

ANNUAL REPORT

ELECTRONIC NEWS DIVISION, AEJMC

2012-2013

Division Head: Laura K. Smith, Huston-Tillotson University
Assistant Professor, Communication

Vice Head/Program Chair: Tim Bajkiewicz, Virginia Commonwealth
Associate Professor, Broadcast Journalism

Research: Dale Edwards, University of Northern Colorado
Associate Professor, Journalism & Mass Communication

PF&R: Cindie Jeter Yanow, Southeast Missouri State
Instructor, Department of Mass Media

Teaching: Peter Morello, University of Missouri-Kansas City
Associate Professor, Broadcast Journalism

Newsletter Editor/Secretary: Victoria La Poe, Louisiana State University (ABD)

Membership: John Shrader, California State University (Long Beach)
Assistant Professor, Journalism & Communication

Web Master: Roger Mellen, New Mexico State University (inactive)
Associate Professor, Journalism & Mass Communications

Southeast Colloquium: David A. Free, University of Texas at Austin (ABD)

Graduate Liaison: Denae D'Arcy, University of Tennessee (ABD)

Bliss Awards: Gary Hanson, Kent State
Professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication

RTDNA Liaison: Anthony Moretti, Robert Morris University
Associate Professor, School of Communications and Information Systems

2. Annual Demographic Form (see attached)

3. Overall Statement (teaching, research, PF&R).

We are extremely pleased with this year's overall performance, officer participation and conference program. This year saw rebuilding among the officers, including brand new leadership. When the previous Vice-Head dropped out, upon request of the previous Head the previous Teaching Chair became Head (without having been Vice-Head and Programming Chair), while the previous Webmaster (who held the position for eight years) became Vice-Head upon request of the incoming Head. Previous division leaders offered valuable help and advice, including past Head William Davie, Louisiana at Lafayette, who joined the current leadership at the Mid-Winter Chip Auction. At the 2012 Chicago conference the meetings for past leaders, current officers and members stressed this theme of rebuilding and revitalizing the division. We believe we have been successful and look forward to capitalizing on our advances.

For the conference, Electronic News has one pre-conference workshop and twelve panels scheduled. With the exception of research panels, all conference offerings are co-sponsored with other divisions and interest groups. As in previous years, our conference programming demonstrates a reasonably balanced approach. We have three teaching panels on tap (plus a co-sponsored workshop on student media), five PF&R panels, and five research sessions (including our scholar-to-scholar presentations). One research panel features scholarly work submitted as part of our ongoing experiment with our journal, *Electronic News*. This year's special call involved the 2012 Elections. Four authors were chosen to present at AEJMC as well as have their work published in a special edition of the journal (planned for December 2013). Our teaching and PF&R panels cover a wide range of current topics and feature diverse group of presenters. Of 35 panelists, 40% are Asian, African American, Hispanic or International.

4. Please write a bullet-point statement (500 word maximum), to be co-authored by the outgoing and incoming Heads, addressing:

- ***What are your most important goals for the upcoming year?***

Officer efforts and cohesion: Electronic News officers worked extremely well together this year and, for the first time in several years, we managed to hold on to almost all of our officers. Those relationships bore fruit for our division, especially in terms of quality conference programming and a well-run research paper competition. In the year ahead, we hope to continue that tradition in three ways. First, we hope to engage and grow future officers with an eye toward enhancing diversity in our leadership and our membership. We are actively recruiting diverse officers and have several new possibilities in the pipeline. Second, we want to maintain and build relationships with other divisions to produce cutting-edge, interesting and useful conference programming. We are particularly happy with the work we've been doing with Newspaper and Online News (NON) as well as Minorities and Communication (MAC). Third, we are building relationships *outside* of AEJMC. In the 2013-2014

academic year, the experiment with our journal, *Electronic News*, will extend to the News Division of the Broadcast Education Association (BEA). Instead of presenting scholarly work at AEJMC, next year, accepted authors will present their work at BEA in Las Vegas (in an effort to bridge the two organizations through scholarship). If successful, it is our hope to alternate presentations between the two venues in coming years.

Communication and Branding: Building our brand through better communication was also a goal for the year, one we *did* have success with. We increased the number of newsletters from three to four and updated our email listserv for the first time in years, which ensured that ALL current members were included in the online conversations this year (and there were many). We've also switched from the previous "/rtvj" website to "/end" to reflect our new name. Personal medical issues slowed the work of our Web master and he had to step aside, but a new Web master took over in June. After the severe security breach to the AEJMC web sites in early spring 2013 we worked with AEJMC webmaster Randy Reddick to be the first division to have a new site. He is currently upgrading our site with new content, the new Wordpress templates to fix content and address security matters. A new logo competition will be launched shortly. In all, we're doing a much better job of communicating with each other and our members.

- ***What goals did your group set that you were unable to reach?***

Attrition rate: One of our main goals this year was to address the attrition rate of officers. As noted in previous years' reports, on several occasions, we have lost an officer playing a critical role, sometime in the midst of conference programming. This year's officers have voted to move forward with a change in the bylaws that would create a new Vice Head Elect position. We are currently rewriting the bylaws and, after a brief comment period later this summer (July 15-30th), END members will vote on the change during the 2013 Business Meeting (Aug 10th, 7pm).

- ***How may any or all of the Standing Committees help you to achieve your goals in the coming year?***

While we understand and support the elimination of the mid-winter Chip Auction, it would be great to investigate new ways to build relationships between division leaders. Can we add an additional "meet and greet" event for heads/vice heads/vice head elects during AEJMC (other than the COD meeting/s)? Can we add a COD Blog or create a separate web space of some sort so we can discuss potential topics and form partnerships? Perhaps folks on the standing committees might have some ideas?

Research:

5. *Number of faculty research paper submissions: 29; number of acceptances: 15 (52%).*

6. *Number of student research paper submissions: 9; number of acceptances: 4 (44%).*

7. *Overview of judging process (forms used, please attach).*

The judging process consisted of an original email invitation to all END Listserv subscribers seeking judges for the paper competition. That was followed by a second plea for additional judges when it became apparent that the number of submissions was significantly larger than the previous year. The total number of volunteers willing to serve as judges was 27. The papers were assigned to those judges according to their expressed limitations (number of papers, areas of interest, particular skills sets, e.g. quantitative statistics, qualitative research, etc.) After the judges completed their work, acceptances were made using the All-Academic website. The top 19 papers were accepted, for a 50% overall acceptance rate. The remaining 19 papers were rejected. Using the All-Academic site, emails were sent out notifying the authors whose papers were accepted and those whose papers were rejected. The papers were categorized by theme, and 12 papers were assigned to the division's three research paper presentation slots. The remaining seven accepted papers were assigned to Scholar to Scholar sessions.

8. *Total # of judges: 27 = 4.2 papers per judge.*

9. *Did your group conduct any other type of refereed competition?*

For the second year in a row, we had a special call for research to our journal, *Electronic News*. This year's topic was the 2012 Election. Authors were invited to submit original research relating to the topic using any research method they thought was appropriate. We do not know how many papers were submitted for consideration because that process was handled directly by journal editors. All submissions were blind reviewed by journal reviewers. Eventually four papers were accepted for presentation at this year's conference in Washington. The authors are also eligible to have their work published in a special edition of the journal, currently scheduled for publication in December 2013.

10. *In-Conference Research Activities:*

Electronic News is sponsoring a total of five research sessions at AEJMC this year, including a S-2-S session in which seven papers will be presented:

- **That's Debatable: How do we cover it when people disagree?**
Thur., Aug 8th, 8:15am. Refereed.
- **Sure, The Social Media Are Out There, But Are They Important?**
Thur., Aug 8th, 5:00pm. Refereed; Includes Top Faculty paper.

- **Scholar-to-Scholar session.** Friday, Aug. 9th, 1:30pm. Refereed; Includes Top S-2-S paper.
- **Covering Sometimes Controversial Topics — Sometimes Controversially.** Fri., August 9th, 8:15am. Refereed; Includes Top Student paper.
- **2012 Election.** Fri., Aug 9th, 5:00pm. Blind review via Electronic News for special edition of publication.

11. Out-of-convention Research Activities:

Electronic News had a good showing at the Southeast Colloquium this year, meeting an important research goal for the division. This year's event took place at the University of South Florida (*Tampa, FL, February 28 – March 3, 2013*). Two of the primary objectives for the 2013 SE Electronic News Division research paper call were to increase the number of submissions from 2012 and host an exclusive Electronic News Division session. A plan of action was initiated to provide ample notifications of the 2013 paper call through postings on the main AEJMC Website, END's newsletter Static, the Southeast Colloquium Website, social media, and direct e-mails to schools' journalism departments. Members and journalism departments were encouraged to post the call electronically, print and post on hallway bulletin boards/kiosks, and/or pass along to colleagues. Also, adding a monetary incentive of a top paper award may have contributed to increasing the number of submissions. The results of this initiative yielded four submissions and reviewers/judges accepted all four papers for presentation in an exclusive END session. The main objectives were met for 2013. The top paper recipients were awarded \$100.

12. Please describe briefly the research goals and activities of your division. Such description may include discussion of primary accomplishments, programming diversity, special competitions, faculty/student research awards, newsletter activities and other activities.

- To enhance the profile of our Scholar-to-Scholar session, our membership voted to make last year's "Top S2S Paper" initiative permanent. We will give this award again this year. Last year, we called this an "interactive paper competition" but we decided not to use that name again this year (so it would not be confused with the concept of "interactive" media). END officers will meet to evaluate all presenters during the S2S session and award \$100 and a plaque to the most engaging research/presentation.
- Both the AEJMC and SE colloquium competitions ran smoothly and according to plan. This year we saw a 20% increase in paper submissions to the AEJMC competition. As such, it is our goal to increase the number of reviewers available in advance next year by doing some early recruiting.
- Recommendations for increasing the presence and participation of END at the 2014 Southeast Colloquium include soliciting members for panel proposals on issues facing electronic news/journalism, as well as a possible collaboration with another division, while continuing to communicate through division and AEJMC Websites, social media, and direct contact via e-mail.

Teaching:

13. Please list your in-convention activities related to teaching. Describe how these activities fulfill one or more of the Teaching Standards Committee's focus on curriculum, leadership, course content, etc.

We're pleased with the range of topics and that each panel is co-sponsored with another division or interest group.

- **Big Ideas and Best Practices for Student-Produced News (Wed., Aug 7th, 1-5 p.m.).** During this preconference workshop, co-sponsored with the Newspaper and Online News Division, student media advisers and journalism educators from around the country will discuss and demonstrate their student publications and broadcasts. The first session focuses on newspaper and online student news; the second session focuses on broadcast student news; and the third session features leading multimedia scholar and thinker John V. Pavlik, Associate Dean for Research, Northwestern, Qatar, discussing the future of student-produced news.
- **Graduate Student Teaching Assistants: A Status Report (Thur., Aug 8th, 10am).** This session, co-sponsored with the Graduate Student Interest Group, addressed the central role graduate student teaching assistants play in the implementation of course curricula, development of course content, new teaching methods and assessment. At many public and private universities, graduate T.A.s are expected to take the lead in introducing new technologies in their broadcast, multimedia reporting, and strategic communication courses. The panel explored how the needs of graduate teaching assistants are being met, and how the dynamics of a relationship between the professor and TA can determine the success of a course. The panel included current graduate students, professors who assessed their work, and former graduate students who are now assistant professors.
- **From Newsroom to Classroom: Diversity, Pedagogy, and the Transition from Working Journalist to Journalism Teacher (Sat., Aug 10th, 8:15am).** This panel was part of the AEJMC Diversity Task Force's "From Professional to Professor" series. The aim of the series is to support journalists and former journalists from diverse backgrounds as they transition to academia. This panel drew on the real-life experiences of working journalists who are now full-time faculty members, addressing curriculum development, classroom management, balancing teaching and research. The panel also explored the cultural aspects of university teaching, in particular highlighting the experiences of minority faculty in majority institutions, majority faculty in minority institutions, and the challenges of moving from practice to pedagogy.
- **Where the Jobs Are: Developing Student Internships in the Off-Camera News Jobs of Producing, Videography and Production (Sun., Aug 11th, 11am).** This panel, co-sponsored with the Internships and Careers Interest Group, examined best practices for getting internships in place for students. Many current students expect

to become network anchors or ESPN reporters. But many TV stations are desperate to find quality students to fill behind-the-scenes positions. The session was devoted to how instructors can encourage to students to take internships and to appreciate the importance of behind-the-scenes careers.

Our practice of recognizing excellence in teaching through the *Edward L. Bliss Award for Distinguished Broadcast Education* continues at this year's conference which marks the award's 30th year. Our 2013 recipient is a long-time contributor to our division as well as the teaching profession. William Davie, Louisiana at Lafayette, will be recognized for his truly incredible work during our annual Business and Awards meeting (Sat., Aug 10th, 7pm).

14. Please list your out-of-convention activities related to teaching. Describe how these activities fulfill one or more of the Teaching Standards Committee's focus on curriculum, leadership, course content and teaching methods, or assessment.

In addition to submitting a number of teaching panel proposals for the conference, and coordinating the production of those panels, our Teaching Chair wrote several articles for our *Static* newsletter this year. The articles include:

- **“Nurturing the Soul” (December 2012):** This article pointed to the growing number of cases involving faculty burnout, a heightened mood of cynicism, and increasing workloads, that authors Lee Bolman and Joan Gallos reviewed in *Reframing Academic Leadership*. The article profiled a professor of educational psychology who gave tips to journalism educators on how to find that balance between the demands of academia and sustaining personal vitality.
- **“Guns in the Classroom” (April 2013):** This article reviewed “Concealed Carry” as a sudden major policy concern for college and university educators. In its annual listing of the top 10 higher education issues, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) ranked “Guns on Campus” as Issue Number Eight for 2013. Many states considering bans on concealed handguns on campus. A faculty member, a student or an administrator with a concealed-weapon permit could be allowed to carry a gun in public institutions of higher education.

15. Please describe briefly the Teaching goals and activities of your division. Such description may include discussion of primary accomplishments, programming diversity, special competitions, faculty/student research awards, newsletter activities and other activities.

END recognizes that it is vital for educators to develop reporting/electronic newsgathering technologies that are “ahead of curve” of industry standards. Students, who master these technologies, are likely to become better journalists. As such, one of our goals include to expand the number of END teaching panels and the publications of articles on improving broadcast journalism education through the introduction of tablet

(i.e., iPad, or iPad Mini) and smart phone technologies in classrooms and media labs.

It is also our intention to raise the number of teaching sessions offered at AEJMC. For the past two years, we've had more PF&R sessions than teaching sessions. We will encourage our membership and officers to consider ideas for and submit teaching-focused panel proposals so we have more to offer in the mid-winter panel discussions.

Professional Freedom & Responsibility:

16. Please list your in-convention activities related to PF&R. Describe how these activities fulfill one or more of the PF&R Committee's focus on free expression, ethics, media criticism & accountability, racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness, or public service.

END will offer five co-sponsored PF&R panels at this year's conference. Panel titles and descriptions are included to show how each panel fits with PF&R foci. Non-member invited speakers are listed for each:

- **News Coverage of Terrorism in the name of Allah (co-sponsored with International Communications Division)(Thur., Aug 8th, 1:30pm):** The Arab Spring has sparked much debate over the future of democracy and western influence in the region especially as acts of terrorism continue to plague the region. News coverage of riots and acts of terrorism by outlets such as Al Jazeera and Al Hurra have figured prominently in what some believe is shaping events. This panel will weigh the consequences, causes and effects of coverage of terrorist acts in the region. ***Non-member speakers include:*** Haris Tarin, Director, Muslim Public Affairs Council (Washington office).
- **Missing Minorities: The Problem of Child Abduction Coverage (co sponsored with Minorities and Communication)(Thur., Aug 8th, 3:15pm).** From Natalee Holloway, to Casey Anthony, to Jon Benet Ramsey, the mainstream media commonly follows cases of missing children or teenagers. And often, the public watches with rapt attention. But more often than not, those cases involve cute Caucasian girls. If the missing children are brown-eyed African Americans, or "worse yet," boys, they are significantly less likely to get the attention of news editors – nationally and locally. Officials with the Black and Missing Foundation Inc., an organization that focuses on finding missing minorities, says they continuously struggle to get and maintain news coverage of minority missing persons cases. What is happening here? What are the forces in culture, and more specifically in our news routines, that contribute to this ongoing problem? How are news values shifting so that child abduction cases get less airtime than entertainment news? ***Non-member speakers include:*** Natalie Wilson, co-founder and director of Public Relations, Black and Missing Foundation, Inc. and Tony Loftis, president and executive director, FindYourMissingChild.org.

- **Current Issues at the FCC: What's likely to change after the 2012 election (co-sponsored with Law and Policy)(Fri., Aug 9th, 11:45am):** The FCC is currently facing a number of pressing issues regarding content and ownership regulations. In addition, the FCC's role in regulating the Internet continues to be debated by politicians, academics, and corporations. What will be the impact of the November 2012 election on the Federal Communications Commission? Will the FCC get a mandate to regulate the Internet? Is net neutrality dead or alive? In the wake of Fox Television Stations v. FCC, will the FCC ever again take any action on broadcast indecency? Information/communications privacy? Will anything happen with concentration of ownership, and with minority ownership? The panel will examine these and other developing policy and regulatory issues affecting electronic media. *Non-member speakers include:* Sherrese Smith, former chief counsel, Office of FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski, S. Jenell Trigg, member, Lerman Senter, chair, Intellectual Property and New Media & Technology Practice Group, Rosemary Harold, partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, and □Sean McGarvy, director at-large, Radio Television Digital News Association.
- **Community Media Tackle Hurricane Sandy and its Aftermath (co-sponsored with Community Journalism Interest Group)(Fri., Aug 9th, 3:15pm):** This panel will bring together the first responders of the media who worked on the front lines of Hurricane Sandy before, during and after the storm to communicate the latest information to their residents. When major media coverage abates during the cleanup, community journalism remains providing the updates residents need and want to know. Online outlets offered up-to-the-minute information for residents with power or Internet access. Panelists will share experiences covering the storm and its aftermath, and discuss insights to emergency preparedness for the media. *Non-member speakers include:* Ned Berke, Sheepshead Bites, Brooklyn, NY □Randy Bergmann, Director of community engagement, *Asbury Park Press* Debbie Galant, founder, Baristanet.com, and director, N.J. News Commons.
- **The State of the Industry: Print, Broadcast and Online (co-sponsored with Newspaper & Online)(Friday, Aug 9th, 5pm):** In this time of change and uncertainty in the media, it's critical to stay on top of the latest developments and directions in the industry for which we prepare so many of our students. This panel reveals and panelists discuss the very latest research on the State of the (News) Industry... now and in the future. *Non-member speakers include:* Jim Brady, editor-in-chief, Digital First Media, president, Online News Association Karen Dunlap, president, The Poynter Institute, Rob Mennie, senior vice president, Senior News Executive, Gannett Broadcasting Tom Rosenstiel, executive director, The American Press Institute.

17. Please list your out-of-convention activities related to PF&R. Describe how these activities fulfill one or more of the PF&R Committee's focus on free expression, ethics, media criticism & accountability racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness, or public service.

Our PF&R Chair wrote several articles for our Static newsletter, including an article on the growing practice of Drone Journalism (December 2012) and an article announcing the retirement of one of our long-time, noteworthy members – Bob Papper (April 2013).

18. Please describe briefly PF&R goals and activities of your division. Such description may include discussion of primary accomplishments, programming diversity, special competitions, faculty/student research awards, newsletter activities and other activities.

Our membership played a big part in keeping the PF&R conversations lively this year, partly through a number of conversations on our END listserv. We were especially pleased to see this in light of our efforts to revive the practice. In the past, our members held regular discussions through this medium but in recent years, the number of threads had decreased. Part of the improvement came from updating our listserv subscriptions and manually inputting all current members to be sure they were included. We increased the number of announcements and put out a number of prompts to let folks know we were interested in dialogue. Members responded. Some of the threads were teaching-related. They included:

- AEJMC's mentorship program
- Boston Marathon Bombings coverage
- Methods for enhancing student job searches & resume production
- Media graphics, cameras and editing equipment/technology (uses, benefits, brands)
- Staffing cutbacks and national/regional media organizations
- Fair Use and Copyrighted material
- Documentary production
- Textbook selection and preferences/uses (online and digital reading)
- Diversity programs available to students

Although the conversations did begin, we'd like to see more of this kind of conversation, especially regarding professional industry practices and issues. Our goal is to facilitate more of these threads and discussions through guided prompts and postings on our listserv and, increasingly, on our website in the year ahead.

General Information:

19. Please attach copies of newsletters and any other material you wish us to note.

- 1) 3 Newsletters - *Static* (the 4th is currently in production)
- 2) Special Call – Electronic News journal
- 3) SE Colloquium Call