

Interest group gets new name

Change reflects growth of interest in participatory journalism

By Jeff South
CCJIG Chair

Check out the masthead above this column. This edition of our newsletter is a keepsake: the first published under our new name - the Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group.

The name change was proposed by members of our group who gathered for our business meeting at the AEJMC convention in San Antonio on Aug. 11, 2005. Later that month, we launched an online election: Andrea Frantz put out the call for discussion, and Len Witt and Cori

Marguriet set up the electronic voting system.

Thirty-seven votes were cast by the Sept. 21 deadline. There were 26 "yes" votes (70.3%) and 11 "no" votes (29.7%). So, effective

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Diverse set of programs set for 'Frisco

By Andrea Breemer Frantz
CCJIG Vice Head/Program Chair

The historic city of Savannah, Ga., served as the backdrop for the 2005 mid-winter chips auction for division and interest group heads and program chairs early in December. The auction determined who would sponsor what, and when, at the 2006 AEJMC Convention to be held in early August in San Francisco.

For me, the learning curve was high, as it was my first experience dividing chips and lobbying for co-sponsorships. One important realization I came to is that I will never pitch for the New York Yankees: The chip I tossed fell embarrassingly short of the bowl.

Because CCJIG went into the meeting with 14 proposed panels and the standard limits on available chips, the challenge was to

ensure as much diversity in our offerings as possible. The resulting co-sponsorship agreements reflect that diversity and promise a full and interesting slate for AEJMC 2006. The CCJIG program will offer the following:

Thursday, Aug. 3

8:15-9:45 a.m.

Teaching panel: "Helping Citizens Be Involved: Usability Factors in Teaching Computer-Based Journalism Courses."

Co-sponsor: Media Ethics (lead)

CCJIG contact: Tony DeMars, demars@shsu.edu

Thursday, Aug. 3

3:15-4:45 p.m.

CCJIG refereed research papers.

Thursday, Aug. 3

5:00-6:30 p.m.

PF&R panel: "Asian American Journalism - Redefining the Role of

Community Advocate."

Co-sponsor: Minorities and Communication. CCJIG is the lead sponsor.

CCJIG contact: Paul Niwa, paul_niwa@emerson.

Thursday, Aug. 3

8:30-10 p.m.

Members' meeting (followed by the Executive Committee meeting, 10:15-11:45 p.m.)

Contact: Jeff South, jcsouth@vcu.edu.

Friday, Aug. 4

8:15-9:45 a.m.

Teaching panel: "All in a Fishbowl: Campus Initiatives with Community Newspapers."

Co-sponsor: Community Journalism (lead).

CCJIG contact: Andrea Breemer Frantz, frantza@wilkes.edu.

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New name

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Oct. 1, we officially changed our name from the Civic Journalism Interest Group to the Civic *and Citizen* Journalism Interest Group.

The name change prompted considerable discussion - as befits a group dedicated to intellectual engagement and the exchange of ideas. Proponents argued that citizen journalism is an extension of civic journalism and that both are part of a seamless continuum. Len Witt, past chair of the Civic Journalism Interest Group, put it this way:

"From the very beginning, civic or public journalism has been an evolving experiment. I argue that it has evolved into the citizen journalism movement. There is a reason that Jay Rosen, for example, is seen as the one of the most thoughtful academics addressing the citizen, self-publishing movement. It is because his philosophical grounding in civic journalism is also a philosophical foundation for the citizen journalism movement. ...

"Being a member of the CJIG, almost by default, meant that one was interested in the relationship between journalists and the public and how that relationship affected community and democratic life as well as journalistic integrity. The citizen journalism movement is just an extension of that academic or professional discipline."

Opponents of the name change cautioned that citizen journalism is not synonymous with civic or public journalism. Citizen journalism can be non-civic and non-public - focused on individual expression as its own end. Other opponents said "Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group" is a mouthful - and does not easily roll off the tongue.

While the election is over, we

Results of Voting on Name Change

YES 70.3%

N = 26 of 37 votes cast

NO 29.7%

N = 11 of 37 votes cast

are always open to your comments and ideas. You can express those in many ways. Our group has a Web site [www.has.vcu.edu/civic-journalism/] with contact information for all officers, back issues of all newsletters and other information. The Web site also explains how to subscribe to (or unsubscribe from) our e-mail discussion list.

You also can get involved by attending the business meeting that we will hold during the AEJMC's convention in San Francisco. The meeting will begin at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 3. During the meeting, we will discuss our group's mission, draft an agenda for the next year and elect officers for 2006-07. [For convention information, see www.aejmc.org/convention/]

Speaking of officers, we have had a terrific group this year. They include Andrea Frantz (Wilkes University) as vice chair; Jack Rosenberry (St. John Fisher College) as membership chair; David Loomis (Indiana University of Pennsylvania) as secretary; Venise Wagner (San Francisco State University) as PF&R chair; Sandra Nichols (Towson University) as research chair; and Tony DeMars (Sam Houston State University) as teaching chair. Jack has graciously filled in as our newsletter editor, too.

If you're interested in playing a leadership role in the group next year, let me know - or attend the business meeting in San Francisco. ✍

Programs

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Friday, Aug. 4

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

J-Lab luncheon: Citizen Media: Pioneering the Emerging Culture of Contribution.

Co-sponsors: J-Lab (the Institute for Interactive Journalism at the University of Maryland) and the Council of Affiliates.

Contact: Jan Schaffer, jans@j-lab.org

Friday, Aug. 4

1:30-3:00 p.m.

PF&R panel: "Civic Journalism or Citizen Journalism: Competing or Converging Opportunities for Engaging Citizens?"

Co-sponsor: Newspaper Division. CCJIG is the lead sponsor.

CCJIG contact: Jan Schaffer, jans@j-lab.org

Friday, Aug. 4

3:15-4:45 p.m.

PF&R panel: "Will Civic Journalism Become a Subset of the Citizen Journalism Movement?"

Co-sponsor: Community Journalism. CCJIG is the lead sponsor.

CCJIG contact: Leonard Witt, lwitt@kennesaw.edu

Saturday, Aug. 5

11:45-1:15 p.m.

Teaching panel: "Citizen Journalism: Global Initiatives, Local Reverberations."

Co-sponsor: International Communication (lead).

CCJIG contact: Barbara K. Iverson, biverson@colum.edu.

More information about these events, including the names of panelists and the authors and titles of research papers, will be in the summer issue of the newsletter and on the Web site at www.has.vcu.edu/civic-journalism. ✍

“Wake Up Call” report available

By Leonard Witt

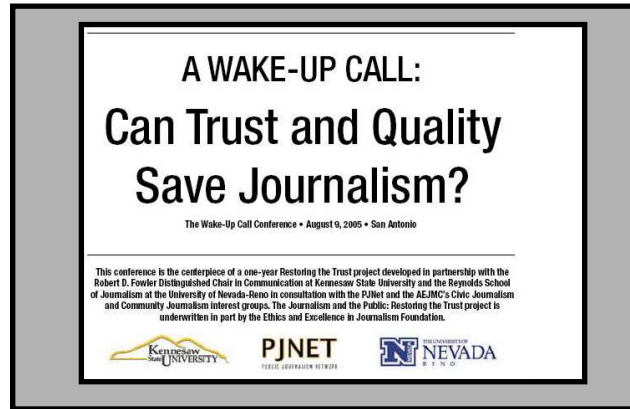
Are the news media in an irreversible decline? Can quality journalism be saved? Read what top thinkers said at our San Antonio conference: *A Wake Up Call: Can Quality and Trust Save Journalism?*

The final report on the conference has been posted at http://www.restoringthetrust.org/final_report.shtml

That Web page contains an interactive package with video, photos, text and a 53-page downloadable document. Here are a few point-counterpoint excerpts:

Here is how Phil Meyer opened his talk: *Are Newspapers in a Death Spiral?*

The answer is yes, and there's probably nothing we can do about it. This is a picture of the death spiral -- it's not a spiral, it's more



of a straight line. I showed an earlier version of this chart in this same hotel about 10 years ago, to a meeting of newspaper feature writers, and one of them looked at that and pointed to the chart and said, "No, that is not happening." Denial is a pretty good way to deal with something like this. As Garrison Keillor once said, "Some

problems are so bad, the only thing to do is to look at them and deny them."

Well, the main argument of my book [The Vanishing Newspaper] is that credibility does make a difference, and this is about as close a relationship as I can get. In these 21 [newspaper] markets you can see that credibili-

ty increases the ability to hang on to their circulation in their home counties over a five-year period... That's the good news.

The bad news is that not even the best newspapers in terms of

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“New Voices” recipients named

From the J-Lab
www.j-lab.org

Environmental news in the Great Lakes, communities in rural Alaska and inner-city neighborhoods in Philadelphia will be covered in 10 innovative community news experiments to receive 2006 New Voices funding, through J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism.

This year's award winners, announced in March, not only signaled a deep desire for better hyperlocal information, they also exhibited an appetite for using cutting-edge technologies, including wikis, datacasting and Skype Internet telephone service to cover their subjects.

"New Voices has found another batch of winners: scrappy,

List of grant winners, p. 7

innovative, diverse citizen journalists who are inventing new ways to generate information and ideas for their communities," said New Voices Advisory Board member Peter Levine, director of CIRCLE at the University of Maryland. "The techniques and models they are creating will help to renew American democracy."

This year's winners, selected from 185 applicants, will each receive up to \$17,000 for their projects. Overall, New Voices has received 428 proposals from around the United States in the program's first 15 months, said Jan Schaffer, executive director of J-Lab, which administers the New Voices program.

"We're pleased to see people

turning to journalism as a solution to their problems and a way to improve community ties," said Gary Kebbel, journalism initiatives program officer for the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, which funds the New Voices program.

The grant recipients will receive \$12,000 in the first year to start up their projects. They will be eligible for \$5,000 follow-up grants next year if they successfully launch their projects and supply matching funding. New guidelines will be issued for next year with a 2007 application deadline of Feb. 12.

Project updates will be posted at www.J-NewVoices.org. For more information, subscribe to J-Lab's newsletter online or by emailing news@j-lab.org.

Witt writes: we must act to save journalism

By Leonard Witt

Leonard Witt, past head of the CCJIG and blogger at PJNet.org, searched Jim Romenesko's media news blog at Poynter Online for stories on how to save journalism. He saw too few, so he sent Romenesko this letter:

Date: 11/18/2005

From: Leonard Witt, professor, Kennesaw State University

Subject: Okay, We Get It, But How Do We Save Journalism?

Floyd Norris writes: "The consensus Wall Street view of newspapers now is that they are a dying breed, destined to wither under relentless competition from the likes of Google. Profits may be good now, but they will not last, as circulation declines and advertisers seek newer media. An index of newspaper stocks is down 22 percent in 2005."

An *Editor & Publisher* headline cries out, with the emphasis on cries: "More Than 1,900 Newspaper Jobs Lost in 2005."

I go down Romenesko's daily story listings and see more gloom and doom stories. Mixed in with them, I see Valerie Plame stories via Bob Woodward and Judith Miller. I know somewhere in there must be a story about preserving great journalism, but I can't find it. Romenesko, reflecting what's being written about journalism, reminds me of a big gossip tabloid.

I see great minds spending too many days speculating on what Judith Miller knew and when she knew it. Everyone wants to take a

poke at the *New York Times* - which of course has faults, who among us doesn't - but would the world be better off with or without its brand of journalism?

I notice that the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* circulation fell 7 percent last year, and I worry because it is my regional newspaper and it's an aggressive regional muckraker. Who else is going to do that? TV news? Hardly. Public radio? Nope. There are fewer than five journalists working for WABE, metro Atlanta's NPR affiliate office. Who will provide the AJC's lead story that today says: "Voter ID memo stirs tension: Sponsor of disputed Georgia legislation told feds that blacks in her district only vote if they are paid."

We get it already: Newspapers are failing, newspapers and TV media make mistakes, and journalists, and here is a real revelation, are not perfect. We get that part.

I want more news on how we can save excellent journalism as an entity. I don't care what its delivery mechanism is. I just want excellent journalism that is rich in investigative reporting and which provides its readers the information they need to function in, while protecting, our democracy. I want academics, critics, the industry, journalists and citizens all to start producing ideas for the future of journalism that will guarantee its rightful place in a functioning democracy.

We keep seeing the stories on We Media, Participatory Journalism, Open Source journalism, which means producing journalism via collective action. So why not take collective action to ensure we have quality journalism as the digital dynamics change its delivery systems? We can all do it, but we have to ease ourselves away from our collective tabloid mentality and start producing solid ideas to protect and preserve the best that journalism has to offer. ✍

Wakeup

From Page 3

credibility were able to hang on to all of their home county circulation and penetration in that time. So, credibility makes a difference but it's not going to turn things around unless we somehow get beyond the quality ranges that are historic for the newspaper business. We've got to break out of the established ranges and do something even better. And since that costs money and since the industry is still in cost-cutting mode to maintain its historic profitability, that's not likely to happen. ...

Here is the start of Clyde Bentley's rebuttal:

My whole experience says this isn't a death spiral. This is the dance of the phoenix. Things burn up, and they come back new. The bad part of that is, it's not a very pleasant thing to see, burning up. And it's gotta hurt like hell when it happens, right? But it comes back as something new and beautiful, and it saves the day. . . . and that's one of the things I want to look at today.

We've got two issues here. The perceived failure or problems in the media system, and the actual problems in the media system.

The perceived problem is, hey, nobody's reading newspapers, newspapers are going out of business, we have so many fewer newspapers than there ever were, blah, blah, blah. ... There's 8,650 newspapers. Of those, 1,456 are dailies, 7,164 are non-dailies. We get a new one every day or so. The non-daily newspaper business is booming so fast nobody can keep track of it. ... So is the mass media dying? No. Are things that look like USA Today and reporting poorly on the news dying? Yes.

Instead of looking at the phoenix rebuilding itself into something newer and prettier, we're looking at trying to save the death spiral or something that probably needs to burn up. ... ✍

Wilkes-Barre paper profiles Breemer Frantz

Note: The following story, about CCJIG Vice Head Andrea Breemer Frantz, was published on May 16, 2005, in the Times Leader of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. It is reprinted here with permission.

By Mark E. Jones

WILKES-BARRE - If reading this article about Andrea Breemer Frantz - a local college journalism professor - inspires, gladdens, maddens or otherwise stirs an emotion in you, don't flip to another page.

Instead, call this newspaper.

Or, better yet, spit out an opinion page letter.

Frantz would love that. After all - as she constantly reminds her Wilkes University students - people who share a community (a campus or an entire county) are obligated to stay informed about it, identify its problems, voice objections, pose solutions and, yes, pitch in to make things better. At least, they should.

But too often, she says, they don't.

"We've become complacent about how we receive our news," says Frantz, an Iowa transplant who has been subtly influencing parts of campus and the Wyoming Valley since 1998.

"I don't think we're taught to read critically or taught to listen critically," she says. "We take things (presented to us by the news media) at face value. And that's our own fault."

This isn't meant as a lecture.

Rather, it offers a peek into how Frantz chooses to conduct her life - fully engaged and frenetically working to make a difference.

One colleague calls her "a powerhouse in the communications department." Other people credit her for re-focusing and re-energizing the student-run newspaper. Two soon-to-graduate seniors say she helped to guide

them toward their future careers, even to shape who they have become.

Above all, they say, Frantz is a teacher who becomes "invested" in things.

Her passions include - in no particular order - her profession, family, faith, students, gardening, chili cooking and the New York Yankees. Music, too. She sings in a gospel group called Andrea Frantz & Peace Factor, which has recorded a CD.

During the school year the Dallas resident attends church on Sunday mornings, then drives to

later read to him.

On Tuesday mornings, Frantz, 41, types and offers suggestions as Bigler dictates information for his weekly column, which appears in the *Times Leader* every Sunday.

"She's an upbeat, engaged, first-rate citizen," says Bigler. "She's not just there to look; she's a full-range participant."

"That's her personality," he says. "That's her upbringing. That's her being."

Pressing issues

Raised in Middle America, Frantz learned about the Fourth

Estate from an early age. Her father edited a small-town newspaper, where she began doing simple tasks for the advertising department at age 9, she says.

She later flirted with a career as an opera singer, then found her niche teaching research methods, rhetoric and journalism.

In the classroom, no matter the subject, Frantz emphasizes ethics. And as

often as possible, she pushes her students beyond the class walls and into the community - those mildly uncomfortable spaces where life and learning tango.

Take, for example, the young men and women in her advanced newswriting class who collectively decided last year to explore the concept of "civic journalism." Frantz urged the class to delve into issues plaguing Wilkes-Barre.

They walked its streets and listened to guest speakers ranging from the mayor to the head of

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TOM BIGLER, colleague
at Wilkes University,
describing Andrea Breemer Frantz

the downtown Wilkes-Barre campus.

En route, she typically picks up lunch for 20 or more students who write, edit and design the campus newspaper, *The Beacon*. She stays with them all afternoon, and often into the night, until the students concur that the weekly edition is ready for print. Frantz "greenlights" all 40 to 50 articles.

Most weekdays she acts as chauffeur for professor emeritus Tom Bigler, who is legally blind. The carpool stops at Public Square, where Bigler purchases several daily newspapers that are

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Nieman spotlights participatory journalism

By Jack Rosenberry

The Winter 2005 issue of *Nieman Reports* is a treasure chest of sorts for information about citizen and participatory journalism, with 13 articles that seek to describe the current state of the art for the craft. They include a special emphasis on how participatory journalism can relate to the organization, structure and practice of the traditional media.

The special section of the issue opens with an article in which Shayne Bowman and Chris Willis, co-authors of the "We Media" research report commissioned by The Media Center and API, question whether traditional media are willing to adopt the principles that the contemporary news environment presents regarding the capability of audience creation of news content. They predict several changes in the emerging situation, including that "successful news sites will

Articles of interest in the Nieman Reports. Cambridge: Winter 2005. Vol. 59, Iss. 4;

The Future Is Here, But Do News Media Companies See It? Shayne Bowman, Chris Willis.

Where Citizens and Journalists Intersect, Dan Gillmor.

Citizen Journalism and the BBC, Richard Sambrook.

With Citizens' Visual News Coverage Standards Don't Change, Santiago Lyon, Lou Ferrara.

Journalism as a Conversation. Jean K Min.
Fear, Loathing and the

Promise of Public Insight Journalism, Michael Skoler.

How Participatory Journalism Works, Steve Safran. *Nieman Reports*.

Citizens' Media: Has It Reached a Tipping Point? Jan Schaffer.

Reconnecting With the Audience, Clyde H Bentley.

Creating a New Town Square. Leslie Dreyfous McCarthy.

Things I Wish I'd Known Before I Became a Citizen Journalist, Barry Parr.

Defining a Journalist's Function. William F Woo.

When the Internet Reveals a Story. Seth Hettena.

discover the right mix of community, content, commerce and tools," and that creating an infrastructure for citizen participation may be where traditional media can discover true value.

Also included in the package

is an article by Dan Gillmor, who suggests that "the crucial leap will be helping our audiences become involved in the process more directly." Such collaboration

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Andrea

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an agency that assists homeless men. In the end, the college students produced a 131-page research report, which they presented to community leaders.

"She didn't come in with a syllabus, but came in and said, 'Let's create this class together,'" recalls Lindsey Wotanis, 21, a senior majoring in communication studies.

In part because of the unusual class, Frantz was tabbed as the 2004 journalism teacher of the year by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Small Programs Interest Group.

More recently, she paired Wilkes communication students with eighth-graders from

Wyoming Seminary Lower School, in Forty Fort, for a "Students in Media Project." Together, they pondered problems facing the region, then developed ways to spur public involvement.

"In my teaching, one of the things I hope to do is to help create citizens as well as journalists," Frantz says.

Making headlines

Under her guidance, *The Beacon* staff repeatedly has been rewarded with a "first-place classification" from the American Scholastic Press Association, which ranks student newspapers.

"People who've been here a while say, 'I can't believe how much (the newspaper) has changed,'" says Gabe LeDonne, 23, *The Beacon's* outgoing editor-in-chief.

"And that's attributable

entirely to her," he says. "She completely turned it around and made it something that's respected on campus."

The ongoing shift is apparent to Paul Adams, a Wilkes employee for more than two decades. "I think Andrea has worked hard to professionalize their approach to their work," says Adams, vice president of student affairs.

Instead of viewing Wilkes as an island, Frantz's students are urged to recognize it as part of a larger community - one that they can help to shape, through dialogue and action.

"Very rarely do (college students) see themselves as people who can make a difference, or make a positive impact on the community," she says. But they can.

And so, too, she might add, can you. ✍

New Voices grants fund diverse projects

The 2006 New Voices grant recipients are:

- **Western Breeze: Montana's Rural News Network**, from the University of Montana School of Journalism in Missoula. The network will recruit and train residents of three rural Montana towns to report on news and information for rural Web sites and plans to locate a computer kiosk in each community to ensure access and the ability to contribute to the news.

- **Great Lakes Wiki**, from Michigan State University's Knight Center for Environmental Journalism in East Lansing. The center will create collaborative wiki entries that describe the problems, cleanup strategies, contaminants, industries, people, health impacts and other issues related to the 43 toxic hot spots in the Great Lakes region. Student reports and research will initially populate the wiki and then community members will be solicited to add input.

- **Monroe County Radio Project**, from West Virginia University in Morgantown. The project will create a news operation at WHFI-FM, a radio station licensed to the Monroe County School Board. Journalism students and faculty will train student and adult volunteer reporters to report and produce local news stories for a 15-minute daily newscast, regular monthly public affairs programming and a Web site with news and streaming audio.

- **Route 7 Report**, from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University in Athens. The school will recruit and train citizens in three rural villages in Southeastern Ohio to create a monthly newsletter and a Web site to be updated weekly on local government, schools, business and organizations.

- **Learning to Finish:**

Solution that Leads to Graduation, from the Pew Partnership for Civic Change in Charlottesville, Va. The partnership will launch and maintain a wiki dedicated to sharing information and ideas for countering the nationwide high school drop-out crisis. Currently one-third of U.S. high school seniors, or about 500,000 students, don't graduate on time. Initial content will come from the Pew Partnership then from civic and religious groups, parents, teachers, citizens and policy makers solicited to join a dialogue about reversing the drop-out rate.

- **MURL Building Blocks**, from Temple University in Philadelphia. To partner Temple journalism students with public broadcaster, WHYY-TV, to push hyperlocal newcasts to the city's largely Hispanic 5th Street Corridor between Lehigh and Hunting Park Avenues via WHYY's experimental datacasting technology. The datacasts will use a discrete portion of WHYY's digital broadcast signal to transmit information to desktop computers using small rooftop antennas. Neighborhood residents will also receive disposable digital still and video cameras and low-end audio recorders to produce multimedia content and service news. All the content will also appear on the Web sites of Temple's Multimedia Urban Reporting Lab (MURL) and WHYY.

- **Creating Community Conversations**, from Columbia College Chicago. This project plans to recruit and train neighborhood journalists to cover five ZIP codes in central Chicago. Columbia journalism students and citizen journalists will cover the local police district, school council, neighborhood groups, church events and businesses. Content will be edited by staff at a new citizen media

start-up, Chi-town Daily News, and published on chitowndailynews.org.

- **One Sky Radio South Central Magazine**, from Alaska Educational Radio System in Girdwood, Alaska. The system plans to launch live regional call-in and news magazine programs with caller participation via phone and Voice Over Internet telephony (VOIP) using Skype software. The news magazine will be a one to two-hour weekly program with a round-up of key regional issues. Volunteers and paid stringers will be encouraged to produce news and feature segments for the show. The program will be distributed via streaming audio to other stations in the state.

- **Ethnic News Service**, from the Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism (CIJ) of San Francisco State. The center plans to create a new student-run Ethnic News Service to help provide better coverage of public affairs for the state's 700 ethnic media outlets. CIJ will "embed" SFSU students within community organizations to develop a series of multimedia stories on the impact of policy decisions on ethnic communities. Stories will be posted on the CIJ Web site, and CIJ will work with New American Media to help distribute them.

- **Federation of Community Correspondents**, from WMMT, the community radio station of Appalshop, a media arts and education center in Whitesburg, Ky. This project plans to train citizens from central Appalachia in radio news production and story gathering for broadcast on radio and the Web. Appalshop will develop the project with a basic curriculum and workshop model that will cover production technology and techniques and provide instruction in basic community journalism. ✍

Nieman

From Page 6

is valuable because "Our audiences can help us understand our subjects better" and "with more reader action, people become engaged with the news, which is an improvement all by itself."

Following the same theme, Michael Skoler, managing director of news for Minnesota Public Radio, describes interactive approaches and MPR's the Public Insight Journalism Process. One of the underpinnings of the model is that "the audience can guide us to important stories that are happening outside the controlled leaks and made-for-media events organized by vested interests," Skoler writes.

New England Cable News director of digital media Steve Safran draws a parallel between turning news into a conversation between the journalists and audience to the democratic approach of the region's traditional community gatherings. "It's the New England town hall meetings writ large," he notes. Jan Schaffer, executive director of the J-Lab and CCJIG member, writes that audience contributions to coverage of the Asian tsunami, London transit system bombings and


Hurricane Katrina may mean the craft is at a tipping point. "Citizen-contributed content can do much to enrich traditional journalism: it will complement as well as compete with mainstream offerings," she writes.

Elsewhere in the package:

- Richard Sambrook of the BBC describes ongoing projects to foster citizen involvement under BBC's charter as a public broadcaster such as community workshops to train people in video production.

- Jean Min, director of OhmyNews International, describes Ohmy's innovative use of citizen journalists in collaboration with professional editors to create the end report, and how engaging with professionals helps improve the quality of the citizen contributors' work.

- Clyde Bentley of the University of Missouri describes the school's MyMissourian hyper-local news effort.

- Barry Parr, who runs a one-man news operation along the California coast, lists seven "Things I Wish I'd Known Before I Became a Citizen Journalist." No. 7 is: "I wish I'd known how many friends I'd make ... I've become integrated into this community in a way that I'd never been before." 

Members' NEWS & NOTES

- **Leonard Witt** and two other professors at Kennesaw State University were awarded a \$46,000 No Child Left Behind grant for a project titled: Improving Language Arts Instruction Through the Use of Weblogs. They will teach high school teachers how to use weblogs in the classroom. The yearlong project begins with five days of intensive workshop training in summer 2006, followed by continuing assignments, support and evaluation throughout the 2006-07 school year.

- **Sharon Hartin Iorio** served as co-chair of the Media Tenor International Agenda Setting Conference held in Lugano, Switzerland, in October 2005.

- **Jack Rosenberry**, from St. John Fisher College in Rochester, N.Y., was awarded his Ph.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo in September 2005. He presented papers based on the dissertation research at the 2005 AEJMC convention and also at the Association of Internet Researchers conference in Chicago in October 2005. 