate goodness toward others, and of his uncanny ability to look ahead. These are the universals of a truly remarkable renaissance man, and on a day like today, when we walk the empty halls of the Reynolds School of Journalism, seeking the reassuring sound of his voice, we should remember him for being our friend.

We shall miss him and we shall never forget him.

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Call for Nominations for the Ed Bliss Award

The Ed Bliss Award for Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Education (formerly the DBJE Award) will be presented by the Radio-Television Journalism Division of the Association for Journalism Education and Mass Communication to an electronic media educator who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the field. Criteria for nomination and selection:

- ◆ **Teaching:** Evidence of excellent teaching may come from a nominee's dean, director, or department chairperson, current or former students, faculty colleagues, and others. Letters should contain specific examples of teaching excellence.
- ◆ **Service:** Service may include major responsibilities or leadership in professional or educational organizations such as AEJMC, RTNDA, SPJ, state broadcast news organization, and other professional memberships.
- ◆ **Research:** The nominee should exhibit enhancement of teaching and service through professional and/or academic writing and research. Examples include journal articles, articles in professional trade publications, and creative works for broadcast.

This new award will be presented at the RTVJ Division's business meeting at the conference in Kansas City, Missouri, this summer. The recipient will receive a personal plaque and registration fees for attendance at the conference. In addition, the recipient's name will become part of a permanent plaque that is housed in the Poynter Institute for Media Studies in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Nominations are solicited from the broadcast media, professional organizations and associations, and broadcast educators or students. Send nominations by April 1, 2003 to:

Prof. William R. Davie
Department of Communication
P.O. Box 43650
University of Louisiana
Lafayette, LA 70504-3650

Past winners:

James Hoyt, Wisconsin-Madison, (2002)	Al Anderson, Texas-Austin (1992)
Lincoln Furber, American University (2001)	Ernest F. Andrews, Syracuse (1991)
Ken Keller, Southern Illinois (2000)	Irving Fang, Minnesota (1990)
Elmer Lower, Missouri et al (1999)	Don Brown, Arizona State (1989)
Vernon Stone, Missouri (1998)	Mitchell Charnley, Minnesota (1988)
Travis Linn, Nevada (1997)	Rod Gelatt, Missouri (1987)
Gordon Greb, San Jose State (1996)	Henry Lippold, Wisconsin-Eau Claire (1986)
Joan Konner, Columbia (1995)	Dick Yoakam, Indiana (1985)
Joseph R. Dominick, Georgia (1994)	Ed Bliss, American University (1984)
Michael Murray, Missouri-St. Louis (1993)	Jack Shelly, Iowa State (1983)

Call for Research Papers

for the

2003 AEJMC Convention

Uniform submission deadline is April 1, 2003

The Radio-Television Journalism Division of AEJMC invites submission of original papers on any aspect of broadcast journalism and electronic mediated communication. The division welcomes a variety of methodological approaches. The RTVJ Division offers cash prizes for the top student and top faculty paper submissions. However, cash prizes are forfeited if an author fails to present her or his work.

REQUIREMENTS:

Please comply with ALL requirements in the AEJMC Uniform Paper Call (<http://www.aejmc.org/convention/03callforpapers.html>).

Additional division requirements:

1. Send a cover letter with your paper submission. Include complete information about the paper as well as the first author and (if different) the intended person who will present.

A. Paper Information: Title, all author names (listed in order beginning with first author), each author's organizational affiliation (where s/he works), each author's position (e.g., faculty, graduate student, undergraduate student).

B. First Author and Presenter (if different) Information: For the first author, and also the presenter (if different), include mailing address, direct phone number, e-mail, and an alternative method of contact (e.g., departmental phone number).

C. Please include your anticipated A/V needs if the paper is to be presented.

2. Maximum paper length 7,500 words, or about 25 double-spaced pages plus notes.

3. Other than in the cover letter and title page, there must be no references to the author(s) or their affiliations, in order to ensure blind review.

SUBMISSION:

E-mail and FAX submissions will not be accepted. Incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Submit cover letter, six (6) copies of your paper, computer disk copy, and reproduction permission form to:

Philip J. Auter
Assistant Professor of Communication
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Department of Communication
Burke-Hawthorne 101
P.O. Box 43650
Lafayette, LA 70504
Phone: 337-482-6106
E-mail: auter@louisiana.edu.

RTVJ to co-sponsor mid-winter conference

by LEE HOOD

RTVJ Division Head

For the second year in a row, RTVJ will participate in a mid-winter conference with other AEJMC divisions. The conference will be held Feb. 28-March 2 in Boulder, Colorado. Several RTVJ members will present their research. In addition, plans include an opening plenary session on convergence issues.

The conference will begin with a reception Friday evening. Most conference activities, including the plenary session and paper presentations, will take place on Saturday. The conference will conclude with a Sunday morning breakfast panel (topic to be announced).

The conference will be held at the Millenium Hotel (the old Harvest House, for those familiar with Boulder), near the University of Colorado campus. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Millenium, at a rate of \$69 per night. For reservations, call 1-866-866-8086 and request the "Mid-winter conference" block.

Other co-sponsors of the conference include Communication Technology & Policy, Media Management and Economics, Visual Communication, the Graduate Education Interest Group, and the Internship and Careers Interest Group.

Besides breathtaking scenery, Boulder is only 20 miles from the nearest ski area. It is also within easy driving distance of Denver. Not a bad place to visit in late February/early March!

Look for additional details and a conference schedule on the RTVJ web site in the next few weeks. The following scholars will present their work at the Mid-winter Conference:

Hubert Brown, Syracuse, "African American Owned Radio in the U.S.: Surveying 21st Century Challenges, An Exploratory Case Study."

George L. Daniels, Alabama, "Recruiting Tomorrow's Electronic Media Professionals: Predictors of Broadcast and Media Production Career Consideration in High School Students."

Cindy J. Price and Becki Dale*, Wyoming, "Job Satisfaction of Newsmagazine Correspondents Compared to Nightly News Correspondents."

Dana Scott Rosengard, Memphis, "Cognitive Development and Instructional Theory as a Guide to Program Success: Comparing College Curricula from Award-Winning Broadcast Programs."

Mary Caton-Rosser*, Colorado, "Radio Revelations: Youth Participants and Listeners Using Radio as a Medium of Learning and Leadership."

Zala Volcic*, Colorado, "Re-Mapping the Media Spaces: Media Education Course in Slovenia."

*graduate student



The newsletter of the Radio-Television Journalism Division of AEJMC

RTVJ Division Officers, 2002-2003

Head

LEE HOOD

University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

Lee.Hood@colorado.edu

Vice Head & Program Chair

KATHY BRADSHAW

Bowling Green State Univ.,

Bowling Green, OH

kabrads@bgnnet.bgsu.edu

Secretary/Static Editor

LARRY G. BURKUM

Drury University, Springfield, MO

lburkum@drury.edu

PF&R Committee Chair

DAVID KURPIUS

Louisiana State University,

Baton Rouge, LA

kurpius@lsu.edu

Research Committee Chair

PHILIP AUTER

University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA

auter@louisiana.edu

Teaching Standards Committee Chair

HUB BROWN

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

hwbrown@syr.edu

Membership Committee Chair

ANTHONY MORETTI

Ohio University, Athens, OH

anthonyandnichola@earthlink.net

Distinguished Broadcast Journalism

Educator Committee Chair

WILLIAM R. DAVIE

University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA

wrd3819@louisiana.edu

Liaison to Radio-Television News

Directors Association

JEANNE ROLLBERG

University of Arkansas, Little Rock, AR

jrollberg@ualr.edu

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RTVJ Online

www2.drury.edu/rtvj

AEJMC

www.aejmc.org

Distinguished Educator Award to Honor Bliss

by LEE HOOD
RTVJ Division Head

In recognition of Ed Bliss's considerable contributions to broadcast journalism and broadcast education, the RTVJ executive committee has voted to rename the Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Educator award in his honor. The new award will be known as the Ed Bliss Award for Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Education.

Ken Keller, himself a former DBJE winner (2000), was the first to suggest naming the DBJE after Ed. Many other RTVJ members expressed support on the RTVJ listserv. The late Travis Linn, the 1997 Distinguished Educator, wrote, "I think anyone who is honored with the DBJE award will be doubly honored by having it known as the Ed Bliss Award." Tim Hudson of Oklahoma wrote, "Ed was an inspiration to me and has meant a great deal to this profession. This would be a fitting tribute."

The RTVJ leadership concurs. In keeping with our by-laws, the executive committee voted on the proposal

in December, and it received overwhelming support.

We then sought the permission of Ed's family, which his daughter gave enthusiastically. Anne Bliss Mascolino said, "Dad would be so proud to have this award named for him. We're all very honored." She added, "Dad was devoted to his teaching. Of all he did, that meant the most to him."

We will bestow the first Ed Bliss Award for Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Education at our convention in Kansas City next summer. With this change, the DBJE award comes full-circle. Bill Knowles of the selection committee noted that Ed Bliss won the second DBJE award in 1984. (Jack Shelly of Iowa State was the first recipient, in 1983.) By adding Ed's name to the award, we honor a man whom Bill Davie, head of the DBJE selection committee, called "our role model in broadcast journalism education." It is, indeed, a fitting way to commemorate Ed Bliss's legacy in our field.

Static

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c/o Communication Department
Drury University
900 N Benton Ave
Springfield MO 65802