

Hello Electronic News: The AEJMC ballot should be in your email soon (if it's not already!). I'm running for the research committee and would like you to consider voting for me. I could elaborate my research accomplishments—a Fulbright in Austria, 36 refereed manuscripts as a junior scholar, conference awards, and good progress in all the Google Scholar and ResearchGate scores—but I believe this committee is about more than that: it's the opportunity to give back and so that's what I would like to address here.

For me, my love of research is inextricably tied to my love for instilling the love of research in others. I am so thankful for the scholars who showed me that research could be more than just naval gazing; that our intellectual curiosity could be appeased by systematically and empirically seeking answers to those questions. For me, central to the idea of research is mentorship.

My story as an academic began as a sports reporter in south Florida and I'm the beneficiary of the investment my newsroom made in me. At Appalachian State, I repay that the best way I can—by passing it on. I work with our brilliant, intellectually curious undergrads to help them see that research problems have solutions or at least explanations. I'm passionate about introducing research at such an early stage in part because it's hard to imagine a career in journalism and mass communication where research skills would not be handy. We are entering an era in which research skills are more, not less, important and to pass these skills on and to encourage their best practices is something to be aspired to.

If elected, you'll find me to be a passionate, proactive proponent of research in all its forms. In particular, you'll find me invested in ensuring the development of our developing research scholars in the field.