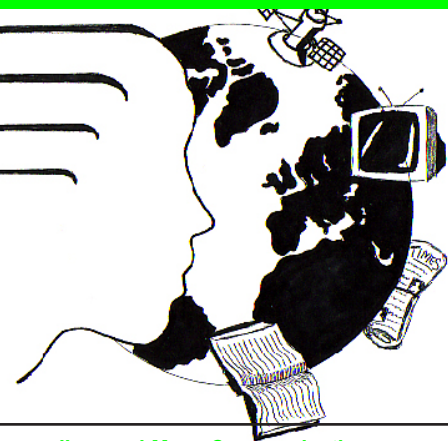


# Clio

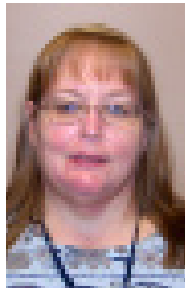
among the media



Newsletter of the History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication



words  
from the head



## Journalism History: Why It Matters

By *Debbie van Tuyl*,  
*Head and Program Chair*

Journalism history has reached a tipping point. After years of watching history class after history class disappear from the curriculum, an important accreditation official, Loren Ghiglione, former president of ASJMC, spoke out about this

problem, as will the American Journalism Historians Association at its October convention. At that conference, AJHA will announce the findings of a study of the state of journalism history offerings in American colleges and universities.

One of the points to be considered in this discussion is the classic bane of graduate students: “So what?” Why does journalism history matter, and why should it be included in a professional training curriculum where, to steal a line from AJHA President Fred Blevens, “tools and toys” classes have more practical and immediate value?

That, of course, is the root of the problem: the widespread belief that we are educating young men and women to become practitioners rather than educating them to become communicators who not only possess skills but who also understand what it means to be a journalist, a filmmaker, or a public relations practitioner.

The nature – and needs – of journalism education is a long-running discussion, one I’ve been hearing since my first encounter with journalism education as a master’s student at the University of Alabama. As long ago as the 1980s, all the

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## Taking Notes: Teaching Media History

By *Anne Thorne*,  
*Teaching Chair*

Welcome to this new column on teaching media history. One of the goals set by the History Division executive council was to emphasize anew the importance of the history of journalism and mass communication in graduate and undergraduate teaching. This column and the two history teaching panels at AEJMC in Washington, D.C., are an outgrowth of that effort.

The standing-room-only crowd at the session, “Teaching Media History in an Age of Convergence,” in Washington was a good indication of the interest in and growing concern about teaching media history to students who rely on “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart” and “The Colbert Report,” as their primary source of news. Each of the four panelists, Carolyn Kitch, Temple, David T. Mindich, St. Michael’s, Patrick Washburn, Ohio, and Sheri

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# EXCERPTS FROM THE HISTORY DIVISION'S ANNUAL REPORT

*Submitted by W. Joseph Campbell,  
Division Head 2006-2007.*

The History Division has entered the fifth decade since its founding as one of AEJMC's largest and most prominent mainstays. The Division remains a welcoming, inclusive "village," in the words of a former Division head—a research home for many scholars, both well-established and emerging. The Division has been a leader in AEJMC in establishing a presence online—through its high-quality quarterly newsletter, *Clio* Among the Media, and through co-ownership of the diverse and lively JHistory listserv.

The Division pursued ten goals in 2006–07, and met them all. The highlights of 2006–07 included burnishing the Division's online presence by redesigning and upgrading its Web site, <aejmchistory.org>; organizing an immensely popular pre-AEJMC convention workshop at the Library of Congress, for which registration expectations were quickly exceeded; making the transition with other AEJMC divisions, commissions, and interest groups to an exclusively online research paper competition; encouraging senior scholars to submit articles and essays to the *Clio* newsletter, and preparing an engaging and stimulating lineup of joint panel sessions for the AEJMC convention—panels evenly divided among research, teaching, and PF&R topics.

Research was the Division's top activity in 2006–07, as it has been traditionally. The Division encourages and recognizes high-quality research through its AEJMC convention paper competition and through its annual Book Award and Covert Award in Mass Communication History prizes. Research was a principal focus in the contents of *Clio*, the Division's top-notch, quarterly online newsletter.

PF&R ranked second among the Division's activities in 2006–07, owing principally to the imaginative, timely, and very insightful PF&R panels scheduled for the AEJMC convention as well as those presented at the Northeast Regional conference in New York in March.

Teaching ranked a very close third, after PF&R, in the Division's activities in 2006–07. The Division has long recognized and embraced the critical importance of excellent instruction in the history of journalism and mass communication at the graduate and undergraduate levels and recognizes the close linkage between scholarly research and high-quality teaching.

## RESEARCH

The History Division's tradition of promoting excellence in scholarly research was renewed at the 2007 AEJMC convention in Washington, D.C. There, the Division recognized the authors of the top faculty and student research papers both at the annual members'

meeting and during a "top papers" research session immediately before the members' meeting. Karen Miller Russell (Georgia) wrote this year's top faculty paper, "Public Relations and Corporate Policy: Arthur Page and AT&T's Financial Policy, 1927-1939." Philip Glende, a doctoral student at the Wisconsin-Madison, wrote the top student paper, "Bridging the Gulf: Authors and Editors Imagine the Political Work of the American Federationist." Glende received the Warren Price Award, which is named for the Division's first head. This year's History Division Book Award was won by Ronald J. Zboray and Mary Saracino Zboray for their thoroughly researched *Everyday Ideas: Socioliterary Experience Among Antebellum New Englanders*. Seventeen other books were entered in the competition, which was conducted by Carolyn Kitch (Temple), a past head of the History Division.

The Covert Award, endowed by the late Catherine Covert, a professor at Syracuse and former History Division head, recognizes the best essay in mass communication history published during the previous year. The Covert winner this year was Richard B. Kielbowicz of the University of Washington, for "The Law and Mob Law in Attacks on Antislavery Newspapers, 1833-1860." His article was published in fall 2006

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# Annual Report

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in *Law and History Review*. The Division has offered the Book Award since 1998 and the Covert Award in Mass Communication History since 1985. Karen List (Massachusetts-Amherst) merits special mention for her service in having conducted the Covert Award competition for many years.

The volume of research papers presented in the History Division's competition this year was roughly equivalent to that of the year before. In all, 67 papers were evaluated by 53 judges, 33 were accepted for presentation. The acceptance rate this year was 49.3 percent, which corresponds to the five-year average of 49.2 percent.

The Division scheduled a High-Density research session at the AEJMC convention for the first time. Eleven papers were presented during the High-Density session, which helped ensure there were enough places on the convention schedule for high-quality history research papers.

One of the Division's goals in 2006–07 was to “work to achieve a smooth transition to the online submission and judging of research papers for the 2007 convention.” Through the tireless efforts of Research Chair Debra R. Van Tuyll, this objective was accomplished. Van Tuyll helped Division members navigate the all-electronic process in explanatory articles in *Clio* and in messages posted to the JHistory listserv, of which the History Division is co-owner.

The Division also sponsored high-quality research panels at the convention in Washington, panels raised searching questions about the field and its scholarship. They included “Myths, Lies, and Omissions in American Journalism History.” This panel considered a variety of “myths,” distortions, and omissions in journalism and mass communication history, and explored reasons for the tenacity of dubious or apocryphal anecdotes.

Another research panel that posed searching questions about journalism history was “Silences and Omissions: What the Black Press Did Not Cover.” This panel, organized by Brian Carroll of Berry College, considered some of the events that were not well covered or described in the black press and discussed what such absences tell us about the black press and communities they covered. The panel underscored the importance the Division has traditionally assigned to the history of minority journalism, including the content and dynamics of the African-American press.

For the first time in years, the History Division sponsored a pre-convention event—a research workshop at the Library of Congress the day before the AEJMC convention opened. The 60 places available were claimed quickly registration for the convention opened. The cap was raised to 75, and that limit was soon reached.

The daylong History Division/AJHA Northeast Regional Conference in New York City in

March attracted 75 attendees—the most ever. The joint conference featured three panels, numerous research paper presentations (many of them interdisciplinary in character), and a powerful closing presentation titled, “Iraq in the Light of Vietnam: Did the Press Fail in Its Duty to the Public?”

The Division plans in 2007–08 to explore the feasibility of establishing a journal for longer, interpretative articles in media history. There is no guarantee that such a journal will be established; but exploring its feasibility and practicality corresponds to the enduring objective of promoting high-quality research. To that end, the Division expects to extend its tradition of organizing high-quality research panels, for presentation at the 2008 convention.

Another research-related goal is to commemorate in 2008 the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Division's Book Award, which has become an important means of recognizing and honoring high-quality scholarship in media history.

## TEACHING

The History Division has long recognized that high-quality teaching is inevitably tied to top-notch research. The linkages are tight. To that end, the Division has long offered significant support for upcoming journalism history teachers and scholars through monetary prizes, travel stipends,

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# Covert Award Appeals For Help

By Karen List, Covert Award Chair

The Covert Committee is publicizing its call for nominations for the 24th annual \$500 award for the best article in journalism/mass communication history published last year. The Committee for 23 years has carefully selected the winner of this prestigious award, endowed by and named for Cathy Covert, a professor at the Newhouse School at Syracuse University and former head of the History Division. Cathy died of cancer at age 60 in 1983.

And though she's been gone these 24 years, Cathy continues to inspire us. "I'm right there with you," she wrote to her first doctoral student, Susan Henry, when Susan was working on her dissertation and Cathy was abroad for the semester. She's been "right here" with all of us too, as we do this work in her memory.

None of that has changed. What has changed, however, is the interest generated by the endowment has not covered the amount of the award. A

History Division goal this year is to solidify the award's future.

This award should be of great interest to members of the History Division. First, it honors Cathy's own forward thinking research, which Susan Henry, a professor at California State University Northridge, describes as pioneering: "She loved new ideas and delighted in finding connections between ideas from disparate fields. She identified the assumptions that had shaped American journalism—and also shaped the writing of journalism history. She then proceeded to question them and stand them on their heads."

Another reason to build the endowment is Cathy's heartfelt encouragement of the research of other historians. Susan says, "Beyond reminding us of Cathy's scholarship, this award does something Cathy did better than anyone else. It encourages excellent research by others." Sad to say, she's not here to encourage, advise or praise us now. But she endowed the Covert Award

to do that for her. And the endowment now needs our help.

On the 20th anniversary of the Covert Award, we organized a special tribute to Cathy at the AEJMC convention in Toronto, with Dave Nord discussing the impact of her research, Terry Hynes remembering her as a colleague and Carl Burrows talking about her as a teacher. By the award's 25th anniversary in 2009, we would like to honor Cathy in a different way: we hope to have built the endowment substantially so that the award can become self-sustaining once again.

Several Covert Committee members already have pledged to contribute \$100 or more to this effort. Would you consider joining us to honor Cathy and the wonderful scholars who are recognized with the Covert Award each year?

Contributions, made out to AEJMC and marked For the Covert Award, may be sent to AEJMC, 234 Outlet Pointe Blvd., Columbia, South Carolina, 29210-5667.

## Journalism History: Why It Matters

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trade publications I read regularly -- *Editor and Publisher*, *Quill*, *Columbia Journalism Review* -- would run articles about what the professionals thought were the problems with j-school course offerings.

That argument is still being made. In a 2006 forum on how to improve journalism education, Vartan Gregorian, president the

Carnegie Corporation, argued that journalism education is important because journalism undergirds American democracy, and an understanding of history is necessary to understand why that is so.

Yet, the four j-school deans and others who spoke about how to improve journalism education called for more training in reporting and "cutting-edge formats," in reporting

international news, in how to cover the police beat, and in ethics, according to a booklet that described the discussion, *Journalism's Crisis of Confidence: A Challenge for the Next Generation*. One speaker talked about teaching students to "get their hearts in the right place," meaning teaching them what it means to be a journalist, but the prescription

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# Journalism History: Why It Matters

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for doing that still seemed to come down to teaching skills in ethical decision making, not in knowledge about journalism and the history of its conventions and past journalists whose experiences are what have led us to accept some things as ethical and others as unethical.

I think the interest in why journalism history courses have been disappearing can be seen as a call for some readjustments in our thinking about curricula matters. Please don't think I'm arguing at all that skills and technology courses are not important. They are vital to train productive communicators. There is a limit, though, to how many hours we can require students to take before they graduate, and I believe those hours need to include a balance between courses that train students in professional skills and courses that "socialize" students to the norms of the field – that teach them not just how to be a communicator but also what it means to be a communicator.

Frankly, I believe these kinds of courses are just as practical as skills courses. I tell my Media Law students that, despite all the legal theory we will deal with, this is probably the most practical of all the courses they will take. I tell them the very formal objectives on the syllabus, are only a smokescreen so I don't shock my department head when he reads the syllabus. The two real objectives of the class are to keep their money in their pockets and their butts out of jail.

I see history as offering the same practical benefits. History can be instructive. For example, I believe that if some of those news industry leaders knew more journalism history, they would be more flexible in their thinking about how to respond to changes in the market. Newspapers, radio, magazines – each has had to re-invent itself when market and social paradigms changed. If journalism history teaches nothing else, the one really important lesson it offers is that media monoliths are doomed by their own weight. If a medium is not agile enough to shift with circumstances, its long-term chances of success are not great.

This is so clear in my own area of research, the Civil War press in the South. Those newspapers really faced a chaotic situation: enemy armies invaded their hometowns, smashed their presses, tossed their type out into the street for horses to trample, and captured editors; three-quarters of newspaper printers either got drafted or volunteered for the Army; inflation soared (prices rose by about 9,000 percent over the course of the war); newsprint was so impossible to obtain, some newspapers had to print on wrapping paper and wall paper, and others had to manufacture their own ink; the President proposed drafting opposition editors and sending them to the front to silence them. In short, it was enough to make the turbulence in today's media world look like, well, small potatoes.

In each instance, Southern journalists found a way to deal with the

problems at hand. While more than half the South's newspapers closed down during the Civil War, a good number were innovative in their thinking and financing, and managed to hang on through America's most devastating war. A subscriber had no money to pay for his subscription because inflation was so high? The paper would take chickens, or strawberries, or, in the words of one editor, "anything a man can eat or wear." The town was under siege and the staff had been called out to do militia duty? Whoever stayed behind would put out a half sheet.

Clearly, bartering chickens for newspapers isn't a solution to the ills that plague the news industry today. But an understanding of something about how past communicators have faced their trials, or knowing something about other models of journalism that have succeeded in the past, might be a starting point for considering possible courses of action. This intimate knowledge of the field connects today's practitioners to those who gave them the conventions and practices of their profession, and that helps us know the "whys" of the field – why we write summary leads, why objectivity is an (arguably) important journalistic value, why the press has an adversarial relationship with government. Knowing history also helps journalists get beyond the "whys" to conclusion that, "Just because we've always done it this way doesn't mean we have to continue doing it this way."

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# BOOK EXCERPT Dark Days in the Newsroom: *McCarthyism Aimed at the Press*

by Ed Alwood  
(Quinnipiac University)

Between 1952 and 1957 the three primary investigative committees - the House Un-American Activities Committee, McCarthy's Subcommittee on Government Operations, and the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (SISS) - subpoenaed more than one hundred journalists to testify, many of them publicly, to answer questions about suspected ties between the newspaper industry and the Communist Party. During this period 14 journalists were fired by newspapers, including *The New York Times*, for refusing to comply.

Of the three committees, SISS conducted the most extensive inquiry of the press in 1955 and 1956. Its staff culled a list of more than 500 journalists before calling more than 70 witnesses - journalists and employees of the Newspaper Guild - to testify in both open and closed hearings. Journalists who refused to answer questions faced substantial penalties. *The New York Times* fired four who refused to cooperate with the committee. Four more journalists - three from the *Times* - were convicted of contempt of Congress and faced fines and prison sentences. Many in the newspaper industry, whether they were directly involved or not, would have agreed with Arthur Gelb, the former *Times* managing editor, who called those days "a dark and scary

period" that "haunts those of us who lived through it."

The McCarthy era was a dramatic and fascinating period, but its complexities defy simple explanations or generalizations. Deceptive practices used by both Communists and anti-Communists make establishing the truth especially difficult. What happened to the press during the 1950s demonstrates the vulnerability of journalists to government pressure both then and now, despite the constitutional protection of the First Amendment. This not to suggest that journalists possess special rights beyond those afforded the average citizen; however, the Constitution expressly protects the press from government intimidation.

*Dark Days in the Newsroom: McCarthyism Aimed at the Press* examines how journalists themselves contributed to the political climate that made it dangerous for anyone to challenge McCarthyism during the 1940s and 1950s: they became allied with anti-Communists, based on the flimsiest of evidence, in a campaign to identify and purge Left-leaning colleagues from newspapers and the Newspaper Guild. Of the thousands of books and articles written about the McCarthy era, none has presented an in-depth examination of McCarthyism aimed at the press.

To research how the press became a target and how the newspaper industry responded, *Dark Days in*

*the Newsroom* draws on public and private archives, FBI files obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, private papers, personal interviews, and the transcripts of the investigative committees. The targeting of journalists and the prosecution of those who refused to answer questions about their personal thoughts and political beliefs are a powerful commentary on the scope and meaning of freedom of the press. Several dozen journalists suffered the most direct consequences, but the clash over the First Amendment's protection of journalists would affect the entire profession for decades to come.

Debate surrounding governmental power to compel journalists to testify became especially contentious in the 1970s when the government jailed growing numbers of reporters who refused to name their sources, usually in connection with criminal investigations, and the journalists refused. The debate grew especially pronounced in 2005 when Judith Miller of *The New York Times* was jailed. As *Dark Days in the Newsroom* shows, the constitutional issues raised by such episodes are rooted in the 1950s, when congressional investigative committees confronted journalists about their thoughts and beliefs. The McCarthy era was not only a grim period in American political history but a dark, haunting and very significant episode in the history of

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# Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting

submitted by John Coward  
Division Secretary

History Division Chair W. Joseph Campbell (American) called to order the annual members' meeting at 7 p.m. August 11, 2007. Campbell recognized the Division's past chairs in attendance and thanked them for their past service. The past chairs included Pat Washburn (Ohio), who won two awards at the AEJMC convention in Washington. Washburn was named the first winner of AEJMC's Tankard Book Award and winner of the Eleanor Blum Award for Distinguished Service to Research Award.

About 40 members attended the meeting. Campbell called for approval of the minutes of the 2006 History Division members' meeting in San Francisco. They were approved unanimously.

## Completed Goals

Campbell reported that the History Division had completed a successful year. The Division's ten goals for 2006–07 had all been met. Campbell also noted that the History Division was the lead sponsor for five of the six History panels at the 2007 convention. He also mentioned the Division's highly successful off-site tour and workshop at the Library of Congress, on the day before the 2007 convention was convened.

## Financial Health

The Division's financial health is robust, Campbell reported. The Division's account, as of June 30, 2007, stood at \$9,555.26; twelve months

earlier, the balance was \$8,713.78. Five years earlier it was \$2,671.57. Campbell said the improving financial attributed can largely be attributed to the reduced costs of publishing *Clio Among the Media*, the Division's lively quarterly newsletter which now is an online publication. Converting a few years ago to an all-online presence saved the Division large sums in mailing and printing costs.

## Report on Research

Division Vice Chair Debbie van Tuyl (Augusta State), reported that 69 History papers had been submitted for prospective presentation at the 2007 convention. Two of those were withdrawn or disqualified, leaving 67 papers that were assigned for blind review. Thirty-three papers were accepted for the convention in Washington, an acceptance rate of just under 50 percent. Paper topics fell into several categories, van Tuyl said, including the history of security issues, and public relations and the press. She thanked the members for their service as Division judges, moderators and discussants.

## Awards

The award for the top faculty paper went to Karen Miller Russell (Georgia) for her study of public relations history, "Public Relations and Corporate Policy: Arthur Page and AT&T's Financial Policy, 1927-1939." Karen Slattery (Marquette) and Mark Doremus (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) received the second place faculty award and Kimberley Mangum

(Utah) the third place faculty award.

In the Division's student paper competition, the first place winner was Phil Glende (Wisconsin-Madison) for his "Bridging the Gulf: Authors and Editors Imagine the Political Work of the American Federationist." Second place in the student competition went to J. Michael Lyons (Indiana). Christina Locke (Florida) was the third place winner. Russell and Glende made brief presentations of their research, in keeping with practice begun at the members' meeting in 2006.

Carolyn Kitch (Temple) reported on the Division's Book Award. She reported that 18 were nominated and panel of three judges read them all. Winners of the award were Ronald J. and Mary Saracino Zboray for their book, *Everyday Ideas: Socioliterary Experience Among Antebellum New Englanders* (University of Tennessee Press). The authors told the meeting that their book was the culmination of a 10-year project.

Karen List (Massachusetts), chair of the committee that names the recipient of the Division's Covert Award in Mass Communication History said this year's winner was Richard Kielbowicz (Washington). He won for the article, "The Law and Mob Law in Attacks on Antislavery Newspapers, 1833-1860," which was published in *Law and History Review* in Fall 2006. Campbell used the occasion to thank List for her service to the Covert Award committee. Campbell then asked for discussion about the Covert Award's

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# Meeting Minutes

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endowment, which stands at \$5,200, and for suggestions about building up the Covert funds. Several suggestions were offered, which the Division's leadership will consider in the year ahead. During the discussion, former Division chair Terry Hynes (Florida) described the origins and importance of the Covert Award.

Campbell reported on the Division's other endowment fund, the Emery Travel Fund. Its endowment stands at \$19,732, a figure that has been enhanced over the years by the generosity of Hazel Dicken-Garcia (Minnesota), a former History Division chair. On behalf of the History Division, Campbell expressed deep gratitude to Dicken-Garcia for her generosity.

David Mindich (St. Michael's) updated the members on the JHistory listserv, of which the History Division is part owner.

Campbell then asked the members for their views on the possibility of raising dues. As of August 1, 2007, membership stood at 381, Campbell said, noting that the figure reflects a decrease over the past decade or so. Various ideas were suggested and discussed, including the pos-

sibility of raising dues to finance a new Division journal. Another idea discussed was lowering dues for graduate students and raising them for faculty. The issue of dues will be raised again at the members' meeting in 2008.

## Future Conference Sites

Campbell asked the members for their preferences among the sites under consideration by AEJMC for the convention in 2011. The sites included Dallas, Detroit, Memphis, Minneapolis, St. Louis, and San Antonio. The members expressed a general preference for Minneapolis.

## New Officers

Campbell also introduced the new Division officers: whoDebbie van Tuyl, chair and John Coward (Tulsa) vice chair and research chair. Elliot King (Loyola-Maryland), agreed to serve as secretary and Clio editor. Campbell noted that King had served as the Division's PF&R chair and, for several years, has organized the very successful, daylong History Division-American Journalism Historians Association joint conference in New York City.

## Conclusion

The meeting closed with announcements about upcoming conferences and paper deadlines. The consensus was that the History Division was in good shape and looking forward to a strong year.

# Clio

## Among the Media

**Editor:** Elliot King  
(Loyola College in Maryland)

**Webmaster:** Kittrell Rushing  
(University of Tennessee-  
Chattanooga)

**Clio logo:** Nat Newsome  
(Augusta State University)

Clio Among the Media is published quarterly by the History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Submissions to Clio are welcome. Please send them to: Elliot King, Department of Communication, Loyola College in Maryland, 4501. N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21210.. Electronic copy, either disk or e-mail, is preferred. For information, contact King at 410-617-2819, or e-mail him at: [eking@loyola.edu](mailto:eking@loyola.edu). Recent issues of Clio may be accessed at:

<http://www.utc.edu/Outreach/AEJMC-HistoryDivision/hist-pub.html>

## USPS Moroney Awards

The United States Postal Service sponsors two prizes for scholarly work on the history of the American postal system. The prize for conference papers, theses, dissertations, or published works by students is \$1,000; the prize for

works by faculty members public historians, and independent scholars is \$2,000. Deadline is Dec. 1, 2007. More information at <http://www.usps.com/postalhistory/moroney.htm>, or contact Richard Kielbowicz at [kielbowi@u.washington.edu](mailto:kielbowi@u.washington.edu)



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# Annual Report

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and complimentary registration at the AEJMC convention. This year was no exception: Authors of the three top student-written History papers received travel stipends and complimentary convention registrations. In addition, the winner of the Price Award for best student research paper received a monetary award and a plaque.

In addition, the Division took the lead in sponsoring two important teaching panels at the AEJMC convention. The panel titled “Teaching History in an Age of Convergence” brought together some of the top figures in the pedagogy of journalism and mass communication history—Carolyn Kitch (Temple), David T.Z. Mindich (St. Michael’s), and Pat Washburn (Ohio). Another teaching panel—“Is Journalism History ‘Serious’ History?”—offered a probing look at the distinctions, real and perceived, between history of journalism and mass communication, and the field of history, writ large.

JHistory has described itself, aptly, as “home to some of the most interesting discussions and debates in the field, with top scholars, professionals, and graduate students participating.” The list was established in 1994 and offers a searchable archive. Its message volume varies, but ten to twelve postings a week are typical.

*Clio* is another traditional forum for History Division discussions of pedagogy. The newsletter has long been the outlet for articles and essays about promising new subfields in

the history of journalism and mass communication. For example, Dane Claussen, the Division’s immediate past chair, offered a detailed discussion in *Clio*’s spring 2007 issue about postal history and its generally overlooked promise.

Teaching was central to an especially timely panel at the Northeast Regional Conference in New York in 2007. The panel, “Before Jackie Robinson: The Press and Racism in American Sports,” coincided with the 50th anniversary of Robinson’s breaking the color barrier in major league baseball. The panel addressed press coverage of sports and racism in the years before Robinson’s breakthrough. The 2007 Southeast Regional Colloquium in New Orleans included a History-sponsored panel on “Katrina and Media Research: Scholarship on America’s Worst Modern Natural Disaster, 18 Months Later.”

## **PF&R:**

The History Division rates its PF&R activities as second in importance to research in 2006–07. (In recent years, the Division rated PF&R third in importance.) Principal reasons for the stronger weighting in 2006–07 are impressive panels planned for the AEJMC convention and those delivered at the Northeast Regional Conference. These panels addressed important PF&R topics such as free expression, racial and gender inclusiveness, and media criticism/accountability.

History was the lead sponsor of “The Echo Chamber at Mach Speed: Meta-Reporting in the

Nation’s Capital,” considered whether the times in which we live are anything other than the result of a natural progress begun in the mid-Nineteenth Century. The panel included Deb Aikat and Ryan Thornburg (both of North Carolina-Chapel Hill) and two professional journalists: Martha Angle of *Congressional Quarterly* and CQ.com, and John Harris of the Washington-based *Politico* print and online newsletter. Also joining the panel was Donald A. Ritchie of the U.S. Senate Historical Office.

The Northeast Regional Conference—which has been organized for several years by Elliot King, the Division’s PF&R chair since 2005—was an important vehicle for the Division’s out-of-convention activities in PF&R. The Northeast Regional’s closing presentation returned to coverage of the Iraq War and focused on the provocative topic, “Did the Press Fail in Its Duty to the Public?” in the runup to the Iraq War in 2003. Presenters included William M. Hammond, chief of the general histories branch of the U.S. Army Center of Military History.

In addition, the History Division’s Web site, [aejmchistory.org](http://aejmchistory.org), includes a page of linkable resources that include sites relevant and useful to PF&R. One of the sites, for example, is the annotated online timeline of cases of American journalists jailed or subpoenaed since 1735.

Specific PF&R-related goals in 2007–08 include organizing high-quality PF&R panels at the 2008 convention and trying to find a place

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# Notes On Teaching Media History

*continued from page one*

Broyles, North Texas, offered a variety of perspectives and approaches to teaching media history to students who are tuned out of most news programming and tuned into Facebook and YouTube. The panelists' thoughts and useful suggestions on how to engage students in media history will appear in this column in future issues of *Clio*.

There is no question that the media experiences that students bring to classroom in 2007 are very different from those when most of us were undergraduates, or even when we began as faculty. When I started teaching in 1987, my mass communication textbook stated that there were only three television networks and that was unlikely to change in the future. Today, besides having the option of more than a hundred pos-

sible programs on television at the same time, according to a Beloit College profile, entering freshman "... think nothing of arriving home with parents still at work, then e-mailing or texting their friends, instantly updating their autobiographies on "Facebook" or "MySpace," and listening to their iPods while doing their research on Wikipedia. They've grown up with Rush Limbaugh urging his fellow Dittoheads to excoriate liberals, with having been taught by an equal number of women and men in the classroom, and with women having been hired as police chiefs of major cities." (Beloit College's Mindset of College Freshman can be found at <http://www.beloit.edu/~pubaff/mindset/2011.php>)

So how to do you teach media history with all the competition from contemporary media for your

students' attention? What works for you in your classroom? Do you play Jon Stewart reruns as a lead to an historical topic? Do you use other Internet resources? Bring in historical media? Require research of older media?

In addition to the comments of the four panelists, I would like to include suggestions from others of you who have found ways to engage students in being invested in learning about media history. Also, I would like to know what panels on teaching media history would be of interest to you. What would be most useful to generate discussions about what you can bring to the classroom that would encourage students to become engaged in the study of media history? Please send your thoughts and suggestions to [thorne@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:thorne@missouriwestern.edu).

## Call for Contributions to *Clio*

In this issue, you will see a new column about teaching media history written by Ann Thorne, the division's teaching chair. We would like to use that space for people to share their ideas, tactics and techniques for teaching journalism and media history.

You will also see a short excerpt from an interesting new book by Ed Alwood of Quinnipiac University. Those are only two of the fresh ideas that we would like to incorporate into *Clio* this year.

Some of you may remember the journal *Lingua Franca*. *Lingua Franca* had the revolutionary idea

that what happened in the academic world was actually newsworthy and interesting. One of its regular features reported on what the magazine called "overlooked archives," collections of historical material that were under-utilized. *Clio* would be a perfect forum for you to share both your knowledge of little-used collections that could be of interest to historians of journalism and communication, as well as your own favorite archives. I will be soliciting contributions to the new department online as well.

We are also looking for a teacher or teachers who are teaching journalism

history for the first or second time to share their experiences. What is going well? What has proven to be challenging?

Finally, have you written or read an article that you think deserves the attention of the journalism historians community? Send in an abstract and a citation.

My goal is for *Clio* to continue to report the business of the History Division as well as be full of interesting nuggets that help us in our work. I look forward to hearing from you. You can reach me at [eking@loyola.edu](mailto:eking@loyola.edu) or 410-617-2819.

*Elliot King, Editor*

# Calls for papers and conferences

## Call for Covert Award Nominations

The History Division of the Assn. for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) announces the 24th annual competition for the Covert Award in Mass Communication History.

The \$500 award will be presented to the author of the best mass communication history article or essay published in 2007. Book chapters in edited collections also may be nominated.

The award was endowed by the late Catherine L. Covert, professor of public communications at Syracuse University and former head of the History Division.

Nominations, including seven copies of the article nominated, should be sent by March 1, 2008, to Karen

K. List, Journalism, 108 Bartlett Hall, UMass, Amherst, MA, 01003.

## AEJMC History Division-AJHA Joint Journalism Historians Conference

The Joint Journalism Historians Conference—the American Journalism Historians Association and the AEJMC History Division joint spring meeting—will be held on Saturday March 15 and co-located with the College Media Advisors at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City. We welcome submissions from all areas of communication history from all time periods and topics, and encourage scholars from all academic disciplines and stages of their careers to participate. Send abstract or inquiries to Elliot King, Conference Organizer, at [eking@loyola.edu](mailto:eking@loyola.edu) or call 410-617-2819.

## Dark Days

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American journalism.

To understand the problem confronting journalists in the 1950s and today, and the threat to the Constitution, it is necessary to understand the circumstances that prompted journalists to join the Communist Party in the 1930s and consider the political atmosphere surrounding the 1950s witch hunt for Reds in the newsroom.

*Alwood, Edward. Dark Days in the Newsroom: McCarthyism Aimed at the Press. Temple Univ. 2007. C 208p. Bibliog. Index. ISBN 978-1-59213-342-0. Pap. \$21.95.*

Do you have a book that you want to bring to the attention of History Division members. Send a blurb or abstract (600 to 800 words) to Elliot King at [eking@loyola.edu](mailto:eking@loyola.edu). Please secure permissions if needed.

## History Division Officers

2007-2008

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