

## Free speech, free inquiry & the university

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*As AEJMC's Freedom and Responsibility statement reminds us, all AEJMC members should serve "as the voice and support of free expression on their campuses and in their communities whenever that right is threatened." As communication scholars, we however often disengage from polemics surrounding free speech as it*

of any reputable institution of higher education, and you will find declarations similar to the motto of my university, which espouses the "continuous and fearless sifting and winnowing by which alone the truth can be found."

### What better friend could free speech and thought have than the university?

*relates to academic discourse, although this is a topical and controversial issue in United States. I have asked Donald A. Downs, a professor of political science, law, and journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, to provide us with some food for thought on the issue of free speech as it relates to academic pursuits. Don has always been instrumental in defending free speech on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Among other books, he is the author of Restoring Free Speech and Liberty on Campus (Cambridge University Press, 2006).*

~Dominique Brossard, CT&M PF&R Chair

Freedom of speech, thought, and inquiry are indispensable to a free society. And it is the special obligation of those individuals entrusted with their care to defend these principles and practices in the face of adversity. If they do not do so, then who will?

In addition to the support provided by intrepid individuals, free speech and thought historically have relied on the backing of some key institutions. In *Democracy in America* (1830), Tocqueville singled out the courts and the press as the primary champions of the rights of individuals against the "tyranny of the majority." After Tocqueville published his classic work, the modern research university arose as a force in American society.

What better friend could free speech and thought have than the university, whose very moral charter is the pursuit of truth through trained intelligence and freedom of inquiry? Look to the founding principles and documents

But universities have not always lived by the principles that alone justify the special position they occupy. During the Red Scare and McCarthy eras following World Wars I and II, for example, administrators and faculty stood by while forces outside the university compromised academic freedom and free inquiry in the name of fighting communism and other leftist causes. And since the 1980s, a new threat to free inquiry on campus has beset universities, this time emanating from within the university itself, and from the left.

In recent years, universities across the land have enforced speech codes and similar policies that have punished people for expressing ideas deemed inhospitable to racial, gender, or sexual orthodoxy; and campus groups have often shouted down speakers deemed insufficiently progressive. Just a few weeks ago a group of ostensibly progressive students at Columbia University forced speakers representing the anti-immigration "Minutemen" group from the stage, shaming that eminent institution whose motto reads, "In Thy light shall we see the light."

In this and previous eras, too many faculty members—including those who teach in areas related to the free speech and the press—have been AWOL in the defense of free speech and inquiry, either because they have sympathized with the objectives of censorship or because they have been afraid to stand up alone. Whatever the reason, the consequence has been the forsaking of our fiduciary responsibility to defend freedom of thought and inquiry, and to pass a free institution on to posterity.

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**Thoughts from  
the Heads**

**PATRICK MEIRICK**  
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA  
AND

**LARA ZWARUN**  
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-ARLINGTON  
CT&M CO-DIVISION HEADS

# Revisiting the officer structure

As we take on our co-head duties, it seems the first one is writing the obligatory *Concepts* column about the division's leadership structure.

In most divisions, there is an election for vice-head, and in the coming year the winner of that election serves as both vice-head and program chair, deciding which panels to co-sponsor with other divisions and when to schedule them. Usually someone else is the paper chair, handling the research paper competition, and yet another person may be the research chair, handling panels on research topics.

CT&M handles things a bit differently. Each year we elect two people to two-year terms on the executive committee. Usually one of the two people in their second year on the executive committee is appointed by the incoming head to be the research/program/paper chair—in other words, to fulfill all of these roles. After serving in this multiple capacity, the research/paper/program chair, who is then at the end of his/her two-year term on the executive committee, typically runs for vice-head against the other person rotating off the executive committee and almost always wins.

There are a few potential problems with the current system.

**Workload.** The job of research/paper/program chair is a big one, as evidenced by the fact that most divisions divide it among three people (and the fact that it has such an unwieldy name!). This job could be seen as an audition for the vice-head and head jobs, but in fact, the vice-head job is singularly undemanding, and even the job of head, by most accounts, doesn't come with nearly the workload of the research/paper/program chair. In fact, this year neither of the second-year members of the executive committee were willing to take on the whole research/paper/program chair job, so they are splitting it. As Glenn has noted, there are some efficiencies to combining the jobs, but this year's ad hoc splitting of the jobs suggests these efficiencies may be outweighed by the burden combining them imposes.

**Possible lack of continuity.** If the research/paper/program chair loses the vice-head election to the other person rotating off the executive committee, the division loses the benefit of the chair's experience. A year later, the division would be led by a head who had not gone to the chip auction or run the paper competition and would not be in a position to offer advice to those attempting to tackle those tasks

**Possible lack of fairness.** Continuing with a scenario where the research/paper/program chair loses the vice-head election, this also means

this person would not become head the following year. It is arguably unfair for the person who did the most work to miss out on the chance to be division head, as Glenn has pointed out.

**Less-than democratic process.** There's something vaguely undemocratic about the current system. The current head can hand-pick the next presumptive vice-head by appointing him or her the research/paper/program chair. Because there's little appetite among division members for a lack of continuity or of fairness, the hand-picked candidate is usually a shoo-in. (That said, because of the workload, the person the head picks may not accept.)

So what do we do? One alternative, suggested by Dietram, is to directly elect a research/paper/program chair, who in the following year becomes vice-head, and then head in the year after that. This approach takes care of the fairness, continuity and democracy concerns, but the workload that first year remains a bear. Another, suggested by Glenn, involves election to a slightly different three-year track. The elected person would be the research/paper chair in year one, vice-head/program chair in year two, and division head in year three. This addresses all four concerns; the downside would be any loss of efficiency from the combined research/paper/program chair.

In a third alternative, raised by the current situation, one of the two people in their second year on the executive committee would become the paper chair and the other would become the program chair, and then one of them would be elected vice-head. This remedies the workload, fairness and democracy concerns, but not lack of continuity. The eventual head will lack experience either as the program chair or as the paper chair. (Unless we go down the co-head road again...)

We are leaning toward Alternative Number 2, the three-year track where the eventual head serves first as research/paper chair, then as program chair. But there may be other alternatives we haven't considered. So we are starting a thread on the division's Website to encourage dialogue. The URL is <http://aejmctm.blogspot.com>.

As head last year, Glenn asked Nojin Kwak to head a by-laws committee to either find CT&M's existing by-laws (they couldn't) or to draft some new ones. Deciding on our by-laws gives us a natural opportunity to revisit our leadership structure and procedures, and codify whatever we decide. Before this occurs, however, this is something that we should address as a division.

We hope to hear your thoughts on this topic.

## Go to Reno this February

One way of getting through the dark, damp, cold days of the fall is to plan for travel to a sunny, dry, and warm setting. Reno, NV, the site for this spring's 2007 Midwinter Conference, Feb. 23-24, 2007, is 4400 feet above sea level, has over 300 days of sunshine a year, is close to the pristine Lake Tahoe and some of the best skiing in the world. The Reynolds School of Journalism is the host for the conference which will include 11 participating divisions and interest groups. General questions about the conference can be sent to Jennifer Greer, Conference Site Host (jdgreer@unr.edu).

The Midwinter Conference is a relaxed setting for presenting and discussing research. We especially encourage graduate students to submit their papers for review. You may submit either: (1) research paper extended abstracts, or (2) panel proposals. Proposals or abstracts may address any aspect of building communication theory, testing communication theory, or evaluating methodological issues in communication research. As with other conferences that accept extended paper abstracts, completed papers are expected at the time of the conference in the event of acceptance.

Here are some specific guidelines for submission:

1. Extended abstracts and panel proposals should not exceed 500 words. In addition, each panel proposal should include a list of potential panelists. The abstracts should give a clear sense of the scope of the research and the method of inquiry used. Conclusions should be highlighted for works that have been completed by the submission deadline. Do not send full research papers for consideration. Panel organizers should submit proposals indicating the panel title, a description of the session's focus, the issues to be discussed, and a list of panelists (potential and confirmed), including affiliation.

2. Identify paper author(s) or panel organizer(s) on the title page only. Also include the mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the person to whom inquiries about the submission should be addressed. The title should be printed on the first page of the text and on running heads on each page of text, as well as on the title page.

3. Please include your abstract or proposal as an attachment in a standard word-processing format (preferably Microsoft Word or Rich Text Format). Also, please ensure that you remove any identifying information from your document (with the exception of the title page).

4. Lastly, e-mail your proposals or extended



abstracts by midnight (CST), Dec. 20, 2006 to Doug Blanks Hindman at [dhindman@wsu.edu](mailto:dhindman@wsu.edu). Submissions will not be accepted in any other form (hard copy, fax, etc.). Authors will be notified of the status of their submissions by January 10, 2007.

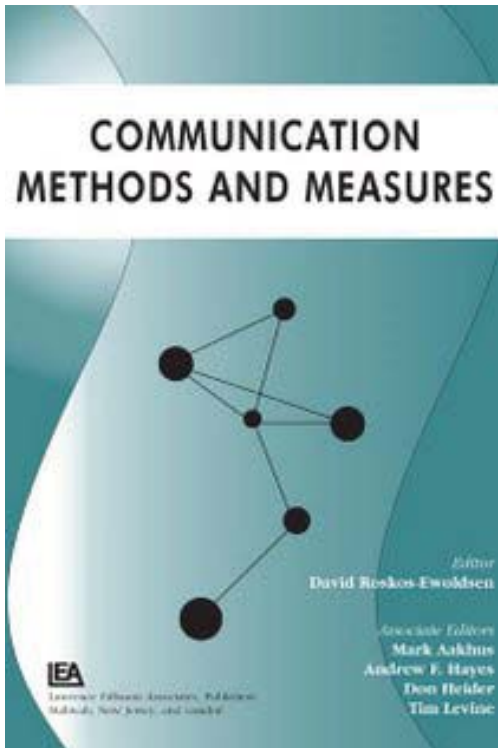
Further details on conference registration, pre-conference events, and travel will be available at <http://communication.utoledo.edu/aejmc2007>

**DOUGLAS BLANKS HINDMAN**  
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
CT&M RESEARCH PAPER CHAIR

## Happy Birthday: CT&M & its new journal

ANDREW F. HAYES  
THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
CT&M RESEARCH AND  
PROGRAM CHAIR

At the 2006 CT&M business meeting in San Francisco, CT&M members unanimously approved a motion to adopt Lawrence Erlbaum Associate's new journal, *Communication Methods and Measures*, as the official journal of the CT&M division.



As Glenn Leshner put it during that meeting, the members of the division gave the division and its members a fabulous 40th birthday present. As associate editor of the journal, I want to use this opportunity to update division members on what has happened since that vote, and to give a preview of what is to come.

First, it is important to note that nothing

is official until this affiliation is approved by the AEJMC Board of Directors. The vote on the affiliation will take place at the Midwinter Meeting in New Orleans in early December 2006 and, although no problems are forecast, one can never know. Assuming no insurmountable obstacles are put in the way of moving ahead with the adoption, CT&M members will find their 2007 dues increase to \$26 (\$13 for students) to pay for a mandatory print subscription as a member benefit. There is no option for "opting out" of this subscription. Controversial as it seems, informal (and admittedly not entirely scientific) research we conducted leads us to believe that although some current members will leave the division rather than pay the increased dues, we are likely to see a net increase in membership as nonmembers join to receive the journal at a substantial discount.

Second, the journal is up and running and accepting submissions electronically through Scholar One's Manuscript Central at <http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/cmm>. This is the same online submission system used by many

journals that division members publish in. Manuscripts are first received by CT&M member David Roskos-Ewoldsen, the managing editor, and then disseminated to one of the four associate editors for action (myself, Timothy Levine, Mark Aakhus, or Don Heider) unless Dave decides to serve as action editor himself. Details about the scope of the journal as well as instructions to authors can be found at the Erlbaum home page at <http://www.erlbaum.com> or my home page at <http://www.comm.ohio-state.edu/ahayes/>.

Third, the first issue of the journal has already gone to print and will be out in early 2007 as planned. I am happy to give the membership a preview of that first issue:

*Communication Methods and Measures*, vol. 1(1)  
*The Need for a Journal Devoted to Communication Research Methodologies*; David Roskos-Ewoldsen, Mark Aakhus, Andrew Hayes, Don Heider, and Timothy Levine

*Examining the Eyeblink Startle Reflex as a Measure of Emotion and Motivation to Television Programming*; Samuel D. Bradley

Forum: Special Editor: Karen Tracy

*The Role (Or Not) for Numbers and Statistics in Qualitative Research: An Introduction*; Karen Tracy

*Numbers, Interpretations, and Meta-Analysis: Research Paradigms in Dialogue*; Stewart M. Hoover

*"Standing by" Numbers and Statistics in Organizational Discourse Analysis*; Gail T. Fairhurst

*Living Scholarship: A Field Report*; William K. Rawlins

*The Role of Numbers and Statistics within Conversation Analysis*; Jeffrey D. Robinson

Brief Report

*Answering the Call for a Standard Reliability Measure for Coding Data*; Andrew F. Hayes and Klaus Krippendorff

Finally, members who have a relationship with LEA may already know that Lawrence Erlbaum Associates has been sold and will be absorbed into Taylor and Francis in the next few months. Taylor and Francis publishes the NCA journals as well as others members of the division publish in, such as *Political Communication*. I think it is safe to assume that they will want to continue publishing products of high quality, so the burden is on us, just as it was before the sale, to produce a product worth publishing. The quality of a journal is determined in part by editors but mostly by the quality of submissions the journal receives. So please keep *Communication Methods and Measures* in mind, and send us your best work.

*Please post!*

## join aejmc's communication theory & methodology division

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### What is Communication Theory & Methodology?

The Communication Theory & Methodology (CT&M) division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) was created in the mid-1960s. The goal of CT&M was and still is to advance the study of communication through theory-based, methodologically-sound research.

CT&M has traditionally been a leader at encouraging research by graduate students. It was the first division of AEJMC to have a **student paper competition**, and every year it awards \$250 to the Top Student Paper. In addition, CT&M will award all first authors of student papers \$50 to help **offset the cost of traveling** to the conference.

The **CT&M Student Reviewer Program** trains ABD students in the process of paper reviewing by not only allowing them to participate in the actual reviewing processing, but by sharing faculty reviews of the same paper so that students are able to compare how they evaluate manuscripts with more experienced reviewers

The **CT&M Barrow Minority Doctoral Student Scholarship** - currently \$1,200 - acknowledges and honors outstanding minority students. It is awarded annually to a deserving student enrolled in a journalism & mass communication Ph.D. program.

The **CT&M Syllabus Exchange** aids new and established faculty alike by serving as a repository of excellent syllabi developed and tested at universities around the country.

**If you are interested in the theory and methodology of communication research in any substantive AEJMC area, CT&M should be the first division of AEJMC that you join.**

### For more information:

Visit the CT&M Web site at

<http://aejmectm.blogspot.com>

or contact Hernando Rojas: [hrojas@wisc.edu](mailto:hrojas@wisc.edu)

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