



Farewell San Francisco...

Hello Washington D.C.

Rearview Reflections

By Kim Piper-Aiken
Michigan State University
RTVJ Division Head 2006-2007



The San Francisco AEJMC Convention was the largest in the history of the organization with nearly 2400 attendees. The Radio-Television Journalism Division was well represented with four research sessions, a scholar-to-scholar session, six teaching panels, a PF&R Mini-plenary about Katrina as Curriculum, and two additional PF&R panels.

I've heard positive feedback from across the division about the variety of panel topics, tackling issues ranging from multi-cultural teaching excellence to convergence and podcasting. Other panels addressed timely topics such as Al-Jazeera and Truth and Sports and Community. The panels were well attended and intellectually stimulating. Thanks to all of the participants.

One of the highlights of the convention occurred Thursday evening at the RTVJ Members meeting when Bill Knowles from the University of Montana received the Edward L. Bliss Award for Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Education.



Knowles Wins 2006 Bliss Award

Looking Ahead

The 2007 AEJMC Convention is set for August 9th through the 12th at the Renaissance in Washington D. C. RTVJ Vice Head and Program Chair Mary Rogus of Ohio sorted through more than 30 new panel proposals this month and, with feedback from the Executive Committee, settled on ten panels that were submitted to headquarters as possible co-sponsored panels. Mary and I will attend the 2006 AEJMC Winter meeting December 1st through 3rd in New Orleans to establish our convention slots for next year. We'll let you know the results of the convention "chip" auction in our next newsletter and via the listserv.

After polling the RTVJ Membership via the listserv and based on discussion among the Executive Committee, I am pleased to report a unanimous vote of support for American University to be the future home of the Bliss Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Educator Award plaques. The RTVJ Executive Board has also gratefully accepted an offer from American University to host a reception next year to celebrate the return of the Award to AU.



Denise Dowling, DBJE Chair

Denise Dowling from Montana will chair the DBJE Selection Committee this year. Thanks also to Dowling for the incredible time and energy she devoted to RTVJ this past year as Division Head.

Research in San Francisco: Lower Numbers But Quality Remains

The division's primary accomplishment in research this year was changing to an electronic-only submission and judging process. The move came at the behest of the membership and the division's research chair Laura Smith reported the change was nearly flawless. We did not use a web-based submission program, but relied on email to make the process work. Because of the limited number of papers we received, the system worked well.

The division has worked diligently over the past years to increase the number of papers submitted for possible presentation at the convention. However, this year was disappointing in that regard. RTVJ received the lowest number of submissions in four years. We expected to see a spike in submissions this year as we anticipated authors might find the prospect of a trip to San Francisco appealing. That was not the case.

This year, 30 papers were submitted for consideration by our division. Ultimately, we accepted 16, for a 53% acceptance rate. We welcome any ideas from RTVJ members about how to increase the number of papers submitted to our division.



RTVJ Research Paper Session: News Content Production and Delivery. Moderator Tamyra Pierce with paper panelists behind.

RTVJ Officers Ready for the New Academic Year



2006-2007 Officer Slate

Head: Kim Piper-Aiken, Michigan State University
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PF&R Chair: Joy Chavez Mapaye, Alaska-Anchorage
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Research Chair: Nancy McKenzie Dupont, Mississippi
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Teaching Chair: Laura K. Smith, South Carolina
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PF&R Notes:

**By Joy Chavez Mapaye
University of Alaska Anchorage
PF&R Chair**



On August 14, 2006 Fox News journalist Steve Centanni and his photographer were kidnapped by gunpoint in Gaza. The news of their kidnapping reached around the world. In Alaska, word of the hostage situation shocked the newsroom of KTUU-TV NBC. Long before Centanni covered presidents, the Pentagon and the War on Terrorism, he covered Alaska. Centanni worked for KTUU-TV from the 1980s through the early 1990s. He won many awards and many friends, both in the newsroom and in the community.

For journalists in the Last Frontier, the kidnapping brought home the poignancy of war and the critical role of journalists in maintaining freedom. Sometimes we forget news is history in progress. Sometimes we forget journalists provide the first draft of this history. Fortunately, however, if we do forget, there are resources that remind us.

The interactive museum of news, the Newseum, offers this:

The free press is a cornerstone of democracy.

People have a need to know.
Journalists have a right to tell.

Finding the facts can be difficult.
Reporting the story can be dangerous.

Freedom includes the right to be outrageous.
Responsibility includes the duty to be fair.

News is history in the making.
Journalists provide the first rough draft of history.

A free press, at its best, reveals the truth.

Two weeks after Centanni was kidnapped, he and his photographer were released. They were in good health and happy to be free. News of his freedom brought a steady stream of phone calls to the KTUU-TV newsroom.

Former colleagues and viewers were relieved. Centanni, however, was worried. He worried his kidnapping would scare foreign journalists from telling the story. He worried this would be a great tragedy for the people of Palestine.

In the wake of this incident and others like it, it is important to remember the PF & R mission. The Professional Freedom and Responsibility Committee is comprised of five subject areas: free expression; ethics; media criticism and accountability; racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness; and public service. These are all areas I hope to develop this year.

My goals as PF&R Chair include the following:

- Encourage members to send PF&R panel ideas for the Midwinter Conference
- Encourage members to submit research papers based on PF&R issues in April
- Guide members by providing suggestions for PF&R panel sessions for the convention in Washington, D.C.
- Arrange a trip to The Freedom Forum Journalists Memorial in Virginia

The memorial is located in Freedom Park and honors journalists who have died while trying to report the news. There are 1,665 names listed on the memorial. Each name is a reminder that those on the frontlines of history sometimes pay the ultimate sacrifice in the quest for freedom and truth.

RTVJ Member Award

The Alaska Journal of Commerce and the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce have recognized Joy Chavez Mapaye with Alaska's Top 40 Under 40 award. The award names Mapaye as one of state's top young leaders younger than age 40 who have demonstrated professional excellence and a commitment to their community. Mapaye is an assistant professor in the Department of Journalism and Public Communications at the University of Alaska Anchorage. She is also a part-time reporter at KTUU-TV NBC in Anchorage.

Teaching Notes:

By Laura K. Smith
University of South Carolina
RTVJ Teaching Chair



TAKING TIME FROM OUR TEACHING.... To talk about Teaching

As October comes to a close, many of us are knee-deep in broadcast production courses, script approvals and, of course, the ever-present pile of stories on our desks in need of grading! That is why I am especially thankful for those of you who submitted teaching panel proposals for the upcoming AEJMC convention.

August may seem a very long way away. But in terms of conference planning... it's right around the corner. From challenges in the curricula to pressing concerns in your current classes – several of you took the time to formulate ideas for discussion in Washington D.C. next year.

The process of sorting through the panels is now underway and we will have some final decisions by December.

As for my part in all of this, I culled through the last five years of Teaching Panels that RTVJ sponsored (or co-sponsored) at AEJMC conventions... trying to identify trends in our panels. I was impressed by what I found. From Diversity, to Technology, to Professional Development, to panels that focus on timely news issues... our division has diligently engaged with some truly compelling topics. Last year, RTVJ sponsored or co-sponsored five teaching panels – the most since 2002. I hope to keep that up in the year to come!

Again, a hearty thanks to those of you who took part in this year's panel process. I look forward to seeing how it all turns out!

Electronic News Update:

By Charles Tuggle, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill



The first edition of Electronic News is in the hands of the publisher and is due out March 1, 2007. The first edition will contain the following articles:

Lynn C. Owens - Virginia Commonwealth University, "Race in the Television Newsroom: Do On-Air Personalities Reflect the Communities they Serve?"

Jeremy Lipschultz - University of Nebraska at Omaha, "Framing Terror: Violence, Social Conflict and the 'War on Terror'"

Brad Schultz - University of Mississippi & Mary Lou Sheffer - University of Texas-Arlington "Explaining Local Television Sports through Hypercompetition"

In addition, book review editor Jim Upshaw has provided three insightful book reviews, and Bob Papper and RTNDA President Barbara Cochran provide essays re-introducing the journal, which originally started through Ball State University but is now published by Erlbaum.

We are getting close to putting the finishing touches on the second edition, due to the publisher on December 1st of this year. We can always use more reviewers, both from the academy and the profession. We send each article to a team of three, two in academe and one in the business.

So far, I've managed to keep my sanity. Many, many thanks to all our reviewers, particularly those who not only meet the rather tight turnaround we're asking for, but beat the deadline handily.

Call For Papers – AEJMC Southeast Colloquium

History • Law • Magazine • Newspaper • RTVJ

Hosted by Dept. of Communication, Tulane

Paper Submission Postmark Deadline: December 11, 2006

For information contact: Mary Blue - mblue@tulane.edu or Nancy Dupont - ndupont@olemiss.edu

When: Thursday, March 8 to Saturday, March 10, 2007

Where: New Orleans, Louisiana
