

Key Updates:

The Entertainment Studies Interest Group award winners for our 2021 paper competitions have been decided:

- **Top Student Paper Award Winner:** “License to Angst: A Study of Female Characters in Christopher Nolan Films” by Nathan Spencer, The University of Memphis
- **Top Faculty Paper Award Winner:** “Battle Royale and Addictive Gaming: The Mediating Role of Player Motivations” by Audrey Halverson, Kris Boyle, and Kevin John, Brigham Young University

Congratulations to the winning papers!

Former ESIG Division Head Greg Adamo gave a brief update about ESIG’s journal, the *Journal of Entertainment and Media Studies*, which is still under works to get it fully operational. Greg had to reach out to get permission from Oklahoma State to proceed with next steps, and the original plan was to resuscitate the journal before this year’s meeting. But it has been a doozy of a year, as everyone knows, and things are still in process. The current goal is to share the resuscitated journal’s first call for papers out at the beginning of the fall.

Other major goals include improving the division’s recruitment of members and its inclusion of members from different backgrounds and identities, as well as the inclusivity and representation of the research that it showcases.

New Officers:

- Gwen Nisbett will move up to head the IG and Newly Paul will serve as vice-head. They, respectively, served as vice-head and research chair during the 2020-2021 term. These positions are sequential to ensure organizational memory.
- Kelsey Whipple is the new Research Chair.
- Waleed Rashidi remains as the Newsletter Editor and is also the division’s new Secretary and Social Media Editor.
- Heidi Gerber-Salins remains as Professional Freedom & Responsibility Chair.
- Brad Limov remains as the Webmaster and is taking on the Graduate Liaison role as well.
- We’re still looking for a Teaching Chair. If you’re interested, reach out to Stephanie Schartel Dunn at SchartelDunn-s@mssu.edu.

The division is interested in arranging off-site visits for division members at future conferences (when we’re back in person). We have a healthy budget for this. If you have any ideas for good off-site visits related to ESIG’s mission for next year’s AEJMC conference in Detroit, please share them with us!

Panel Pitches:

We're looking for panel ideas for next year's conference, which are due very soon. If you have any ideas for a good ESIG panel, please reach out ASAP to Stephanie Schartel Dunn at SchartelDunn-s@mssu.edu.

Spotlighting Members' Successes:

Please do not be shy in sharing your professional news with ESIG. We want to celebrate you on social media and in our newsletter. If you win an award, acquire new funding, change positions, publish anything related to the division's mission or accomplish anything else our ESIG community should know about, please tweet the details at us or Direct Message us on Twitter at @EntStudies, or email Waleed, our Newsletter and Social Media Editor, at wrashidi@fullerton.edu. We want to share your successes with our community!