

Three-Year Renewal Petition
for the
Civic & Citizen Journalism Interest Group

Submitted
July 13, 2011

to the

Association for Education in Journalism
and Mass Communication

by
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To: AEJMC Executive Staff and Board of Directors

Please accept the information included herein as a formal petition for a three-year renewal of the Civic & Citizen Journalism Interest Group. Below are responses to the petition requirements of:

- A formal statement of the mission and goals of the group;
- A list of current and incoming officers;
- What this group has accomplished thus far (include specifics);
- Why this group fills a unique niche within AEJMC; and
- Copies of the annual reports for the past two years

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah S. Chung
CCJIG Head, 2010-2011

PART 1: Mission and goals of the group

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 of research related to it; and to nurture and expand the discipline of civic and citizen journalism education and scholarship (from the preamble, which summarizes CCJIG's mission).

Our interest group increasingly leads a key mission especially with the emergence of various Web 2.0 tools that allow for greater accessibility and usability for news audiences to participate in their news consumption and production processes. Such interactive tools have offered greater opportunities for audience engagement where citizens can take on more actively engaged roles. The sacred distinctions between senders and receivers of information are eroding, and we are now embarking on a journalism of conversation, shifting from a journalism of information. We believe this is key to a thriving democratic society and that CCJIG may play a central role in this endeavor.

PART 2: Officers

Head

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University of Kentucky
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Vice Heads/ Co-Vice Chairs

a) Kirsten A. Johnson (also programming chair)
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b) Glenn Scott
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Research Chair

Burton St. John
Old Dominion University
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Secretary

Jeremy Littau
Lehigh University
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Teaching Chair

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PF&R Chair

Anne Golden Worsham
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AnneGolden_Worsham@byu.edu

Newsletter Editor

Jack Rosenberry
St. John Fisher College
jrosenberry@sjfc.edu

Webmaster

Jeff South
Virginia Commonwealth University
jcsouth@vcu.edu

Candidate slate for incoming officers 2011-2012

Head

Kirsten Johnson
Elizabethtown College
johnsonka@etown.edu

Vice Head/Programming Chair

TBD

Research Committee / Paper Competition Chair

Burton St. John III, APR
Old Dominion University
bsaintjo@odu.edu

Teaching Chair

Glenn Scott
Elon University
gscott3@elon.edu

PF&R Chair

Anne Golden Worsham
Brigham Young University
annegolden_worsham@byu.edu

Secretary

TBD

Newsletter Editor

TBD

Webmaster

Jeff South
Virginia Commonwealth University
jcsouth@vcu.edu

PART 3: Specific accomplishments of group

The past three years was a productive period for the CCJIG. The CCJIG experienced an initial spike in membership and submissions in 2009 at the Boston conference. Since then membership has dropped but remained steady. Submissions during this period grew sharply by 45 percent. We also aimed to achieve more balanced conference programming among research, teaching and PF&R (see Table 1).

One of the larger discussions during this period was the potential merging of the CCJIG with COMJIG to reach division status. However, after considered discussion, the two interest groups decided to continue as separate interests groups due to diverging areas of interests/goals although some overlap exists. The two interest groups also wished to allow greater leadership and participatory opportunities for members by continuing the two separate interest groups. The CCJIG is currently AEJMC's largest interest group (July 2011).

Most importantly, during this period in which CCJIG reached its 15th anniversary in 2010, we witnessed burgeoning scholarship. Expanding scholarship areas include research into the use of ubiquitous tools, such as Twitter, and the impact of new writing styles and information sources on traditional journalistic norms and values, such as credibility, objectivity and role conceptions. There is growing interest in the perceptions and motivations of citizen journalists and models and classifications of citizen journalism. Also, a book dedicated to civic journalism was authored by interest group members. Past chair Jack Rosenberry and current research chair Burton St. John edited the book. *Public Journalism 2.0*, published by Routledge Press, includes chapters by many CCJIG members and past officers, including Serena Carpenter, Cathy DeShano, Lewis Friedland, Tanni Haas, Kirsten A. Johnson, Nakho Kim, Suzanne McBride, Donica Mensing, Joyce Y.M. Nip, Sue Robinson, David M Ryfe, and Jan Schaffer. Many of the chapters were first submitted as Refereed Research papers in previous conferences. The idea for the book was shaped by the 2008 pre-convention event, "The Past, Present and Future of Civic/Citizen Journalism."

The CCJIG has been an active participant in AEJMC conference programming as well as out-of-conference activities in the past three years. Over the three-year conference cycle (including programming scheduled for 2011), 38 pieces of original research have been (will be) presented at the annual conferences. During the same time period, the CCJIG has been lead-sponsor or co-sponsor of seven (one mixed purpose session) convention sessions devoted to teaching, nine related to PF&R, and three related to research (one mixed purpose session), including three scholar-to-scholar sessions. A significant proportion of these presentations, particularly the industry-oriented PF&R ones, have included working journalists offering their perspectives (see Table 2 and Appendix A for details of conference/pre-conference programming).

Additionally, the CCJIG actively participated in preconference workshops and midwinter meetings, displaying an active participatory record as the largest interest group within the AEJMC. The CCJIG continues to award top faculty and student papers in which graduate students have had a healthy showing in submissions. Partnership with old and new sponsors continue, including COMJIG, J-LAB, Newspaper, History, Law & Policy, Media Ethics, CTEC, MME, RTVJ, CC, RTMJ, Magazine, International, Council of Affiliates, and MCS. As the roles of our interest group expand and become more

central to a thriving, democratic society, we are able to branch out and develop new partnerships, and we believe this positive trend will continue.

The group also maintains an active listserv, publishes newsletters regularly and hosts both a Website and a blog (moving to WordPress) to keep members and other interested parties up to date on its activities.

PART 4: Statement of unique purpose

Journalism is inextricably intertwined with civic life. As Jay Rosen has eloquently spoken, newspapers and news people could serve a vital function for a thriving democracy. Our positionality, thus, is core to the mission of how to help improve and maintain public life. The CCJIG recognizes the centrality of citizenship in a thriving democratic society and the criticality of news people in facilitating citizenship and the deliberation of ideas through audience-centered journalism.

The CCJIG's unique purpose is its focus on the role, purposes, and criticality of audience-centered journalism in the contemporary media environment, especially as it relates to connectivity of the journalistic audience with or without professional facilitation. This includes teaching about, fostering research into, and conducting PF&R activities related to the creation, purposes, trends and impacts of professional and citizen-driven participatory journalism practices, including the role these practices play in building communities and encouraging/strengthening civic engagement and participation.

Because this is a broad area, these activities are also inevitably addressed by other groups within the association, such as ComTech, which includes discussions of interactive tools and their uses, perceptions and consequences in its purview. The particular niche the CCJIG fills, however, is an *exclusive* focus on the *journalistic* aspects of these presentations and the centrality of the role of the *audience* as agents of communication and sources of information that facilitate *citizen engagement in a democratic society*. The roles of citizens as participants and as active agents of change and progress are significant to the CCJIG, and the present media climate possesses interactive tools to make this not just a possibility but a reality. News audiences can imbue their voices and make their mark as informational agents to carry out discussions that impact their communities and society.

Most audience-created and audience-presented content is technologically enabled, and while this content has substantial impact on media and society that are worthy of scholarly interests, most of these presentations through outlets, such as blogs or YouTube videos, are *not* journalistic in nature and/or do not focus on *citizenship* and hearty discussion through journalistic activities/practices. Thus, CCJIG fills a niche not met by other AEJMC groups in examining these activities because CCJIG has audience or citizen-created *journalism* as its sole province whereas other units go well beyond journalism interests.

Also, while other units within AEJMC such as the Newspaper Division and COMJIG have interests related to journalism, they also have broader missions that would exclude some of the activities that fall under the CCJIG's purview. Research or PF&R activities about so-called hyper-local news sites or content and perceptions of the microblogging tool Twitter, for instance, would fall outside Newspaper's realm of coverage since such journalism is not presented by, or central to, traditional newspaper operations. The COMJIG likewise exists to serve a mission focused more on professional expressions of community coverage (online and offline), which does not necessarily include the type of participatory, audience-created, journalistic activities upon which the CCJIG focuses.

This emphasis on audience-centric journalism and participatory involvement is supported and enhanced by the group's traditional mission as it relates to journalism and

civic engagement, which date to its days as the Civic Journalism Interest Group. As it was explained in an earlier renewal petition (2002), “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 the subsequent extension in recent years to include research, teaching and critique of the role that participatory journalism contributes to this process, the CCJIG clearly can be seen as filling a unique and significant role within the structure of AEJMC.

PART 5: Copies of Annual Reports

To be appended by Central Office.

The 2009, 2010 reports should be on hand and the 2011 report was filed June 15, 2011 (attached to this report).

Table 1. Membership and Overall Submissions

Year	June membership figures•	Paper submissions	Convention location
2009	135	27	Boston
2010	112	27	Denver
2011	113	17	St. Louis

•information obtained through central office July 2011

Table 2. Breakdown of Conference Sessions

Year	Teaching	Research	PF&R
2009	1 (1)	0	5 (4)
2010	3 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)
2011	3 ^a (1)	2 ^a (1)	2 (2)

^a includes a mixed purpose teaching/research panel

*numbers in parentheses denotes number of lead sponsor sessions

Appendix A: Summary of programming/other accomplishments since last renewal

Since receiving its last three-year renewal during the 2008 AEJMC conference, the Civic & Citizen Journalism Interest Group has engaged in the following activities – primarily annual conference programming but also including two pre-conference events and two midwinter meetings during that time:

Refereed research presentations

Summary: 38 pieces of original research presented over three-year conference cycle representing about a 45 percent increase in refereed research presentations from previous renewal report

- 2009 conference: 15 papers -- 8 in traditional oral-presentation session and 7 in Scholar-to-Scholar poster session
- 2010 conference: 14 papers -- 9 in traditional session and 5 in Scholar-to-Scholar session
- 2010 midwinter conference: 5 papers in traditional session
- 2011 conference: 9 papers -- 7 in traditional session and 2 in Scholar-to-Scholar session
- 2011 midwinter conference: 4 papers in traditional session

Jointly sponsored panels

Summary: 2 research, 6 teaching, 9 PF&R, and 1 mixed purpose (research/teaching) session; Lead sponsor of 12 panel sessions

2009 Conference

- Teaching panel: “World View: International Efforts to Teach Civic and Citizen Journalism” (CCJIG and International Communication)
- PF&R panel: “Helping Rural Journalists Better Serve Their Communities” (COMJIG and CCJIG).
- PF&R panel: “Reinventing Journalism: Anatomy of a One-Year Applied Field Experiment” (CCJIG and COMJIG).
- PF&R panel: J-Lab Luncheon Panel on “Civic News Networks: Collaboration vs. Competition?” (CCJIG, Council of Affiliates, and COMJIG).
- PF&R panel: “Common Health, Commonwealth: Public Understanding, Problem-solving, and Action” (CCJIG and Newspaper).
- PF&R panel: “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).

2010 Conference

- Research panel: “Doing Citizen Journalism Research: Issues and Prospects” (CCJIG and COMJIG)

- Teaching panel: “Helping Save Journalism via the Classroom: Student Collaborations with Citizen Journalists and Industry Professionals (CCJIG and ComTech)
- Teaching panel: “Into the Mean Streets: Lab Community Newspapers Take on Tough Neighborhoods (COMJIG and CCJIG)
- Teaching panel: “Teaching News Literacy: What Works? (CCJA, RTVJ, and CCJIG)
- PF&R panel: “What Do Women Want? What Are women Entrepreneurs Doing?” (CCJIG and ComTech)
- PF&R panel: J-Lab Luncheon Panel on “Networked Journalism: How Old and New Media are Collaborating” (CCJIG, COMJIG).

2011 Conference

- Research panel: “News With a View: Journalism in a Post-Objective World” (COMJIG and CCJIG)
- Research/Teaching panel: “Beyond the Borders of the Box: Attempting Innovation in TV, Radio, and Research in a Hyper-dyadic Digital World” (CCJIG and RTVJ)
- Teaching panel: “Going Public” (Magazine and CCJIG)
- Teaching panel: “Location, Location, Location: Using Location Based Services to Add Some Mobile to Your Journalism Course” (MCS and CCJIG)
- PF&R panel: “The Role of Citizen Journalists, Bloggers and Digital Media in the Political Campaign” (CCJIG and ComTech)
- PF&R panel: J-Lab Luncheon Panel on “Community News Sites: What Works” (Council of Affiliates, CCJIG and COMJIG)

Other

2009 Preconference

- Research panel: “Has the Civic/Citizen Movement Brought Journalism Full Circle?” (CCJIG and History)
- Research panel: “Journalists and Law Enforcement: Rights versus Security” (CCJIG and Law & Policy)

2010 Preconference

- Research panel: “Newsroom to Classroom: Adapting from JMC Pro to JMC Faculty--Whittling Your Research Wish List to a Workable Agenda” (Newspaper, CCJIG, and RTVJ)
- Teaching panel: “Newsroom to Classroom: Adapting from JMC Pro to JMC Faculty--Putting your Experience to Work in the Academy” (Newspaper, CCJIG and RTVJ)
- Teaching panel: “Journalism Schools as News Providers: Challenges and

- Opportunities--What is Changing and Why” (CCJIG and Newspaper)
- Teaching panel: “Journalism Schools as News Providers: Challenges and Opportunities—Grappling with Legal Risks and Other Challenges” (CCJIG and Newspaper)
 - Teaching panel: “Journalism Schools as News Providers: Challenges and Opportunities—Innovative Approaches to Community Journalism” (CCJIG and Newspaper)

2010 Midwinter Conference

- Research panel: “Participatory Journalism and the Search for Useful Structures” (CCJIG)

2011 Midwinter Conference

- Research panel: "Citizenry as Journalism in the Digital Age" (CCJIG)

1. Civic & Citizen Journalism Interest Group

Annual Report
1 Oct. 2010 – 30 Sep. 2011

2. CCJIG Officers, 2010-2011 *(see attached demographic information form following annual report document)

Head

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Co-Vice Chairs

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3. General Statement

In terms of overall goals, the area of teaching has been identified as a continued concern over the years. So we made efforts to emphasize this area particularly in our last two conference programs. However, this year we aimed for a more balanced program covering all three areas of teaching, research and PF&R about equally.

We paid renewed attention to research this year with two refereed research paper sessions and a refereed scholar-to-scholar session scheduled in St. Louis. One of our panels set for this year's conference also focuses on the increasing presence of subjectivity in news through user produced stories. In relation to this topic, two CCJIG officers are authoring a book that provides insights into how the field of journalism can adjust its understanding and practices of objectivity beyond its limiting frames. Many CCJIG members are contributing chapters to this volume. CCJIG also participated in the midwinter conference at the University of Oklahoma. Additionally, in order to attract more focused papers aligning with our group's mission, we underscored the importance of explicitly stating the connection with issues of civic or citizen journalism in our call for paper submissions for the conference.

In the area of teaching, in addition to three scheduled panel sessions in the conference, CCJIG members shared stories over the year regarding how they are using Web 2.0 tools in the classroom. For example, Twitter is a popular tool these days, and our members shared stories regarding how this tool can be used effectively among students for information sharing and connectivity. Another column offered ways that educators can learn about and involve multimedia in their courses. Several community and civic journalism tutorials and online trainings were noted. These columns fulfill the teaching committee's focus on teaching methods. These stories were circulated in our interest group newsletter.

We also continue to sponsor the J-Lab luncheon, which is largely PF&R. And we are cosponsoring the luncheon this year with some of our usual collaborators—Community Journalism and Council of Affiliates (This year's efforts also represent multiple collaborative sessions with other divisions and interest groups, which will be detailed later in this report). Another PF&R panel addresses the role of citizen journalists, bloggers and digital media in political campaigns. We continue to partner also with Radio-Television Journalism and Communication Technology. We have also forged new partnerships with the Magazine and Mass Communication and Society divisions. As the roles of our interest group expand and become more central to a thriving, democratic society, we are able to branch out and develop new partnerships, and we believe this positive trend will continue.

4. Goals and Outcomes for 2010-11

- Renew focus on research by reassessing interest group's increasingly growing mission and central role facilitated through Web 2.0 technologies that may enhance user activity and participation in society. This was reflected in our calls for panel proposals and paper call for the annual conference. However, we also balanced out all three key areas in the program.

Outcomes: St. Louis program includes three sessions on refereed research and another joint research panel session. Overall, we have a balanced program that also includes three sessions for teaching and two sessions for PF&R.

- More clearly articulate what civic and citizen journalism are to increase relevance and appropriateness of conference paper submissions. We clearly stated the importance of articulating such connections in call for papers, newsletter and listserv messages. In other words, we would like to encourage more focused and relevant submissions.

Outcomes: While clarity and relevance to interest group's goals and mission were articulated, this led to fewer conference paper submissions. For example, in our paper call published in the winter newsletter we stated "...papers that examine the use of blogs without touching upon news do not automatically meet the group's interests." This statement was made in order to help submitters more clearly articulate their submission's focus to our interest group and to also help reviewers parse out relevant (and irrelevant) papers as in the past we have struggled with papers about blogging, for example, that did not necessarily have connections to news, journalism and/or citizen participation contexts. We would like to increase submissions to our interest group, but we would also like those submissions to be highly relevant to CCJIG.

- Acknowledge the lack of and need for clarity regarding definitions of citizen journalism and who is a citizen journalist, their activities, uses of interactive/participatory technologies, conceptual frameworks and motivations. Then encourage such panel/paper submissions through interest group communications. In other words, we would like to encourage scholarship in these areas that are most lacking and in need of further clarification.

Outcomes: This year's conference promises a range of panels and paper sessions that address these issues. For example, refereed research sessions include topics on conceptual frameworks for citizen journalism contexts (authored by Nakho Kim), motivations for non-monetary participation (authored by Robert Gutsche, Jr. and Rauf Arif), motivations of citizen photojournalists (authored by Tara Buehner), and use of new tools, such as Twitter (e.g., authored by Avery Holton and also by Aaron Veenstra, Narayanan Iyer, Namrata Bansal, Mohammad Hossain, Jiwoo Park and Jiachun Hong) among others.

- Maintain CCJIG Website (formerly on Virginia Commonwealth server) and blog (Google) through the AEJMC server; explore publishing the newsletter in solely electronic format, on the Website.

Outcomes: Newsletters (fall, winter/spring, summer) now published solely in electronic format (posted on CCJIG Website) and also distributed through listserv. CCJIG Website/blog moved to WordPress platform (<http://aejmc.net/civic>).

- Use Website, blog, listserv, (summer) newsletter, and individual communications with paper presenters/panelists to publicize and encourage attendance and participation in the Member meeting.

Outcomes: We shall see!

- Continue Top Paper Awards [Research], faculty and student

Outcomes: For the third year, CCJIG will award Top Student and Faculty Papers

(\$151 and plaque):

News Innovation and the Negotiation of Participation*

Seth Lewis, Minnesota

Case of the #UTShooter: Citizens Working Around, With,
and for Traditional News Media**

Avery Holton, Texas at Austin

*Top Faculty Paper

**Top Student Paper

- Continue sponsoring the J-Lab luncheon and create new collaborations with other DIGS.

Outcomes: Goals met in terms of continuing to sponsor J-Lab luncheon with usual partners, Community Journalism and Council of Affiliates. Also continued partnerships with Radio-Television Journalism and Communication Technology. Also forged new collaborations with Magazine and Mass Communication and Society divisions. As the roles of our interest group expand and become more central to a thriving, democratic society, we are able to branch out and develop new partnerships, and we believe this positive trend will continue.

- Continue excellent communication with AEJMC Headquarters.

Goals Unable to Reach during current year & Goals for 2011-12

- Although a Special Call sought research papers addressing connections between civic, citizen, and community journalism, no papers were submitted (this was second try as we attempted this effort last year as well). During the August joint membership meeting in Denver, CCJIG and COMJIG decided to continue as separate interests groups due to diverging areas of interests/goals although some overlap exists (The two interest groups also wished to allow greater leadership and participatory opportunities for members). This may have dissolved much interest in this endeavor.
- Continue to clearly articulate what civic and citizen journalism are to increase relevance and appropriateness of conference paper submissions. We clearly stated the importance of articulating such connections in call for papers, newsletter and listserv messages. This led to fewer conference paper submissions. However, we believe the relevance and appropriateness of paper submissions to CCJIG is important. Thus, we will continue to provide reminders and clearer definitions that will potentially lead to more meaningful communication and understanding of the CCJIG. These efforts, we hope, will also lead to an increase in research paper submissions, membership, participation, and relevant areas of interests in research, teaching and service/PF&R.
- While efforts were made for increased discussion among CCJIG members through various electronic means, officers were generally the main discussants and participants. Further efforts should be made to increase active membership and participation in the organization. In other words, over the past few years, mainly the same individuals were involved while other members rarely participated. Additionally, some of the interest

group's senior members could play a more central mentoring role to further facilitate interest group activities and goals.

- More clarity in research paper submissions is needed. This year we have received a few same or similar research papers between the midwinter and annual conference submissions. Unless they were *explicitly* the same paper, we were advised to move along with review. We also had a paper with author identifying information. Such details should be addressed in upcoming conferences. Additionally, a discussion regarding more conceptually or theoretically driven papers that do not address research questions/hypothesis (e.g., not a full blown study), yet are rigorously developed and soundly presented, should be carried out.

- More aggressively build on the interest group's ongoing research bibliography that in part serves as a resource for teachers in best practices for civic and citizen journalism pedagogy.

RESEARCH:

5. Number of faculty research paper submissions **11**; number of acceptances **6**; **55%**.

6. Number of student research paper submissions **6**; number of acceptances **3**; **50%**.

Overall paper submissions: 17; number of acceptances: 9; 53%

7. Overview of judging process

Approached judges from previous years.

Used the standard judging matrix offered by AEJMC below:

Used the default forms provided by AEJMC's All Academic site

Criteria:

- 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

Used All Academics' statistical package to calculate beta scores.

8. Total # of judges **18**; **3** papers per judge

Papers were randomly spread among judges so that no judge had more than three papers from CCJIG. One paper was transferred to another division as it was exclusively about technology (this was not counted as one of the 17 submitted). Of the 8 rejections, one paper was summarily rejected because it had author-identifying information on a cover page.

9. Did your group conduct any other type of refereed competition? **None**

10. Please list your conference activities related to research.

Note: Research chair created a panel discussion with COMJIG on post-objectivity in the news media. See below for details of upcoming convention activities related to research.

Wednesday, August 10, 10 am to 11:30 am

Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group

Refereed Paper Research Session: **Emerging Understandings of Civic and Citizen Journalism**

Moderating/Presiding: **Deborah Chung**, Kentucky

No Experience Necessary: The Perceived Credibility of Citizen Journalism

Sara Netzley and **Mark Hemmer**, Bradley

News Innovation and the Negotiation of Participation*

Seth Lewis, Minnesota

Exploring Contexts in Citizen Journalism: A Conceptual Framework

Nakho Kim, Wisconsin-Madison

Not Paid to Play: A Case Study of Online Community Participants and the Effects of Non-Monetary Motivation Upon Public Journalism

Robert Gutsche, Jr. and **Rauf Arif**, Iowa

Discussant: **Deborah Chung**, Kentucky

* Top Faculty Paper, Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group

Thursday, August 11, 1:30 pm to 3 pm

Refereed Paper Research Session: **Scholar-to-Scholar**

Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group

46. The Refrigerator as a Megaphone: Addressing the Motivations of Citizen Photojournalists

Tara Buehner, Oklahoma

47. Interactions of News Frames and Incivility in the Political Blogosphere:
Examining News Credibility and Political Trust
Porismita Borah, Maryville

Discussant: **Burton St. John III**, Old Dominion

Thursday, August 11, 5 pm to 6:30 pm

Community Journalism and Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Groups

Research Panel Session: **News With a View: Journalism in a Post-Objective World**

Moderating/Presiding: **Anne Golden Worsham**, Brigham Young

Panelists: **Deborah Chung**, Kentucky
Kirsten Johnson, Elizabethtown
John Hatcher, Minnesota, Duluth
Burton St. John III, Old Dominion

Friday, August 12, 3:30 pm to 5 pm

Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group

Refereed Paper Research Session: **Citizen Journalism and New Technologies**

Moderating/Presiding: **Nikhil Moro**, North Texas

Case of the #UTShooter: Citizens Working Around, With,
and for Traditional News Media*

Avery Holton, Texas at Austin

Exposing the Digital News Photo Hound: A Study on the Normative
Structure and Routines of Citizen Photojournalists

Tara Buehner and **Julie Jones**, Oklahoma

#Forward! Twitter as Citizen Journalism in the Wisconsin Labor Protests

Aaron Veenstra, **Narayanan Iyer**, **Namrata Bansal**, **Mohammad Hossain**,
Jiwoo Park and **Jiachun Hong**, Southern Illinois-Carbondale

Discussant: **Nikhil Moro**, North Texas

* Top Student Paper, Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group

11. Please list your out-of-conference activities related to research.

CCJIG supported the mid-winter conference by assigning six abstracts to be reviewed by three CCJIG board members. From this, four papers were accepted by the abstract reviewers and were placed on a paper panel at the mid-winter conference.

The following papers were accepted by the CCJIG for a session titled “Citizenry as Journalism in the Digital Age” during the AEJMC midwinter conference in Oklahoma:

A Study of the Motivations of Citizen Photojournalists – Tara Buehner, University of Oklahoma. (Top paper co- recipient)

Case of the UT Shooter: Twitter Voices and Ambient Journalism During an Acute Crisis – Avery Holton, University of Texas Austin (Top paper co-recipient)

We Don't Need No Stinkin' Badges: The Social Role of Badge Owners on the Huffington Post – Julie Jones and Nathan Altadonna, University of Oklahoma

Online Defamation and the Internet Host Site – Julia Bristow, Arkansas State University

12. Please describe briefly the research goals and activities of your group. Such description may include discussion of primary accomplishments, programming diversity, special competitions, faculty/student research awards, newsletter activities and other activities.

- Research chair has specifically worked to solicit research presentations that address how both citizens and traditional journalists can use new media technologies to create news offerings that address public concerns. Due to the drop off of submissions this year as compared to previous years, one important goal would be to articulate to emerging scholars that the interest group would like submissions that focus on how citizens and traditional journalists (either together or separately) use new media to affect new forms and understandings of news.

- In relation to the research panel session titled “News With a View: Journalism in a Post-Objective World,” two CCJIG officers are authoring a book that provides insights into how the field of journalism can adjust its understanding and practices of objectivity beyond its limiting frames. Many CCJIG members are contributing chapters to this volume.

Further details: In their upcoming book *News With a View: Journalism Beyond Objectivity*, St. John III (research chair) and Kirsten A. Johnson (vice-chair and programming chair) provide theoretical and applied examinations of objectivity in today’s modern journalism environment. Departing from traditional approaches to examining journalism’s current problems with relevance, this book offers insights on how the ideal of objectivity often gets in the way. Rather, the authors argue, it is necessary to examine the increasing amount of subjective perspectives that citizens offer in today’s media climate and how such new content brings new visions of media credibility in an era of citizen engagement and participatory culture.

This upcoming volume was also featured in the winter/spring newsletter issue.

- Co-vice chair Glenn Scott offered a short checklist for research papers that would be a reminder to CCJIG members/readers to cover a few important points in papers they

planned to submit. This served almost like a bulleted list of three or four items, starting with the importance of highlighting why the paper fits into CCJIG. This article was published in the winter newsletter issue.

- Continued Top Paper Awards for both faculty and student submissions for the third year (\$151 and plaque):

News Innovation and the Negotiation of Participation*

Seth Lewis, Minnesota

Case of the #UTShooter: Citizens Working Around, With,
and for Traditional News Media**

Avery Holton, Texas at Austin

*Top Faculty Paper

**Top Student Paper

- Newsletter Research Columns:

“Panels, research address definitions,” by Teaching chair Sue Ellen Christian in the Fall 2010 CCJIG Newsletter

“Research in CCJIG: Where do we go next?” by Research chair Glenn Scott in the Fall 2010 CCJIG Newsletter

“CCJIG officers edit new volume on objectivity,” by chair Deborah Chung in the Winter/Spring 2011 CCJIG Newsletter

“Research reminders to maximize your chances in CCJIG,” by Research chair Glenn Scott in the Winter/Spring 2011 CCJIG Newsletter

Also published usual preview of refereed research sessions:

“Research to be presented in three sessions,” in the Summer 2011 CCJIG Newsletter

TEACHING:

13. The 2011 AEJMC conference includes three teaching-related panels. These panels fulfilled the Teaching Committee’s focus on curriculum, content (e.g., new media tools) and teaching methods (e.g., content analyses of online content). Please see below for details of upcoming convention activities related to teaching.

Wednesday, August 10, 3:15 pm to 4:45 pm

Magazine Division and Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group

Teaching Panel Session: **Going Public**

Moderating/Presiding: **Carol Zuegner**, Creighton

Panelists: **Lori Blachford**, Drake
Suzanne McBride, Columbia College Chicago
Sue Ellen Christian, Western Michigan
Kirsten Johnson, Elizabethtown

Wednesday, August 10, 5 pm to 6:30 pm

Mass Communication and Society Division and Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Groups

Teaching Panel Session: **Location, Location, Location: Using Location Based Services to Add Some Mobile to Your Journalism Course**

Moderating/Presiding: **Seth Lewis**, Minnesota

Panelists: **Jeremy Littau**, Lehigh
Jen Reeves, Missouri
Carrie Brown, Memphis
Bob Britten, West Virginia

Thursday, August 11, 8:15 am to 9:45 am

Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group and Radio-Television Journalism Division

Teaching Panel Session: **Beyond the Borders of the Box: Attempting Innovation in TV, Radio, and Research in a Hyper-dyadic Digital World**

Moderating/Presiding: **Glenn Scott**, Elon

Panelists: **Glenn Scott**, Elon
Joy Chavez Mapaye, Alaska-Anchorage
Jack Rosenberry, St. John Fisher
Jessalynn Strauss, Xavier

In these panels, CCJIG's commitment to excellent teaching was furthered through the diversity of voices on the panels and the variety of pedagogical techniques to be employed by the panelists (e.g., the joint session with the magazine division is aimed at teaching projects that involve students in community/civic reporting). These panels also involve many CCJIG members. The panels will serve a wide audience in AEJMC, as they strive to share best practices in teaching civic and citizen journalism in the 21st century.

Also supportive of our teaching goals of leadership is the continued rigor of the student paper submissions, all of which received substantial feedback from our CCJIG reviewers whether they were accepted or not.

14. Out-of-conference activities related to teaching included teaching-related columns for our membership in our CCJIG newsletter, which was published three times this year. The columns emphasized topics such as the highlights of CCJIG-sponsored convention panels related to student involvement in citizen journalism and civic journalism projects. Another column, this one in the Summer 2011 issue, offered ways that educators can learn about and involve multimedia in their courses. Several community and civic journalism tutorials and online trainings were noted. These columns fulfill the Teaching Committee's focus on teaching methods.

Newsletter Teaching Columns:

“CAR tools boost civic journalism,” by Webmaster Jeff South in the Winter/Spring 2011 CCJIG Newsletter

“Teaching how to use Twitter as reporting tool,” by Secretary Jeremy Littau in the Winter/Spring 2011 CCJIG newsletter

“Online tools help educators teach selves, students,” by Teaching chair Sue Ellen Christian in the Summer 2011 CCJIG Newsletter

15. The teaching goals and activities of the CCJIG include curriculum development and to serve as an incubator and disseminator of fresh ideas for teaching citizen and civic journalism. The group has accomplished this through convention panels, newsletter articles and promotion of excellent student and faculty research in our interest area. We plan to continue these emphases in the coming year. One goal for 2011-12 is to more aggressively build on the interest group's ongoing research bibliography that in part serves as a resource for teachers in best practices for civic and citizen journalism pedagogy.

Co-Vice chair Glenn Scott received a Fulbright lecturing grant and will teach in Okinawa, Japan, during the 2011-2012 academic year. He will teach courses in comparative media practices, including issues of citizen journalism.

One of our members, Seungahn Nah, an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky, received the 2010-2011 UK Provost's Outstanding Teaching Award, which is the most prestigious and highly competitive teaching award at the university. He teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses regarding political communication and sociology of journalism, community, and democracy. He is the director of the Kentucky Citizen Media Project that has launched its first citizen journalism site, The Lexington Commons (www.kylexingtoncommons.org) in Lexington, KY. His research centers on the interrelationships among communication, community, and democracy with special emphasis on the roles of digital communication technologies in community and democratic processes and outcomes, such as citizen journalism, social capital formation, the public sphere, public deliberation, political and civic engagement, and nonprofit organizations and social movements.

PF&R

16. In-convention activities related to PF&R

CCJIG is co-sponsoring the PF&R panel, “The Role of Citizen Journalists, Bloggers and Digital Media in the Political Campaign.” This panel is being co-sponsored by CTEC. During this session, the panelists will explore the role of citizen journalists in the democratic process. The speakers will also analyze how to reconcile the traditional notions of journalistic neutrality with the passion that is expected from citizen journalists and bloggers. Finally, the panelists will discuss the interplay between new media and citizen engagement in the political process. These topics will be underscoring the PF&R values of free expression, ethics, and media criticism and accountability.

Our interest group is also co-sponsoring a J-Lab panel that will be exploring “Community News Sites: What Works” as part of a luncheon session. This luncheon panel will be co-sponsored by the AEJMC Council of Affiliates and the Community Journalism Interest Group. This luncheon has received funding from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation. This panel will be relating to the PF&R values of free expression, media criticism and accountability and public service.

See below for details of upcoming convention activities related to PF&R.

Friday, August 12, 8:15 am to 9:45 am

Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group and Communication Technology Division

PF&R Panel Session: The Role of Citizen Journalists, Bloggers and Digital Media in the Political Campaign

Moderating/Presiding: **Daniela Dimitrova**, Iowa State

Panelists: **Tom Johnson**, Texas at Austin
Dhavan Shah, Wisconsin, Madison
Jacob Groshek, Erasmus
Dana Loesch, editor, BigJournalism.com
Sean Soendker Nicholson, editor, FiredUpMissouri.com

Friday, August 12, 12:15 pm to 1:30 pm

AEJMC Council of Affiliates, Civic and Citizen Journalism and Community Journalism Interest Groups

Luncheon Session: **Community News Sites: What Works**

Moderating/Presiding: **Jan Schaffer**, executive director, J-Lab, American

Panelists: **Lisa Williams**, CEO/founder, Placeblogger.com
Margaret Freivogel, founding editor, *St. Louis Beacon*
David Boraks, founder/editor, DavidsonNews.net and
 CorneliusNews.net, North Carolina

Luncheon produced by J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism with funding from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation.

17. Out-of-convention activities related to PF&R

During this past year there were varied out-of-convention activities related to PF&R in the interest group. There were columns in the CCJIG newsletter, statements of support in response to requests from AEJMC standing committees, and PF&R resources offered on the CCJIG blog and Website.

- Newsletter PF&R Columns:

This year the CCJIG newsletter featured two columns written by the PF&R chair. One column explored how to live a higher standard with respect to racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness. The other column was a manifestation of that same thought process, as the column sought to encourage inclusiveness in the interest group membership. The column titles are listed below:

“Regional colloquia can offer slower pace, more interaction,” by PF&R chair Anne Golden Worsham in the Winter/Spring 2011 CCJIG newsletter

“Reflecting on PF&R values offers new perspective,” by PF&R chair Anne Golden Worsham in the Summer 2011 CCJIG Newsletter

- Issuance of Statements of Support in response to AEJMC standing committee requests:

November 30, 2010 - The PF&R chair consulted with members of the CCJIG leadership in order to construct the response that was requested by the PF&R standing committee concerning the changes in the University of Colorado’s journalism program. The PF&R chair then wrote the statement from the feedback and sent it to the AEJMC PF&R committee.

Mar 18, 2011 – The PF&R chair wrote in support of an AEJMC statement concerning NPR funding.

- CCJIG Website and Blog

The CCJIG site and blog continues to sponsor links that provide connections to resources for professional journalists and scholars, which reflects the PF&R value of public service.

18. Description of PF&R goals and activities

The following section highlights several goals that were listed in the 2009-2010 CCJIG annual report and the PF&R activities that sought to reach these goals during the 2010-2011 year.

Goal: Continue to collaborate with COMJIG, J-LAB, and Newspaper and forge new collaborations with interest groups and divisions. *[all areas]*

Outcome: There were continued collaborations with CTEC and J-Lab in the two PF&R panels.

Goal: Educate officers and members about the role of the Standing Committees. Encourage chairs to consult with the Standing Committees, particularly Teaching.

Outcome: The PF&R chair attended PF&R training at the AEJMC conference and consulted with the discussion leaders and other PF&R chairs at the session. The CCJIG chair also investigated the role of the PF&R committee and the PF&R values and wrote a column about some of the PF&R values.

Goal: Use topics that were listed in last year's CCJIG annual report goals section as topics in PF&R panels this year.

Suggested topic #1: Opportunities and challenges of social media (how are/can social media be used to engage citizens in public problem solving? How can social media create or increase barriers to engagement [time, habits, private life focus])

Outcome: This topic is being highlighted in the panel, "The Role of Citizen Journalists, Bloggers and Digital Media in the Political Campaign."

Suggested topic #2: Identify and assess journalistic efforts (print, online, broadcast) that demonstrate civic goals/values (journalism that centers on community problem solving, helps public life go well, promotes citizen engagement).

Outcome: This topic is being highlighted in the panel "Community News Sites: What Works"

Proposed PF&R Goals for the 2011-2012 year

- Continue collaborating with J-Lab and other interest groups on PF&R panels.
- Continue the written exploration of the differing PF&R values in the PF&R chair's newsletter column.
- Expand the PF&R resources on the Website and blog.

General information

19. See attached newsletters in the following pages

AEJMC Demographic Information for CCJIG

Year: 2011	Officers	Annual Conference Sessions				Mid-Year Meetings				Total
		Paper Judges	Panelists	Moderators	Discussants	Paper Judges	Panelists	Moderators	Discussants	
Male (tot.)	5	8	4	1	1	1	1			21
Amer. Indian/ Alaska Native										
Asian		1		1	1					3
Black/ African American										
Hispanic/ Latino										
International										
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Is.										
White	5	7	4			1	1			18
Multi-racial										
Female (tot.)	4	10	4	1	1	2	3		1	26
Amer. Indian/ Alaska Native			2							2
Asian	1	3	2	1	1	1				9
Black/ African American										
Hispanic/ Latino										
International										
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Is.										
White	3	7				1	3		1	15
Multi-racial										
Did not report										
Total:	9	18	8	2	2	3	4		1	47

CIVIC *and* CITIZEN Journalism

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

www.has.vcu.edu/civic-journalism
ccjig.blogspot.com

FALL 2010

Panels, research address definitions

By Sue Ellen Christian
CCJIG Teaching Chair

Two CCJIG panels in Denver at AEJMC raised compelling questions about how to define a citizen journalist (and whether the definition even matters), as well as how journalism students are contributing to public and private news providers.

The focus was on student collaborations with citizen journalists and industry professionals at a teaching panel co-sponsored by CCJIG and the Communication Technology Division. The title, "Helping Save Journalism via the Classroom," prompted panelist David Kurpius of Louisiana State to assert that "journalism doesn't need saving." It will survive, he assured the audience.

Indeed, the vibrant presentations in Wednesday's session outlined ways that journalism



Photo by Mary Beth Callie

Rod Amner, left, answers a question while Justin Walden and Deborah Chung look on during a CCJIG research session on Journalism as Conversation at Denver convention.

MORE CONVENTION COVERAGE INSIDE

- Report on annual membership meeting, page 3
- This year's officers and contact information, page 3
- Research presentations offer common themes, page 5
- Convention photos, page 5

See PANELS, page 2

St. Louis convention proposals due by Oct. 15

The Civic & Citizen Journalism Interest Group (CCJIG) invites panel proposals for the 2011 AEJMC convention to be held in St. Louis, Missouri from Aug. 10-13.

Please email your panel proposal to Co-Vice Chair Kirsten Johnson (johnsonka@etown.edu)

as a Word attachment by Oct. 15.

Past panels have focused on blogging discourse, credibility of citizen journalism practices, citizen contributions and politics, user collaborative activities, community conversations in hyperlocal media, newsroom pro-

jects, practicing civic and citizen journalism in a multicultural environment, and teaching civic and citizen journalism.

Panel proposals for 2011 may address, but are not limited to, the following broad themes:

See CALL, page 3

Panels

From page 1

education is collaborating with for-profit media or feeding to independent niche websites created by educators.

Steve Fox of University of Massachusetts-Amherst and Kurpius shared the challenges of fact-checking student work and emphasizing ethics and professional standards when partnering with professional news media. To prevent errors by students in news stories, Kurpius quipped, "It's fact checking and the fear of God."

A critical question raised was: What memorandums of understanding need to occur between news organizations and j-schools to protect student reporters, professors and the educational institutions involved?

Also, two of the panelists on Wednesday shared how they created their own news websites on which to showcase student and citizen journalism through non-profit vehicles. Both of the sites – Latina Voices by Teresa Puente of Columbia College-Chicago and we-town.com by the Elizabethtown College Department of Communication, including panelist Tamara Gillis – seek to broaden students' real-world journalistic experience and audience news choices.

The debate over who is a citizen journalist structured the discussion a day later in a research paper session on the theme of "Identifying the Citizen Journalist: Distinctions and Determinants." The themes that connected Thursday's four panelists included the definition of citizen journalists, the credibility of citizen journalists' online contributions, sourcing by citizen journalists, and how main-

Student News Provider Projects

- **Chicago Talks** (project of Columbia College, Chicago)
- **The Local: East Village** (New York University)
- **The Local: Fort Greene** (Brooklyn) (City University of New York)
- **New York City News Service** (City University of New York)
- **New England Center for Investigative Reporting** (Boston University)
- **My Missourian** (University of Missouri)
- **Reese Felts Project** (University of North Carolina)
- **Multi-Media Urban Reporting Lab** (Philadelphia) (Temple University)
- **We-Town** (Elizabethtown, Pa.) (Elizabethtown College)
- **Latina Voices** (Columbia College, Chicago)

This list compiled by Jack Rosenberry includes projects mentioned at sessions sponsored by CCJIG and other groups at the convention

stream media are using citizen journalist contributions in their daily news fare.

A theme running through all the papers was about citizen journalism contributions to mainstream media as additive to the news process. The question raised in many of the papers presented was not whether citizen journalists were capable of contributing to the news process, but how significant and meaningful those contributions were, either due to innate quality or to cooperation and interdependence with MSM.

A look at some paper highlights:

- Amani Channel of South Florida took a qualitative look at CNN's iReport team and how the team serves as gatekeepers regarding citizen journalism contributions. In his paper, Channel asserted that the citizen journalist contributions through CNN's iReport team are significant.

- Michael Sheehy of Cincinnati and Hong Ji, of The Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism, contributed to the debate over what the blogosphere contributes to journalistic news processes, how it is done and who is doing it.

- Daniel Doyle, Chen Lou and Hans Meyer of Ohio examined the differences in perceived credibility of two online political news sites during the presidential campaign, and found that "impressionistic" blogging was perceived as more credible.

- Nohil Park, JiYeon Jeong and Clyde Bentley of Missouri found that bloggers disclose their identities depending on individual differences and interactivities with their blogging partners. The findings pose compelling questions about how identity self-disclosure impacts perceived credibility and actual credibility.

In the final portion of the panel, Bentley asked: "Why talk about the definition of citizen journalism? It makes no difference to them. We spend this god-awful amount of time discussing it."

Panelist Channel added: "Back when Rodney King got beat down, they called it home video."

Chimed in someone from the audience: "Now, they call it citizen journalism."

Member meeting yields decision on groups' future

By Kirsten Johnson
CCJIG Co-Vice Chair

The major item of business at this year's AEJMC Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group members meeting in Denver, Colorado was a decision about whether CCJIG and the Community Journalism Interest Group (COMJIG) should combine to become a division. It was decided that CCJIG and COMJIG would remain as separate interest groups. The prevailing feeling was that there weren't many benefits to becoming a division, as it would not result in more opportunities for programming than are currently available.

Even though the two groups decided to remain separate, a joint paper call for next year's conference in St. Louis, Missouri was suggested by Doug Fisher, the chair of COMJIG. Fisher said such a call could examine the areas of convergence and divergence between the two

Officers 2010-11

- Deborah Chung, University of Kentucky, Chair; dchung@uky.edu
- Kirsten Johnson, Elizabethtown (PA) College, Co-Vice Chair; johnsonka@etown.edu
- Glenn Scott, Elon University, Co-Vice Chair; gscott3@elon.edu
- Sue Ellen Christian, Western Michigan, Teaching Chair, sueellen.christian@wmich.edu
- Anne Golden Worsham, Brigham Young, PF&R Chair; anne-golden_worsham@byu.edu
- Burton St. John III, Old Dominion, Research Chair; bsaintjo@odu.edu
- Jeremy Littau, Lehigh, Secretary; jeremy.littau@lehigh.edu
- Jeff South, Virginia Commonwealth University, Webmaster; jcsouth@vcu.edu
- Jack Rosenberry, St. John Fisher College, Newsletter Editor and Blog Administrator; jrosenberry@sjfc.edu

groups. It was suggested that each group commit half of a chip each for the session.

Also at the meeting, Fisher

mentioned that a new journal called *Community Journalism* will be launched. The journal is seeking submissions and reviewers. The hope is that the journal will be online by next summer.

After COMJIG and CCJIG separated into their individual members' meetings, awards were presented to the top CCJIG conference paper winners. The top student paper award was presented to Justin Walden of Pennsylvania State University for his paper *Reconsidering Citizen Journalism: An Historical Analysis*. The top faculty paper award was given to Deborah Chung and Seungahn Nah of the University of Kentucky for their paper *Perceived Role Conceptions of Citizen and Professional Journalists: Citizens' Views*. An award was also presented to outgoing CCJIG Chair Mary Beth Callie for her service this year.

The meeting ended with CCJIG members celebrating 15 years as an interest group with the eating of cake.

Call

From page 1

1. Defining who citizen journalists are, and the roles they serve in their communities. Defining what is and is not citizen journalism.

2. Emerging models and best practices in teaching of civic/citizen journalism.

3. Media convergence and using new tools to facilitate citizen journalism.

4. Local/global practices and perceptions of civic/citizen journalism.

5. Research techniques used by civic/citizen journalism scholars.

In general, address topics that are relevant to current discussions in journalism, politics, technology, democracy, or philosophy. Panels addressing issues of cultural and racial diversity are encouraged.

Your panel proposal should mention the following components in order: Type (i.e., PF&R, Teaching, Research), a tentative title, a possible moderator, the possible panelists (limit to three so we can work on linking with other interest groups and divisions), a brief description of the

panel, possible co-sponsors (divisions or interest groups), and contact information. Also provide speaker demographic and funding estimates (see sample proposal).

Selected proposals are compiled into a single document, with proposals from other divisions and interest groups, in order to be considered for co-sponsorship and scheduling. Many will later be revised or expanded as part of the joint planning process.

A sample proposal is available at http://www.has.vcu.edu/civic-journalism/Sample_Panel_Proposal.doc

As we move into the upcoming year ...

By Deborah Chung
CCJIG Chair

While working on my doctoral degree at Indiana University and pondering dissertation ideas in 2001 and 2002, I became increasingly fascinated by the concept of interactivity and audience participation. I had been formerly drawn to the core ideals of civic journalism and saw the link with technology and citizens as promise for the future of journalism and potential for a thriving democratic society. I see online news publications as places and spaces that can offer more egalitarian opportunities for audiences to participate in civic life and become more actively engaged citizens. As my research interests focus on the changing dynamics between communication professionals and their audiences through emergent information communication technologies (ICTs) and specifically in the context of online news, I saw a tremendous opportunity in pursuing this line of research that could meaningfully contribute to our understanding of the potentially changing definitions and boundaries of journalism.

This is an entry that was shared on our blog earlier this summer about how I became interested in joining the Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest group. I reflect on my initial attraction and passion to join the CCJIG as we enter our next year. There is much work ahead of us as we will undergo renewal and reassessment. However, at the same time, it is prime time for us, myself included, to reflect

CHAIR'S REPORT



on our achievements thus far, re-evaluate where we stand as an interest group and also realign our goals for the upcoming year. Most importantly, we should also rekindle the passion we found in joining the CCJIG.

I believe journalism is inextricably intertwined with civic life. As Jay Rosen has eloquently said, news people serve a vital function for democracy. He said journalism cannot remain valuable unless public life remains viable. Yet public life is in trouble and, therefore, journalism is in trouble.

Our position is core to the mission of improving and maintaining public life. We must recognize the centrality of citizenship in a thriving democratic society and the criticality of news people in facilitating citizenship and the deliberation of ideas.

The urgency of such ideas was reflected at the convention in Denver as many of our papers addressed topics of citizen discussions, credibility of such discussions, the differences between citizen and non-citizen led coverage, and the relationships between traditional media and citizen sources.

Our interest group increasingly leads a key mission, especially with the emergence of various Web 2.0 tools that allow for greater accessibility and us-

ability for news audiences to participate in their news consumption and production processes. Such interactive tools have offered greater opportunities for audience engagement where citizens can take on more actively engaged roles. Distinctions between senders and receivers of information are eroding, and we have now embarked on what James Carey describes as a journalism of conversation.

Again, in Denver we witnessed many papers that examined the utility of such new tools in facilitating discussions among citizens. These tools have enabled citizens to partake in the actual experience of news through blogging, hyper-local media and user-generated content, to name a few outlets. Such practices may offer hope for news people to revitalize community discussions, renew interest in public affairs information, and inspire citizens and ourselves to boast a stake in social change. We can restore torn relationships and create stronger ties. We can renegotiate the relationship between journalists and their audiences, and together we can do journalism better.

As we move forward, we might stop to consider these important questions. Let's start thinking in terms of relationships, conversation, responsibility and commitment. To focus on such terms also requires courage. Let's think about doing better journalism with fresh perspectives through new tools. We hope that you are thinking about ways to join us in this conversation.

Research in CCJIG: Where do we go next?

By Glenn Scott
CCJIG Co-Vice Chair

Editor's note: The author is now vice-chair, but was research chair for the 2010 convention.

If there is a regular exercise among researchers at a national conference, it may be in the search for coherence during research sessions.

We spent several productive hours engrossed in that pursuit during CCJIG gatherings in Denver, with a reasonable sense that we can see outlines of projects worth chasing.

We relied on excellent discussants and insightful audience comments to pull things together. Our 14 presenters set an agenda that at times revealed striking agreement. Too much agreement, of course, might take us down too cozy an intellectual path. But in a qualitative spirit, let me summarize the themes that came to characterize the 2010 meet-up.

These might help to guide you to begin where we left off, or at least to know where the currents our group's civic and citizen journalism research streams are flowing, presented with themes, not authors and titles.

Ours is an interest group that can't get enough of definition. Never does a research session pass without an eventual

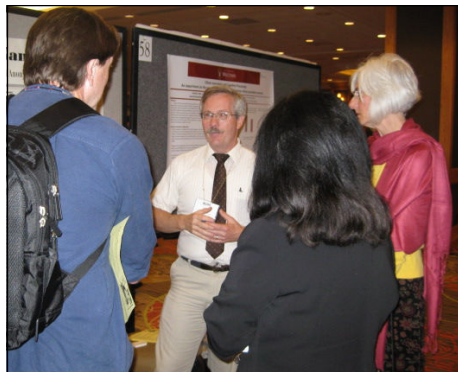


Photo by Lauren Vicker



Photo by Mary Beth Callie



Photo by Mary Beth Callie

Doreen Marchionni presents her paper in an oral session, above, while Jack Rosenberry, upper left, and Mitch McKenney, immediate left, present their work in Scholar-to-Scholar.



Photo by Mary Beth Callie

Glenn Scott makes a point at a session, above. At left, 2009-10 CCJIG top officers Mary Beth Callie, Deborah Chung and Kirsten Johnson on their way back to the conference after an evening out at dinner.



Photo by Jack Rosenberry

See RESEARCH, page 6

Research

From page 5

head-nodding in which we all remark that we need more scholarly work drilling down on the definitions and roles of citizen journalists. This is new stuff; we don't have the seven seminal pieces on which meanings may be staked. Usually, we finally agree that we're glad about that because, after all, there isn't one obvious definition or role or function of the citizen journalist – or the participatory communicator or whatever term we're addressing. Not at this moment. This gives all of us room to theorize and define according to the terms, circumstances, and relationships we explore.

The energy right now is primarily in this direction. The great majority of the 27 papers submitted to our group this year for Denver (of which 14 were accepted) dealt with citizen-journalism issues, often related to roles and functions, commonly involving professional and (here we go with definitions again) non-professional producers of news and content.

Another keyword: precision. Because of the vagueness of the citizen role, papers can get rather general in approach. If audience wishes came true – and a strategic thinker might choose to conflate 'audience' with 'future reviewer' – more CCJIG research would strive for specifics in describing methods and exploring the extent to which a phenomenon occurs or a relationship exists. Without details, we aren't sure about the discoveries.



Photo by Mary Beth Callie
Sue Ellen Christian makes some discussant remarks at a Denver research session.

To test credibility of content, we need to move beyond sampling college students. One of the most notable findings, offered by a few presenters, is that online audiences rate message credibility higher when the authors of the messages are presented as people, with photos and possibly biographies accompanying their stories. This is fascinating stuff and potentially significant for tomorrow's journalism. So far, these findings are built primarily on results from sampled students. Will these credibility findings hold for samples of middle-aged news consumers relying on the office broadband? Or a mixed group of folks reading from mobile devices?

We didn't spend enough time this year examining the applications of research methods to CCJIG projects, and neither did our research papers. We could benefit from more talk that zeroes in on specific techniques, such as protocols for capturing and coding online content, including user-generated material.

What are acceptable or best practices? I hope our group can sponsor a panel session or two next August in St. Louis dedicated to methodological applications in our field. As mentioned earlier, the more precise the topic and discussion, the more good we'll gain.

Many papers and discussions in Denver explored interaction among professional and non-professional journalists. This was good, but as noted by one of our active new members (Rod Amner from Rhodes University in South Africa), we did not deal much with activities of citizen producers at subaltern levels where original voices might be offering socially valuable (if sometimes chaotic) contributions.

We did well in Denver to build knowledge and advance ideas. We were enriched this year by the works of several new contributors.

The exciting part of working in our areas of research, of course, is that we're just getting started. Please join us.

CIVIC *and* CITIZEN Journalism

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

www.has.vcu.edu/civic-journalism
ccjig.blogspot.com

WINTER/SPRING 2011

CAR tools boost civic journalism

By Jeff South
CCJIG Webmaster

Civic journalism grew out of disenchantment with the “horse-race” approach to political coverage in the 1980s. Computer-assisted reporting emerged with the advent of the personal computer a decade later. For many years, there was little if any crossover between these two journalistic

trends.

But Web 2.0 tools have changed that: They’ve made it easier to engage the public with CAR – to help people visualize, interact with and contribute to data sets. Now you don’t have to be a programmer to take census, traffic, crime or other data and create compelling online maps and charts.

See **CAR TOOLS**, page 3



Photo by Deborah Chung

CCJIG co-vice-chair for programming Kirsten Johnson tosses a chip during the “chip auction” session at the AEJMC winter meeting in Albuquerque to set the program for next summer’s convention in St. Louis. Convention stories inside include:

- Paper call (deadline April 1), **page 4**
- Programming highlights for St. Louis, **page 4**.
- Reflections on a mid-winter convention, **page 5**
- Hints for preparing a better research paper, **page 6**

Teaching how to use Twitter as reporting tool

By Jeremy Littau
CCJIG Secretary

I was privileged to be part of an interesting classroom experiment this spring that involved collaboration with four other universities. It started when several of my AEJMC colleagues teaching different types of multimedia reporting found ourselves talking on Facebook about how, for some reason, this semester

was proving a struggle to get students on board with social media tools.

Within hours, Carrie Brown at the University of Memphis sent us a Twitter scavenger hunt assignment with an invitation to join in. And thus #JRLWeb was born. Classes at Memphis, Drury University, Lehigh University, the University of Oregon, and the University of West Virginia all took part.

The assignment was fairly simple: students had to tweet about 10 items they obtained either by talking to people or doing some reporting. All of them, in fact, asked for a photo in some way as well.

The learning goal was to get them using Twitter and particularly on mobile, but they also knew other students were

See **TWITTER**, page 6

CCJIG officers edit new volume on objectivity

By Deborah Chung
CCJIG Chair

The idea of objectivity is a classic discussion among journalism students, professionals and scholars. Such debates and discussions regarding its appropriateness and its relevance to the field have been treated in many books and articles.

However, as Burton St. John III observes, there has been no sustained discussion of objectivity as a volume in its own right over the past seven or eight years.

In their upcoming book *News With a View: Journalism Beyond Objectivity*, CCJIG officers St. John and Kirsten A. Johnson provide theoretical and applied examinations of objectivity in today's modern journalism environment. Their book offers insights into how the field of journalism can adjust its understanding and practices of objectivity beyond its limiting frames.

Departing from traditional approaches to examining journalism's current problems with relevance, this book offers insights on how the ideal of objectivity often gets in the way. Rather than raising objectivity as the highest goal, the authors argue, it is necessary to examine the increasing amount of subjective perspectives that citizens offer in today's media climate

and how such new content brings new visions of media credibility in an era of citizen engagement and participatory culture.

"The traditional discussion of objectivity that focuses on ritual-like practices, relying on expert sources and balanced coverage, limits critical discussion that involves citizens in our society," St. John said. "The idea that journalists can approximate reality does not resonate with today's news consumers." In an age of increasing user self-selection and integration of user-generated content, the "journalist's view" is becoming less authoritative.

This project is especially relevant in today's interactive media landscape where emergent technological tools offer increasingly participatory user experiences. "Objectivity is being called into question as user-created content is becoming more prevalent online," Johnson said. "This book seeks to examine and explore that intersection between objectivity and what users are creating. This audience no longer waits for journalists to tell them what's important. Instead they go out and find it themselves—and they not only find it themselves—they share it with friends, comment on it, change it, and use it until their information experience is finished."

The book first provides an

overview of the rise of objectivity in journalism and its evolution in Western societies. Part 1 then covers historical aspects of objectivity and its integration into the U.S. press, investigative journalism and alternative journalism. Part 2 deals with contemporary perspectives and examines news consumption and production by actively engaged citizens and includes topics on selective exposure, collaborative models, role conceptions, and crowdsourcing activities. Part 3 offers global considerations and investigates cultural norms of journalism across various societies, including Norway, South Africa, Russia and global news agencies. Part 4 assesses objectivity and theoretical approaches and offers critical views on how objectivity might potentially contribute to a disconnect between news workers and their audiences. The volume concludes with an essay on post-objectivity perspectives for contemporary journalism.

Contributors for the volume include Aaron Barlow, Deborah S. Chung, Andrew Flanagin, John Hatcher, John Jirik, Kirsten A. Johnson, Farooq Kperogi, Gerry Lanosga, Wilson Lowrey, Doreen Marchionni, Sharon Meraz, Seungahn Nah, David Ryfe, Daxton Stewart, and Burton St. John III. The book is expected to be published by Summer 2012.

Meet us in St. Louis: convention facts, key dates

Convention Hotel:

- The Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel, 800 Washington Ave.

Key Dates

- Paper submission deadline 11:59pm CDT – April 1, 2011.

- Pre-conference sessions: Tuesday Aug. 9
- Conference begins – Wednesday Aug. 10



CAR Tools

From page 1

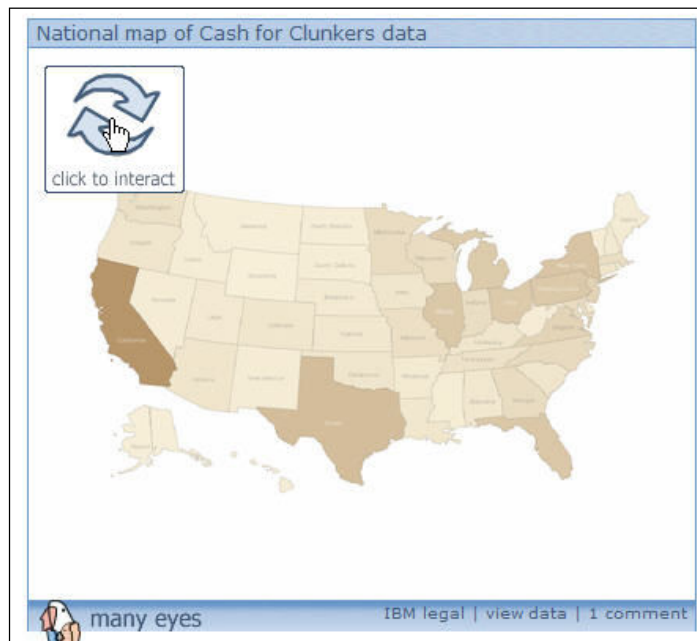
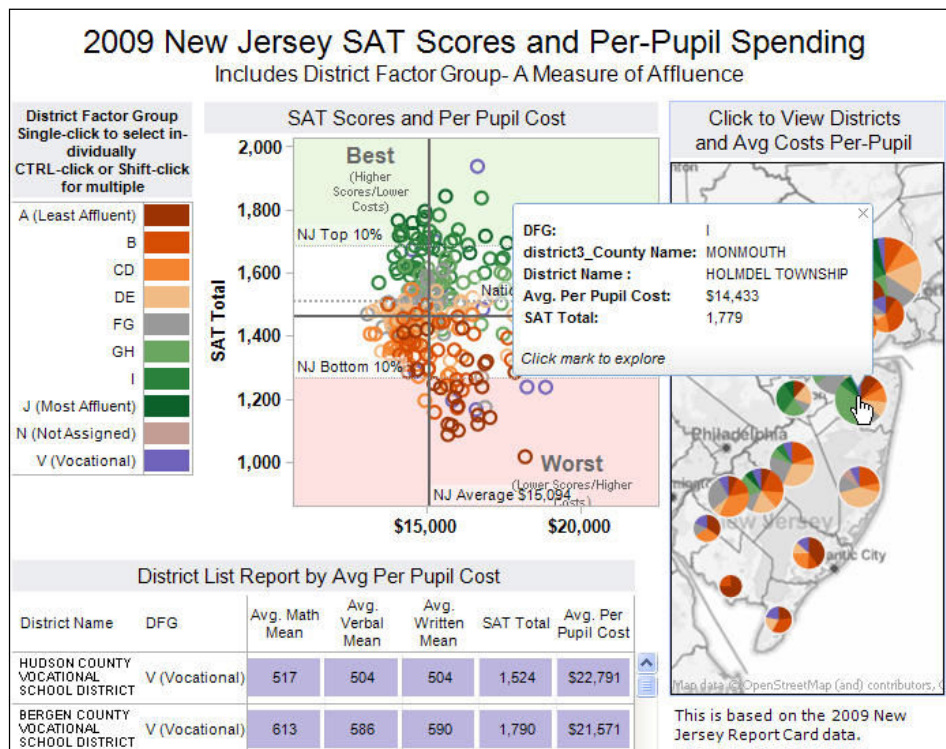
Those tools were on full display at the 2011 CAR Conference held Feb. 24-27 in Raleigh, N.C., by Investigative Reporters and Editors Inc. and its National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting. Besides learning how to analyze data, attendees learned how to present it – in ways that often intersect with civic and citizen journalism.

CAR expert Steve Doig, the Knight Chair at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University, has compiled a best-of-the-conference tipsheet on “13 free tools to analyze, display data.” You can find it at <http://bit.ly/h4GPea>.

Google, which co-sponsored the CAR conference, has a number of tools for both professional and citizen journalists. They include Google Maps (for geo-based mashups); Google Refine (for cleaning up “messy data”); and Gapminder (for illustrating trends over time). Many journalists are using Google Fusion Tables to visualize data as maps, time lines or charts. As with other tools, you can embed your graphic on a website or share it via social media.

Here are three other tools that my journalism students and I have found especially useful:

ManyEyes – Created by IBM, this Web-based service lets you upload a spreadsheet or free-text document and then create a visualization. For example, you might visualize a politician’s speech as a word tree or tag cloud – or demographic data as a



Virginia Commonwealth University students created the “Cash for Clunkers” graphic at left with IBM’s Many Eyes program. The data visualization above was created with Tableau Public. (Screen grabs of work provided by Jeff South)

map or bubble chart.

Tableau Public – You can download the basic version of this program for free. It helps you bring data to life with interactive graphs, charts, maps, tables and entire dashboards. Visitors can click on it to “drill down” for more details.

NodeXL – This is an Excel

add-in for doing social networking analysis. It can take a spreadsheet of people and organizations, for instance, and show how they are interconnected. That’s useful for visualizing the web of connections among politicians and campaign donors – or among members of corporate boards.

Convention planning already well under way

By Kirsten Johnson
CCJIG Co-Vice Chair

Planning for the 2011 AEJMC Conference in St. Louis began just a few weeks after the 2010 conference ended and is now well under way. The program grid so familiar to convention-goers was assembled at the AEJMC mid-winter meeting in Albuquerque in early December.

This year's CCJIG programming as scheduled at that meeting is well balanced, with two sessions each in the areas of Research, Teaching, and Professional Freedom and Responsibility.

One theme from last year's conference that garnered a lot of attention was how to conduct an effective content analysis of online content. This methodology is frequently utilized when studying user participation and work created by citizen journal-

ists, and questions often arise around how to code content that is constantly changing. The 2011 conference will feature a session on this topic that is co-sponsored with the Radio-Television Journalism Division.

This year's programming also boasts collaborations with groups that CCJIG has not partnered with in recent memory. One of them is a teaching session co-sponsored with the Magazine Division that will focus on effective ways to teach journalism that touches communities. Instructors will share their experiences teaching courses in which students engaged in working on projects to benefit the community. Panelists representing both of the groups will participate. CCJIG will also partner with the Mass Communication and Society Division on a teaching panel about using location-based services in

the classroom. Mobile applications, such as Foursquare and Yelp, are becoming more prevalent in journalism. This session will highlight how instructors are using these technologies to teach students.

The annual J-lab luncheon, always a popular session at the conference, is on the schedule again this year. The session will focus on community news sites and what works and what doesn't when it comes to community journalism. The session will build on the new J-Lab report, "New Voices: What Works." It is co-sponsored with the Council of Affiliates, and the Community Journalism Interest Group.

Overall, this year's programming proves to be an exciting mix of panels that highlight new teaching ideas and technologies, research methodologies, and best practices in civic and citizen journalism.

Research paper call; deadline is April 1

The Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group invites research paper submissions for the 2011 conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication to be held in St. Louis on August 10-13, 2011.

Papers must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on April 1, 2011, in accordance with all requirements of AEJMC and its uniform paper call and electronic submission process:

(<http://www.allacademic.com/one/aejmc/aejmc11/>).

Authors should ensure that their papers do not contain identifying references. For a detailed explanation, please see "submitting a clean paper"

under the uniform paper call on the AEJMC website (<http://www.aejmctlouis.org/home/papercall>).

Papers submitted will be eligible for separate faculty and student top paper awards of \$151. Because of the separate competition for students, graduate students should be careful to identify themselves as such in the submission process. Papers co-authored with faculty members do not qualify for the student competition.

CCJIG is interested in research that examines the emergence, practice, sustenance and/or teaching of civic/citizen journalism. Authors are urged to submit papers that generally conform to this group's interests. Papers should make sure to include discussions of news within the context of civic/citizen journalism. For example, papers that

See PAPER CALL, page 5

Regional colloquia can offer slower pace, more interaction

By Anne Golden Worsham
CCJIG PF&R Chair

Recently the Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group sponsored a research session at the AEJMC midwinter conference at the University of Oklahoma. The research topics were wide-ranging and included a study of the motivations of citizen photo-journalists, the use of twitter during a heartbreaking crisis, the social role of badge owners on the Huffington Post and online defamation.

I attended that conference and learned what it's like to experience a meeting with a far smaller scale and more relaxed pace than the national AEJMC conference. At one point, when the conference attendees emerged from the six conference sessions being held just before the lunch hour and converged on one lunchroom, there was an opportunity to luxuriate in the atmosphere of creative intellectual brainstorming that always

seems to emerge when you sit and converse with other scholars.

I found myself sitting at a table with several members of a panel I had just attended. As we ate our Subway sandwiches, chips and cookies, we were able to talk about one of the panel presentations and suggest research extensions to the presenter.

At the reception held at the first evening of the conference, there was a sense of fluid collegiality as attendees migrated from table to table in a panorama of human interaction.

In spite of the fact that it was a smaller conference, I was fascinated by the research being presented at the sessions I attended. I could tell that the research projects were deeply meaningful to the presenters and the presentations were evoking creative thoughts and questions in the minds of the audience members.

So, I would highly recommend

CCJIG papers at Midwinter session

The following papers were accepted by the Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group for a session titled "Citizenry as Journalism in the Digital Age" the AEJMC midwinter conference in Oklahoma:

- *A Study of the Motivations of Citizen Photojournalists* – Tara Buehner, University of Oklahoma. (Top paper co-recipient)
- *Case of the UT Shooter: Twitter Voices and Ambient Journalism During an Acute Crisis* – Avery Holton, University of Texas Austin (Top paper co-recipient)
- *We Don't Need No Stinkin' Badges: The Social Role of Badge Owners on the Huffington Post* – Julie Jones and Nathan Altadonna, University of Oklahoma
- *Online Defamation and the Internet Host Site* – Julia Bristow, Arkansas State University

that you give the regional conferences a try, because you might be surprised by how much you enjoy the experience.

Paper call

From page 4

examine the use of blogs without touching upon news do not automatically meet the group's interests.

Suggested paper topics include: Citizen/civic journalism in political campaigns, citizen media (including news consumers as news producers), civic map-

ping, 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 use of polls, focus groups and other methods in civic reporting.

Please direct any questions you may have to CCJIG Research Chair Burton St. John III (bsaintjo@odu.edu).

Twitter

From page 1

watching at other schools. Each class tweeted their 10 items using their class hashtag (for example, Lehigh used #J198), and students at each school were given the list of all the class tags to follow.

What ensued was instructive. Students learned about interesting things happening at other schools or got to know the area residents a bit more. They retweeted each other, and they connected on other interests. One of my Lehigh students, for example, has been blogging about sports this semester and found a similar student at West Virginia. They now follow each other and I see them talking to each other

Assignment guidelines

Details about what students were assigned to find can be found at <http://umemphissocialmedia.posterous.com/twitter-scamenger-hunt>

on Twitter every so often. The connections alone that students develop make the exercise worth the effort.

The project led to other things. We did a large group chat on a Sunday night after all the classes had finished the assignment using our new #JRLWeb tag, and we also live tweeted the Oscars together using #JOscars. We ended up creating a virtual classroom that was much broader than the individual classes we hold, even if those extend to virtual environments.

The professors found it to be such a good experience that we're planning for more. We'll

replicate this assignment next semester, but we're also envisioning other projects together such as working on crowd-sourced custom Google maps. One of the big takeaways for us is this kind of thing not only lets students see the value of collaboration, but it also enlarges their view of how far these tools reach. If they follow only students and local residents on Twitter, they have less sense of scope. This assignment helped them see a bigger social media world.

So we're planning to have a larger conversation at an AEJ meetup this August in St. Louis. Anyone interested can contact me at jj1409@lehigh.edu

Research reminders to maximize your chances in CCJIG

By Glenn Scott
CCJIG Co-Vice Chair

In the past two years, CCJIG reviewers have accepted slightly more than half of the papers submitted. As a former research chair – the person who coordinates the peer-review process – I'm quick to admit that we've had to reject some papers that were quite good. The competition is usually strong.

More to the point, some authors have missed chances to strengthen their submissions. Here are three simple reminders as you aim to submit in our CCJIG research-paper competition this year.

1. Speak to our interest group: Make sure you're mak-

ing a case that your paper relates to issues of civic or citizen journalism. Many papers clearly do, but not all. If yours does not easily "live" in our areas of interest, invest a few paragraphs in the introduction, lit review and conclusions highlighting and justifying the linkage with what we study.

2. Give principled explanations about research methods. More papers get the boot for a failure of methodological transparency than probably any other area. It's not uncommon to create samples of college students, for example, but explain the steps and logic behind your choices. If you're studying three distinct citizen journalism sites, explain why you selected these

three – and what the findings from these particular sites have to offer the scholarly community. Don't expect reviewers to trust what you don't tell them. Be specific and principled.

3. Connect your lit review to your methods and findings. This one is aimed mostly at graduate students. We often see papers with marvelous literature reviews that likely were products of theory courses. Where a paper's section on theory is deep and rewarding, though, the actual methods and findings can be thin and segregated from the theory and lit. Either improve the methods or build on your strength by revising the paper into a deeper work strictly on theory.

CIVIC *and* CITIZEN Journalism

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

www.has.vcu.edu/civic-journalism
ccjig.blogspot.com

SUMMER 2011

Growth of Patch, indie sites shows citizen journalism going mainstream

By **Jack Rosenberry**
CCJIG Newsletter Editor

One of the most striking recent developments in the world of online news, and citizen journalism, has been the rapid expansion of the Patch.com network of local news sites owned by AOL.

Patch was started in 2008 by a group that included Tim Armstrong, a former Google executive. Armstrong joined AOL in early 2009, and the company acquired Patch that

June. Patch sites were located in 11 communities in New Jersey and Connecticut in late 2009 but grew to about 100 sites in nine states by August 2010 and approximately 800 sites across 20 states by early 2011.

These local news sites primarily cover affluent bedroom communities that surround large cities such as New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, and Washington, DC.

See PATCH, page 6



The annual convention is the highlight of involvement for AEJMC members, and this newsletter previews CCJIG's plans including a full slate of programming (page 3) and research sessions (page 4). Also be sure to attend the **member meeting at 6:45 p.m. Thursday Aug. 11.**

Other convention facts to keep in mind:

Key Dates

- "Early Bird" registration deadline: July 8
- Pre-conference sessions: Tues. Aug. 9
- Conference: Wed. Aug. 10 to Sat. Aug. 13.

Convention Hotel:

- The Renaissance St. Louis Grand Hotel, 800 Washington Ave.

Web site

- <http://www.aejmctlouis.org/home/>

Online tools help educators teach selves, students

By **Sue Ellen Christian**
CCJIG Teaching Chair

Teaching journalism in the 21st century is requiring more flexibility and innovation by educators. Instructors need to acquire and maintain skills in digi-

tal media as well as teaching the foundational elements of the craft. It's a busy time in the classroom.

Many digital tools are available to help educators in civic and citizen journalism and every other shade of journalism to

teach both the basic news writing and reporting and the multimedia skills needed by today's students. Many educators say they need training so they can teach students how to present

See TEACHING, page 2

CHAIR'S REPORT

Convention events reflect annual goals

By Deborah Chung
CCJIG Chair

As we gear up for this year's AEJMC conference in St. Louis, we reflect on the goals that we have met in year 2010-2011.



We started this year by reassessing our increasingly growing mission and central role as various Web 2.0 technologies

enhance user activity and participation in society. Yet, growing out of conversations at last year's convention, we also acknowledged that there is still lack of clarity regarding definitions of citizen journalism and who is a citizen journalist, their activities, uses of interactive/participatory technologies, conceptual frameworks and motivations. We also continue to learn about collaborative projects with citizens and new media tools. This year's conference promises a range of panels and paper sessions that address these issues.

In terms of overall goals, the area of teaching has been identified as a continued concern over the years. So we made efforts to emphasize this area, particularly in our last two conference programs. However, this year

See CHUNG, page 7

Panels represent balance of teaching, research, PF&R

By Kirsten Johnson
CCJIG Vice Chair

This year's conference in St. Louis features an exciting slate of programming in teaching, research, and professional freedom and responsibility. The following sessions are co-sponsored by CCJIG with other interest groups and divisions.

Wednesday 3:15 p.m.

Going Public

This panel will focus on how different journalism schools are teaching undergraduates to cover and serve local communities through citizen journalism and journalism-related service projects. (Magazine, CCJIG)

Wednesday 5:00 p.m.

Location, Location, Location: Using Location-based Services to Add Some Mobile to Your Journalism Course

Use of location services in journalism has been on the rise recently, with the *Wall Street Journal* and *The New York Times* making inroads to attract readers with mobile applications such as Foursquare. At the same time other location services such as Yelp! have on their own generated significant content solely from users. This panel will explore how to fit location into the classroom curriculum. Best practices and specific assignments will be highlighted. (Mass Communication and Society, CCJIG)

Thursday 8:15 a.m.

Beyond the Box: Issues and Innovations in Researching Digital Content

In exploring user participation and the works of citizen journalists, researchers commonly apply methods of content analysis, one of the most popular methods of inquiry in media research. Media scholars traditionally apply the method to analyze content in static forms such as newspapers, magazines, films, or video. The Internet has not only enabled new forms of publishing – leading to an explosion of user-generated content – but also has introduced new considerations for scholarly examinations of such content. This panel will examine methodological issues surrounding content analysis of online content. (CCJIG, Radio and Television Journalism)

Thursday 5:00 p.m.

News With a View

For decades the concept of objectivity in journalism has been disputed. With the rise of new technologies that allow more individuals to claim they produce news, and the increasing reliance of mainstream journalism on manufactured spectacle, this panel will discuss how the increasing presence of subjectivity in news is affecting the news we receive. (Community Journalism, CCJIG)

Thursday 6:45 p.m.

Membership meeting

Election of officers, a review and preview of the past year and coming one, along with networking and camaraderie.

See PROGRAMS, page 4

Research to be presented in 3 sessions

Wednesday, August 10, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Emerging Understandings of Civic and Citizen Journalism

Moderator and discussant: Deborah Chung, University of Kentucky.

Papers and presenters:

- “No Experience Necessary: The Perceived Credibility of Citizen Journalism,” Sara Netzley & Mark Hemmer, Bradley University
- “News Innovation and the Negotiation of Participation,” Seth Lewis, University of Minnesota*
- “Exploring Contexts in Citizen Journalism: A Conceptual Framework,” Nakho Kim, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- “Not Paid to Play: A Case Study of Online Community Participants and the Effects of Non-Monetary Motivation

Upon Public Journalism,” Robert Gutsche, Jr.; Rauf Arif; The University of Iowa.

*Top faculty-authored paper

Thursday, August 11

1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.

(Scholar to Scholar session)

Papers and presenters:

- “The Refrigerator as a Megaphone: Addressing the Motivations of Citizen Photojournalists,” Tara Buehner, University of Oklahoma
- “Interactions of News Frames and Incivility in the Political Blogosphere: Examining News Credibility and Political Trust,” Porismita Borah, Maryville University.

Discussant: Burton St. John III, Old Dominion University.

Friday, Aug. 12

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Citizen Journalism and New Technologies

Moderator and discussant: Nikhil Moro, University of North Texas.

Papers and presenters:

- “Case of the UT Shooter: Citizens working around, with, and for traditional news media,” Avery Holton, University of Texas-Austin *
- “Exposing the Digital News Photo Hound: A Study on the Normative Structure and Routines of Citizen Photojournalists,” Tara Buehner and Julie Jones, University of Oklahoma
- “#Forward! Twitter as Citizen Journalism in the Wisconsin Labor Protests,” Aaron Veenstra, Narayanan Iyer, Namrata Bansal, Mohammad Hossain, Jiwoo Park, Jiachun Hong; Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

*Top student-authored paper

Programs

From page 3

Friday 8:15 a.m.

The Role of Citizen Journalists, Bloggers and Digital Media in the Political Campaign

This panel will discuss the use of different forms of digital media for political purposes and explore their effects on a range of important political variables. It also will address how citizen journalists and bloggers contribute to democracy and influence campaigns, and how they reconcile the notions of journalistic neutrality and ethical standards for all candidates with the passion and authenticity that readers

often expect from citizen journalists and bloggers. (CCJIG, Communication Technology)

Friday 12:15 p.m.

Community News Sites: What Works (J-Lab Luncheon) —

More than 7,000 placeblogs have launched around the country. Thousands more hyperlocal community news sites are now covering town and school board meetings that have never been covered before – not even in the heyday of American journalism. Building on the new J-Lab report: *New Voices: What Works*, this session will examine what is working in terms of content and sustainability. (Council of Affiliates, CCJIG, COMJIG)

MEMBER NOTES

■ **Kirsten A. Johnson**, currently CCJIG’s vice chair for programming, was tenured and promoted to associate professor in the Department of Communications at Elizabethtown College.

■ **Burton St. John III**, who served as research chair for CCJIG this year, received tenure at Old Dominion University.

■ **Seungahn Nah**, an assistant professor at the University of Kentucky, received the 2010-2011 UK Provost’s Outstanding

See MEMBER NOTES, page 5

Reflecting on PF&R values offers new perspective

By Anne Golden Worsham
CCJIG PF&R Chair

Individuals serving as AEJMC officers tend to engage in a period of reflection as the AEJMC conference nears and they realize that their year of service is ending.

As I have been reflecting on my past year as the Professional Freedom and Responsibility (PF&R) chair, I realized that my efforts have been focused on exploring the ideals that lie at the heart of the PF&R areas. This helped me understand the possibilities of an elevated vision with respect to those values.

The PF&R areas encompass the values of free expression; ethics; media accountability; racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness; and public service.

So, for example, when we look at the value of racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness, the minimal standard (as articulated by the AEJMC) is that we treat all people fairly in the workplace and at AEJMC conferences.

However, a quick check of the word “inclusive” in the Roget’s Thesaurus reveals that the

words “all-embracing” are listed next to the entry. This means that not only should we treat people equally, but if we want to set our vision even higher, we could actively welcome and mentally embrace everyone, even those from a different race, gender or culture than our own.

An elevated vision concerning the involvement of all types of people in our interest group might include the desire to send out the message that, even before an individual from a different race, gender or culture walks into our meeting room, he or she will be walking into an environment of warmth and acceptance.

With this feeling in mind, my column in the Summer 2010 newsletter asked the CCJIG officers to share their feelings about civic journalism and also requested that they share some very human details about themselves. The PF&R column in the Winter/Spring 2011 edition of the CCJIG newsletter highlighted the slower pace and heightened interaction that can be found at AEJMC regional colloquia. It was hoped that these columns would help others be-

come involved in the interest group and feel welcome at our meetings.

But this is true about more than just inclusiveness. As I was brainstorming about possible PF&R panels for the August convention, I realized that there were also ways to elevate other PF&R values to a higher plane.

The speakers at the PF&R political campaign panel in August will discuss how citizen journalists and bloggers contribute to democracy and influence political campaigns. This discussion will reflect the PF&R values of free expression, ethics, and media criticism and accountability.

However, on a deeper level, the panelists will also discuss the varying viewpoints relating to the clash between the neutrality of professional journalists and the passion and authenticity found in citizen journalism. This discussion of these paradigmatic differences goes beyond the basics of free expression, ethics, and media criticism as it recognizes the differing (and yet equally commendable) human values that lay at the foundation of conflicting paradigms.

Member notes

From page 4

Teaching Award, which is the most prestigious and highly competitive teaching award at the university. He teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses regarding political communication and sociology of journalism, community, and de-

mocracy. He is director of the Kentucky Citizen Media Project that has launched its first citizen journalism site, The Lexington Commons (www.kylexingtoncommons.org) in Lexington, KY.

■ **Kirsten A. Johnson** and **Tamara L. Gillis** were named Page Legacy Scholars for the 2011/2012 academic year. Their project titled “Markers of credi-

bility and mainstream media representatives: Developing a social media credibility inventory” was approved for funding through the Arthur W. Page Center. The \$3,500 grant will be used to create a tool that can be used by public relations practitioners to create social media and blogs that integrate important credibility markers into the design and content.

Patch

From page 1

Each site has an editor, who is provided with equipment – a computer, cell phone and digital camera – but no office; instead, editors work from home or from community locations such as coffee shops.

More recently, Patch has moved aggressively to augment the paid professional editors with a citizen journalism component of volunteer writers and local bloggers contributing to the sites. Each site lists all of its contributors, which can run to several dozen on some sites, and a section of the home page highlights local bloggers.

But independent online community journalists have been critical of Patch, notably the idea that an outside corporate entity can ever have the true community connection that they see as the heart of local journalism. In an interview with *LA Weekly*, Timothy Rutt, who runs the hyperlocal site altdenablog.com, compared Patch to “Walmart moving in and driving out the mom-and-pop businesses.”

Now, Rutt and operators of some other independent sites are joining forces in a network seeking to counter the influence of Patch. The coalition, which calls itself Authentically Local, announced its formation in mid-May 2011 with 30 founding members. By the end of May it had grown to nearly 50. The list includes names that are familiar to many CCJIG members from having representatives of the sites on CCJIG convention panels – including BaristaNet,



Oakland Local, West Seattle Blog, Twin Cities Daily Planet and iBrattleboro.

In a news release announcing the coalition’s formation, the members said they “have joined forces to launch an ‘Authentically Local’ branding campaign to emphasize the importance of supporting home-grown media, stores and places.”

“Local journalism doesn’t scale and it doesn’t need to scale. It needs to emerge from people deeply engaged in their local community, determined to make a difference and provide a vital service,” Lance Knobel, a co-founder of Berkeleyside.com, said in the news release.

While the Authentically Local group’s concerns are understandable, it’s not entirely clear why an *a priori* conclusion that “local doesn’t scale” is warranted. Operators of the Authentically Local sites are in the same situation as – and essentially fighting the same fight as – local retailers and dining establishments against national big box stores and restaurant

chains. They make that analogy themselves on the AL website.

But is it necessarily and automatically the case that out-of-town ownership degrades the quality of the journalism?

For decades before online hyperlocal news coverage emerged, out-of-town ownership of small local newspapers was not the exception but the rule. And while many of those chain papers were poor to mediocre, some were pretty good – while some of the small locally owned ones were true rags. In other words, ownership had no general correlation with quality. In a similar vein, there seems to be little fundamental difference between small local newspapers being owned by large corporations (e.g. Gannett, which owned dozens of such papers but was not the only corporation that did so) and a local news website being owned by a large corporation (i.e. Patch/AOL).

Patch encourages editors to share information about themselves on their sites, and a quick review of a few sites revealed that many editors had local roots, as either natives or at least longtime residents of the communities they cover. Many have worked for local weeklies or dailies in their coverage area before joining Patch. If these individual journalists are capable and sensitive to their communities they will find good, local stories to cover. And if the editors are conscientious about soliciting and curating the work of citizen journalists in their area, local flavor and connections will emerge.

See PATCH, page 7

Chung

From page 3

we aimed for a more balanced program covering all three areas of teaching, research and PF&R about equally.

We paid renewed attention to research this year with two refereed research paper sessions and a refereed scholar-to-scholar session scheduled in St. Louis. One of our panels set for this year's conference also focuses on the increasing presence of subjectivity in news through user-produced stories. In relation to this topic, two CCJIG officers are authoring a book that provides insights into how the field of journalism can adjust its understanding and practices of objectivity beyond its limiting frames. Many CCJIG members are contributing chapters to this volume.

CCJIG also participated in the midwinter conference at the University of Oklahoma. Addi-

tionally, in order to attract more focused papers aligning with our group's mission, we underscored the importance of explicitly stating the connection with issues of civic or citizen journalism in our call for paper submissions for the conference.

In the area of teaching, in addition to two scheduled panel sessions in the conference, CCJIG members shared stories over the year regarding how they are using Web 2.0 tools in the classroom. For example, Twitter is a popular tool these days, and our members shared stories regarding how this tool can be used effectively among students for information sharing and connectivity. These stories were circulated in our interest group newsletter.

We also continue to sponsor the J-Lab luncheon, which is largely PF&R. This year's luncheon – which will be co-sponsored with some of our usual collaborators, the Community Journalism Interest Group and the Council

of Affiliates – will focus on community news sites.

This year's other programming efforts also represent multiple collaborative sessions with other divisions and interest groups. We continue to partner with Radio-Television Journalism and Communication Technology.

We have also forged new partnerships with the Magazine and Mass Communication and Society divisions. As the roles of our interest group expand and the activities we study become more central to a thriving, democratic society, we are able to branch out and develop new partnerships, and we believe this positive trend will continue.

While there are some goals that were not met this year, we are confident that with support from members we can continue to carry out our critical mission and contribute to the active participation and engagement of citizens, which is the foundation of a democratic society.

Patch

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Patch is still an experiment, and one trend that has developed with ventures into online local coverage by large legacy media organizations is that such experiments have a short leash and their owners are quick to cut them loose if the economics don't work out as hoped. Loudon Extra, TBD, and sites launched by *The New York Times* that were later taken over by AL member Barista.net stand as evidence of that.

But the interesting and im-

portant thing about the emergence of Patch and other legacy media forays into this arena is how they indicate that hyperlocal and citizen journalism are no longer some exotic oddity.

Instead, citizen journalism is becoming a routine part of the landscape of news coverage, a development documented by J-Lab in its *New Media Makers* (2009) and *New Voices* (2010) reports and encouraged by its Networked Journalism project.

The more routine and more expected such coverage becomes, the more it will contribute to the emerging news ecosystem, no

matter who owns the site where it is published.



Background information in this story about Patch came from published reports in sources such as Columbia Journalism Review, Newsweek, LA Weekly and The New York Times. The author has completed a comparative content analysis of Patch sites and independent hyperlocal ones (though not specifically the Authentically Local ones); the results of that research will be presented at the Thursday Scholar-to-Scholar session at the St. Louis convention.