

Civic & Citizen Journalism Interest Group

Annual Report

1 Oct. 2008 – 30 Sep. 2009

List of Current Officers

Chair:

Nikhil Moro, Ph.D.
University of North Texas
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Vice Chairs/Programming Co-Chairs:

Mary Beth Callie, Ph.D.
Regis University
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Research Committee/Paper Competition Co-Chairs:

Burton St. John III, APR, Ph.D.
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Secretary and Co-Newsletter Editor:

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PF & R Committee Chair:

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Teaching Standards Chair:

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On the demographic form (in a PDF only) please report number and ethnicity of officers and program participants

See PDF appended to this report.

Emphasis on Research, Teaching and PF&R areas/overview of 2008-09 planning.

In an inaugural note to members on 5 Sep. 2008, CCJIG chair Nikhil Moro summed up some of the then current research in topics related to citizen and civic journalism.

Chair Moro wrote:

“An engaging, and in many ways historic, presidential campaign is upon us. Emerging technologies have gone beyond “disrupting” newsrooms/studios to set norms for journalism practice/assessment. Convergence, of technologies and of skills, is the great new catalyst. Models of sustaining civic and citizen journalism are evolving as quickly as ever. The mass media's buffeting by gales of transformation continues, in business models and in consumer patronage. Journalism programs are increasingly using classrooms to address the pedagogy/practice of civic and citizen journalism. The collective intelligence is taking on traditional gatekeeping roles like never before.”

Generally, the issues represented in that note became a hinge for CCJIG's scholarly and teaching activities later in the year. Besides, with the burgeoning use of Twitter and other such libertarian tools of citizen and civic journalism, CCJIG members also discussed or explored changes/trends in writing styles, credibility, localism, audience immersion, etc., as was evidenced in the research papers accepted for the convention of Boston 2009.

Goals statement for 2008-09

CCJIG met (or scored) the following goals in 2008-09:

- The CCJIG blog (<http://ccjig.blogspot.com/>), with more than 120 posts, became the primary catalyst of members' discussions, meeting the following goal stated in the previous year's report: “This [blog] initiative has the potential to address all five of the PF&R Committee standards (free expression, ethics, media criticism & accountability, racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness, and public service); the most likely areas to be addressed by the greatest number of entries are free expression, criticism/accountability, and public service”
- An additional 100 or so posts on AEJMC Talk (<http://aejmc.org/talk/>), many of them repeats or elaborations of CCJIG blog posts, exposed the larger AEJMC membership to civic and citizen journalism discussions
- Three newsletters published and circulated inside and outside of the group by newsprint and e-mail, each to about 200 receivers
- Membership grew sharply – by about 30 percent, from 89 to an unprecedented 116; including 57 female, six African-American, two Asian-American, and 12 International (all self-declared) members; with the spike in membership, CCJIG emerged as AEJMC's largest interest group

- An update of CCJIG's research bibliography was published
- New collaborations (Law & Policy and History) were established for convention activities; Old collaborations were maintained (Community Journalism, Media Ethics, Newspaper, Council of Affiliates)
- Entries to the 2009 research paper competition increased 50 per cent to 27 (from 18 the previous year), including a record 14 graduate student paper submissions

CCJIG's goals for 2009-10, some of which are reflective of perceived weaknesses, stated in an order of priority to be vetted by the in-coming officers:

- Facilitate a discussion of CCJIG possibly applying to become an AEJMC Division, in a light of CCJIG's quickly rising membership, the ubiquity of user-generated media, and the burgeoning scholarship of citizen journalism
- Maintain the CCJIG blog as the group's primary catalyst of discussion, partly by encouraging blog participation by a cross-section of the membership
- Increase membership of minority and International scholars by 5 percent overall
- Facilitate two or three Teaching panels in Denver 2010 (in Boston 2009 we had only one) so that a relative balance may be restored between CCJIG's Research, Teaching and PF&R activities
- Increase submissions of research papers by 10 percent (from the 27 papers in Boston 2009) and enhance the quality of scholarship, particularly that related to citizen-journalistic responsibility
- Maintain an updated bibliography, preferably annotated
- Facilitate an increase of 10 percent in submission of research papers related to (a) newer and rapidly evolving technologies such as Twitter or its progeny, or (b) the impact of new writing styles on citizen-journalistic credibility or responsibility
- Maintain overall acceptance rate of research competition papers at the current 55.55 percent to par a course set by the Research Committee (50 per cent guideline)
- Publish a teaching compendium to address the curriculum, content and pedagogy areas of the Teaching Committee standards; particular effort may be needed from CCJIG's teaching standards chair (this will be a goal carried forward from 2007-08).
- Organize a symposium or other meeting, online or offline, to mark the 20th anniversary – in 2010 – of James Batten's 1990 address that was a bellwether in

the citizen journalism movement (this will be a goal modified and carried forward from 2007-08).

- Continue the top paper awards; re-institution of the two awards in 2008 may explain part of the 50 per cent jump in paper submissions

RESEARCH REPORT

Papers and judges

By AEJMC's deadline of 1 April 2009, CCJIG had received a total of 27 research paper submissions, of which 15 were accepted (overall acceptance rate 55.55 per cent).

The number of faculty research paper submissions was 13, of which 9 were accepted (69 percent).

The number of graduate student research paper submissions was 14, of which 6 were accepted (42 percent).

The number of volunteer judges was 21, with approximately 4 papers assigned per judge. Burton St. John, CCJIG's research co-chair who oversaw the paper judging process, reported, "The two research co-chairs took on about six [papers] each to help ease the load on all the judges (please note the Research Committee guideline is no more than 4 papers per judge)."

Professor St. John further reported, "My co-research chair and I discussed acceptance on majority of the 2-out-of-3 judge acceptances. We ranked primarily on raw scores as there were very few anomalies in consistencies of assessment numbers (e.g., no dramatic cases of blanket 5s, etc.) We strictly used the forms/materials provided on the AEJMC All-Academic site. It ran smoothly with very little need to micromanage or overdiscuss judges' decisions." (Quotes in e-mail, to CCJIG chair, of 2 July 2009).

Top Faculty Paper awardee (won \$151):

"Reporting by the People: A Case Study of Citizen Journalism During the 2008 Election" (Rebecca Coates-Nee, K. Tim Wulfemeyer and David Dozier, San Diego State)

Top Student Paper awardee (won \$151):

"The Blogger as Journalist" (Gerry Lanosga, Indiana)

Overview of judging process (any forms used, please attach).

The paper evaluation used the default forms provided by All Academic site. Criteria set therein are:

- Clarity of purpose
- Literature review
- Clarity of research method
- Appropriateness of research method
- Evidence relates to purpose of paper
- Evidence is presented clearly
- Evidence supports conclusions
- Writing and organization
- Relevance to focus of Division
- Significant contribution to field

All of above rated on following scale:

1=Poor 2=Marginal 3=Good 4=Very Good 5=Excellent

Did the group conduct any other type of refereed competition?

No.

List of in-convention activities related to research.

Thursday August 6

8:15 to 9:45 a.m.

Refereed Paper Research Session: Civic/Citizen Journalism and the Political Realm

Moderating/Presiding: Burton St. John III, Old Dominion

- **“Reporting by the People: A Case Study of Citizen Journalism During the 2008 Election”** (Rebecca Coates-Nee, K. Tim Wulfemeyer and David Dozier, San Diego State) *
- **“Frequency of Links to Primary Source Material in the Hyperlinking Patterns of Political Blogs”** (Mark Leccese, Emerson)
- **“What’s Journalism Got to Do with It? Political Blogs and Bloggers”** (Tom Bakker, Klaus Schoenbach and Claes de Vreese, Amsterdam)
- **“Interacting is Believing? Examining Bottom-Up Credibility of Blogs Among Politically Interested Internet Users”** (Daekyung Kim, Idaho State)

Discussant: Kirsten Johnson, Elizabethtown

* *Top Faculty Paper*

Thursday August 6

1:30 to 3 p.m.

Refereed Paper Research Session: Scholar-to-Scholar

- **“How Citizen Journalists Conceive of and Practice Community in One Midwestern City”** (Cathy DeShano and Sue Robinson, Wisconsin-Madison)
- **“Online and Offline Citizen Journalism News: Which Do Our Young Adults Believe In?”** (Charlene Wee and Julian Lin, National University of Singapore)
- **“Discourse in the Malaysian Sociopolitical Blogosphere Amidst Racial Politics”** (Jun-E Tan and Indrajit Banerjee, Nanyang Technological)
- **“Is Blogging Journalism? Analyzing the Blogosphere's Perspective”** (Michael Sheehy, Cincinnati and Hong Ji, Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism)
- **“Sniffing Out Sleeping Dogs: Web 2.0 and Reconceptualizing the Public Sphere and Guard-Dog Media”** (Ryan Thomas and Mary Grace Antony, Washington State)
- **“Sustaining Hyperlocal Media and Citizen Journalism: In Search of Funding Models”** (David Kurpius and Karen Rowley, Louisiana State and Emily Metzgar, Indiana)
- **“New Media's Contribution to Presidential Debates”** (Pamela Brubaker, Pennsylvania State)

Saturday August 8

3:15 to 4:45 p.m.

Refereed Paper Research Session: The New "New Journalists" of the Digital Age

Moderating/Presiding: Jeff South, Virginia Commonwealth

- **“Anyone Can Know: Citizen Journalism and the Interpretive Community of the Mainstream Press in a Mid-Western City”** (Sue Robinson and Cathy DeShano, Wisconsin – Madison)
- **“The Blogger as Journalist”** (Gerry Lanosga, Indiana) *
- **“The Future of News? A Study of Citizen Journalism and Journalists”** (Brad Schultz, Mississippi, and Mary Lou Sheffer, Southern Mississippi)

- **“Practicing Place: Sharing, Collaboration, and Collective Action in an Online Urban Forum”** (Patrick Wehner, Pennsylvania, and Dana Walker, Michigan)

Discussant:

Jeff South, Virginia Commonwealth

* *Top Student Paper*

Listing of out-of-convention activities related to research, and description of the research goals and activities of your division.

Besides the activities during the convention, CCJIG organized two pre-convention workshops (August 4), including one in collaboration with Harvard University, and two research panels (August 5). The original descriptions were as follows:

Tuesday August 4:

1.30-4 p.m., “Citizen Journalism and Media Literacy in the Mumbai Terrorist Attacks” (CCJIG and COMJIG). This conference/workshop will bring together scholars of media literacy and citizen/community journalism to critically examine the practices and semiotics of south Mumbai’s blogger-reporters during the terrorist strikes of November 27-29, 2008. The goal is to highlight some key critical skills for audiences of citizen journalism to analyze and evaluate citizen messages for bias, accuracy, and fairness in times of crisis, in order to facilitate both an educated citizenry and high quality citizen journalism. Event contact: Nikhil Moro, nmoro@unt.edu. (*Presenters: Debashis “Deb” Aikat, North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Jack Driscoll, MIT Media Lab; Douglas Fisher, South Carolina; Moderating/Presiding: Nikhil Moro, North Texas*)

4-10 p.m., “Journalism Jobs in a Digital Age.” This conference will address questions such as: Will journalism students, will journalists, find work in the future, and if so, will it be in traditional forms of journalism or in emerging or altogether new venues? Where precisely will the jobs be? And what skills will our students need? How will they be paid for the work they do? What will the journalism ecosystem be like? What will be the challenges to producing ethically sound, high quality journalism? What instructional adjustments must be made? The conference will be developed by the Robert D. Fowler Distinguished Chair in Communication (currently held by Leonard Witt) and the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University. Event contact: Leonard Witt, lwitt@kennesaw.edu.

Wednesday August 5:

8.15-9.45 a.m., “Has the Civic/Citizen Movement Brought Journalism Full Circle?” (CCJIG and History). America’s earliest printer-editors, such as Benjamin Harris, James Franklin and Benjamin Franklin, who lived in Boston, were apparently community activists more than they were editors. They were not J-school trained in reporting,

pagination, or ethics. But they invariably had a finger on their readers' pulse, an ear close to their audience's chest. Today, as America's loftiest legacy media organizations increasingly embrace a YouTubization — harnessing the collective intelligence of their former audiences — to keep the news accurate, cheap and exciting, is it an indication that journalism has come full circle from the era of Harris and the Franklins? If yes, in what ways? Those are the questions this research panel will examine. Panel contact: Nikhil Moro, nmoro@unt.edu (*Panelists: Jack Driscoll, MIT Media Lab; Rhonda Roland Shearer, Art Science Research Laboratory, New York; Timothy Boudreau, Central Michigan; Lori Brost, Central Michigan; Moderating/Presiding: Nikhil Moro, North Texas*).

5-6.30 p.m., “Journalists and Law Enforcement: Rights versus Security” (CCJIG and Law & Policy). This research panel will discuss how the tension between law enforcement authorities and the press has significant concerns for the development of both the practical and theoretical development of citizen-focused journalism in the United States. Panel contact: Burton St. John, bsaintjo@odu.edu (*Panelists: Michael D. Murra, Missouri-St. Louis; David Cuillier, Arizona; Burton St. John, Old Dominion; Kyle Archer, Macalester; Moderating/Presiding: Nikhil Moro, North Texas*).

Generally, as the paper call of 1 Dec. 2008 indicated, CCJIG was interested in studies which examined the emergence, practice, sustenance and/or teaching of civic/citizen journalism. Paper topics included: Citizen/civic journalism in the 2008 campaign season, citizen media, blogging, civic mapping, community conversations, newsroom projects, legal and ethical issues in civic/citizen journalism, crowdsourcing versus traditional "gatekeeper" journalism, civic/citizen journalism in a multicultural environment, civic/citizen journalism and new technologies, history/philosophy of civic/citizen journalism, the changing newspaper industry economy and its effect on the development of civic/citizen journalism movements, media convergence and civic/citizen journalism, the missions and meanings of "civic journalism" and/or "citizen journalism," teaching civic/citizen journalism, and using polls, focus groups and other methods in civic reporting.

In addition, member Sue Ellen Christian updated her bibliography – a list of scholarly resources for CCJIG members which she had originally produced in May of 2008.

TEACHING REPORT:

Listing of in-convention activities related to teaching with description of how these activities fulfill one or more of the Teaching Standards Committee's focus on curriculum, leadership, course content and teaching methods, or assessment.

CCJIG convention programming co-chair Mary Beth Callie's call for panel proposals dated 5 Sep. 2008 invited pedagogical and other inquiry based on a few broad themes: “1. Citizen/civic journalism in the 2008 presidential campaigns; 2. Media convergence as a catalyst of citizen journalism; 3. Emerging models in practice, sustenance, and teaching of civic/citizen journalism; [and] 4. Collective intelligence

(crowdsourcing) vs. information gateways (traditional gatekeeper role of press). In general . . . topics which are relevant to current discussions in journalism, politics, technology, democracy, or philosophy. Panels addressing issues of cultural and racial diversity are encouraged.”

The single Teaching panel suggested the group needed to improve the number of Teaching offerings in 2009-10. The panel’s original description was as follows:

Saturday August 8:

i. 1.30-3 p.m., “World View: International Efforts to Teach Civic and Citizen Journalism” (CCJIG and International Communication; thanks to Community College Journalism Association for the donation of a half-chip!). This teaching panel will explore the theories and skills that are being taught by journalism schools and nonprofit groups, outside the United States, which have launched efforts to teach civic or citizen journalism. Panel contact: Jeff South, jcsouth@vcu.edu.

Listing of out-of-convention activities related to teaching, with description of how these activities fulfill one or more of the Teaching Standards Committee’s focus on curriculum, leadership, course content and teaching methods, or assessment.

None.

Description of teaching goals and activities of your division. Such description may include discussion of primary accomplishments, programming diversity, special competitions, faculty/student research awards, newsletter activities and other activities.

One of CCJIG’s goals for 2009-10, as recorded earlier in this report, would be to “facilitate two or three Teaching panels in Denver 2010 (in Boston 2009 we had only one) so that a relative balance may be restored between CCJIG’s Research, Teaching and PF&R activities.” Another goal, carried forward from 2007-8, would be to “publish a teaching compendium to address curriculum, content and pedagogy areas of teaching committee standards; particular effort would be needed from CCJIG’s teaching standards chair.”

Yet another Teaching goal, not stated formally, might be to facilitate among willing members a discussion of the logistics and ramifications of offering certificate courses in citizen or civic journalism, in members’ respective universities.

PF&R REPORT:

Listing of in-convention activities related to PF&R, with description of how these activities fulfill one or more of the PF&R Committee’s focus on free expression, ethics, media criticism & accountability, racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness, or public service, and non-member invited convention speakers with names and affiliations.

As with the Research activities, CCJIG collaborated with other groups to organize the following PF&R activities (in their original description):

Wednesday, August 5

10-11.30 a.m., “Helping Rural Journalists Better Serve Their Communities”

(Community Journalism and CCJIG). This PFR panel will explore university-based training programs and projects designed to help rural journalists better serve their communities. Several could become prototypes for programs across the country. Panel contact: Elizabeth Hansen, liz.hansen@eku.edu.

11.45 a.m.-1.15 p.m., “Reinventing Journalism: Anatomy of a One-Year Applied Field Experiment” (CCJIG and Community Journalism). This PFR panel will discuss the one-year Representative Journalism field experiment in Northfield, MN, as seen through the lens of Leonard Witt, who conceived the idea, Shayla Tiel-Stern, who observed it as a researcher, Bonnie Obremski, who worked as the journalist/fellow, and Griff Wigley, who participated as a community member. Panel contact: Leonard Witt, lwitt@kennesaw.edu.

Friday, August 7

12.15-1.30 p.m., J-Lab Luncheon Panel on “Civic News Networks: Collaboration vs. Competition?” (CCJIG, Council of Affiliates, and Community Journalism). This PFR panel will explore whether “scoop” is disappearing from the vernacular of newsrooms. As a response to shrinking newsrooms, costly Associated Press fees, and an emerging culture of collaboration and participatory media, regional news organizations around the country are starting to build innovative consortiums for sharing content on a statewide or regular basis. Participants see it as a win-win: Securing additional feet on the street, broader distribution of their content, less “me, too” duplication of reporting. How is the public served? And can the public participate? Panel contact: Jan Schaefer, jans@j-lab.org.

1.45-3.15 p.m., “Common Health, Commonwealth: Public Understanding, Problem-solving, and Action” (CCJIG and Newspaper). This PFR panel will examine journalistic, nonprofit, and governmental efforts to inform and educate the American public about healthcare reform at the state and national levels. Panelists will focus on coverage of mandated health insurance in Massachusetts, State Children’s Health Insurance Program expansion (SCHIP) in Colorado, and national healthcare reform during the presidential campaign. Panel contact: Mary Beth Callie, mcallie@regis@edu.

3.30-5 p.m., “The Journalism Academy and the News Media’s Quest for a Digital-Age Business Model: Who Speaks for Ethics and the Public Good?” (CCJIG and Media Ethics). This PFR panel will explore the educational, professional, and ethical challenges of the digital era. Panelists will examine whether the journalism academy, frequently in tandem with other academic disciplines, can and/or should aspire to a significant measure of influence on the design, values, goals, priorities, and direction of

mainline and alternative media in the digital age. Panel contact: Ed Lambeth, lambethe@missouri.edu.

Out-of-convention activities related to PF&R, with description of how these activities fulfill one or more of the PF&R Committee's focus on free expression, ethics, media criticism & accountability racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness, or public service.

The regular updates on CCJIG's blog should be considered the group's primary outside-of-convention activity. The blog posts highlighted many "best practices," sometimes discussing the work of group members (such as Leonard Witt of Kennesaw State securing of a staggered \$1.5 million grant to set up a new Center for Sustainable Journalism) but more frequently taking the form of observations or commentary by the CCJIG chair.

There were more than 120 posts on the CCJIG blog, for a purview of which readers may visit <http://ccjig.blogspot.com>.

Some of the posts which received relatively high Web traffic were as follows (all authored by the CCJIG chair; listed by headline/date):

- "Journalism comes full circle with civic/citizen movement" (14 Oct. 2008; developed into a panel theme)
- "Some thoughts on citizen journalism and Mumbai" (30 Nov. 2008; developed into a pre-convention workshop)
- "We are the largest" (8 Dec. 2008)
- "I want conversation, I want collective intelligence, but I also want sound journalism" (10 Feb. 2009)
- "Witt gets \$1.5 million from Harnisch to start new Center for Sustainable Journalism" (7 Feb. 2009)
- "Stop giving away content via the Web, Walter Isaacson advises media" (5 Feb. 2009)
- "Should the newspaper industry get a bailout?" (25 Jan. 2009)
- "'The Internet weakens the press' authority'" (16 Jan. 2009)
- "Are citizen contributors liable to pay gift tax?" (14 Jan. 2009)
- "Did the Newspaper Preservation Act encourage newspapers to ignore the competition?" (1 Mar. 2009)

- “To make money with news, “give away what’s abundant . . . charge for what is scarce” (26 Feb. 2009)
- “Criminal case against Orkut activist frays freedom of expression in India” (23 Feb. 2009)
- “Asia’s social media use shows what a big world it is” (16 Feb. 2009)
- “Journalism’s future lies in reporters ‘who can produce text, audio, video for any media’” (19 Apr. 2009)
- “A sustainable model emerges: Use collective intelligence but fact-check with journalists” (17 Mar. 2009)

Description of PF&R goals and activities. Such description may include discussion of primary accomplishments, programming diversity, special competitions, faculty/student research awards, newsletter activities and other activities.

As noted earlier, among CCJIG’s goals for 2009-10 would be to continue to maintain the CCJIG blog as a primary catalyst of member discussions. An additional goal would be to make repeat or original posts on the AEJMC Talk blog to reach out to the larger organizational membership. Besides, periodic newsletters would continue to be published and circulated inside and outside of the group via newsprint and e-mail.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

“Largest”:

The 2008-09 term was particularly significant for CCJIG emerging as AEJMC’s largest interest group as announced by Council of Divisions chair Kimberly Bissell at the mid-winter meeting in Louisville, KY, on 6 Dec. 2008.

As of 14 June 2009, CCJIG had 116 registered members of whom 57 were female; six identified themselves as African-American, two as Asian-American, and twelve as International.

CCJIG chair Nikhil Moro noted in a message to members dated 5 Sep. 2008, “Clearly, our field is growing in several directions all at an unprecedented pace. It is as relevant to democracy, to the media industries, as ever.” Further, in a blog post of 8 Dec. 2008, he said CCJIG’s “largest” status “reflected our growing ability to decipher the many challenges of practicing journalism in a quickly transforming media firmament.”

Finances/identity:

As of 30 July 2009, CCJIG had a balance of \$3766.50 in its account.

The following extract (authored by chair Moro) from a CCJIG profile published by *AEJMC News* of March 2009 offers an indication of the states of CCJIG's finances and identity:

“We [CCJIG] are happy to report that thanks to our growing membership our budget is healthier than ever before. We are an active, welcoming group with a relatively young membership. We love new members!

“Some of our members – those with an interest in civic journalism – explore the trend of professional reporters acting as participant observers (who might advance specific social agendas) rather than as dispassionate spectators. Such reporters recognize that “journalism has an obligation to public life – an obligation that goes beyond just telling the news or unloading lots of facts” (Pew Center). Academic interest in civic journalism was catalyzed by David Perry’s 2003 book titled *The Roots of Civic Journalism* and by other work by advocates such as Davis “Buzz” Merritt.

“Other members of our group have an interest in “citizen journalism,” which is practiced by non-professionals who use a digital camera and a sharing spirit to observe events and record them on personal blogs, or on Twitter, iReport, CitizenSide and other such online forums. Unlike civic reporters, who are professionals, citizen journalists are not on the payroll of any legacy media organization. Typically, they are not even trained in school. Academic interest in citizen journalism pivots on the expositions of, among others, Mark Glaser, Jay Rosen, Dan Gillmor and Leonard Witt.

“Many of our members are excited about technology-driven trends in journalism practice. In the last two years our group’s scholarship has addressed topics in civic engagement, pedagogical modeling, sources, transparency, perceptions of credibility, citizen journalism models, and political efficacy.”

Travel grant

In January of 2009 CCJIG secured a \$400 travel grant from AEJMC to fund the Boston convention travel of Rhonda Roland Shearer, director of the Art Science Research Laboratory, New York.

CCJIG was also successful in having Jack Driscoll, the MIT Media Lab researcher and long-time *Boston Globe* editor, as a panelist in a pre-convention workshop and in a research panel.

Gratitude

In July of 2009, chair Moro mailed individual letters of gratitude to CCJIG's other officers of 2008-09 for their diligent service to the group. The letters were sent to Mary Beth Callie, Deborah Chung, Burton St. John, Kirsten A. Johnson, Glenn Scott, Jeff South, Serena Carpenter and Clyde Bentley.

Per a member resolution adopted in Chicago 2008, starting 2007-08 CCJIG would award its chair a plaque, purchased from AEJMC, in recognition of his or her service.

Web sites, etc.

To participate in CCJIG discussions, readers may visit the group's blog at <http://ccjig.blogspot.com>.

For archived reports, announcements and newsletters, readers may visit CCJIG's Web site at <http://www.has.vcu.edu/civic-journalism/>.

In addition to a statement of demographic information, two appendices are appended to this report:

- Appendix A: Mission statement
- Appendix B: Bylaws (adopted June of 2008)

Appendix A: Statement of Mission

CCJIG's unique purpose is its exclusive focus on the role and purposes of audience-involved journalism in contemporary media. That includes teaching about, fostering research in, and conducting PF&R activities related to the creation, purpose and impact of professional and citizen-driven participatory journalism practices, including the role those practices play in building communities and encouraging civic engagement.

Because this is a broad area, the activities of other CCJIG units should touch on it. Examination of audience-centric content creation such as YouTube videos, Twitter "tweets" and blog posts certainly falls within the teaching, research or PF&R missions of numerous other groups within the association. The niche CCJIG fills is an exclusive focus on the journalistic aspects of those presentations.

As a matter of course most of that audience-created and audience-presented content is technologically enabled through the Internet. While technologically enabled personal presentations over the Internet have, on media and society, substantial impacts which are worthy of scholarly exploration, most are not journalistic in nature.

Thus, in examining those activities, CCJIG fills a niche unfilled by other groups, such as the Communication Technology Division, because CCJIG has audience-created journalism as its sole province while other groups generally do not address journalism interests or issues.

In addition, while other journalism-related units within AEJMC, such as the Newspaper Division and the Community Journalism Interest Group, have interests related to audience-centric journalism, they also have broader missions that would exclude some of the activities that fall under CCJIG's purview. Research or PF&R activities about so-called hyper-local news sites, for instance, would fall outside Newspaper's realm of coverage since such journalism is not presented by traditional newspaper operations. COMJIG, likewise, exists to serve a mission focused more on professional expressions of community journalistic coverage, which sometimes does but generally does not include the type of participatory or audience-centric activities on which CCJIG focuses.

The emphasis on audience-centric journalism presentations is supported and enhanced by CCJIG's traditional mission and focus on the relationship of journalism and civic engagement, which dates to its old identity as the Civic Journalism Interest Group. As explained in the 2002 renewal petition, "Civic journalism is about engaging the public in interactive journalism and in the development of democratic institutions. This focus cuts across all the endeavors of AEJMC but is foremost in no other association entity."

With this as a foundation, and a subsequent extension in recent years to include the role that participatory journalism contributes to this process, CCJIG clearly can be seen as filling a unique and significant role within AEJMC's categorical structure.

Appendix B: Bylaws

Constitution: The Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group of AEJMC is a group of teachers, scholars, professionals and students who are dedicated to the advancement of journalism that promotes civic and citizen engagement, and research and teaching about these traditions. It is rooted in the traditions of civic or public journalism as developed in the 1990s and has expanded to encompass participatory, audience-involved practices of journalism. The purpose of the Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group is to promote and enhance the teaching of such journalism; support and critique research related to it; and to nurture and expand the discipline of civic and citizen journalism education and scholarship.

Article 1: Membership

Section 1. Classification of membership: Regular members shall be faculty members of institutions engaged in journalism education at the college undergraduate or graduate level, or persons in related professional activities who have an interest in civic and citizen journalism teaching and/or research. A regular member is one whose interest group dues are paid in advance of the annual meeting.

Section 2. Only regular members are entitled to voting rights.

Section 3. Membership in CCJIG does not carry with it membership in AEJMC (Article 2, Section 3, AEJMC Bylaws).

Section 4. CCJIG dues are proposed by the executive committee and approved by members attending the annual business meeting. If no action is taken at the annual meeting, dues and collection policies will automatically be renewed and remain at the same level as the previous year. The executive committee shall consist of all officers duly selected at the annual meeting as defined and described in Articles 4 and 5.

Article 2: Treasury

Section 1. Funds of the interest group shall be deposited with the AEJMC treasurer (Article 2, Section 7, AEJMC Bylaws), who will provide the facilities of his or her offices for their accounting, and disbursement of funds will be according to procedures mandated by AEJMC general requirements for divisions and interest groups. (See Article 5, Section 13.)

Article 3: Meetings

Section 1. The annual meeting of CCJIG shall be held concurrently with that of AEJMC (Article 5, Section 7, AEJMC Bylaws). A meeting open to all members shall be held in the convention venue or other nearby site in accord with AEJMC guidelines for scheduling of divisional and interest group member meetings.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called and held in connection with any plan or activity designed to carry out the stated functions of CCJIG, upon concurrence of a quorum of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. Robert's Rules of Order shall be the manual for parliamentary procedure in meetings of CCJIG.

Section 4. Decisions of CCJIG and of its Executive Committee shall be by majority vote of members present and voting.

Section 5. Each regular member shall be entitled to one vote in elections, and to one vote on all issues or proposals presented at an annual or special meeting or special meeting of CCJIG.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once annually during the annual AEJMC Convention and at such other times as its membership shall determine. For purposes of conducting business, the head may present propositions to the Executive Committee and poll its membership by postal mail, electronic mail, fax, or telephone. Meetings held via telephone conference call or other interactive means shall be deemed official meetings. Such balloting shall constitute performance of the advisory function of the Executive Committee between annual meetings.

Section 7. Members of the Executive Committee may consider amendments to the CCJIG bylaws during official meetings. Proposed amendments must first receive approval of the Executive Committee and the proposed revisions must be submitted to the membership in advance of the annual meeting through means such as the interest group newsletter or electronic distribution (e-mail, Web posting). The proposed amendments then may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the membership present and voting at any annual meeting.

Article 4: Nominations and Elections

Section 1. The current vice head/program chair, who is in most circumstances the incoming head of CCJIG, shall, with consultation of a two-member nominating committee, present a list of nominees to the head of CCJIG no later than 30 days prior to the annual meeting. One member of the nominating committee shall be elected at the previous annual meeting and one shall be appointed by the head.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the nominating committee to invite nominations and develop a slate of nominees from CCJIG's regular membership prior to the annual meeting, to present the slate at that meeting, inviting further nominations from the floor, and then to conduct the election of the officers and Executive Committee members. Upon completion of the election, the nominating committee chair shall inform members of the names of the winning candidates.

Section 3. Elections shall be held at the annual meeting. Only members of CCJIG shall be entitled to vote in the election. Special elections may be held by postal mail or electronic mail. In the event such elections are necessary, the secretary shall obtain from the AEJMC membership director a list of all current members of CCJIG, and assure that ballots are mailed or emailed to each such member.

Section 4. A candidate for office shall be deemed elected if he or she receives more votes than those cast for any other contender for the office.

Section 5. Upon successful completion of an elected term of office as vice head/program chair, the holder of that office shall automatically succeed to, and possess all the rights and responsibilities of, the CCJIG head. His or her term as head will begin the day immediately following the election of a new vice head.

Section 6. No member of the nominating committee may become a candidate for vice head/program chair or for the Executive Committee. If a person on the nominating committee is interested in running for office, he or she shall withdraw from the committee, and the head shall appoint a replacement.

Article 5: Terms and Duties of Officers

Section 1. The head and vice head/program chair of CCJIG shall serve for one year from the day after the election at the annual meeting through the day of the next annual election. They shall not be eligible to succeed themselves in office, although they may be re-elected to the office after a period of one year, and may serve in other CCJIG offices. They shall be responsible for planning and carrying out a program designed to accomplish the purposes of CCJIG.

Section 2. The secretary, research chair, teaching standards chair, and PF&R chair shall serve for one year from the day after election at the annual meeting through the day of the next annual election. They shall be eligible to succeed themselves in office. Appointed officers shall serve from the date of their appointment until the next annual meeting. They may be immediately re-appointed.

Section 3. The head of CCJIG shall be the Executive Officer of CCJIG and shall administer its affairs and funding, with the advice of the Executive Committee, including the appointment of any necessary committees. The head shall preside at all meetings of CCJIG and the Executive Committee, when present. He or she shall also preserve order, enforce the Constitution and Bylaws, and perform all duties of a presiding officer. The CCJIG head must prepare the annual report to be mailed to AEJMC headquarters on June 15 of the year of his or her term. After his or her term of office expires, the outgoing head must update that report immediately after the end of AEJMC's fiscal year, September 30. The CCJIG head shall be a member of the Advisory Board of AEJMC (Article 3, Section 3, AEJMC Constitution).

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the vice head/program chair to carry out whatever tasks may be assigned to him or her by the head for the purpose of accomplishing the stated objectives of CCJIG. In the event of a vacancy in the office of head, for any reason, the vice head/program chair shall assume the title and duties of that office until a new head is chosen at the next regular election. The vice head/program chair shall preside in the absence of the head, at meetings of CCJIG and/or the Executive Committee. In the event the vice head/program chair is unable to complete the term of that office, or succeeds to the position of head during an unexpired term, the secretary/newsletter editor shall assume the title and duties of vice head/program chair until the next regular election. The head will then name a new secretary/newsletter editor with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. In the event both the head and vice head/program chair are unable to complete their terms, any member of the Executive Committee may convene a meeting of that body and elect CCJIG members to serve as head and vice head/program chair until the next annual meeting.

Section 5. The secretary shall take and keep the minutes of the CCJIG annual meeting, all Executive Committee meetings and any other CCJIG records. This officer will be responsible for the publication of communications to CCJIG members (such as a newsletter) and perform any other duties requested by the CCJIG head in accordance with the stated objectives of CCJIG. The secretary also will serve as chair of the membership committee, and will appoint and direct a committee in accordance with AEJMC bylaws (Article II, Sec. 1) to promote membership in the CCJIG by individuals and/or organizations involved with educational or professional community journalism. Eligible individuals and organizations are those concerned principally with teaching, research, or public service in community journalism and those concerned principally with practicing in the various fields of community journalism.

Section 6. The research committee chair, in accordance with AEJMC bylaws, seeks to enhance the scholarly activities of community journalism, confer academic honors on behalf of AEJMC for meritorious scholarly achievements in community journalism at the annual convention and confer with other associations and organizations concerned with communications research (Article VII, Sec. 5). The duties include the promotion and administration of all CCJIG research activities, including those to be held at the annual convention. It shall be the duty of the research committee chair to work in conjunction with the head and vice head/program chair for the purpose of accomplishing program objectives for the annual convention. This officer will submit an annual report of all research activities to the secretary/newsletter editor and to the CCJIG head for his or her annual report.

Section 7. The teaching standards committee chair will appoint and direct a committee in accordance with AEJMC bylaws that is concerned with: standards of academic and professional preparation for teachers in the field; appointment, tenure, promotion, compensation, research, and retirement issues; minimum standards for instruction and research; faculty administration relationships; and matters of accreditation (Article VII, Sec. 3). This officer will submit an annual report of all teaching standard activities to the secretary/newsletter editor and to the head for his or her annual report.

Section 8. The PF&R committee chair in accordance with AEJMC bylaws is concerned with freedom of expression, legally and intellectually ethical issues among media educators and practitioners, media criticism and accountability, minority affairs, and liaison between educators and professionals (Article VII, Sec. 4). However, this provision is not deemed to preclude the CCJIG head, in accordance with Article 3, Section 6 of this Constitution, to appoint a separate liaison officer between CCJIG and a professional organization.

Section 9. All officers delineated in Sections 1 through 8 represent the Executive Committee for the CCJIG and shall make brief reports on their activities for presentation at the annual meeting.

Section 10. In the event any of the committee chairs resigns or is unable to fulfill the functions of the office, the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting at which time a CCJIG member shall be elected to serve in that office.

Section 11. A quorum at a meeting at which all members of the Executive Committee have been invited to attend in person or by electronic means shall be four. For the purposes of conducting CCJIG's business, the head may present propositions to the Executive Committee and poll all its members by postal, electronic mail, fax, or by telephone. Such balloting shall constitute performance of the advisory function of the Executive Committee between annual meetings.

Section 12. Executive Committee members are expected to attend the Association's annual convention. Barring a reasonable scheduling conflict, a personal emergency, or a clearly explained hardship, any member of the Executive Committee who does not attend the Association's annual convention may be removed from office upon a recommendation by the CCJIG head and a majority vote of the members attending the annual meeting. Once a position is declared vacant, the members shall elect another CCJIG member to fill that unexpired term.

Section 13. The treasurer of AEJMC shall be the Treasurer of CCJIG (Article 5, Section 6, AEJMC Bylaws). Responsibility for non-routine expenditure of funds shall rest with the CCJIG head, with approval from the vice head and a majority of members of the executive committee. Routine expenditures of funds shall include but not be limited to mailing labels for the mailings to members, food and facilities for the annual meeting, and co-sponsorship of other divisions' mid-year conferences. Non-routine expenditures of funds shall include but not be limited to travel on CCJIG business, particularly but not limited to travel involving the CCJIG's liaisons with professional organizations. The head, in consultation with the vice head and the executive committee, also may authorize limited expenses for non-AEJMC-member convention speakers in accordance with AEJMC's convention expenses policy. If a question arises as to the propriety of a proposed expenditure, it shall be submitted to AEJMC's Executive Director or Executive Committee for resolution.

Pacific Islander										0
White	4	3		5	1					13
Multi-Racial										0
										0
Did not report:										0
Total:	9	21	28	2	3	0	0	0	0	63