

Change Is Hard . . . Change Is Good Transitioning to the All Academic System

Working Out the Kinks

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



The most recent email message I received from AEJMC Council of Divisions Chair Jan Slater ended with the saying, "Change is hard – but change is also good." She was referring to the glitches associated with the transition to the All Academic System for research paper submissions this year. When Professor Nancy DuPont of Mississippi graciously agreed to serve as RTVJ Research Chair, we knew this change was coming and she has done a fine job.

There was one problem caused by three authors who did not remove their names from the papers prior to uploading them. Since these papers automatically become read-only PDF files during the upload process, getting the names removed wasn't easy. Nancy worked diligently to correct this problem and we appreciated the understanding of the papers reviewers as we tried to "de-bug" the process. Once this happens, the All Academic change will be good.

One additional concern for our division is a continued decline in the number of paper submissions each year. According to DuPont, there were only 28 submissions this year, down from 30 last year.

In fact, our division has had a steady decline in the number of paper submissions for at least five years. I think this is an issue we need to address and I welcome your thoughts via email or on the listserve.

Southeast Colloquium, On to D.C.

From all reports, the Southeast Colloquium in New Orleans during March was successful and RTVJ owes a big thanks to conference organizers Professor Mary Blue of Tulane and Professor Nancy DuPont of Mississippi. DuPont has a synopsis of the conference in this edition of *Static*.

We continue planning for the AEJMC convention, which is set for Washington, D.C., in August. The convention pattern will shift one day in 2007, beginning on Thursday, August 9 and ending Sunday, Aug. 12. Our pre-convention day will be Wednesday, August 8, and RTVJ is co-sponsoring a terrific workshop on various aspects of media convergence and multimedia reporting.

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RTVJ Research Paper Submissions: 2003-2006

YEAR	# SUBMITTED	% ACCEPTED	LOCATION
2006	30	53% (16)	San Francisco
2005	38	52% (20)	San Antonio
2004	36	56% (20)	Toronto
2003	39	68% (26)	Kansas City

RTVJ Convention Sessions: Preparing Educators, Journalists For Communication in a Multi-Media World

**By Mary T. Rogus
Vice-Head
Ohio University**



Get ready for a packed program in D.C.! Our division was very successful in getting some great programming scheduled for you this summer. We had more than 30 panel proposals this year, and it was a tough job for your Exec Committee to narrow it down to a top ten. But we ended up with a nice mix of teaching, PF&R and research sessions that take full

advantage of our D.C. location and bring you up to date on what's going on in our industry.

And in case you haven't heard yet, the Opening Reception for the convention will be at the new home of the Newseum, which doesn't even open to the public until October 2007. You will be among the first to see the 2 HD studios, new 4D time travel experience, the Internet, radio and TV Galleries, and more than a hundred stories from local stations across the country.

Here's the rundown of what you can expect from RTVJ Division programming in August.

Preconvention Workshop: Wednesday, Aug 8, 1-9:30 p.m. "Working and Teaching in a Multimedia World"

co-sponsors: VisCom, Comm Tech, Magazine, Newspaper

This workshop brings in top producers and researchers in digital and online journalism to talk about cutting edge technology, content production, and convergence. The sessions will include lots of practical information and discussion about how to integrate multimedia into your broadcast journalism curriculum. Cost will be \$35 and the sessions will be well worth your time.

Thursday, Aug. 9, 8:15-9:45 a.m. RTVJ Research Session

Thursday, 10:00-11:30 a.m. "The Digital Newsroom: Training Broadcast Students to work with Shared Workflows"

co-sponsor: Community Journalism IG

Avid Technologies worked with us on this panel to bring in professionals and educators working in completely digital newsrooms. Panelists will talk about the changing workflow in a non-linear newsroom and how that should influence our teaching.

Thursday, 1:30-3:00 p.m. "The Future of News"

co-sponsor: Media Management and Economics

New research shows surprising support for traditional media and raises questions about how much people care about some of the new media. This panel explores this research and where we really are heading.

Mini-Plenary: Thursday, 3:15-4:45 p.m. "Of Propaganda, Patriotism and Patronage: The Legal, Ethical, and Practical Implications of Journalists Working with Government Agencies"

co-sponsors: Newspaper, PR, Council of Affiliates

This mini-plen focuses on propaganda and dealing with government sources in a time when access to information is tighter than ever, and the attempts to manipulate the media are growing. Hear from top journalists fighting back against greater obstacles than ever before to our watchdog role.

Thursday, 5-6:30 p.m. "Television News: Is the Golden Era Gone?"

With the major transitions at all three broadcast networks, this panel traces the turning points in television news history via the firsthand reflections of veteran network reporters, including Ike Pappas, Carl Stern, Aaron Brown and Deborah Potter. It asks the question: Is the golden era gone, or did it ever really exist?

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Research on Newsworthiness, Radio Formats Highlights S.E. Colloquium

By Nancy McKenzie Dupont
University of Mississippi
Research Chair

More than 50 journalism and mass communication scholars presented research at the AEJMC Southeast Colloquium March 8-10 in New Orleans. The colloquium was held at the Renaissance Arts Hotel in the city's art district.

RTVJ had one paper session with two presentations: "The Evolution of Newsworthiness: A Case Study of the Story Selection Process in a Commercial Television News Station" by Lurene Kelley of the University of Memphis and "Traditional and Nontraditional Radio News Formats: Comparing Retention, Involvement, Attention and the Perception of Credibility," by Marilyn Young, Wilson Lowrey, and Butler Cain of the University of Alabama. William Davie of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette moderated the panel, and Kathy Bradshaw of Bowling Green State University was the discussant.

Laura Smith of the University of South Carolina organized an RTVJ panel on "Teaching Trauma: Preparing Students Properly."

The colloquium co-coordinators were RTVJ members Mary Blue of Tulane University and Nancy Dupont of the University of Mississippi.

Looking for a Quick Turn-Around for Your Research? Try *Electronic News*

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



The division's journal *Electronic News* is rolling along relatively smoothly. One minor glitch occurred when Taylor and Francis bought the previous publisher, Erlbaum. Some folks didn't receive their copies of the first edition of the journal in a timely manner, including me. You'd think they could get copies to one of the editors! But otherwise, things are going well.

The first edition came out in February, with the second edition having gone to the printer in early April for distribution in early May. We just sent the third edition to the publisher, and it's in the early stages of production.

Our turnaround time for articles between first submission and final decision is averaging about six months. For those folks who are quick about making revisions and getting manuscripts back to us for further review, the time frame is closer to 3-4 months.

One major benefit of working with the new publisher is that the turnaround time for that part of the process is only three months, meaning that 90 days after we submit the materials to the Philadelphia office, the articles are in print. So the very good news is someone who submits a solid piece that needs only one round of revision, and who is quick about getting the updated manuscript back to us, could have an article in print within six months of first submission.

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On to D.C.

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We are teaming up with VisCom, Magazine, CTEC, and CCJA for this day-long event.

RTVJ Vice Head/Program Chair Mary Rogus has worked diligently to make sure our Washington, D.C., panel programming is varied and focused on fresh topic areas. DBJE Chair Denise Dowling is working with Wendell Cochran from American University on plans for a Friday night reception during which time the Bliss Award Recipient will be honored. As you may recall, our membership decided that the Ed Bliss Room at American University will be the new home of our DBJE Bliss Award Plaque beginning next August.

I know most of us were pleased to receive our inaugural issues of our new division journal, *Electronic News*. Robert Papper and Charlie Tuggle have done a great job in bringing this project to fruition. Tuggle has an update in this edition of *Static*. I would also like to invite RTVJ members to submit articles to *Static*. You are welcome to write about new books you have written, awards you have received, or any other issues of concern to the division membership. You can email articles to RTVJ Secretary and *Static* Editor Susan Zuckerman (szuckerman@ric.edu) or to me (piperaik@msu.edu).

Testing the Limits: Bong Hits 4 Student Free Speech

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



In the winter of 2002, people in the city of Juneau, Alaska lined the streets to get a glimpse of the Olympic torch. The torch was on its way to the Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. Students from Juneau-Douglas High School were among those watching. They stood patiently on the sidewalk across from the school. Teachers had excused them from the class that day so they could see history in the making. Instead, the students themselves made history.

As the torch passed by the students, Joe Frederick and his friends unveiled their 14-foot banner, which read, "Bong Hits 4 Jesus." In news reports, Frederick said the words didn't mean anything. He simply wanted to test the limits of student free speech. That he did.

Principal Deborah Morse crossed the street and took the banner. Frederick was later suspended for 10 days. To officials, the sign challenged the school's anti-drug policies during an event they considered a school function. Both sides argued they were justified. Five years later, their arguments would reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

On March 19, the nation's highest court heard oral arguments in the case. It was the first time the court had taken a case about student free speech

rights in almost two decades. Already, a 1969 ruling states students do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate." Many wondered if this case would uphold that decision. Perhaps this case would clarify the ruling or maybe even open the door to new interpretations.

Kenneth Starr argued on behalf of the Juneau School Board. The former independent prosecutor's investigation led to the impeachment of President Clinton in 1998. The American Civil Liberties Union helped Joe Frederick and his attorney, Doug Mertz. Although this case involved a high school student, those on college campuses are watching this case closely. What happens next could have a profound impact on students at all levels of education. A decision on the case is expected in June.

Electronic News

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Another plus is that those who have made it to the revise and resubmit round and who have responded to the reviewers and made the requested changes (some have actually gone through three rounds of changes) have eventually been rewarded with acceptance.

I'm very proud of our reviewers, most of whom get their reviews to us in a timely manner, and most of whom are willing to work with the authors to bring the pieces to publication quality. Not many of our reviewers seem to be looking for an excuse to reject papers if they fit within the mission of the journal and there seems to be a way to work out any deficiencies.

We're on rolling deadlines, meaning as soon as one edition goes to the publisher, we're working on another one. We can always use more submissions and more reviewers.

Also, if you have a book you'd like to have reviewed that fits within the scope of the journal, please send it to Jim Upshaw at the University of Oregon. Those of you who have papers accepted by the division for presentation at the national conference, we expect to see those papers in our pipeline soon.

AEJMC 2007 Convention Registration

	<u>"Early Bird"</u> (by July 9)	<u>Regular</u> (after July 9)
Member:	\$120	\$160
Non-member	\$225	\$265
Student member	\$ 55	\$ 70
Non-member student	\$100	\$115
Retired member	\$55	\$ 70

Non-member fees include AEJMC membership dues. Early registration is available on the AEJMC website at the end of April. A 9% processing fee applies to online registrations. AEJMC will continue to accept convention registrations via mail and FAX.

Ethics, New Media, and Coaching Skills Featured at RTNDA

By Denise Dowling
University of Montana
DBJE Chair
RTNDA Liaison



It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your RTNDA liaison this past year. The board members are an absolute delight to work with. We've all been busy putting the finishing touches on the April convention which I hope many of you attended. I worked with several other board members in putting together the educator track sessions. Here are the highlights.

We've invited several talent coaches to share their skills with educators and news directors. Two radio and two television coaches will make presentations about how they work, then conduct actual coaching sessions while we observe. This will allow us to brush up on our coaching skills and perhaps learn some new tools to guide our young anchors and reporters to greatness.

Another session will show us what our graduates need to know to be successful in this "new media" world. News directors with dynamic web sites will tell us what they look for in new hires. We hope this will give educators

some ideas on how to hone our curricula to make sure our students are ready for the current media landscape.

We'll find out if there's a divide between newsroom and classroom ethics in another session. Educators will outline how the basic tenets of journalism ethics are being taught in the classroom. Then we'll hear from professionals about times they felt unprepared to deal with an ethical dilemma on the job. Again we hope this will present opportunities for us to update our syllabi to reflect the current newsroom landscape.

Now let me put on my other hat as chair of the Ed Bliss award committee. We have received three outstanding nominations for the honor this year. Those packets have gone out to the committee members for their review and ranking.

We will present the Bliss award to this year's outstanding broadcast journalism educator at our business meeting, which will be held Friday evening at the convention site. Following the business meeting, we'll dedicate the Bliss Award plaque at American University's on-site social.

Hope you are all having a good semester and I look forward to seeing you in Washington D.C., in August.

From the Membership Committee

Recruiting Graduate Students to Join AEJMC

By Sue Westcott Alessandri
Syracuse University

As a Ph.D. student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I found that it was pretty much expected that we would join AEJMC. From almost the first day we arrived on campus, my cohort and I started hearing about "presenting at AEJ." I believe this culture helped set the proper expectations for graduate students who would one day be faculty.

AEJMC is an integral part of a graduate student's socialization into academia. Yet while it is in their best interest to join the organization as early as possible, some students might hesitate to take that step, whether it's because they aren't familiar with the organization or because they're not sure their research will fit in. A nudge from a trusted faculty member might be just what they need.

For suggestions about helping students to get involved with AEJMC, see page 8.

Teaching Panels Focus on Getting Young Journalists Ready for the World

By Laura Smith
University of South
Carolina
RTVJ Teaching Chair



It's hard to believe, but it's been a year and a half since Hurricane Katrina tore across the gulf coast, leaving a trail of death and destruction in its wake.

Of course, we teach our students not to use clichés like that when they write. But do we teach them how to deal with *real* death and destruction before they head out to cover such a horrific scene? Teaching students to handle traumatic conditions in the field was the subject of a marvelous panel last month at the Southeast Colloquium. Because the conference was held in New Orleans, the venue was perfect.

Panelists focused on ways professors can prepare students to cover emotional news stories... from floating bodies to bloody criminal court cases. Bill Davie (University of Louisiana at Lafayette) and Nancy Dupont (University of Mississippi) discussed how they briefed and de-briefed students who covered Katrina. Chris Nakamoto covered the storm as part of his journalistic training at Loyola. Now an assignment editor at WGNO-TV in New Orleans, Chris talked about the personal impact it had on him and how his professors helped him cope.

Gretchen Dworzniak (Ashland University) brought her research expertise to the topic – sharing results of a study she conducted on the merits of trauma training. And Mike Walter rounded out the panel. As an Ochberg Fellow with the Dart Center and morning anchor at WUSA-TV In Washington DC, Mike witnessed the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon. He produced educational video for the Dart Center on interviewing victims of violence and shared his experiences with the audience.

Now, the crowd – or lack thereof – left something to be desired. We wish more of you were on hand to participate. But our panelists and esteemed moderator didn't let that get them down. We really appreciate all the effort they put into generating such a wonderful and educational conversation!

If you missed out on the discussion in New Orleans, another “teachable” moment is right around the corner. This summer in D.C., an esteemed group of professors and working professionals is slated to debate the future of Backpack Journalism in local television news. From KRON (in San Francisco) to WKRN (in Nashville, Tennessee) to WFMY (in Greensboro, North Carolina), more and more local television news operations are going the VJ (Video Journalist) route.

The trend has serious implications for the future of news workers and the quality of news. Photographers must now be prepared to conduct interviews, organize and write stories, and identify potential editorial and legal problems, while reporters shoot and edit their own stories.

What does it mean for the editorial process, for visual quality, and for broadcast faculty trying to prepare the next generation of journalists? This panel, co-sponsored by RTVJ and the Internships and Career Interest Group, will focus on the pros and cons of these changes for television newsrooms and news workers.

And speaking of pros, we have plenty on tap. Lane Michaelsen, Vice President/News Executive for Gannett's Broadcast Division; Rich Murphy from FOX News in D.C.; and Dick Moore, Former VP for News for Gannett (and current Associate Professor of Journalism at the University of South Carolina) are on board for the discussion. Deidre McDonald from Clark Atlanta University will moderate.

As your teaching chair, I hope to be there as

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RTVJ Convention Sessions Announced . . .

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Friday, Aug. 10, 8:15-9:45 a.m. "Radio News: An Oxymoron? An Endangered Species?"

co-sponsor: Media Management and Economics

Radio listenership remains strong, but radio news is questionable, with the exception of NPR. What has happened to the great radio news networks and is radio news viable going forward?

Friday, 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. "If all Politics is Local, Then Why Aren't Community Journalists Doing More Coverage of their Congressional Officials?"

co-sponsor: Community Journalism IG

Why don't community newspapers and small market radio and television newsrooms do a better job of covering the elected congressional representatives from their markets? Don't small communities deserve more than just grip and grin coverage of these politicians? This panel provides answers from professionals working in those markets.

Friday, 5-6:30 p.m. "Covering the 2006 Mid-Term Elections and Looking Ahead to 2008: What Should Journalism Educators Know about how Washington Prepares?"

co-sponsor: Cultural and Critical Studies

This panel will take advantage of our Washington location and bring in national political correspondents to talk about election coverage of the mid-terms and how that will set-up the presidential race in 2008.

Friday, 6:45-8:15 p.m. RTVJ Members' Meeting and Bliss Award Ceremony

The RTVJ Division business meeting and Bliss Award Ceremony is on-site this year and followed by a reception and special dedication of the Ed Bliss Award plaque to Professor Bliss' home university, American University. We'll update Division business and our new journal which is now in press. We will honor this year's outstanding broadcast journalism educator with the presentation of the Ed Bliss award. Following our business meeting and award ceremony, we will celebrate this year's Bliss honoree and dedicate the Bliss Award plaque at American University's on-site social.

Saturday, Aug. 11, 8:15-9:45 a.m. RTVJ Research Session

Saturday, 12:15-1:30 p.m. Scholar-to-Scholar (RTVJ Division)

Saturday, 1:45-3:15 p.m. "The Feminization of Broadcasting: Good News or Bad News?"

co-sponsor: Commission on the Status of Women

The "Washington Post" reported in July that men are signing off from careers in television news. This panel will focus on what happens to the television news profession when it becomes dominated by women. What are the implications for salary, promotion, credibility and attracting students to broadcast journalism programs?

Saturday, 3:30-5 p.m. "Local TV News and the V-J Phenomenon: Preparing Students for Backpack Journalism"

co-sponsor: Internships and Career Interest Group

From KRON-TV (San Francisco) to WKRN-TV (Nashville), local television news operations across the country are going the V-J route, making everyone in the newsroom a one-man-band. This panel will examine what this means for the future of television news and for those of us preparing students for a career in the news business.

Saturday, 5:15-6:45 p.m. RTVJ Research Session

Sunday, Aug. 12, 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. RTVJ Research Session

That's our programming for AEJMC 2007 in Washington, D.C. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Four Ways You Can Encourage Grad Students to Participate in AEJMC

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- In your classes, require a research paper that can be submitted to a regional or annual AEJMC conference. Set due dates with the AEJMC deadlines in mind, so timing isn't a factor.
- Partner with graduate students to conduct research beyond coursework to be presented at AEJMC-sponsored conferences. This research adds credibility by linking students' work with nationally known scholars.
- Walk your advisees around at an AEJMC conference to introduce students to the people who might one day hire them. On a personal level, introducing graduate students to established faculty members helps to make students feel more comfortable as scholars—rather than merely as students.
- Encourage your advisees to get involved in a division related to their research interests. This helps graduate students realize that they are accomplished enough to take part in the organization.

For information on AEJMC membership, refer your students to <http://aejmc.org>.

RTVJ Officers for 2006-2007

Head: Kim Piper-Aiken, Michigan State University
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Vice Head: Mary T. Rogus, Ohio University
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PF&R Chair: Joy Chavez Mapaye, Alaska-Anchorage
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Hotel Reservations for the AEJMC Convention, August, 2007

Renaissance Washington D.C. Hotel
999 9th Street NW
202-898-9000

Single \$138 • Double \$158 (+14.5% tax)
Renaissance Worldwide Reservations: 800-
HOTELS-1 (800-468-3571)

Name of the meeting in the Renaissance
reservations system: AEJMC ANNUAL
MEETING. Hotel reservations link available
on the AEJMC Website in late April 2007.

Preparing Our Students

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Well, but my latest "production" might keep me away. As many of you know, I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl in December. Eliza is doing quite well. However, as a new mom, my travel plans are still a little uncertain. So if I'm not there, you'll know why.

If you're at AEJ... no excuses... show up and support your peers as they discuss the future of our industry and how to best prepare our students for the challenges ahead! So mark your calendars: Saturday, August 11 from 3:30 – 5 p.m.!