

Help redefine our focus

By Jack Rosenberry
CCJIG Chair

An old adage says the only constant in life is change. As educators, we embrace this because we want students to change through our contact with them. If a student isn't different at the end of a course – with new knowledge, skills or understanding – we haven't succeeded.

But a fundamental element of life is the tension between change and identity. Many readers of this column made a change in their professional identity when they stopped answering the question "What do you do?" by saying "I'm a journalist" and started saying "I'm a college teacher."

Organizations also change in ways that affect their identity. The Association for Education in Journalism added "and Mass Communication" to its name about 25 years ago. And our interest group



Jack Rosenberry
CCJIG chair

made a similar change a couple of years back, going from the Civic Journalism Interest Group to the Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group.

The new moniker implies a new mission or focus, a shift of identity. During my years with the group, we've worked to define that focus, most recently in the members' meeting held jointly with our affiliate group COMJIG at the AEJMC convention in Washington.

But neither that discussion nor others before it have led to a clear articulation of what CCJIG is really about. The conversations have helped to frame the topics, but closure has been hard to find.

The time has come to put such a stake on the ground.

Interest groups must petition for renewal every three years, and CCJIG is due to undergo this process in Chicago next summer.

See CONTINUE, Page 2

Convention papers due by April 1

Submit a research paper for the 2008 AEJMC convention in Chicago! Suggested topics:

- citizen media
- blogging
- civic mapping
- community conversations
- newsroom projects
- legal and ethical issues in civic or citizen journalism
- using polls, focus groups and other methods in civic reporting
- civic and citizen journalism in a multicultural environment
- civic and citizen journalism and new technologies
- history/philosophy of civic journalism
- the changing newspaper industry economy and its effect on the citizen journalism movement
- the missions and meanings of "civic journalism" and "citizen journalism"
- teaching civic and citizen journalism

Questions?

Contact

research co-chairs Sue Ellen Christian, suellen.christian@wmich.edu, or Burton St. John, bsaintjo@odu.edu.

Conference sizzles!

Outgoing chair Andrea Breemer Frantz recaps the '07 convention in DC.

Page 5

Crowdsourcing rises

PF&R Chair Jeff South tells us how journalists are using crowdsourcing.

Page 6

Send ideas for research bibliography

It won't take but a minute for you to help advance the scholarship of the Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group.

One of the group's goals this year is to begin compiling a listing of books and articles on civic journalism and citizen journalism.

Here's how you can help: Recommend one article and one book you've found useful in your own research, writing or teaching.

The authors can focus on topic from teaching or doing civic or citizen journalism to analyzing either — and everything in between.

Send the information to SueEllen Christian at sueellen.christian@wmich.edu.

If each of us do that, we will quickly meet our goal of creating a practical resource we all can use.

It will benefit the group — as well as all members of AEJMC.

CCJIG officers

Chair: Jack Rosenberry, St. John Fisher College, jrosenberry@sjfc.edu

Co-Vice Chairs/Co-Programming Chairs: Nikhil Moro, Central Michigan University, Moro1nm@cmich.edu; and Mary Beth Callie, Regis University, mcallie@regis.edu

Secretary: Cheryl Gibbs, Miami University, gibbscj@muohio.edu

Newsletter Co-Editors: Cheryl Gibbs, Miami University, and Amanda Brozana, Stillman College, albrozana@bama.ua.edu

PF & R Committee Chair, and Web Editor: Jeff South, Virginia Commonwealth University, jcsouth@vcu.edu

Research Committee/Paper Competition Co-Chairs: Dr. Burton St. John III, Old Dominion University, bsaintjo@odu.edu; and Sue Ellen Christian, Western Michigan University, sueellen.christian@wmich.edu

Teaching Standards Committee Chair: Glenn Scott, Elon University, gscott3@elon.edu

CONTINUE

From Page 1

One topic we can be expected to address is the statement of our mission, in contrast with other divisions and interest groups within AEJMC. That came up at the last renewal meeting in 2005, and is sure to be raised again. But, to be frank, I don't think we can articulate who we are and what we uniquely do any better now than in 2005.

Personally, I don't want to face the question (and I will be the one facing it!) "what's so unique about CCJIG that it deserves to be renewed?" without a good answer.

It's an important question that

should not be answered unilaterally by a chair or even by an executive board. It should be answered by the membership at large and I want to engage in a discussion on our group's blog that helps to answer it.

To take part in this vital discussion — and I hope as many members as possible WILL — go to ccjig.blogspot.com, look for the Defining Our Mission post (which has a posting date of Jan. 21) and enter your comments. The world of journalism is transforming so rapidly that it is difficult to keep abreast of all the changes. But we cannot let that stop us from articulating what our unique vantage point is on the industry and those changes within it.

Haas book now available

Tanni Haas' new book, *The Pursuit of Public Journalism: Theory, Practice, and Criticism*, has been released by Routledge.

The back cover features the following endorsements:

"The Pursuit of Public Journalism is easily the best — the most comprehensive, the most thoughtful — examination of the public/civic journalism phenomenon. It provides an intellectually engaging account of what public journalism claims for itself, how it works and where it stands

today." — Theodore L. Glasser of Stanford University.

"Tanni Haas has read more of the history, delved deeper into the background, and unfolded more of the ideas behind public journalism than anyone — ever. His book is the most comprehensive and the most careful treatment of the subject that I know of. No one else has his command of the material, or his ease with the terms of debate." — Jay Rosen, New York University and www.Pressthink.org

Convention '08 brings 8 sessions

By Jack Rosenberry
CCJIG Chair

Of the nine convention panel ideas proposed for the 2008 convention in Chicago, we managed to get eight on the schedule.

Two were shifted into a pre-convention event, and six (including a mini-plenary proposed by a CCJIG member but put forward by newspaper) became a part of the general convention programming from Wednesday through Friday.

CCJIG is the lead sponsor on four of these six, and co-sponsor of the mini-plen and one other panel.

In scheduling, we also were able to schedule all of our research on the same day — Thursday, Aug. 7.

Here, then, are the sessions in which CCJIG will be involved:

Tuesday Aug. 5

Pre-convention session: “The Past, Present and Future of Civic/Citizen Journalism”

Three proposals were selected for inclusion in a half-day off-site pre-convention session focused on the past, present and future of civic/citizen journalism. CCJIG vice chair/programming co-chair Nikhil Moro will take the lead on organizing this program.

Part 1: Civic/Public Journalism 2.0

Contact: Burton St. John

In 2008, it will have been 20 years since the Civic/ Public Journalism movement started in the U.S., advancing the need for the modern press to re-engage with its communities.

Where do principles and practices from the public journalism move-

ment now inform the press? How does the past inform us about where Civic/Public Journalism may influence future avenues toward press re-engagement with citizens?

Part 2: Meet the Press: Hyperlocal, Community and Citizen Media in Chicago

Moderator: Suzanne McBride, Columbia College Chicago, ccc.org

Panelists: Thom Clark, Community Media Workshop; Barbara Iverson, Creating CommunityConnections.org; Dan Weissman, Vocolo radio; Mindy Faber, YouthLAB; Sy Bounds, Chicago Bloggers; Beauty Taylor, Residents' Journal; Steve Rhodes, beachwoodreporter.com

Description: The panelists work with a diverse group of community and citizen media outlets in Chicago. Learn about the local and hyperlocal media ecosphere in Chicago, the storied "City of Neighborhoods." Panelists represent a variety of media, from print to video to Internet, and include journalists experimenting with new media forms as well as community members who create.

Part 3: They Blog for Journalism Change – And It Pays Off

Contact: Len Witt

Jay Rosen turns from the guru of public journalism to the guru of citizen journalism by starting innovative projects like Off the Bus and NewsAssignment.net on his blog.

Jeff Jarvis, former journalist, starts blogging about journalism change and then gets appointed to associate professor of journalism and director of the new-media program at The City University of New York Graduate School of

Journalism.

Leonard Witt introduces a new idea called Representative Journalism at his blog PJNet.org. Out of the blue, the head of a family foundation emails him and starts to underwrite Representative Journalism projects.

Wednesday Aug. 6

3:15 p.m.: Mini-plenary session on future of journalism

Title: The Transformation of Print Journalism

Contact: Jack Rosenberry

Lead sponsor: Newspaper

Co-sponsors: CCJIG, COMJIG, Media Management and Economics.

Description: An examination of the future of the genre known as print journalism — which is rapidly transitioning to print/online hybrids, greater diversification and niche approaches in audience/content strategy and business operations.

5 p.m.: PF&R panel on innovative approaches to journalism

Title: Sustaining Innovation in Journalism

Contact: Andrea Breemer Frantz

Lead sponsor: CCJIG

Co-sponsors: Newspaper

Description: Turning a great idea into long-term community change: Anticipating the “sustainability” question for civic and community journalism training program proposals. Elements of this will be combined with a Newspaper proposal on creating a culture of constant innovation in one newsroom.

See CHICAGO, Page 4

CHICAGO

From Page 3

Thursday Aug. 7

8:15 a.m.: Refereed research session

1:30 p.m.: Scholar-to-scholar refereed research poster session

3:15 p.m.: Research/Teaching panel session

Title: Practicing Civic Journalism: College Newspapers and Mission

Contact: Mary Beth Callie.

Lead sponsor: CCJIG

Co-sponsor: Minorities and Communication Division.

Description: This program will combine elements of Mary Beth's original proposal with one from MAC titled "College Media Controversies: Ethnicity, Ethics, Privilege and Free Expression"

5 p.m. PF&R panel on offensive postings on Web sites

Title: What the F***?! Dealing with offensive postings on news Web sites

Contact: Jeff South.

Lead sponsor: COMJIG

Co-sponsor: CCJIG.

Description: In recent years, news Web sites from Washington to Los Angeles have encountered profanities, obscenities, racist comments, flaming and other offensive postings on their discussion/message boards. Some Web sites, such as the washingtonpost.com, have shut down certain boards to prevent the online publication of foul language. Other Web sites have started vetting messages before they are posted. This panel would provide case studies, best practices and legal and ethical advice about discussion-board content.

6:45 p.m. Member meeting followed by executive meeting.

As with last year, CCJIG and COMJIG are planning to meet jointly for a while, separately for a while.

Friday Aug. 8

12:15 p.m. J-Lab luncheon

Title: Networked Journalism: The Changing Face of News

Moderator: Jan Schaffer, Executive Director J-Lab, U-Maryland

Panelists: Howard Owens, VP, Gatehouse Media; Dan Barkin, Deputy Managing Editor, Raleigh News & Observer and Shared.Triangle.com; Matt Munoz, Editor Bakotopia, Bakersfield, CA; Kate Marymont, Executive Editor, Fort Myers News-Press.com; and Teresa Hanafin, Director, Community Publishing, Boston.com.

3:15 p.m.: Teaching panel session

Title: Whose Learning Curve Is It?

Contact: Andrea Breemer Frantz.

Lead sponsor: CCJIG

Co-sponsor: COMJIG.

Description: Strategies for incorporating digital media into civic-oriented student media and courses.

New members always welcome in AEJMC

By Sue Westcott Alessandri
Member
AEJMC Membership Committee

As a Ph.D. student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, it was pretty much expected that we would join AEJMC and "present at AEJ." This culture help set the proper expectations for graduate students who would one day be faculty.

AEJMC is an integral part of a graduate student's socialization into academia. Yet while it is in their best interest to join the organization as early as possible, some students

might hesitate to take that step. A nudge from a trusted faculty member might be just what they need, and here are some proven ways you can give them that nudge:

1. In class, require a research paper that can be submitted to a regional or annual AEJMC conferences. Set due dates with AEJMC deadlines in mind.

2. Partner with graduate students to conduct research beyond coursework to be presented at AEJMC-sponsored conferences. This adds credibility by linking students' work with nationally known scholars.

3. At an AEJMC conference, introduce advisees to the people who might one day hire them. On a personal level, introducing graduate students to established faculty helps them feel more comfortable as scholars – rather than just students.

4. Encourage advisees to get involved in a division related to their research interests. This helps them realize that they are accomplished enough to take part in the organization.

For information on AEJMC membership, refer your students to <http://aejmc.org>.

Annual conference in DC sizzled

By Andrea Breemer Frantz
Outgoing CCJIG chair

I've now learned that I need to rest up *before* I go to the August AEJMC conference.

There are simply too many exciting panels, papers, and extras offered in the program annually that require me to rise early and finish long after the sun has set.

This year's conference in Washington, D.C., was no exception. Held during possibly the hottest week of the year in the city, ideas, best practices, and research innovations were also sizzling Aug. 9-12, 2007.

The Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group offered a varied and interesting program of sessions that were well attended.

Highlights included:

Mini-plenary

This outstanding session examined community as a teaching resource.

Bill Reader, current chair for the Community Journalism Interest Group and co-sponsor/moderator of the session, brought a diverse, interesting group of teachers together and even managed to produce a best practices booklet for all in attendance.

This session was both informative and exciting for anyone looking to strengthen community ties in pragmatic ways for students.

Refereed research, scholar-to-scholar sessions

Variety and some important emerging voices were featured at

these CCJIG-sponsored sessions.

Presenters navigated new research waters and traveled deeper into some that previously have been explored.

For me, the most exciting aspects of these sessions were that the researchers offered excellent balance across methodologies and sought to apply ideas to the classroom, media advising, or the field.

Hsiang-Ann Liao, CUNY-Queensboro, took top honors in CCJIG research competition with her paper, "Political Efficacy and Campaign News Attention as Catalysts of Discursive Democracy: The Case of the 2004 U.S. Presidential Election."

Jeremy Littau, graduate student at Missouri, took top student honors with "Content Differences for an Online Newspaper Site and its Citizen Journalism Publication."

It is particularly noteworthy that the online submission process for research papers went exceptionally well and CCJIG increased its submission numbers by more than a third from the previous year.

I see this as a strong move in the direction of carving out a unique research niche for CCJIG.

J-Lab luncheon

This event has become an annual highlight for CCJIG members. Jan Schaffer, Director of J-Lab, wisely chooses speakers for these panels

and this year's were perhaps the best I've seen.

Lisa Williams, founder of H20town.info; Courtney Lowery, managing editor of NewWest.net; and Dan Gillmor, Director of the Center for Citizen Media and author of *We the Media*, all offered pithy, fascinating takes on citizen media from the recent past, present and future.

Highlights of the 2007 AEJMC convention in Washington, D.C.

Overall

In addition, the CCJIG program offered some outstanding panels that highlighted global research and training models; the role of citizen journalism in giving voice to the voiceless in our communities; and using blogs to serve communities.

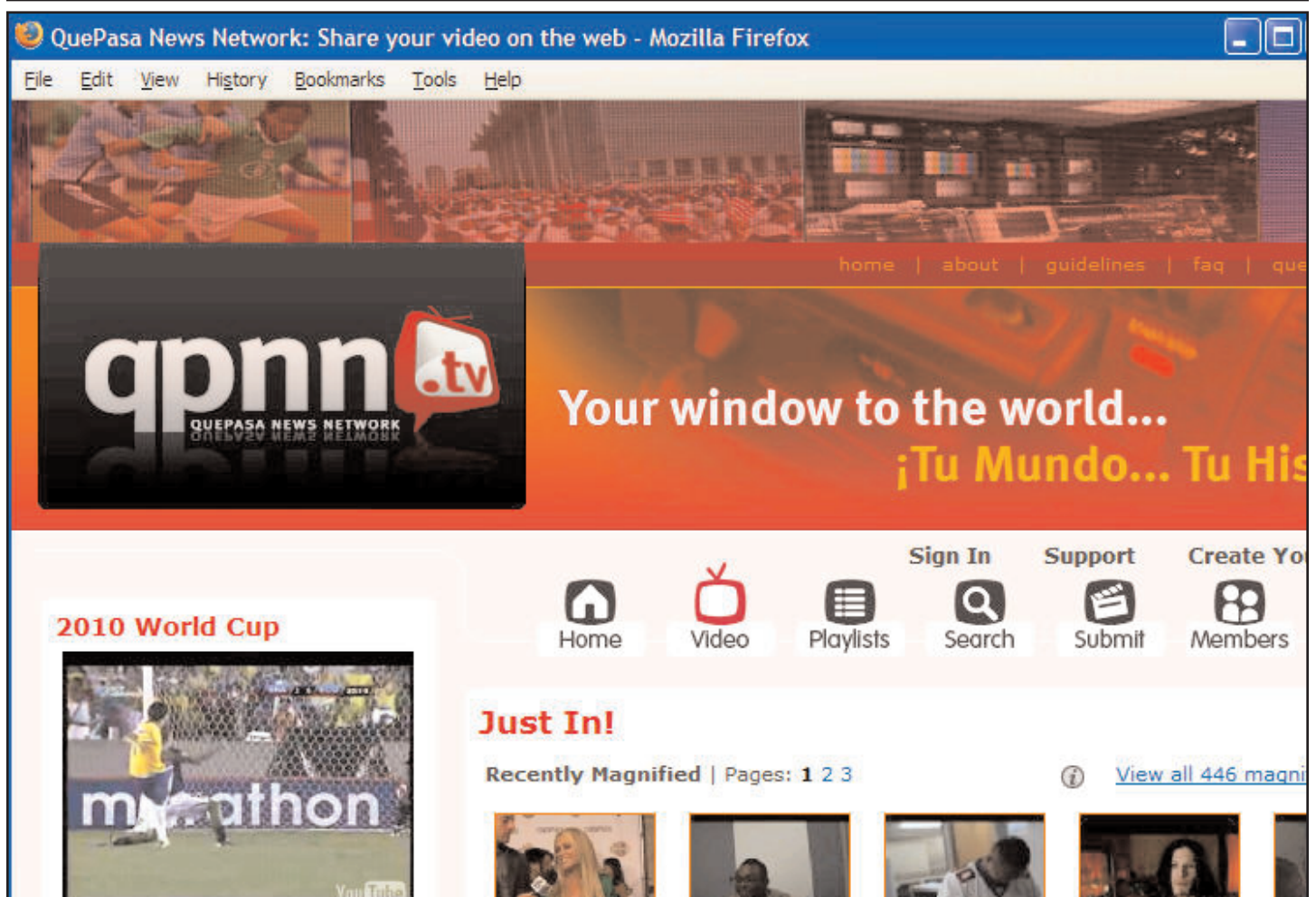
Finally, Peggy Kuhr, outgoing chair for Community Journalism, and I co-hosted a joint members meeting for Civic and Citizen and Community Journalism Interest Groups.

We had a lively conversation about ways in which we can work together and about distinctions between the two groups.

CCJIG then elected a new slate of officers for 2007-08 and welcomed Jack Rosenberry as its new chair.

As this goes to press, most CCJIG members will be back in the swing of teaching in a new semester.

But as the new leadership for CCJIG readies for Chicago 2008, it's clear that the interest group's ideas and planning are also in full swing once again.



The Scottsdale, Arizona-based Que Pasa News Network tells readers, ‘Here, YOU are the Reporter!’

By Jeff South

CCJIG PF&R Chair & Web editor

As our group’s Professional Freedom and Responsibility (PF&R) chair, I look for examples of civic and citizen journalism in the news media. These days, I don’t have to look far. I often see civic journalism (engaging citizens in community affairs) and citizen journalism (tapping the audience as information providers) intersect in a single word: crowdsourcing.

In journalism, crowdsourcing means taking a job traditionally performed by a reporter (gathering facts and/or writing the story) and outsourcing it, through an open call, to people in the community. The word was coined in a *Wired* magazine article in 2006, according to the collabo-

Crowdsourcing

Where civic, citizen journalism meet

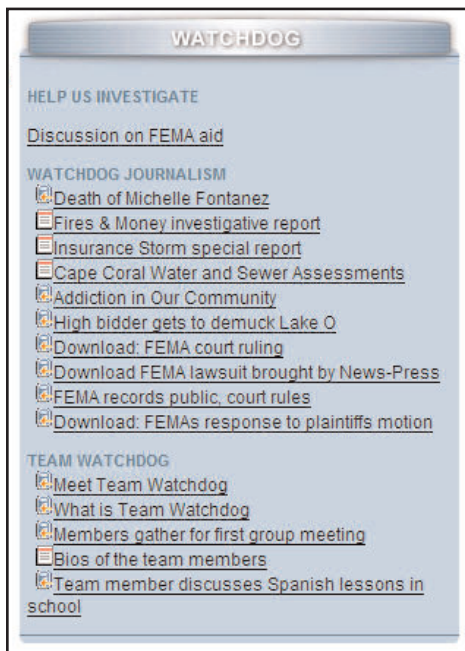
rative online encyclopedia Wikipedia (itself the product of crowdsourcing).

Wikipedia’s entry on the subject offers examples of crowdsourcing — and many are journalistic. They include user-generated Web site NowPublic.com, which recently signed a content-sharing agreement

with the Associated Press, and Public Insight Journalism, a “share what you know” project of Minnesota Public Radio.

In recent months, crowdsourcing has made more headlines.

In October, the Associated Press
Continued on facing page



From facing page

Managing Editors gave *The News-Press* of Fort Myers, Fla., its first Innovator of the Year award. Crowdsourcing was a key innovation at the Gannett-owned newspaper.

In 2006, *The News-Press* invited citizens to help investigate a billion-dollar public works project – and thousands of readers responded on the paper’s Web site, providing tips

Citizens in the Fort Myers (Fla.) News-Press Team Watchdog, above, help reporters do investigative reports shown at left.

about waste and inefficiency. (The paper also hosted a town meeting between homeowners and city officials – showing that civic-journalism tools go hand in hand with citizen-journalism technology.)

Cindy McCurry-Ross, senior managing editor at *The News-Press*, said the paper has now entered “Crowd Sourcing 2.0, the second generation of tapping into the expertise of our readers as partners in news investigations.” The paper has formed Team Watchdog, 20 citizens who are “part consultants, part sources, part reporters, part researchers,” she said. “All share a motivation – in most cases, a passion – for exposing waste and corruption.”

The citizen watchdogs have helped guide *News-Press* investigations about the Florida National Guard, day care centers and hurricane disaster relief.

Media outlets have used crowdsourcing on an ad hoc basis as well.

For a segment about sport utility vehicles, WNYC asked listeners to count the number of SUVs (vs. the number of regular cars) on their block – and post the statistics on the public radio station’s Web site.

WNYC followed that with a project called “Are You Being Gouged?” Listeners were asked to check the prices of three common items (milk, lettuce and beer) in their local store. The prices, posted and mapped online, showed the price of a quart of milk ranging from 99 cents to \$2.99.

Crowdsourcing works for breaking news, too. CNN has tapped into the trend with its I-Reporter program. Mainstream and new-media news outlets invited user-generated content when a bridge over the Mississippi River in Minneapolis collapsed Aug. 1, killing 13 people. The *Star-Tribune* and the MNSpeak and Minnesota Monitor Web sites showcased photos, video and comments from witnesses and other citizens.

It’s not just English-language media practicing crowdsourcing.

The QuePasa News Network – www.QPNN.tv – was launched in September, billing itself as “the first Latino citizen journalism Web site.” The site invites Latinos to upload video reports covering breaking news, politics, sports, human interest and entertainment.

“QPNN.tv provides our members with a real-time opportunity to report and comment on, as well as witness, events impacting their lives,” said Robert Stearns, chairman and chief executive officer of Quepasa Corp., based in Scottsdale, Ariz.

The site welcomes visitors in Spanish and English: “¡Aquí Tu eres el Reportero! Here YOU are the Reporter!”

Ph.D. program has public focus

From Colorado State

The world of communications is exploding with new technologies, research careers and opportunities – in academia as well as in the private sector. For those who would like to study those changes, Colorado State University has launched a new doctoral program.

The program's goal will be to train researchers to evaluate the role of information in the public's understanding of contemporary issues and the impacts of new communications technologies at the individual, organizational and societal levels.

The ever-increasing array of traditional and new communication media provides exciting opportunities to communicate with the public – but much more needs to be understood about how to do so effectively. Similarly, changing patterns of information sharing alter individual behavior, organiza-

Application information

Applications will be accepted for Fall 2008 enrollment on a space-available basis through the spring.

For information about application requirements or about the program in general, contact:

Dr. Cindy Christen
(970) 491-6319
cindy.christen@colostate.edu
or

Dr. Marilee Long
(970) 491-6463
marilee.long@colostate.edu

tions and society as a whole.

The new Ph.D. program at Colorado State is intended to prepare students for research-related careers in two areas:

Teaching/Research. Universities and colleges worldwide seek colleagues who are knowledgeable about

new and traditional media and how they can be applied in practical contexts. Students pursuing this path receive a solid grounding in communication theory and research methodology. As appropriate, students learn how to apply their own professional skills and develop instructional skills in the classroom by teaching in the department's undergraduate program or by working as a research assistant.

Research/Management. The program also trains students to pursue communication research and related management positions outside academia. Students can augment their formal training through assistantships, research projects within the department or with other employers on or off campus.

The program is designed to prepare students to reach new intellectual heights and ascend to the next steps in their careers while living and learning in a scenic community nestled in the eastern foothills of the Rocky Mountains.

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

243 Outlet Pointe Blvd. Suite A
Columbia, SC 29210

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Columbia, S.C.
Permit No. 198