

# STATIC

The Newsletter of the AEJMC Electronic News Division | Volume 57, Number 1 | Spring 2019

## *The Rundown*

### **Award Calls**

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## **Toronto calls near; Mackay named journal editor**

*Lindsey Maxwell, Division Head  
University of Southern Mississippi*

As we move further into the spring semester and closer to the 2019 conference in Toronto, I have a number of updates about what has been happening with our division, as well as thanks to the people who have been working to make the upcoming conference a success.

The deadline for applications for Bliss and Burkum Award nominations is March 15. Thank you to Bill Silcock and Nancy Dupont for getting those calls together and orchestrating the awards that are related to the flagship event for our division—the annual award ceremony. This year's Bliss and Burkum event will be the evening of Friday, August 9 in Toronto.

Thanks are also due to Ginger Blackstone for organizing our division's contribution to AEJMC's Southeast Colloquium, which will be held March 7-9 at the University of South Carolina.

Keep in mind that the deadline for submissions to the main August conference is Monday, April 1. Our research chair, Harrison Hove, will be asking all of us to serve as paper reviewers for the division. The paper competition is an important part of our annual conference, and I encourage all of you to offer to serve as reviewers.

Our division's journal, *Electronic News*, is also in a period of transition. We recently renewed our contract with Sage, and are in the process of welcoming a new co-editor to our team. Anthony Moretti is moving on, and in his place Jenn Burtleson Mackay of Virginia Tech will be serving as co-editor alongside Bob Papper. As part of this transition, I will soon be asking for a renewal of interest in having members of the division serve as reviewers for the journal. I have already asked our leadership team, and many of us are going to begin serving the journal in the near future.

Finally, I would like to thank Karen McIntyre for her work in organizing our panels and research sessions for 2019. We already have a schedule block for August, and the final details will be put together in the coming months.

Thank you for your participation in our division's events, and I look forward to seeing all of you in Toronto in August.



# Nominees sought for division awards

*Nancy Dupont, Burkum Award Chair, University of Mississippi*

*Bill Silcock, Bliss Award Chair, Arizona State University*

## Larry Burkum Service Award

Nominations are due March 15, 2019, 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 Nancy Dupont of the University of Mississippi (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:

- 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 (<http://aejmc.us/end/about/awards-guidelines/>) 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 Toronto convention, August 7-10.

Electronic nominations should be sent to: Nancy Dupont, Professor of Journalism, University of Mississippi at [ndupont@olemiss.edu](mailto:ndupont@olemiss.edu). Please feel free to contact Dr. Dupont if you have any questions about the nomination process, either via email or phone (504) 460-6381.

## Edward L. Bliss Award for Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Education

Nominations are due March 15, 2019, 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, BEA, 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 not to exceed five pages.
- 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 led 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 2019 Toronto 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 (electronic submissions preferred) should be sent to: 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](mailto:bsilcock@asu.edu), 602-319-2818. Silcock may also be contacted for questions and more information.

# Southeast Colloquium kicks off spring in South Carolina

Laura Smith, AEJMC Southeast Colloquium Chair  
University of South Carolina

As former Head of the Electronic News Division, and current Chair of the 44th AEJMC Southeast Colloquium, I'm excited to see members of our division heading our way! As you may (or may not) know, END is one of five divisions that actively participates in this particular regional conference (along with a robust "Open" competition).

This is a great opportunity for us to share our research interests and ideas in a smaller, more personable environment. It's especially well-suited for graduate students who sometimes have a harder time getting travel funding to the larger, national conference.

We have an exciting program this year with a wide range of papers, panels and research-in-progress presentations. You can find program details [here](#).

UofSC's School of Journalism and Mass Communications is also extremely happy to host two, SPJ-sponsored Google News Initiative trainings. END's own Deb Wenger is coming to our "famously hot" city to show us all the very latest in Data Driven Storytelling and Audience Relationship Building.

If you're in the vicinity and aren't registering for the conference, you can still sign up for one of these free trainings as long as there's space: Thur., March 7 (2:30-5:30 p.m.) and Fri., March 8 (8:45 - 11:45 a.m.).

I want to thank Ginger Blackstone for all her work on behalf of our division, coordinating submissions and reviewers. It's not easy to get folks to work over the holiday break! Herding cats... as they say.

If you're not joining us this year, I encourage you to submit your work to next year's event, which will take place at the University of Memphis. You can get valuable feedback on your work, revise and STILL SUBMIT to the national conference. It's truly a win-win.

Again, I'm excited to see my longtime colleagues, friends, and some new faces here in Columbia. Travel safely & pack your appetite (for food, friendship and scholarship).

# END programming set for 2019 Colloquium

Ginger Blackstone, END Southeast Colloquium Chair  
Harding University

## Friday, March 8

2:15—3:30 p.m.

Panel: *The Road to Success in Academe & AEJMC: Grad School and Post-Grad Survival Strategies*

Moderating: Christoph Mergerson | Rutgers

Ginger Blackstone | Harding

Kevin Hull | South Carolina

Dylan McLemore | Central Arkansas

Linwan Wu | South Carolina

3:45—5:00 p.m.

*Refereed Research Session*

Moderating: Ginger Blackstone | Harding

"There's a Camera Everywhere": How Citizen Journalists, Cell Phones and Technology Shape News Coverage of Police Shootings [**Top Student Paper**]

Denetra Walker | South Carolina

Episodic and Thematic Framing of the Yemen War

Manasar Alharethi | Alabama

U.S. Elections: How is Russia Fighting the "Influence War" on American Voters through State-sponsored News on YouTube?

Jennifer Brown, Joshua Weiss | Regent

Immersive Empathy: Utilizing Virtual Reality for Diversity Training in the Multimedia Journalism Classroom

Christine Eschenfelder, Jennifer Woodard, Stephanie Dean | Middle Tennessee State

Media Selection and Usage of Public Opinion Polls in Coverage of the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election

Dylan McLemore | Central Arkansas

3:45—5:00 p.m.

*Refereed Research in Progress*

Moderating: Cory Armstrong | Alabama

Bryan Broadcasting as Hyperlocal Radio

Tony DeMars | Texas A&M-Commerce

President Trump's Trade War with China: Framing Effects of Deviant Coverage

William Davie | Louisiana-Lafayette

The Impact of Social Media in Organizational Behavior in News, Public Relations, and Technologically Driven Firms

Kortni Alston | North Carolina A&T

Gheni Platenburg | Montevallo

Christine Eschenfelder | Middle Tennessee State

## STATIC

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

It publishes three times annually (Fall, Spring & 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@dylanmclemore.com](mailto:dylan@dylanmclemore.com)

# Electronic News Division announces call for papers for 2019 annual conference

Harrison Hove, Research Chair  
University of Florida

The Electronic News Division invites faculty and students to submit original research on any aspect of electronic news content or production. This may include many topics related to broadcast journalism or electronic communication with a journalism emphasis, including television, radio or audio (including news podcasting), reporting for the internet, online journalism, journalism for new and changing media, social media journalism, or the role of social media in journalism.

We welcome research articles that employ qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methodologies. Some possible topics that may be relevant to the Electronic News Division are:

- The role of mobile technologies in electronic news production
- Global perspectives on electronic news
- The impact of social media and broadcast news on politics
- Diversity in the newsroom
- The impact of mobile technologies on traditional broadcast news
- Digital news production
- The impact of social media on consumers' news consumption habits
- Video news produced directly for social media or online sites
- The role of the broadcast journalist in the evolving media landscape

Authors of papers accepted for the conference will be encouraged to submit their manuscript for possible publication in *Electronic News*, the official journal for the Electronic News Division. Papers accepted for the conference are not guaranteed publication in the journal.

Papers submitted to the Electronic News Division competition should be no longer than 25 pages of manuscript, excluding tables, figures, references and appendices, and should be submitted in one of the generally approved academic bibliographic styles. Papers should be in 12-point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced and with one-inch margins. Additionally, a separate page containing an abstract of no more than 75 words is required.

Please be sure to submit a clean paper without author identifying information; otherwise the paper will be disqualified. Please refer to AEJMC's uniform paper call on how to upload clean papers. You are encouraged to submit your paper at least a day or two before the deadline so that you can check to ensure your paper does not contain any identifying information in its properties, as can happen sometimes when Word documents are saved as PDFs. An early submission will allow any and all individuals to fully check submissions as they are entered into the system so that a resubmission prior to the deadline is possible.

The Electronic News Division accepts only one paper per author. This rule is true even if you are the primary author on one paper and co-author on another. In that case, please submit one of the papers to another division. The division offers cash prizes for top student and top faculty paper submissions. Please note the student papers must be completely authored by students. Students with a faculty member as a co-author will be judged in the faculty division.

Authors of all selected papers are expected to present their work in Toronto. Cash awards for winning papers will only be awarded if the authors present their work at the conference.

Questions concerning conference paper submissions to AEJMC should be directed to the division's research chair, Harrison Hove, at [hchove@ufl.edu](mailto:hchove@ufl.edu). Questions regarding submissions to the division's journal, *Electronic News*, should be directed to the editor, Anthony Moretti, at ([moretti@rmu.edu](mailto:moretti@rmu.edu)). All papers must be uploaded through the AEJMC website. Once you have created an account on the AEJMC All Academic site, you will be able to choose the Electronic News Division prior to submitting your paper.



## Connect with Electronic News

Website: [aejmc.us/end](http://aejmc.us/end) | Listserv: [aejmc.us/end/listserv](http://aejmc.us/end/listserv) | Facebook: Search "[enewsdivision](#)"

# Just me and a chalkboard: Electronic media in the classroom, or the lack thereof

*Karen McIntyre, Vice Head and Program Chair  
Virginia Commonwealth University*

There I was, standing at the front of the hot, stuffy classroom with 130 students looking at me. I had these students for four hours a day, five days a week in a practical Journalism Workshop course, and the only “technology” I had to work with was a chalkboard.

Teaching in Rwanda is different than teaching in the U.S. for many reasons, but the lack of technology is one that stands out. I think most professors would prefer to have electronic media in the classroom, but after some reflection, I can see some benefits of going old school.

At VCU, every classroom is adorned with a well-equipped teaching station that includes a working computer and (usually multiple) large screens to project my slides. Of course there’s also reliable internet that I can use to show videos or pull up websites. All of my students have mobile phones that they can use to respond to live, interactive polls that I conduct in class. In sum, I rely on technology during every class session.

Faculty and students at the University of Rwanda School of Journalism and Communication don’t have those luxuries. Technically, the school has projectors in some classrooms, a set of video cameras and other equipment for the students, and free Wi-Fi. In reality, the majority of the projectors are broken, the equipment is locked in a closet for reasons that are not clear, and the Wi-Fi doesn’t work. Also, not every student can afford a mobile phone, or a data package to access the internet on their phone.

The lack of electronic media in the classroom presents many challenges. Here are three:

- Sharing resources with the students is difficult. I would typically share resources, such as readings or homework exercises, online, but because many students don’t have access to the internet, or at least not reliable and consistent access, I must put my resources on a flash drive and share it with the students. You can imagine the chaos that ensues when you have one flash drive and 130 students trying to transfer the documents from it.
- Showing examples of the current day’s news stories in class is nearly impossible. Even if I got a classroom with a working projector, without internet I can’t pull up news stories online. To get around this, I figured I’d buy a bunch of newspapers in the morning and bring

them to class for the students to read, but I found that it’s impossible to get a newspaper in the city where the school is located. It’s the second largest city in Rwanda, but it feels significantly more rural than the capital. I ended up finding a news story online, downloading it onto a flash drive, going to the print shop and printing 130 copies, and handing out the story in class. But that takes time and would be difficult to do the morning of

class, which means we will always be reviewing old news during class.

- With no slides during class and only a chalkboard, the lesson moves much more slowly. I never realized how much time it takes to write on a chalkboard what I typically would have on my slides. And when I turn to write on the chalkboard, with my back facing the students, they start to chat because you can’t keep 130 college students quiet when you’re not looking them

in the eye demanding their attention. Then I need to spend a minute quieting down the room again before I can move on. The material I cover in one hour of class in the US takes at least three times longer without the technology that helps to make the process more efficient.

Teaching without technology is hard. But after months of teaching in a electronic-media-limited environment, I am starting to move past the challenges and see the benefits.

First, it’s not necessarily a bad thing to slow down and take more time covering the material. After all, the students will have more time to soak it up and reflect on the new information. Second, the lack of technological resources has forced me to reexamine the way I teach. Perhaps it has made me a more flexible and creative teacher. Third, I’ve noticed that my students in Rwanda are thinking critically, based on the questions they ask. I wonder whether they are taking in the information more effectively since they have to listen carefully and write their own notes, as opposed to my students in Virginia who can listen more passively because they know they can go back and review the slides later on. After all, research has shown that students who take handwritten notes tend to outperform those who type their notes (Mueller & Oppenheimer, 2014; Smoker, Murphy & Rockwell, 2009).

As grateful as I am for electronic media, it’s worthwhile to reflect on its impact. Next time I go back to the classroom and grab that piece of chalk, I’ll think of it as an opportunity for more effective learning rather than a setback.



# Oklahoma students start DC-based news service

John Schmeltzer  
University of Oklahoma

Nearly 80 years of history providing Oklahomans with news written by reporters employed by the state's two powerful newspapers ended in December 2016. Cutbacks and retirements had done what wars and recessions had not. In 2017 the University of Oklahoma's Gaylord College was asked by an Oklahoma City-based journalism foundation if it could fill the gap by creating a Washington-based reporting project staffed by broadcast and print students.

A year later on Aug. 20, 2018, three OU students, wearing Senate press credentials, made their debut by cutting off Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in a hallway beneath the U.S. Capitol. That was the beginning of the fledgling news service that Dean Ed Kelley, a former Washington reporter himself, told the Ethics & Excellence in Journalism Foundation the college would create.

We didn't know who we were and we weren't sure what we were going to cover but we had planted the university's flag at one of the most powerful intersections in journalism. Gaylord News, as we decided the news service should be called, is now one of four university-operated residential news services in Washington. And with the help of those young reporters we've carved out a coverage area that helps connect the nation's capital with Oklahomans.

Those three students covered two state funerals – Sen. John McCain and former President George H.W. Bush – and the Senate confirmation of Associate Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. And they were dispatched to Panama City Beach, Florida, to cover a story of Oklahomans

pitching in to help the Florida panhandle recover from Hurricane Michael.

Gaylord News now has 26 media partners stretching across the state: six television stations, three radio stations and 15 newspapers including the state's two largest. While smaller stations have used the video content from the beginning, we found we needed to be more strategic to get the larger stations in Oklahoma City and Tulsa to use the content.

As a result we target the morning shows and the noon and 4 p.m. locally produced shows. It's a strategy that's beginning to pay off as the stations have now begun asking if we will have "sound" to go with the text stories that are being prepared.

Content is distributed free to the media partners of the news service via Google Drive, a platform that permits broadcasters and newspapers to easily download the content to their systems freeing us from having to develop multiple systems to match disparate operating systems.

Students receive free housing and the invaluable press credentials. They are required to take 12 hours, six taught in D.C. and six taught online at OU so they remain on track to graduation. The program is aimed at seniors, but juniors are permitted to participate. There are four students in D.C. this semester. The college is now preparing to take applications for the 2019-2020 academic year in D.C. The project is supervised by veteran broadcast journalist Mike Boettcher and John Schmeltzer, a former print journalist.

See work from the Gaylord News team in national and local publications by following them on Twitter, [@GaylordNews](#).



Gaylord News students interview Oklahoma Sen. Jim Inhofe after the State of the Union address // Photo courtesy Leacy Burke (@elizabethleacy)

