



Newsletter

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Summer 2019



Traveling to Toronto for AEJMC's 2019 Annual Conference

by Jay Hmielowski, MCS Division Head

With the calendar moving past the 4th of July holiday, it's time to start getting ready for this year's Annual Conference. In this issue of the newsletter, our various committees provide an overview of the work they have done this year to put together another excellent set of sessions for our members.

Be sure to learn about our research, PF&R and Teaching session from the respective committees. We also have more details about how to sign up for our annual tour, which will take place at the MZTV Museum. We also have information about the search for a new editor for the Division's journal *Mass Communication & Society*. One thing I focused on this year was finding ways to spend our funds. This year we have spent money on a variety of things that will benefit our members and promote the Division. For example, we are cosponsor-

ing a pre-conference event on big data using some of our funds. We have also taken steps to continue promoting the Division by co-sponsoring a reception at this year's World Journalism Education Congress (WJEC) conference in Paris, France. We are also co-sponsoring the refreshment break at this year's Annual Conference in Toronto. In both cases, particularly for the WJEC event, we have gotten our name out to people outside of the Division and outside of AEJMC.

We have some general plans for additional ways to spend funds to further promote the *Journal* and the Division that we will discuss at this year's Annual Conference. For example, we have estimated costs for translating *Mass Communication & Society Journal* articles into other languages. In the end, we hope you attend the great sessions planned this year and enjoy the research presentations at this year's Annual Conference. See you in Toronto.

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Mass Communication and Society Journal Editor Search Update

by Nan Yu, Vice Head

During the past three months, our Division has completed the search for Editor for our Division's flagship publication *Mass Communication and Society*. The Editorial Selection Committee was chaired by Dr. Carol Pardun and included four other committee members (Drs. Kimberly Bissell, Bartosz Wojdowski, Kathy Forde, and Nan Yu). The committee has received several outstanding applications this year, who not only own strong scholarship but have ample journal

editorial experiences. After several rounds of careful discussion, the committee unanimously voted for Dr. Mike Schmierbach from Penn State University as the next editor for the *Journal*. Division members will vote to appoint the next editor at the AEJMC Annual Conference in August.

Mass Communication and Society is a refereed journal that publishes articles from a wide variety of perspectives and approaches

that advance mass communication theory, especially at the societal or macrosocial level. It draws heavily from many other disciplines, including sociology, psychology, anthropology, philosophy, law, and history. Methodologically, journal articles employ qualitative and quantitative methods, survey research, ethnography, laboratory experiments, historical methods, and legal analysis.



MCS Hosts Social at Waterfall Garden

by Masahiro Yamamoto, Vice Head-Elect/Membership Chair

Join other Mass Communication and Society members at the Waterfall Garden on Thursday, August 8th from 8:30 to 10:00 pm for the Division's annual social. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other scholars in our Division.

The Waterfall Garden is located at the conference hotel: The Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, 123 Queen Street West, Toronto, ON, Canada. All mem-

bers are absolutely welcome! There is no need to RSVP. Stop by and grab a bite and a drink!

The event will provide open bar for house wines, domestic, premium, and local beer, soft drinks, and cold and hot canapés (roast beef rolls, chilled shrimp, goat cheese crostini, and vegetable spring rolls, among others). It is the best social event of the year for MCS members. We look forward to seeing you all!

In addition to our annual social, we will host the MCS awards luncheon. We will hand out plaques, certificates, and checks to this year's MCS award winners and recognize their achievements. The luncheon will be held at Provincial Room North on Friday, August 9th from 11:30 am to 1:00 p.m. Congratulations to our award winners!

Stay Connected at Annual Conference



by Shana Meganck,
Communications Chair/
Social Media Chair

Stay connected at the AEJMC 2019 Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter (@AEJMC_MCS) and Instagram (@aejmc_mcs).

Also, make sure to tag us using #MCS19. We want to know what you're doing throughout the conference, so don't forget to tag the MCS Division in photos while you're out and about at the Annual Conference or in town, and use #MCS19 while you're attending any of the MCS research panels, presentations and social events. We will be using #MCS19 too, so you can find out about everything we have planned for you throughout the conference.

We will be holding our annual trivia contest again this year at the Annual Conference. Toronto-specific questions will be posted on our Facebook page August 7-8, and the first few people to get the most answers correct will win. Any AEJMC member is eligible to play, but you must be present at the conference to participate. The winners will be announced on Thursday afternoon, and Toronto-themed prizes will be distributed to the winners at our social on Thursday night.



Teaching Committee Cosponsors Teaching Panels

by Jack Karlis, Teaching Committee Chair

The Teaching Committee of the MCS Division is pleased to announce two unique panels at this year's Annual Conference in Toronto. Both panels are presented in conjunction with two other divisions, Advertising, and Media Management, Economics & Entrepreneurship. Both panels will include MCS Division members providing some pedagogical insight.

The first panel, "Agency, In-House, or on your own? The Virtues of Teaching Entrepreneurship to Students" is presented along with members of the Media Management, Economics & Entrepreneurship Division.

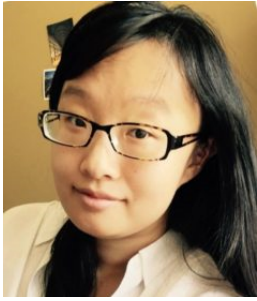
The second panel, "Reaching High to Impact Our Students: Strategies and Tips for Incorporating High-Impact Practices in the Classroom" is presented along with the Advertising Division. This panel will focus on the benefits and pitfalls of incorporating high-impact practices in the classroom. It will also share specific examples of high-impact practices that we've implemented in the panel's classrooms – which span the areas of public relations, journalism, radio/TV production and media entrepreneurship – and can easily be implemented into an existing lesson plan.

Panels, such as those listed above, are excellent resources for our members and can help in a variety of ways. A panel can:

- Help support a member's tenure and promotion file in the areas of teaching and sometimes research.
- Help infuse new concepts, techniques and other benefits for our members when they head back to the classroom in the fall.
- Serve as an excellent resource to network for research opportunities such as manuscripts, book chapters and other scholarly outlets.

The process to select these panels usually starts in the middle of the fall semester, but the more time you have to recruit another division to cosponsor, the better the chances will be of its acceptance. Since everyone is in one place, Toronto would be an excellent opportunity to find some other AEJMC members to brainstorm and formulate new panels.

Feel free to contact Teaching Chair Jack Karlis at jackkarlis@gmail.com in Toronto.



Tour to MZTV Museum of Television and PF&R Panels on Hate Speech and Misinformation

by Weirui Wang, PF&R Committee Chair

We have one tour planned this year at AEJMC annual conference, taking members to MZTV Museum of Television and Archives for a unique collection of television sets since the 1920s.

The tour will take place on Thursday. We will meet in the conference hotel lobby at 10:30 a.m. and taxi/Uber together from the hotel to the museum (about 20-minute driving distance).

The museum features the world's most comprehensive collection of 10,000 television sets. During the tour, visitors will learn about inventors of TV, see the world's largest collection of TV sets, meet the first TV star Felix the cat, and watch historic images on the screen. The museum will be private to us during the scheduled tour. The guided tour will last about 45 minutes to one hour.

The schedule leaves you enough time to commute back from the tour site to the Annual Conference. The tour is scheduled to make sure there is no interference with our Division's research presentations and poster sessions. Space is limited to 15 people. At the moment, plenty of spots remain available, please [RSVP](#) by clicking the hyperlink or email Weirui Wang at weirwang@fiu.edu if you are interested in the free trip.

This year the PF&R Committee also organized two inspiring panels on hate speech and misinformation. The first one, co-sponsored with the Religion and Media Interest group, focuses on issues related to media coverage of hate speech. As the inalienable right of Freedom of Speech is often misconstrued especially when it relates to hate speech, this panel seeks to incorporate theoretical, contextual, and

ethical approaches to exploring hate speech. The panel will take place on Thursday right after our offsite tour, from 1:30-3:00 p.m.

The second one, co-sponsored with ComSHER, examines health and science misinformation on social media. Dr. Laura Sheble, co-editor of the book *Misinformation and Mass Audiences*, will moderate the discussion. The session proudly presents a mix of well-known scholars in the area and journalistic and communication professionals who have considerable experience of bridging the gap between scientists and various publics. They will address unique challenges they have encountered and overcome related to misinformation. This panel will take place 1:15-2:45 p.m. on Friday.



MZTV Museum of Television & Archive Photo Courtesy of TripAdvisor



Research Competitions and Sessions

by Kalyani Chadha, Research Committee Chair

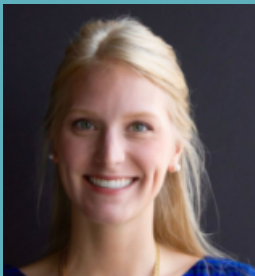
In 2019, there were a total of 112 papers submitted to the Mass Communication and Society Division across the Open, Student and Moeller competitions. A total of 56 papers were accepted with an overall acceptance rate of 50%. These papers will be presented over five research sessions. These include a Scholar-to-Scholar poster session, a high-density research session and three refereed paper panel presentations. The three top papers from the Open Competition as well as the first-place winners from the Student and Moeller

competitions will be presented during the *Best of Mass Communication and Society* session scheduled for Thursday, August 8.

The Division will also hold a luncheon where the best of our competitive papers will be recognized with plaques for first-place winners, certificates for second and third place winners, free conference registration for first authors as well as a range of monetary awards. First place papers receive \$250; second place papers receive \$150 while third place winners receive \$75.

Additionally, the Division will also hold other research-related sessions at the 2019 conference.

The first, cosponsored with the Public Relations Division, is a pre-conference session called “Got Big Data?: Computational Methods in Research, the Classroom, and Ethical Storytelling.” This event is aimed at providing an overview of some of the most widely used computational methods in communication and media research, as well as an explanation of the expertise required to apply these methods effectively. The second is a research panel being organized with the History Division. Titled “Walking Tall and Carrying Words: A History of Violence Against the Media,” this panel explores and analyzes the history of individuals who have mounted attacks against the press.



Graduate Students Getting Involved

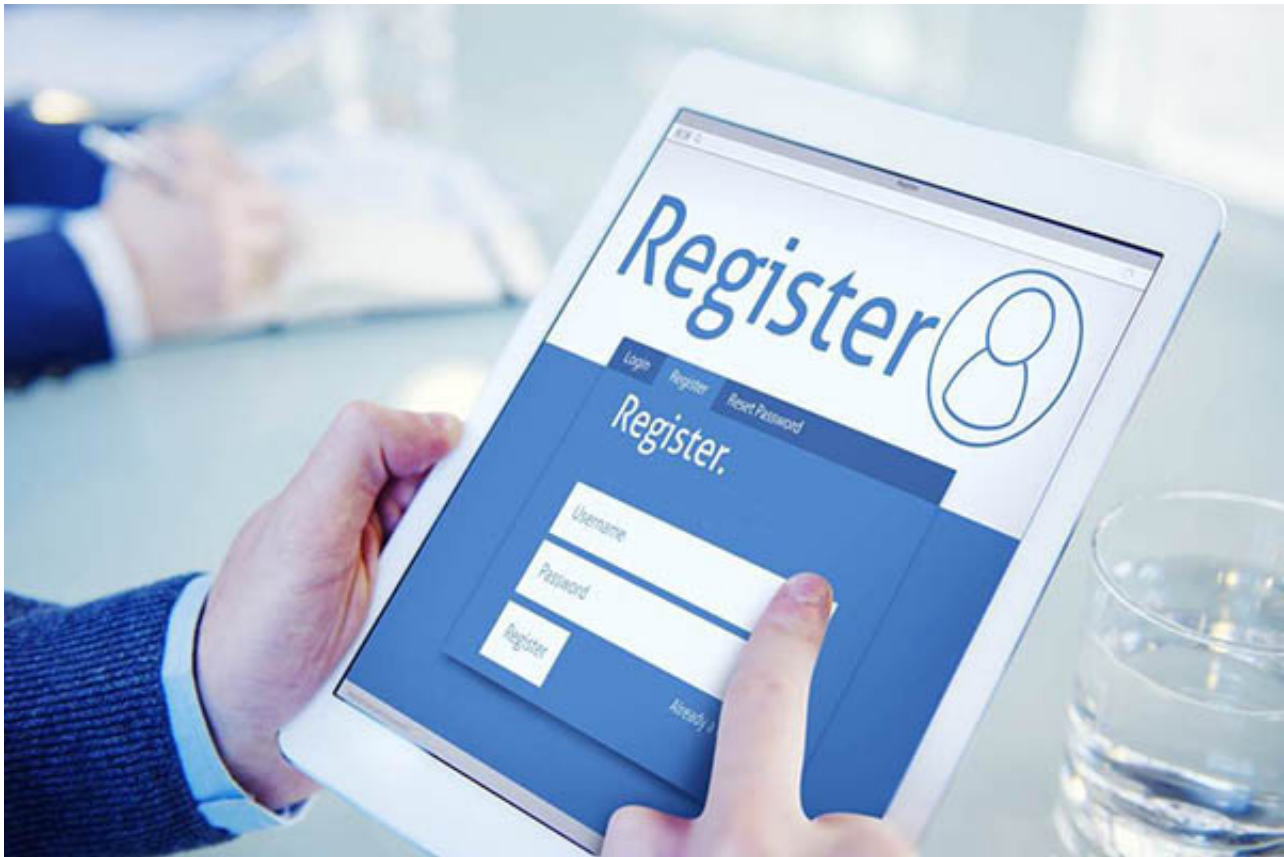
by Jordan Morehouse, Graduate Student Liaison Associate Chair

Becoming involved in academic associations, divisions, groups, and committees can be daunting, but the rewards far outweigh the difficulty in finding the right group to dedicate your time and resources. This is particularly true for graduate students. Becoming involved with divisions early on in your career can help you establish relationships, jumpstart your networking, and open doors to collaborations, friendships with other

graduate students, as well as grant and award opportunities. In other words, involvement with a division as a graduate student doesn't only provide you with an extra line on your CV, but you are also granted access to rich experiences and opportunities that would otherwise be unknown.

As current members of the Graduate Student Liaison Committee, we have been able to help spread the word concerning the

Moeller Student Competition, and a few of us have seen our brilliant and deserving colleagues win the award. We've also been able to discuss research ideas, grant opportunities, presentation tips, and interview tricks with other graduate students, assistant professors, and tenured professors. As mentioned, the rewards far outweigh the perceived difficulty. If you are interested in getting involved with the Division, you can start by submitting to Midwinter Conference, talking to one of the members of the Graduate Student Liaison Committee, offering to be a moderator, or brainstorming your own unique contribution that can be utilized by the Division. We look forward to working alongside you for years to come.



General Online Registration Conference Rates:

AEJMC Member • \$265 USD (After July 8, 2019)

The “AEJMC Member” rate is for current AEJMC members. It does not include membership fees — ONLY conference registration. AEJMC membership MUST BE CURRENT before paying this rate. Certain workshops and tours require additional fees.

Non-Member • *\$385 USD (After July 8, 2019)

The “Non-Member” rate is for non-AEJMC members. *It includes conference registration AND one year of membership with AEJMC. Divisions and Interest Groups are an additional cost. Certain workshops and tours require additional fees.

Student AEJMC Member • \$175 USD (After July 8, 2019)

The “Student AEJMC Member” rate is for current AEJMC student members. It does not include membership fees — ONLY conference registration. Certain workshops and tours require additional fees.

Non-Member Student • *\$195 USD (After July 8, 2019)

The “Non-Member Student” rate is for non-AEJMC member students. *It includes conference registration AND one year of student membership with AEJMC. Divisions and Interest Groups are an additional cost. Certain workshops and tours require additional fees.

Retired Member • \$150 USD (After July 8, 2019)

The Retired Member Rate is for current AEJMC retired members. It ONLY includes conference registration. Certain workshops and tours require additional fees.

[Register online at http://aejmc.org/events/toronto19/registration/](http://aejmc.org/events/toronto19/registration/)



MCS Awards Update

by Fan Yang, Awards Committee Chair

As our award reviews concluded, we'd like to provide everyone an overview of this year's MCS award submissions. This year we received 26 award submissions, including 6 faculty-led Research Award submissions, 3 MCS student-led Research Award submissions, 2 submissions for the MCS Dissertation Award, 2 entries for the MCS Adjunct/Instructor Award, 7 entries for the MCS Promising

Professor Award (5 in the faculty category and 2 in the student category), 1 submission for the MCS Service-Learning Award, 3 submissions for the MCS Teaching Ideas Competition Award, and 2 entries for the Graduate Travel Award Program.

Consistent with our past trend, the most popular awards are our Promising Professor Award in the teaching category and MCS Research Award in the research category. However, we did not receive

any nominations for the MCS PF&R Award or the MCS Professional Award. In addition, this year we didn't get any nominations for the MCS Distinguished Educator Award.

Moving forward, we strongly encourage you to consider submitting to our many MCS awards in research, teaching, and service areas. We will advertise more about our different awards, especially the newly established and less recognized awards, through our business meetings, newsletters, social media accounts, etc. Please stay tuned for more information from the MCS Award Committee. We look forward to meeting you in Toronto this August!



Midwinter Conference 2020

by Xi Cui, Midwinter Chair

The Midwinter Conference Committee encourages all MCS members to consider submitting research abstracts to the 2020 Midwinter Conference. The Midwinter Conference is an annual research forum for all communication faculty and students held in early March each year. For the last decade, Midwinter Conference has been hosted at the Gaylord College of Journalism at the University of Oklahoma.

Midwinter Conference is a great opportunity for students and faculty to get initial feedback on their studies before the April submission

deadline for the Annual Conference. Papers submitted to Midwinter Conference may be submitted again to Annual Conference April 1. Panel proposals are also welcome on topics which fit the MCS Division's scope. The Midwinter Conference submission deadline is usually early December, and decisions are made by mid-January. Despite its increasing popularity, Midwinter Conference has always maintained an intimate and welcoming environment to allow in-depth conversations among scholars of all research areas.

Over the years, the MCS Division has set multiple records for

the number of submissions, the number of abstracts accepted, and the number of panels hosted at the conferences. The MCS Division also offers a Top Abstract Award and is the only division that offers competitive travel awards to student attendees.

The call for abstracts for the 2020 Midwinter Conference will be announced in MCS' fall newsletter as well as the Division social media and website <http://aejmc.us/mcs/conferences/midwinter>. For more information, please contact the MCS Midwinter Committee Chair, Dr. Xi Cui (xcui@cofc.edu).

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