



The Newsletter of the AEJMC Electronic News Division | Volume 55, Number 3 | Fall 2017

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The 'point' of fall in Electronic News

Tony DeMars, Division Head

Texas A&M University-Commerce

The point at which we pull together a fall newsletter makes for interesting experience. At one level, it's time to reflect back on the previous year and recognize that leadership for the Electronic News Division was effective and our division had a good cohesiveness. And that one good year reflects back to previous years and our continued success as a division.

This is the point where we recognize that END contributed well to the Chicago convention, with great panels and great competitive research. That quality is based on good proposals, good co-sponsorships and good implementation of topics, as well as a robust submission of competitive papers. Thanks to everyone for your contribution to the success.



The Cloud Gate in Chicago's Millennium Park, a short walk from the site of AEJMC's 100th convention. // Photo by Dylan McLemore

This is the time also to have firm plans for our 2018 activities. Got a good idea for a news-related research project? Start planning for both the Southeast Colloquium at the University of Alabama March 8-10, 2018 and the AEJMC Convention in Washington, D.C. August 6-9, 2018.

For the Southeast Colloquium, the submission deadline is December 11. The END submissions will go to Kathleen Ryan, as found in the just-released Call for Papers,

More from the Division Head, p. 2

DeMars: Opportunities abound for 2018

Continued from p. 1...

Panels and Research in Progress Abstracts. Of course at this point we're past the panel submissions for AEJMC 2018 and Vice Head Lindsey Maxwell is already working on getting our programming finalized. That leaves us to make plans to meet the standard research paper submission deadline of April 1, 2018.

What else should we be thinking about at this point in the year? Well, for one, END comes up for review at the Washington, D.C. conference. I'll be looking for some information from past heads in recent years to help provide the details needed for that report.

Another important issue is the follow up to the committee's discussion in Chicago about the *Electronic News* journal. Continued work needs to be done by the committee to resolve any concerns we have about the journal and/or related to the impact of the journal on our division.

Finally, we should all be thinking of something special that might be added to the Washington, D.C. conference. You have an idea and would like to propose running the pre-conference? Maybe a luncheon? Maybe a special industry speaker? The deadline comes up soon to get funding for bringing in an industry person, so give it some thought and let us know if you have an interest in helping bring something special to our next convention.

Hope you're having a great semester! Contact any of the officers if you have issues or questions, and start thinking now about stepping up to serve next year.

↓ Raise your cup ↓

END members signed and lifted Starbucks cups in memory of Gary Hanson at the 2017 business meeting in Chicago. Hanson was also remembered at the division's reception.

Photo by Indira Somani

END holds business meeting in Chicago

*Dylan McLemore, Secretary / News Editor
University of Central Arkansas*

The annual business meeting of the Electronic News Division was held August 10, 2017 at the Chicago Marriott Magnificent Mile as part of the AEJMC annual conference.

The division saw an increase in paper submissions, and secured an additional paper session to allow more research to be presented. The acceptance rate was 48 percent. Authors of three student papers and one faculty paper were recognized with divisional research awards.

END co-sponsored nine panels, maximizing allocated slots. While diversity of panelists in terms of gender and race was good, a charge was issued for more international representation among panelists in the future.

The *Electronic News* journal saw an increase in submissions and a decrease in acceptances, as the journal is at its saturation point in terms of available print pages. New online-first publishing has resulted in authors' work being shared faster, and a sharp increase in full-text downloads.

An *Electronic News* journal task force was announced with the charge of increasing the journal's clout while saving money. Bill Davie will head the task force. Members are Tim Brown, Sonya Duhe, Lee Hood, Lindsey Maxwell, Jeanne Rollberg, Bill Silcock and journal editor Anthony Moretti. The task force will report back at the 2018 business meeting in Washington, DC.

Members voted on the location of the 2021 annual conference. Of the finalists, E-News members selected Austin, Texas, with New Orleans – the eventual association-wide selection – the only other site receiving votes.

A new slate of officers was presented and approved (meet them on p. 4) and the previous class of officers were recognized for their achievements.

The business meeting ended with a tribute to Gary Hanson, led by Thor Wasbotten. Members toasted Hanson with Starbucks cups, remembering his favorite campus coffee spot.

For the annual report, journal report, and meeting minutes, visit the [END website's Annual Reports page](#).



U.S. journalists and news consumers agree on how to improve mass shooting coverage

*Karen McIntyre, Research Chair
Virginia Commonwealth University*

In the wake of the October 1 shooting in Las Vegas – the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history – it’s important to examine journalists’ roles in such events.

Research shows that the copycat effect, or a connection between media coverage and subsequent mass shootings, does exist (Carey, 2016; Gourarie, 2016; Towers et al., 2015). Yet, a national survey of journalists conducted last year showed that many journalists are not convinced that such a phenomenon occurs (Dahmen, Abdenour, McIntyre, & Noga-Styron, 2017).



Concertgoers dive over a fence to take cover from gunfire. // Photo by David Becker / Getty.

Among those who are convinced, some journalists have refused to publish the name and photo of the perpetrator in mass shootings. However, because an industry-wide decision to withhold such information is unlikely, it’s useful to examine other ways news coverage of mass shootings can be improved.

The national survey referenced above asked journalists how they think mass shooting coverage can be improved.

- 79% of respondents thought coverage could be improved by covering the story longer after the event, not just immediately when the event occurs (otherwise known as parachute journalism).
- 77% thought coverage could be improved by covering stories about possible solutions to the underlying problem.
- 72% thought coverage could be improved by covering stories about survivors.

A follow-up survey representative of American news consumers conducted in September by the same authors found that 69% of the public felt journalists do a good job of covering mass shootings. The survey further found that the public largely agreed with journalists about how to improve coverage. Specifically:

- 73% of respondents thought coverage could be improved by covering the story longer after the event, not just immediately when the event occurs.
- 77% thought coverage could be improved by covering stories about possible solutions to the underlying problem.
- 79% thought coverage could be improved by covering stories about survivors.

As President Barack Obama said in a speech after the 2015 shooting (also on October 1) at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Oregon, news coverage of mass shootings has become routine. Moving forward, journalists should aim to publish constructive coverage of these events, specifically by telling the stories of survivors, continuing to cover the restoration process after these events occur, and investigating potential solutions to the underlying issues that result in such destruction.

Electronic News Division elects '17-18 officers



Tony DeMars
Division Head
Texas A&M University-Commerce



Ashley Gimbal
Membership Chair / Graduate Liaison
Arizona State University



Lindsey Maxwell
Vice Head & Program Chair
University of Southern Mississippi



Dylan McLemore
Secretary & News Editor
University of Central Arkansas



Karen McIntyre
Research Chair
Virginia Commonwealth University



Bill Silcock
Bliss Award Chair
Arizona State University



Maria Fontenot
Prof. Freedom & Responsibility Chair
University of Tennessee



Tim Brown
Burkum Award Chair
University of Central Florida



Peter Morello
Teaching Chair
University of Missouri-Kansas City



Sonya Duhe'
RTDNA Liaison
Loyola University New Orleans

Special Appointments:

Bill Davie *Electronic News Journal Task Force Chair, University of Louisiana*

Kathleen Ryan *Southeast Colloquium Chair, University of Colorado*

PF&R has never been more important

Maria Fontenot, PF&R Chair
University of Tennessee

Hi! I am Maria Fontenot, your new PF&R Chair. I am so excited about serving a division that I have been a member of for so many years! I am a lecturer at the University of Tennessee, where I also did my doctoral work.

I'm sure many of us can agree that these are interesting times for journalists. Never has professional freedom and responsibility been so important. A free and open press is a significant component of a democratic society. Thanks in large part to the current political environment, my classes have been filled with open and robust discussions.

Today, the professional freedom of journalists is under worrying threats, some familiar and some new, but also growing in exciting ways. Around the world, reporters are threatened, jailed, injured and even killed with startling frequency. At home, tweets arrive daily, attacking the media's credibility, independence and its very right to exist, in an effort to drive a wedge between the press and the public it serves. At the same time, the explosion of social media has at once both given a voice to the previously unheard and broken down the trust that many once had in the press. Perhaps more than anything, it has also bound the world even more tightly into a single, interconnected community.

But as we fight to defend and expand our freedom of expression, we must remember that we are rightly being held to an ever-increasing standard of professional responsibility. In a world of Photoshop, "alternative facts", and "fake news", a journalist must earn and respect the trust of the public. We must bear in mind that nothing about the changing media landscape invalidates the old rules of responsible journalism; rather, it makes them even more important.

Issues of privacy, bias, and conflicts of interest, and questions about funding, fact-checking, and unnamed sources continue to be relevant. Our journalistic practices must be above reproach, since ultimately it is the credibility of the media that allows an informed public to exist and a democratic society to function. As educators, it's our job to instill this sense of professionalism in the next generation of journalists.

Finally, as mass communication educators we have a responsibility to serve the public in addition to our teaching and research duties. It is important to create a dialog and foster a relationship between educators and practitioners in order to better serve both our students and the industries into which we send them. The classroom environment is a brilliant forum to undertake the challenges of PF&R. These challenges create exciting, heated, creative, and interesting dialog among educators, students, and practitioners. In my classroom, discussions on issues related to PF&R have been among the most dynamic and enjoyable. They also foster student participation, which, in my opinion, is a magnificent result.

Award Calls

Edward L. Bliss Award

Nominations are due Feb. 15, 2018, for AEJMC's Edward L. Bliss Award for Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Education. The award is presented annually by AEJMC's Electronic News Division and recognizes an electronic journalism educator who has made significant and lasting contributions to the field. Criteria for nomination and selection:

- Teaching: Evidence of long-standing excellent and innovative teaching and student engagement.
- Service: Evidence of leadership in professional or educational organizations such as AEJMC, RTDNA, SPJ, state broadcast news organizations and at the candidate's college or university.
- Research: Evidence of enhanced teaching and service through professional and/or academic writing and research including journal articles, articles in professional trade publications and creative work for broadcast.

Nominations are solicited from the broadcast media, professional organizations and associations, and broadcast educators or students. Letters of nomination should contain specific examples of each of the categories listed above.

The successful Bliss nomination packet will include:

- a detailed, thorough letter of nomination.
- a complete curriculum vitae of the nominee.
- supporting letters from students/former students.

These letters should be concise and limited to no more than seven.

- supporting letters from colleagues, collaborators or co-authors. These should also be concise and limited to no more than seven.
- supporting materials including news coverage of awards and activities. These materials should be VERY limited in number.

Examples of writing or other work by the nominee should not be included. Do not include a statement by the nominee in support of your nomination.

Nominations will remain active with the Bliss selection committee for three years. Nominations will be reviewed by a committee selected by the Electronic News Division officers lead by past division head Bill Silcock, Arizona State. The award will be presented at a special ceremony held by the division at AEJMC's August 2018 Washington, D.C., Conference. The recipient will receive a recognition plaque and a waiver of conference registration fees. In addition, the recipient's name will be added to the permanent plaque housed at American University in Washington, D.C, Ed Bliss' university during his teaching career.

Nominations should be sent to (electronic submissions preferred): Bill Silcock, Assistant Dean for Research and

International Programs, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Arizona State University, 555 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004, bsilcock@asu.edu, 602-319-2818.

Larry Burkum Service Award

Nominations are due Feb. 1, 2018, for AEJMC's Larry Burkum Service Award from the Electronic News Division. This award recognizes an electronic journalist or journalism educator who has demonstrated extraordinary service to journalism and to journalism education.

Honorees may be selected in one of two ways – either through nomination presented to the selection committee (comprised of past EN Division Heads and Burkum Award Winners), or directly by the committee itself. The committee is chaired by Tim Brown, Univ. of Central Florida (contact info below).

Criteria for nomination and selection include strong evidence of significant service contributions to journalism education and to the electronic news industry. Examples of service may include, but are not limited to the following exemplars:

- Heading a national organization dedicated to advancing journalism and journalism education.
- Publishing journalism focused work (e.g., articles for news industry related websites, textbooks, videos).
- Developing and administering foundations that assist journalism students and educators in their growth and development (e.g., scholarship, foundations, etc.).
- Leading educational initiatives within the nominee's industry (e.g., head of internship development for station group; running a student focused apprenticeship program, etc.).
- Research designed to help students and young journalists advance their career performance in journalism, and extraordinary service to the mission of the Electronic News Division.

The successful Burkum [nomination packet](#) will include a detailed, thorough letter of nomination; a complete resume/cv of the nominee; up to three supporting letters from educators/and/or colleagues; however, a statement by the nominee in support of his or her nomination should not be included. Nominations will remain active for three years.

The award will be presented at a special ceremony held by the division at AEJMC's Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. in August, 2018. Electronic nominations should be sent to: Tim Brown, Associate Director of the Nicholson School of Communication, University of Central Florida. timbrown@ucf.edu. Contact Dr. Brown if you have any questions about the nomination process, either via email; phone (407-823-5273) or DM (@doctimbrown).

Connect with Electronic News

Website: aejmc.us/end | Listserv: aejmc.us/end/listserv
Facebook: Search "[enewsddivision](#)" | Twitter: [@AEJMC_End](https://twitter.com/AEJMC_End)

Paper Calls

2018 AEJMC Southeast Colloquium Call for Papers, Panels and Research-in-Progress Abstracts

Authors are invited to submit research papers, panel proposals and/or research-in-progress abstracts for the 43rd Annual AEJMC Southeast Colloquium, which will be held March 8-10, 2018 at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Authors should prepare submissions as either Microsoft Word or PDF file and submit them to the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/y97anqzz>

All submissions must be completed by no later than 11:59 p.m. CST on December 11, 2017. Submissions must be original and must not have been previously presented at a conference. Students and faculty should indicate their status for consideration of faculty and student top paper awards. Do not include any author identifying information on any page of the paper submission. Authors also should redact identifying information from the document properties. On the cover page of the attached paper, only the title of the paper should appear. Following the cover page, include a 250-word abstract. Length of papers should not exceed 30 pages including references and tables (50 pages for Law and Policy papers).

The author of each accepted paper (at least one author in the case of a co-authored paper) must present the paper at the Colloquium or it will not be listed in the final program. Acceptance and/or submission of papers to colloquium paper competitions *does not* prevent authors from submitting to AEJMC divisions for the AEJMC Annual Conference in August. Complete contact information and a complete list of (all) authors must be submitted with other material (and on deadline) or a paper will be disqualified. For online instructions on “how to submit a clean paper” for blind review, see [this link](#). Authors of accepted papers will be notified by early February 2018. In the meantime, read more about the event at the Colloquium website at <https://cis.ua.edu/sec18/>

Panel Proposals

Panel proposals using the same link by Monday, December 11, 2017, and should include a brief description of the panel along with proposed panelists. Proposals should not exceed three double-spaced pages.

Research-In-Progress

The Colloquium will include our first research-in-progress roundtables as an opportunity for researchers to share and get feedback on projects that are in some stage

of development. Authors must submit a synopsis of the project, with some research questions or hypotheses and a paragraph explain what stage of development the project is in. Research chairs will determine how many abstracts can be programmed based on development of research strategy, clarity of research goals and available slots in the roundtable. Research-in-Progress abstracts are NOT eligible for Colloquium research awards.

Participating Divisions and Research Chairs

Newspaper and Online News

Nicole Dahmen, ndahmen@uoregon.edu

Law and Policy

Michael Martinez, mmarti82@utk.edu

History

Cayce Myers, mcmymers@vt.edu

Electronic News

Kathleen Ryan, Kathleen.ryan@colorado.edu

Visual Communication

Gabriel Tait, gtait@astate.edu

Open Division

Eyun-Jung Ki, ki@apr.ua.edu

For more information: Contact the 2018 Colloquium Coordinator George L. Daniels at gdaniels@ua.edu

Have a paper or award call, or other news for our next issue?

Email Static Editor Dylan McLemore

dylan@dylanmclmore.com

STATIC

is the newsletter of the Electronic News Division of the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication.

It publishes three times annually (Fall, Winter & Summer).

Static accepts articles focusing on the division, as well as anything related to the professional or academic sides of our field.

Comments, questions, or article submissions should be directed to
Dylan McLemore, END Newsletter Editor, dylan@dylanmclmore.com

2017 E-News award winners celebrated



Larry Burkum Service Award winner Joe Foote, University of Oklahoma. // *Photo by Mary Rogus.*



Edward L. Bliss Award winner Ken Fischer, University of Oklahoma. // *Photo by Becky Nee.*



2016-17 Research Chair Lindsey Maxwell with student paper winner Bumsso Kim (top) and faculty winner Harrison Hove. // *Photos by Becky Nee.*

Electronic News blows through the Windy City

The Electronic News Division held panels and competitive paper sessions at the 100th annual AEJMC conference in Chicago. The division's reception and awards ceremony was held at WMAQ, NBC Chicago. *Photos by Becky Nee, Mary Rogus, and Indira Somani.*



More photos available in our [Facebook Group](#). Search for "enewsddivision."

