



Newsletter

Vol. 53, Issue 1
Fall 2019



Looking Ahead for Mass Comm & Society

by Nan Yu, MCS Division Head

Hello MCS Members, I am excited to begin my term as the Division Head of Mass Communication and Society for 2019-2020. We have had a successful Annual Business Meeting in August. First, I want to take this opportunity to thank reviewers, moderators, panelists, officers, and attendees in Toronto. You all have helped make the 2019 Toronto Annual Conference a successful one. In the upcoming year, I will work with our Division officers and make 2020 Annual Conference in San Francisco as successful. I appreciate those who have submitted panel ideas for 2020. Please feel free to contact me or the Vice Head Masahiro Yamamoto if you have any new ideas for the 2020 conference.

In the past Business Meeting, the Division board has approved the next Editor-Elect for the *Mass Communication & Society*

Journal based on the recommendation from the search committee. Dr. Mike Schmierbach, associate professor from Penn State University will be the next *MCS Journal* Editor-in-Chief starting 2020. As a division, we highly appreciate Dr. Fuyuan Shen's exceptional work in the past four years serving as the Editor. The transition work starts Fall of 2019. *MCS Journal* has sent out a call for proposals for a special issue to be published in 2021. Please contact Dr. Schmierbach (mgs15@psu.edu) by November 15, 2019 if you are interested in submitting.

During 2019-2020, we have successfully sponsored our members using our Division fund through various research and travel awards (see Award Committee section). We will continue to benefit our members by supporting their scholarship activities through awards. If you have been an awardee of MCS

Division, please help encourage other members to submit award applications in the future. Our goal is to well spend our Division fund to keep promoting research and teaching among our members.

I will also work with our Division officers to improve the communications between the Division and our members. We are now still the largest division of AEJMC with more than 520 members. Follow us on Twitter (https://twitter.com/AEJMC_MCS) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/aejmcms/>)!

If you have any questions or ideas that you feel might be helpful to the MCS Division, please feel free to send me an email (nan.yu@ucf.edu). I look forward to another productive year for our division.



Conference Programming Update

by Masahiro Yamamoto, Vice Head

Mass Communication and Society Division sponsored a successful set of panels at the 2019 Annual Conference in Toronto. The panels focused on a wide variety of important topics such as a historical analysis of violence against the media, how to conduct research on sex and social media with a cohort of individuals who grew up with social media, media coverage of hate speech, health and science misinformation on social media, teaching entrepreneurial skills and mindsets to students, and effective

instructional strategies and tactics to make course material stick. Our panels were well attended by our Division members and others interested in the topics.

For next year's Annual Conference in San Francisco, we are now in the process of programming. The Programming Chairs of each division and interest group are working with each other to co-sponsor research, teaching, and Professional Freedom and Responsibility (PF&R) panels. I received great panel proposals

from our members and from officers of other divisions who would like to co-sponsor panels with us. The proposals I received have been uploaded to an "auction" website where, in the next few weeks, we will make a deal with other divisions and interest groups to program panel sessions. I will make sure that we will have another strong set of panels that will be of interest to our members. Stay tuned to our future newsletters for more information about panels for next year's Annual Conference!



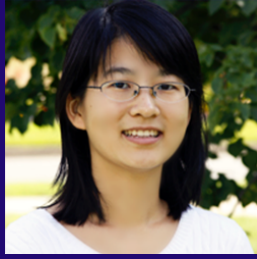
Membership Update

by Kalyani Chadha, Vice Head-Elect

With 533 members as of July 2019, the Mass Communication and Society Division is currently AEJMC's largest division, with a membership size significantly larger than that of any other division within the organization! Moreover, the Division is also financially healthy with a balance totaling over \$16,000. In view of its financially stable situation and with an eye to spending down cash reserves, the group instituted several initiatives aimed at promoting the

Division in 2019. These included: co-sponsoring a reception at the World Journalism Education Congress in Paris in order to increase awareness of the Division to a global audience; underwriting the costs of a refreshment break and co-sponsoring a pre-conference event with the Public Relations Division at the Annual Conference in Toronto. The Division also voted to increase the amount of money given to the winner of the *Mass Communication and Society Journal's* top article of the year award from \$500 to \$1000 and also doubled the amount of

money given to all papers as part of the Annual Paper Competition. The Division is also exploring other ways to effectively utilize available funds such as different types of pre-conference events such as methods-related workshops, graduate student mentoring events, as well as events focusing on special issues for *MCS Journal*. If you have any thoughts or ideas on how the Division could or should use the available funds, please feel free to reach out to me at kchadha@umd. We want to make sure that the funds are used to support the goals of MCS and benefit our Division members!



Mass Communication and Society Division Seeks Nominations for Two Awards

by Ruoxu Wang, PF&R Committee Chair

The Mass Communication and Society Division would like to call your attention to two monetary awards for professional freedom and responsibility: the MCS PF&R Award and the MCS Professional Award.

Established in 2015, the PF&R Award recognizes excellence in research, teaching or service related to the five PF&R principles identified by AEJMC. This award is worth 500 dollars. These principles are: the promotion of free expression; ethics; media criticism and accountability; racial, gender, and cultural inclusiveness; and public service.

The award is open to any individual who has made significant contributions to scholarship in any of these five areas or has undertaken professional or service activities that promote excellence in any of the five areas. The research, service or professional activities could have been completed either during the preceding year or reflect work done over a longer period of time.

Also established in 2015, the Professional Award recognizes professionals for upholding the values of professional freedom and responsibility, diversity and public

service. This award is worth 250 dollars. It is also open to any individual who has spent a significant portion of her/his career in mass communication industries such as broadcast, print, photojournalism, advertising, public relations, and social media. Individuals must show initiatives that were undertaken in order to uphold these values for work within the areas of education, journalism, advertising, public relations, or a related field. Other worthwhile endeavors entail working within the community to promote social responsibility outside of normal work duties.

Both awards are open to nominations, including self-nominations. Details for the PF&R Award can be found at: <https://aejmc.us/mcs/awards/pfr-award/>. Details for the Professional Award can be found at: <https://aejmc.us/mcs/awards/professional-award/>. Please consider submitting nominations for the awards in April 2020.

FREEDOM

RESPONSIBILITY

Communications Committee Update



by Shana J. Meganck,
 Communications Chair/
 Social Media Chair

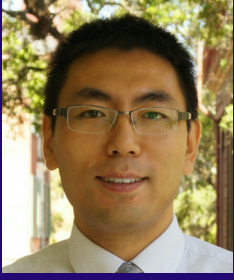
As a reminder from last year, we want to encourage people to be more “social” on our sites. Some ways to do this include commenting and liking the stuff that the Division posts, but also sharing important information of your own on the Division’s pages, such as:

Do you have questions about teaching and/or research? We have a very large network of academics for you to tap into!

Did you or a colleague recently get promoted? We’d love to know!

Have you seen something in the news recently that you think would interest the MCS community? Please share it!

Have you had an article or study published recently? We all want to hear about it!



Research Committee Report

by Xi Cui, Research Committee Chair

The purposes of the Mass Communication and Society Division as defined in the bylaw are “to encourage the study of mass communication” to meet the needs of the society, to better our knowledge of the political, economic, and social orders of society, and to encourage diverse forms of research approaches. To realize these purposes, the Division publishes the *Mass Communication and Society Journal*, organizes research panels at AEJMC’s Annual Conference and Midwinter Conference, awards research grants to two faculty-led projects (\$10,000 in total), one student-led project (\$5,000), one dissertation project (\$3,000) each year as well as to top papers at the two conferences. Many awarded projects come to fruition in the form of dissertations, book manuscripts, journal articles, conference presentations, etc.

Our 2018 Faculty Research Award winners Dr. Danielle K. Kilgo (Indiana University) and Dr. Rachel R. Mourão (Michigan State University)’s study “Press, Protests and the People: How Media Framing and Visual Communication Affects Support for Black Civil Rights Protests” was presented at the 2019 Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada. This study tests the impact of news frames on audience support for a civil-rights social movement. Using a 3 X 2 exper-

imental design, they explore how frames and visuals affect audiences’ criticism of police and protesters, support, and identification with the movement. They find that legitimizing narratives have limited impact on increasing support and identification with protesters and police criticism. Delegitimizing frames increase criticism towards protesters, decrease support and identification, and decrease criticism of police.

The 2018 Student Research Award project explores the lay credibility judgments of science news and reports of uncertain science. Researcher Chelsea Ratcliff (University of Utah) hopes to unveil how the public conceptualize “scientific uncertainty” and respond to news coverage of uncertain science. The project exemplifies the Division’s

commitment to diverse research approaches by employing both qualitative and quantitative methods including cognitive interviewing and experiments. It addresses an important societal need of effective science communication in the age of institutional distrust and disinformation.

We welcome all prospective research projects that fit the Division’s mission to apply for the 2020 MCS Research Award and MCS Dissertation Award. Please follow the Division’s website, newsletter, and social media for future calls. Any member of the Division who is currently teaching, researching or studying mass communication full-time can apply for the award. Members of the MCS executive committee or the selection committee are not eligible for application.



Article of the Year Winner Anne Oeldorf-Hirsch (center) w/ Fuyuan Shen (left) and Jay Hmielowski (right).



Join Mass Communication & Society at Midwinter Conference 2020

by Alec Tefertiller, Midwinter Chair

The Mass Communication and Society Division will once again participate in the annual AEJMC Midwinter Conference hosted by the University of Oklahoma Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication in Norman, Oklahoma on Friday, March 6, and Saturday, March 7, 2020.

Midwinter is known for providing participants with the chance to present and discuss their research in a friendly, intimate setting. Graduate students are especially encouraged to submit, as Midwinter's supportive environment is seen as being comfortable for first-time presenters. In addition, Midwinter participants are welcomed and encouraged to submit their presented papers to the AEJMC Annual Conference. Midwinter provides authors with a great opportunity to get feedback on their research before submitting to the Annual Conference. In addition, MCS will honor the top abstract submission at Midwinter Conference, and graduate students can apply for a \$500 travel award from the Division.

MCS is typically the largest division represented at Midwinter Conference. In 2019, our division featured nine panels showcasing work from over 40 authors from across the United States, including more than two-dozen graduate students. As such, in addition to welcoming abstract submissions from our members, we also need

members who are willing to serve as reviewers and discussants. For reviewers, the conference only allows submissions of abstracts between 600-800 words, and you do not have to be in attendance to serve as a discussant.

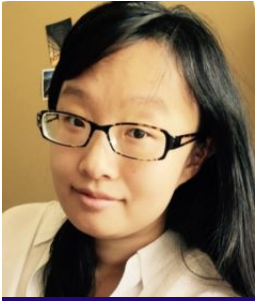
The deadline for abstract submission is 11:59 pm, Central Time, Sunday, December 1st. Submit abstracts to the conference website (<http://bit.do/Midwinter2020>). If you have not submitted to Midwinter Conference before, you'll need to create an account. Make sure to select MCS as your division when submitting your abstract. For the complete call, please visit the MCS website (<https://aejmc.us/mcs/conferences/midwinter/>). Notifications regarding conference acceptance will be emailed mid-January.

Abstracts should be clear of any identifying information, and they should be between 600-800 words in length (excluding author information and references). Abstracts should give a clear sense of relevant literature, research objectives, methodological approach, stage of research project (conceptual, data gathering, data interpreting), and expected findings and conclusions. Abstracts cannot be under review at other journals or conferences (e.g., ICA).

In addition, Midwinter Conference accepts two-page panel proposals. Please direct panel proposals and any questions regarding abstract submission or the conference to the Midwinter Committee Chair, Alec Tefertiller, at alect@k-state.edu. We look forward to seeing you in Norman!



Top Conference Reviewer
Krishnan Vasudevan (center)
w/ Kalyani Chadra (left) and
Jay Hmielowski (right).



2019 MCS Award Winners

by Weirui Wang, Awards Committee Chair

Greetings from the Awards Committee of Mass Communication and Society Division. 2019 was again a productive year for mass communication scholars, educators and professionals. We are here to celebrate the achievements of our colleagues.

In 2019, the MCS Dissertation Award went to Flora Khoo, post-doc fellow at Regent University, on her dissertation titled *Innocence Killed: Recruitment, Radicalization and Desensitization of the Children of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria*. Two winners were selected for faculty Research Awards. They were Lea Hellmueller, University of Houston, and Lucinda L. Austin, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The winner of the student Research Award was Kelli Boling, a doctoral student at the University of South Carolina.

Three papers out of 86 faculty submissions received a Top Paper Award in the MCS Open Paper Competition. The first place Top Paper Award went to Liang Chen, Shirley Ho, May Lwin and Lunrui Fu, from Sun Yat-sen University in China and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Gretchen Dworznik-Hoak, from Kent State University, won the second place Top Paper Award. Winners of the third place of the Open Paper Competition were Fuyuan Shen,

Guolan Yang, Jeff Conlin and Pratiti Diddi, from the Pennsylvania State University.

Three out of 23 student papers received Top Paper Awards in the MCS Student Paper Competition. Yi En Ho, Dion Loh, Tsi Ying Au, and Celine Mok, from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, won the first place. Lin Li, from Michigan State University and Meredith Metzler, from University of Wisconsin-Madison, won the second and third place of the student paper competition respectively. Moeller Student Paper Competition winners were Tamar Wilner from University of Texas at Austin (1st place) and Chris Noland, from University of South Carolina (2nd place). This competition award endorses excellent papers submitted to a course project.

MCS also honors the outstanding contributions made by a vast variety of educators in our field. This year, Charles Harman from West Virginia University and Sonali Kudva from Kent State University received MCS Adjunct/Instructor Awards. MCS Promising Professors Awards went to Lindsay M. McCluskey, State University of New York at Oswego (1st place), Derek Moscato, Western Washington University (2nd place) and Ruoxu Wang, University of Memphis (3rd place) in the faculty

category. Meanwhile, this award also recognizes new student educators, and this year the winners were Minhee Choi, University of South Carolina (1st place), and Anthony Cepak, Michigan State University (2nd place). We want to applaud these new educators who demonstrated excellence and innovation in teaching. Meanwhile, Joe Grimm, Michigan State University, received the MCS Service-Learning Award that aims to assist the instructor's service-learning course. Peter Bobkowski, University of Kansas (1st place), Brian J. Bowe and Sheila Webb, Western Washington University (2nd place) and Xi Cui, College of Charleston (3rd place) won the Teaching Ideas Competition.

Please visit the awards section of the MCS Website (<http://aejmc.us/mcs/>) for more details including application eligibility and requirements. The website lists different types of research, teaching, professional and service awards that aim to recognize diverse contributions in a wide spectrum. We will soon determine the deadlines and strongly encourage you to apply. All applications or nominations for any of our awards should be emailed to Award Committee Chair Weirui Wang (weirwang@fiu.edu). Please help us make your exceptional work known and recognized.

2019 Mass Communication and Society Division Award Winners

Faculty Research Award Winner
Lea Hellmueller (center) w/ Kalyani Chadra (left) and Jay Hmielowski (right).



Dissertation Award Winner
Flora Khoo (center) w/ Kalyani Chadra (left) and Jay Hmielowski (right).



Faculty Research Award Winner
Lucinda Austin (left) w/ Kalyani Chadra (center) and Jay Hmielowski (right).



Graduate Travel Award
Winner Nadia Alhashimi
w/ Jay Hmielowski.



1st Place
Promising Professor
Faculty Winner
Lindsay M.
McCluskey (center)
w/ Jack Karlis (left)
and Jay Hmielowski
(right).

Student Research Award Winner
Kelli Boling (left) w/ Kalyani Chadra (center) and Jay Hmielowski (right).



1st Place
Promising Professor
Student Winner
Minhee Choi (center)
w/ Jack Karlis (left) and
Jay Hmielowski (right).



Teaching Committee Report

by Jack Karlis, Teaching Committee Chair

When a scholar is pursuing tenure and promotion, he or she really focuses on his or her research, pedagogy and service when writing his or her narrative. However, did you know that the Teaching Committee annually offers opportunities to enhance your candidacy to move up in rank and achieve tenure? Maybe for senior scholars, you're looking for some recognition for all your years in the classroom or have some knowledge you would like to pass onto the next generation of scholars.

For those entering the job market, the Teaching Committee's awards could mean the difference between you and another candidate landing that tenure-track job. The Mass Communication and Society Division has a longstanding tradition of awarding our membership for its pedagogy, and two of our awards have been often overlooked.

Winners for each award will be decided by the Vice Head (Masahiro Yamamoto) and Teaching Committee members (Jack Karlis and Dean Cummings).

Service-Learning

The MCS Service-Learning Award program assists faculty by providing a \$500 stipend to use in their service-learning courses. These

grants are intended to offset a portion of the costs for working with communities, nonprofit clients, schools and governmental bodies in the classroom.

Past Winners

2019
Joe Grimm,
Michigan State University

2017
Jensen Moore,
University of Oklahoma

2016
Cindy Vincent

Requirements

- Only those projects that encourage students to become involved in the community while at the same time utilizing/expanding their education and expertise will be considered.
- Applicants must be members of MCS who are teaching a service-learning course in the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Winners of the Service-Learning Grant will be chosen by the Vice Head and Teaching Committee members.
- Award winners will be recognized at the Division Awards luncheon

(with plaque and/or certificate) at the Annual Conference in San Francisco and will also be listed on the Division website.

Teaching Ideas Competition

The Teaching Ideas Competition award recognizes innovation and excellence in teaching in the field of mass communication. This award builds upon the idea of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), which treats teaching as part of research agendas, using the same formal methodological techniques and standards of peer review.

Winners

2019
First Place
Peter Bobkowski,
University of Kansas

Second Place
Brian J. Bowe, Sheila Webb,
Western Washington University

Third Place
Xi Cui, College of Charleston

2018
Yue Zheng,
California State University –
Northridge

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Graduate Students Get Support

by Jordan Morehouse, Graduate Student Liaison Chair

Are you searching for a way to get involved, have your travel funded, or have your research funded? The Mass Communication and Society Division can help! First, our Graduate Travel Award Program assists graduate students with their research endeavors by providing funds to travel to the Midwinter Conference (\$500) or Annual Conference (\$1,000). Plan ahead by applying for the Midwinter Conference by the end of January 2020 and the annual AEJMC conference by the end of May 2020. Second, the Division offers excellent oppor-

tunities for funding research. Apply for the student-led research project Research Awards to receive \$5,000 to go towards a research project with a topic that advances mass communication research, especially at the societal or macrosocial level. To apply, submit your proposal by the end of April 2020. Lastly, MCS has excellent opportunities to get involved! Connect with other graduate students, learn from faculty, and expand your personal network by joining the Division. MCS offers graduate student members the opportunity to get access to the

many resources available through the Division. For example, graduate students can receive feedback on preliminary drafts of their work through the review process when submitting papers and at Annual Conference when presenting work. Additionally, graduate student members also get access to the *Mass Communication and Society Journal*, which is an ISI journal that focuses on all topics tied to mass communication. For more information on ways to get involved and have your travel and research funded, visit <https://aejmc.us/mcs/>.

Requirements

- Must explore projects that pose hypotheses or research questions that aim to probe questions such as: what it means to teach, how learning happens, and how teachers and students can work together to enrich learning.
- Open to a wide range of qualitative and quantitative approaches, but the methods used (and their theoretical grounding) should be made explicit.
- Monetary awards of \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place, and \$75 for third place will be presented to the winners at the Division Business Meeting and luncheon (with plaque and/or certificate)

at the Annual Conference in San Francisco and will also be listed on the Division website.

Eligibility

- All entrants must be members of MCS.
- All entrants must be full-time faculty, adjunct professors, and graduate student instructors who have taught at least one course in the field of mass communication.
- Applications for the awards must be submitted electronically in .PDF format to the Awards Chair, Weirui Wang (weiruiwang@fiu.edu), by 11:59 EST on April 30, 2020. Late applications will not be accepted.



1st Place
Adjunct/Instructor
Award Winner
Charles Harman (center)
w/ Jack Karlis (left) and
Jay Hmielowski (right).

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Division Head

The Head, Jay Hmielowski, opened up talking about the number of members for AEJMC and the Division. He noted there were 3434 AEJMC members this year. Of this total, there were 702 student members and 234 international members.

Specific to the Division, he noted there were 533 members (as of 7/25). This number made MCS the largest division (PR 411, Online news- 371, ComSher-300, History- 276).

In terms of finances, the Division currently had a balance of \$16,770.23, which was a decrease from \$28,622.69 from the same time last year.

He also outlined the current diversity of the executive board and noted the Division was doing pretty well in regards to diversity among executive members.

Lastly, he outlined some things he has spent money on this year including: Spending \$1500 on a pre-conference event (split the cost of \$3000 event with PR Division), sponsoring a reception at WJEC (\$2000), and sponsoring the refreshment break at AEJMC (\$2500).

Mass Communication and Society Journal Editor

The next update came from the MCS Journal Editor, Fuyuan Shen. He announced that the reviewer of the year award for *MCS Journal* would be going to Jay Hmielowski, from the University of Florida. He also noted that Anne Oeldorf-Hirsch, from the University of Connecticut, would receive the article of the year award for her article titled "The Role of Engagement in Learning from Active and Incidental News Exposure on Social Media."

He also provided an update on the current impact factor numbers for the journal. Specifically, the journal increased its impact factor in 2018 to 2.180 (up from 1.634 in 2017). The five-year impact factor also increased from 1.880 in 2017 to 2.151 in 2018. As a result, the journal ranking for 2018 was 24 out of 84 journals, while the 5-year impact factor placed the journal at 34 out of 84 journals. He also noted that the

current balance for the journal was \$450,185.97.

Lastly, he noted that progress was being made on the two special issues coming out in the next year. Specifically, the special issue edited by Hajo Boomgaarden, Sophie Lecheler, and Jorg Matthes would be published by the end of the year. In addition, the special issue called "what is news?" has a large increase in submissions after extending the deadline this summer.

Vice Head

Next, the vice-head, Nan Yu, provided an update. She gave an overview of the various sessions MCS co-sponsored this year. Moreover, she outlined that the Division had worked with a variety of groups including the PR Division, the Religion and Media Interest Group, the CommSHER Division, the Advertising Division, the History Division, and the Media Management, Economics, and Entrepreneurship Division.

She also highlighted the diversity of panelists across these various panels this year.

Lastly, she provided an overview of the search for a new editor for the journal. She noted that the search committee included five faculty members: Dr. Carol Pardun (Chair), Dr. Kim Bissell, Dr. Bartosz Wojdynski, Dr. Kathy Forde, and Dr. Nan Yu. The committee received 7 applications, several of which were strong contenders to become the next editor. In the end, the committee recommended that Dr. Michael Schmierbach to become the next editor of the journal.

Dr. Schmierbach introduced himself to members and noted some ideas he had moving forward for the journal including looking into making articles open-access and increasing the number of reviewer awards given away each year.

Jay Hmielowski then proposed that the members accept the committee's recommendation to make Dr. Schmierbach the next editor. The motion was seconded. The final vote tally was all in support and none against. Therefore, the motion to make Dr. Schmierbach the next editor of the journal was adopted/passed.

2019 MCS Division Business Meeting Minutes AEJMC Annual Conference

Midwinter Committee

Next, Xi Cui, the Midwinter Chair, provided an overview of this year's Midwinter Conference. He noted that we were the largest division again this year with 9 panels. We also had 59 submissions, with 30 acceptances for a 51% acceptance rate. The 25 judges ended up with ~5 abstracts to review. There were 30 papers showcasing work of 43 authors that came from various states across the country (e.g., TX, OH, WI, FL, etc.).

He also provided an overview of the demographics for the midwinter meeting.

Lastly, he noted that Dr. Surin Chung at Ohio University had won the Top Paper for the Midwinter Conference. In addition, Shimeng Dia and Nahyun Kim had won the travel awards this year.

Research Committee

Next, Dr. Kalyani Chadha, the Research Committee Chair, provided an overview of the research competition for the year. She indicated that the Division had received 112 submissions this year. 15 of these were disqualified for not following the Division guidelines. Overall, 56 were accepted, 41 were rejected, and 3 were transferred. In the end, the acceptance rate was 50%. Three papers of the 86 faculty submissions received an award. 3 out of the 23 student papers received awards. 2 Moeller awards were given out of 5 papers submitted.

She also provided an overview of the various research panels that varied on topics such as media representation, media and health, partisan media effects, media and emotions, and social media.

She also announced winners for the open competition, the student competition, and the Moeller competition.

Awards Committee

Next, Dr. Masahiro Yamamoto, from SUNY Albany, went over the work the Awards Committee had done throughout the year. He noted that there were 26 applications for various awards this year. He also provided a general overview of the various awards and what the

Division looks for winners for the different awards. He then went through the individuals who had won the various awards this year. Information about award winners can be found in the annual report, which is available on the Division's website.

Dr. Yamamoto finished up talking about different ways that we could improve communication to our members about the various awards available through the Division. Dr. Hmielowski noted that he had already talked to AEJMC and they would be willing to post a newsletter article to the Association's newsletter about the awards. Dr. Hmielowski also noted that members of the executive committee should reach out to colleagues at their home institutions about the various awards. Dr. Watson noted he had done this at Michigan State and some people had submitted materials and won awards.

PF&R Committee

Next, Dr. Wang provided an overview of the work done by the PF&R Committee this year. She talked about the co-sponsored events for this year. She also discussed the PF&R tour sponsored by the Division this year. She noted that 17 people showed up for the tour and most people found it to be interesting, though it went longer than scheduled.

Teaching Committee

Dr. Karlis then provided an overview of the work done by the Teaching Committee this year. He provided an overview of number of awards received for the various teaching awards. He also talked about the topics covered in the Divisions co-sponsored events this year.

Communication Committee

Finally, Dr. Meganck provided an overview of the work done by the Communication Committee this year. She noted the general goals for the committee. Moreover, she noted that they had seen increases in the number of people following the Division's various social media feeds (e.g., increase of 34% on Facebook, increase of 18% for Twitter, and an increase of 2% for

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LinkedIn. However, she noted that even though a good number of people were following the Division, there was little engagement with members (e.g., few likes or retweets). She noted this is something the Division should think about addressing moving forward. She also talked about the idea of spending money on sponsored ads or something to get people to pay more attention to the Division's social media feeds.

New Business

The meeting then moved to focusing on new business that had been dealt with during the current year. The first issue had been brought up by Dr. Cui during the year. In particular, he wanted to change the title of the travel award from "graduate student travel award" to "student travel award." This year an undergrad had asked whether they could apply for travel grants. The members voiced support for this change. Given this did not require a change to the bylaws, there was no formal motion or vote. However, the members voiced support for this change to the language tied to travel awards within the Division's communication to members.

The next issue had been brought up by Dr. Shen (Journal Editor). He proposed that the division should increase the Journal Article of the Year Award from \$500 to \$1000. In addition, he proposed that the Division increase the number of Reviewer of the Year Awards from 1 to 2. He also proposed that the Division double the awards for the paper competition awards (e.g., go from \$250, \$150, & \$75 to \$500, \$300, & \$150).

First, the members voted on increasing the number of reviewer awards and increasing the amount of money given to the top journal article winner (as these are changes that need to be made to the bylaws). The proposal was offered by Dr. Hmielowski and seconded by Dr. Shen. All members present voted to make this change to the award. There was no opposition and no abstentions.

In terms of doubling the paper competition awards, there was some discussion regarding whether there was a need to increase the awards. Dr. Watson asked

about how much our awards were compared to other divisions noting that if our awards were on par with other divisions there may not be a need to increase the amounts given for the paper awards. Dr. Yu made a similar point regarding whether we should increase if our current awards were similar to other division's. Dr. Watston also asked whether this increase in the award would really fall in line with improving the quality of the journal as these awards may not actually affect the quality of articles submitted to the journal. Dr. Hmielowski noted that there is a general need to spend Division funds and that there weren't many proposals made this year, so increasing awards seemed like a good idea. Dr. Schmierbach provided information about the PR division and noted their top paper winner received \$750. After hearing this information, members were more open to the idea of doubling the amount of money given for the various awards. In the end, the members voted to double the money given for all the paper awards. There was no formal proposal or second as this was not a change to the bylaws.

Next, Dr. Hmielowski provided an overview of a way to potentially increase the reach of the journal. He noted he had looked into translating articles from the journal. However, this would cost about \$6000 per article, affect the pages used by the journal, and might not increase readership. Instead, he said his discussions with Jillian O'Keefe (journal representative from Taylor & Francis) was that it would make more sense to spend money on getting abstracts translated each year. The cost was relatively low (e.g., about \$600 per volume for 3 languages). The members were supportive of this idea and wanted the journal and next head to move forward with this process. The next editor and head would just need to decide the number of languages they would translate the abstracts into and what the process would look like (e.g., likely to just be done when downloading online journals).

Next, Dr. Hmielowski noted that the Division should look into doing three types of pre-conference events moving forward and ways the journal funds could be used to support these events. First, the Division could spend money bringing in experts on different statisti-

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cal methods to give workshops on various topics. Dr. Hmielowski noted that this year the PR Division and MCS had spent \$3000 on a pre-conference workshop on big data. Therefore, one way to spend money that would benefit the journal (and the field of communication) would be to sponsor these method events. Second, the Division could do a grad student mentoring program. The International Communication Association has pre-conference events for grad students where they get feedback from faculty on ongoing projects. The divisions spend ~\$2000 dollars on these events. MCS could sponsor a similar event where students submit work, which then receives feedback from faculty. The Division could provide monetary compensation in the form of air fair to get people to the pre-conference event. Finally, Dr. Shen had floated the idea of having pre-conference events on special topics that would be tied to getting articles published in the journal. In essence, the Division could sponsor events tied to special issue calls where papers are submitted and accepted/rejected. Accepted papers could then be part of a pre-conference event where faculty give each other feedback on their ideas. These papers would then be allowed to be submitted to the journal as part of this special issue. Once again, journal funds could be used to sponsor this event if needed. The general idea would be to rotate these events on a three-year basis—i.e., methods workshop, mentoring workshop, and special issue workshop. In general, members supported moving forward with implementing this idea in the future.

Next, Dr. Hmielowski talked about providing additional support for grad students moving forward. Specifically, he proposed providing conference registration for student papers accepted to the conference. This year, it would have been 7 papers getting the award. He suggested that the Research Committee Chair could ask the authors who would want the registration when telling them about their accepted paper. Then the head could forward the names of people who would get the registration for the upcoming conference to AEJMC when notifying the association about checks for the year. Dr. C. noted that this might help retain people in the Division as students who work with a division

tend to stick with it moving forward. She also noted that this might increase the quality of papers submitted to the Division. Current grad students and faculty (Dr. Hernandez) noted that this was a good idea and would clearly benefit graduate students. Dr. Yu asked why this hadn't been considered before given that it sounded pretty easy. In the end, the members decided to move forward with this proposal within the next year or two.

Dr. Hmielowski also noted that the Division could increase money tied to other awards (e.g., the Research Award). However, members noted that the rest of the awards were funded at adequate levels and there was no need at this time to increase the amount of money given for other awards.

Lastly, Dr. Hmielowski asked whether the Division would be open to funding other events. He provided a specific suggestion made by Dr. Jensen Moore (one that was received via email. Dr. Moore was not present in the meeting) to give \$25000 for an event tied to an upcoming anniversary associated with the Oklahoma City bombing. The members did not see a reason to provide funds for this event and did not support moving forward with providing money for this event.

Finally, the members voted on where the 2024 Annual Conference would be held. The options were Philadelphia, PA, New York, NY, and Nashville, TN. Dr. Hmielowski provided information given to him during the COD meeting on Wednesday. Specifically, he noted NY would never be less expensive and that there would be no grad student rate. He also noted that TN might end up near downtown or on Opryland, which was not near downtown (~15 miles to downtown).

The members voted to support Philadelphia (9) over NY (5) and Nashville (1).

The members then approved the slate for next year. Dr. Hmielowski proposed accepting the new offer slate for the upcoming year. Dr. Sarge seconded the proposal. All members supported the new slate. The meeting then adjourned.

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