

# LEAD TIME

## NEWSLETTER OF THE NEWSPAPER & ONLINE NEWS DIVISION

Spring 2020

Dear NOND members,  
Wow. What an unprecedented time we're living in right now. I hope this finds you healthy and safe as we all navigate through this historic pandemic. It's something that has affected all of us in some way. Most of us are quarantined in our homes. We've traded away whiteboards and classrooms for virtual meeting spaces and online discussions. Instead of spending hours in a newsroom each week, we're working remotely, conducting interviews over Skype, Zoom, or other platforms, doing our best to keep socially distant. In these uncertain times, it has been fascinating to watch how news organizations - locally, nationally, and internationally - are covering an event that is so unpredictable, life-altering, and may not be ending any time soon. There is real value in what journalists are doing right now and as an educator, it's provided lots of interesting discussion for my classes.

Along those lines, as you learn about (or participate in) examples of innovative journalism related to coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic, feel free to share with our membership through the NOND listserv. I think it would be beneficial for all of us to be aware of the things that are going on within our industry. The same goes with experiences you have had (or will likely have) in the area of online journalism education. Share any insights, tips, and even failures with our listserv so we can all find ways to improve this experience for our students. Online education brings with it a unique set of challenges, but it can also provide us with some remarkable teaching opportunities as well.

I want to offer a heartfelt thanks to our vice-chair, Matt Haught, for his

work with the Southeast Colloquium. For those who may not be aware, Matt and his team had to scramble to move the colloquium to a virtual platform as this pandemic took off here in the United States just days before they were set to meet in Memphis. From the accounts shared with me, Matt was a true miracle worker and it was a big success. So thanks to Matt and those who were part of this event. We're grateful to have you within our NOND ranks!

Turning to this summer, there have been no specific announcements regarding how this pandemic will affect our annual AEJMC conference, scheduled for August in San Francisco. The organization is moving forward at this point, but I anticipate we get some updates relatively soon. As soon as I hear something, I will be sure to share it with the rest of our membership. The good news is we know there will be conference - even if it is virtual. So stay tuned!

With the changes to the paper competition this year, our research chairs have been busily working on getting each submission before a team of judges. If you are able to help with reviewing for the competition, please reach out to either Andrew Duffy (duffy@ntu.edu.sg) or Patrick Ferrucci (patrick.ferrucci@colorado.edu).

On a personal note, I do hope you are all doing well during this time of uncertainty. I appreciate the association we have through NOND and will continue to keep you in my thoughts and prayers. Best of luck this spring and summer and here's hoping we see each other in some form!) this summer.

- Kris Boyle

Brigham Young University  
NOND Chair

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# Jumpline co-founder offers j-schools advice for the new normal

**Amy Kristin Sanders**

*University of Texas at Austin  
Co-founder of Jumpline*

Last week, I caught myself telling my Election Reporting students, “This too shall pass.” And while the abrupt – and occasionally awkward – transition to e-learning will, in fact, pass, I hope J Schools don’t miss the value of this moment.

When Andrew Mills and I launched Jumpline nearly a year ago, we were committed to the idea that journalism education required serious re-thinking, and we knew our colleagues teaching journalism would benefit from a community of like-minded educators who were committed to radically transforming their classrooms and curricula.

No one could have anticipated how rapidly COVID-19 would impact higher education, up-ending our course schedules, stretching even the most tech-savvy instructors to the max and threatening our universities’ finances. But now that the dust is beginning to settle, some real possibilities for transforming journalism education have emerged:

- Re-inventing Internships – Sure, the current approach to internships has served some of our students well. But the system – and those who run it – have received some much-deserved criticism recently. All too often, the most prestigious internships are out of reach for students who work to support themselves, have care-taking responsibilities, come from low-income backgrounds or face concerns about accessibility. As news organizations limit or cut internships because of social distancing or financial pressures, J Schools have the opportunity to re-imagine experiential learning in a way that is inclusive for all of our students.
- Adopting a Modular Curriculum – It’s time to think about how students might move through the curriculum



*Participants take part in a “Transforming J School” workshop sponsored by Thomson Reuters held August 2019 in Toronto.*

differently – whether it be at their own pace or with fewer obstacles to graduation. Considering how to break out of a traditional semester or quarter model can have a lot of value for curricular flexibility and adaptability. Plus, it can allow easier scaffolding of skills to move students through the curriculum more efficiently.

- Relying on Student Media – Now’s the time to consider how J Schools and student media can better support one another. For all the talk of a teaching hospital model, few programs have successfully made use of their student media to achieve meaningful experiential learning in their curricula. Plus, as university finances tighten, student media will be looking for new approaches to strengthen their standing – all while providing a valuable community-building function for universities who have closed their campuses.

- Leveraging Local News – As news organizations, particularly at a local level, reduce their headcount, J Schools are primed to help provide coverage on important issues in the community. Creative programs will figure out how to work with news partners to offer them meaningful content while increasing

high-quality learning opportunities for students. As news organizations grapple with the move to distributed newsrooms, our students can work remotely to learn the skills necessary to thrive as journalists.

Implementing these ideas will take serious planning and commitment on the part of J Schools and their faculties at a time when we are all stretched thin. But we believe this kind of innovation is critical to survival and necessary for our students to get the most out of their college experience. At Jumpline, we’re committed to helping faculty members and programs make these kinds of large-scale changes. We’re also ready to help you make small ones too. Later this summer, we’ll be offering virtual workshops to teach faculty how to design their courses with an “online-first” mentality. Plus, our weekly newsletter offers up ideas, issues, trends, tools, failures and opportunities affecting journalism education around the world. Don’t hesitate to reach out if we can help!



# NOND prepares for engaging conference

**Matt Haught**

*University of Memphis  
NOND Vice-Chair*

**Y**es, Virginia. There will be an AEJMC in August. Will it be in-person? Will it be virtual? Who knows? Just imagine that GIF of Elmo shrugging here. But however we meet, we will still have thoughtful panels, innovative research, teaching ideas and connections with colleagues.

Our annual pre-conference session focuses on junior scholars, especially graduate students. We will again partner with the Graduate Student Interest Group for the event, which we're calling "Eyeing the job market as a doctoral student." We'll focus on some academic terminology, job search skills, research plans and academic citizenship. The cost is \$25 and pre-registration is required.

We'll again partner with Scholastic Journalism Division for presentations by the winners of the Teaching News Terrifically In the 21st Century competition. And we're together for the Breakfast of Editing Champions, too.

In a partnership with Media Ethics Division, we'll offer a session "Teaching Less Extractive Reporting," where experts will talk about the woes of parachute reporting and how to teach students how to better report on communities without causing harm, misrepresenting or appearing out of touch.

Similarly, a partnership with the Visual Communication Division explores "Solutions photojournalism: Visually

reporting beyond the problem-based narrative." This panel will discuss constructive journalism and then delve into current research findings, including the production, presentation, and effects of constructive journalism photographs.

Throughout the world, programs accredited by ACEJMC struggle with their assessments. In fact, half of all non-compliance decisions stem from the assessment standard. NOND will partner with Electronic News to talk about tactics for successful assessment programs across the journalism discipline with our session "Struggling with Standard 9: How journalism programs across America grapple with the assessment of student learning outcomes."

The current pandemic has hit journalism hard. However, one segment of the industry that's thriving is business journalism. Our teaching panel, partnered with the Internships and Careers Interest Group, "Where the jobs are! Developing a business journalism curriculum at your institution - large or small" explores the ways programs can prepare students to meet that demand.

Another partnership explores the challenges of researching international journalism. In "Methodological challenges for studying journalism around the world," we partner with the International Communication Division for a roundtable of top researchers to discuss how they have overcome challenges in the field.

We're also partnering on a panel with the Commission on the Status of

Women focused on women podcasters. The panel includes prominent women podcasters, media professionals and academics to discuss how women have excelled as well as how they handle challenges in podcasting.

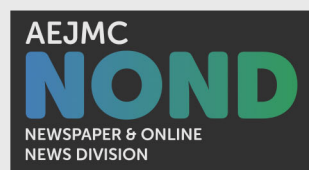
Finally, we will have a special panel with representatives from the U.S. Census to learn about the data the Census has available to us, and the tools we can use from the Census in our classrooms, with some timely updates about the 2020 Census.

We've shifted our business meeting to the morning. If we're together, we'll have breakfast. If we're not, I'll have coffee, cinnamon toast, bacon, and fruit at my house. Either way, we'll recognize our award and grant winners, hear from our division leaders, including Newspaper Research Journal editor Dane Claussen, and elect a new slate of officers.

I know times are tough. We're all a little (or a lot) nervous. Some have lost friends, family, loved ones, colleagues. My thoughts are with you all as we endure through this crisis. It's tough to think about something as abstract as a conference that looks so far in the future, with so many questions about what life will look like then. I appreciate your optimism as we carry on.

Our annual summer meeting provides a chance to connect. And whether we're connecting over whiskey or wifi, coffee or chat rooms, dinner or distance, let's remember we're all fighting the same good fight, and we're better when we fight it together.

## Number of submissions received for the 2020 national conference



89 full papers  
39 extended abstracts



1,166 full papers  
451 extended abstracts

Visit us at <http://aejmc.us/news/>

# Teaching News Terrifically in the 21st Century

## 2020 Call for Entries: Online Teaching Ideas

In a time of constant change and adjustment in journalism education, the Newspaper and Online News Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication has sponsored the Teaching News Terrifically in the 21st Century teaching ideas competition since 2009, seeking to highlight innovative approaches to the teaching of journalism. This year, we will be focusing our contest on ideas geared toward converting traditional journalism assignments to an online-only teaching environment, a challenge faced by so many of us this year amid worldwide response in the academic community to the COVID-19 outbreak.

To that end, we are seeking submissions seeking the best innovative ideas for improving the teaching of newswriting, reporting, editing or other journalistic concepts in the online classroom.

These can be ideas that were originally designed for an online course, or ideas that were designed for face-to-face instruction but had to be converted online amid COVID-19 responses. All ideas, however, should help professors address the challenges of the 21st century online classroom. Ideas will be judged for their originality, innovative nature, ease of application, completeness and writing. In addition, judges will take into account whether the ideas would work in more than one course and/or at different types of schools. All ideas submitted should be: 1) Original (and no previously published or presented elsewhere) and 2) Classroom-tested.

We seek submissions from 1) Full-time faculty members 2) Adjunct Professors and 3) Graduate-student instructors. Prizes will be awarded for the top winners in each group. Those winners will then be

asked to give presentations on their ideas on a panel co-sponsored by NOND and AEJMC's Scholastic Division at the annual conference, which is scheduled for Aug. 6-Aug. 9 in San Francisco. The entries will be evaluated by a team of judges from both the NOND and Scholastic divisions.

To enter: Complete the online submission form by 11:59 p.m. EDT May 15, 2019. To be eligible, contestants will need to be members of the Newspaper & Online News or Scholastic divisions. Winners will be notified by June 15 and formally announced at the NOND business meeting during the conference. Winners will be notified of the teaching panel's time and location as soon as the conference schedule is announced. For any questions about the competition, please contact Patrick Walters, NOND's teaching committee chair, at [pwalters@kutztown.edu](mailto:pwalters@kutztown.edu).

## How to look good in a video conference without even trying

By Holly Cowart

Georgia Southern University  
NOND Newsletter Editor

By now we've all done enough video conferencing to know that not all setups are created equal. Below are tips for looking more like yourself in that Zoom faculty happy hour or virtual office hours.

**Lighting** is key. Your best bet, as long as there's enough of it, is natural light. Fluorescents can make you look washed out and individual lamps throw shadows. The ideal scenario is natural light coming from behind the camera/computer. Likewise, the worst scenario is having light directly behind you.

**Angle** matters. A lot of us have cameras built handily into our desktop computers. This puts the camera just above eye level so your head is angled

slightly upward if you look at the camera. For all the laptop, ipad and phone users out there the camera angle can present a problem. The least flattering angle for most of us is looking down at a camera à la laptop. One solution is to put your laptop on a stack of books so it sits up higher than you.

**Background** tells a lot about you. Ideally you have a study full of important books to show off, but if not, any clean space will work. Move as far from the wall as you can - living rooms make good backgrounds for their openness. If you are directly in front of a wall, make sure nothing appears to be sticking out of your head. Looking like you're being impaled by wall art can be a bit of a distraction.

**Perspective** can give you a big head. Specifically, being too close to your camera can distort the size of your



Zach Cowart keeps things interesting through a multitude of online meetings.

face. Sit back so that your shoulders and chest are visible. Avoid the tiny head at the bottom of the screen look.

If this all seems like too much work, get a fun virtual background and call it a day. Your students will love it.