



**The Newsletter of the Electronic News Division of AEJMC**

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## AEJMC 2021 Paper Deadline Approaches, Reviewers Needed

*Aphrodite Salas, Division Research Chair*

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The deadline for the research competition is April 1. Here’s the link to the [2021 AEJMC Paper Competition Group Calls](#), where you can review the call for our Electronic News Division. Once again, in light of the ongoing pandemic and the effect it has had on research production, AEJMC will accept extended abstracts as well as full papers for the 2021 conference.

Nearly finished a paper? Consider submitting an extended abstract (EA):

The EA format is for authors who are nearly finished their papers (>75% done). If your data collection and analysis is almost complete, and you can report tentative findings and conclusions but just don’t have time to produce a full paper, this option is for you. EAs must be between 750-1,500 words, include a reference list and a 75-word summary (the reference list and summary are not included in the word count). EAs must be uploaded as a single file to the AEJMC [All Academic site](#) by the existing conference deadline of 11:59 p.m. CDT April 1, 2021. *Authors whose EAs are selected for presentation at the conference must still submit their full paper, with all identifying author information removed, to the All Academic site by 11:59 p.m. CDT, July 15, 2021. There will not be a second review phase in July.*

## Division Officers

2020-21

### Division Head:

Ken Fischer, University of Oklahoma

### Vice-Head and Program Chair

Harrison Hove, University of Florida

### Vice-Head-Elect

Dylan McLemore, University of Central  
Arkansas

### Secretary/News Editor

Justin Blankenship, Auburn University

### Research Chair and Southeast Colloquium Co-Chair

Aphrodite Salas, Concordia University

### Professional Freedom and Responsibility Chair

Kaitlin Miller, University of Alabama

### Teaching Chair

Gina Baleria, Sonoma State University

### Membership Chair

Danielle Deavours, University of Alabama

### Graduate Student Liaison

Heidi Makady, University of Florida

### Bliss Award Chair

Bill Silcock, Arizona State University

### Burkum Award Chair

Nancy Dupont, University of Mississippi

### RTDNA Liason

Tony DeMars, Texas A&M University-  
Commerce

### Bylaws and Journal Oversight Committees Chair

Bill Davie, University of Louisiana

### Southeast Colloquium Co-chairs

Lindsey Conlin Maxwell, University of  
Southern Mississippi

Gregory Perrault, Appalachian State  
University

One thing to keep in mind:

While full papers and EAs compete for program spots, ONLY full papers compete for awards. EAs are not eligible for awards.

**We still need reviewers!** Paper reviewers make our research sessions possible. Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered. If you would be willing to help us out, just fill out this 2-minute form with how to reach you and what types of papers you're interested in reviewing: <https://forms.gle/xQjCV23TUdWd5Pte7>. Papers for review will be distributed in mid-April (typically 3 papers per reviewer) and reviews will be due in May. Finally, you can submit a paper to the Electronic News Division and still be a reviewer. So please plan to send us your work!



## Three Electronic News Division Members Running for AEJMC Positions

*The 2021 AEJMC leadership election is currently underway. Voting is open until April 5th. There are three members of our division running for leadership positions. **Mary T. Rogus** (Ohio University) is running for a seat on the PF&R committee, **Gregory Perreault** (Appalachian State University) is running for a seat on the research committee, and **Laura K. Smith** (University of South Carolina) is running for a seat on the teaching committee. More representation on the national committees is a positive for our division, so we'd like to give each candidate an opportunity to make their case. Below is a statement from each candidate on why they deserve your vote. Check your email for a link to cast your ballot.*

**Mary Rogus (PF&R Committee):** In the 20 years I spent working in local television newsrooms I understood my responsibilities to our audiences, but I didn't think much about the freedoms I had as a journalist. I took them for granted. When I came to Ohio University and had the opportunity to conduct international broadcast journalism training, especially in developing democracies, my eyes were opened.



My ethics students could always tell when I returned to the U.S. from one of these trips because I hauled out my soap box and preached about the importance of protecting our First Amendment freedoms. Never did I imagine that those students would face

many of the same risks and restrictions in serving their publics as those courageous journalists in developing democracies.

The responsibility part of PF&R also is vital right now. With trust in journalism at an all time low, and 'facts' up for question, we must look inward at

our responsibilities as journalists and strategic communicators, and outward to communicate how we meet those responsibilities.

There has never been a more important time to focus on Professional Freedom and Responsibility in journalism, especially for an organization of educators training and preparing the next generation of journalists. That's why I want to continue my 20 years of AEJMC service as a member of the PF&R Standing Committee.

**Gregory Perreault (Research Committee):** Hello Electronic News: 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.

**Laura K. Smith (Teaching Committee):** My name is Laura Smith. I hope you'll consider voting for me to join AEJMC's Standing Committee on Teaching. I LOVE teaching and would relish the opportunity to represent you in the years ahead.

For those of you who don't know me, I've been an active member of our division since 2000, when I first entered my grad program at UT-Austin. I've served in every role in our division's leadership, including Head of the division and three years as teaching chair. I'm also an active member in MAC



(Minorities and Communication). Now, I'd really like to move up into AEJMC leadership in my area of expertise – journalism education.

My industry background is in TV news (mostly as a producer – newscast, special projects & EP). But I've been teaching for more than 20 years now. I've taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in four universities, including UofSC, UT-Austin, Huston-Tillotson University (an HBCU in Austin, Texas) and St. Edward's University (a private, Catholic liberal arts University in Austin, TX), working extensively with underrepresented and first-generation college students. And I teach it all - from news writing and visual storytelling, to newscast production and podcasting, to media management. In 2019, I won my University's highest teaching honor for lecturers like myself – the Garnet Apple Award for Teaching Innovation.



I also study teaching effectiveness. For the past five years, I've chaired my School's Assessment Committee, supervising the collection, analysis and reporting of all

learning outcome data for all SIX of our School's undergraduate majors. I regularly discuss best practices and present related research at AEJMC and other conferences... including ONA and BEA.

This is my third time just trying to get ON the ballot for a position on AEJ's Teaching committee. It's incredibly competitive to make it this far. I've learned that WINNING this position is even tougher. I would really appreciate your consideration!

## Message from Division Head Ken Fischer: Pre-conference news, upcoming announcements

*Ken Fischer, Division Head, [kfischer@ou.edu](mailto:kfischer@ou.edu)*

The Spring Semester 2021 is almost over! Now we look ahead to a nice break and perhaps some summer writing or teaching. And of course, we get to see a lot of our colleagues again in August on Zoom!. It is a tough decision to go virtual again for our national conference but regardless, it will be a crucial time in the annals of AEJMC-END. The Electronic News Division will be looking ahead to changing its name in October 2021. Also, new plans for the division's journal are in the works. And perhaps most importantly, an outstanding group of younger officers are starting to take on the running of the division and the organization as a whole. It is truly a time of the "changing of the guard."

For our pre-conference event on August 3, the Electronic News Division is teaming up with the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma for an afternoon workshop. Thanks to the hard work of Gina Baleria (Sonoma State) we have an opportunity to get training and refreshers in journalism self-care in managing stress and dealing with trauma while on the job. The Dart Center will share ways we can articulate this crucial information to our students.

Led by Vice Head Harrison Hove (Florida) we have a great slate of panels scheduled for the general conference. We will be looking at a wide range of topics from Diversity & Inclusion, Covid-19 & Pedagogy, Ethics and the Sinclair Effect. News on our award winners should be coming soon from the Bliss committee headed by Bill Silcock (just retired as Asst. Dean at Arizona State) and the Burkum Committee (chaired by Hub Burton, Syracuse; soon to be Dean at Florida). Our Business Meeting followed immediately by our Social will be Thursday August 4 at 8:30pm CDT. The paper competition awards, Burkum presentation and Bliss presentation will all take place at the conclusion of the business meeting as the socializing begins.

The last year has been a trying time for all of us. We are all ready to get back to something we called normal. But I know what is helping us get through the days as we teach or meet one more day on Zoom. It is the camaraderie we have developed over the years through the relationships we have made as colleagues in the academy. This pandemic will end.

Stay the course.

PS...VOTE for our Electronic News Division members in the AEJMC Election NOW!

And Congratulations to Gregory, Lindsey and everyone involved in putting together a great 2021 Southeast Colloquium.

# Virtual Panel at Southeast Colloquium A Great Experience for Participants

*Lindsey Conlin Maxwell, Southeast Colloquium Co-Chair, [Lindsey.Conlin@usm.edu](mailto:Lindsey.Conlin@usm.edu)*

The annual AEJMC Southeast Colloquium was held virtually this year from March 18th until March 21st. Colloquium participants were hosted on Zoom by Elon University. The Electronic News Division hosted one refereed research session which featured a mixture of faculty and student papers, and a variety of completed work as well as works-in-progress. The session featured a number of well-known END faces, including Membership Chair Danielle Deavours, and was attended by division officers and members, including Division Head Ken Fischer. Colloquium co-chairs Lindsey Maxwell and Greg Perreault served as moderator and discussant, respectively.

Grad student Laura Franklin, who presented her work-

in-progress during the session, described it as an “amazing experience” and was thankful for the feedback she was able to receive— Southeast Colloquium was her first research presentation.

Vice-Head Elect Dylan McLemore, who also presented his work-in-progress, said that “our friends at the Elon School of Communications put together a great virtual colloquium. The Electronic News panel was engaging, and I enjoyed learning about wide-ranging research from grad students and junior scholars in our field.”

As a reminder, any work that was submitted to SE Colloquium can be submitted to the main AEJMC conference.



# Helping Students Navigate a Pandemic Job Market

by Harrison Hove, Division Vice Head and Program Chair, [hchove@ufl.edu](mailto:hchove@ufl.edu)

A new wave of budding broadcast journalists will soon enter the job market. The Covid-19 pandemic is again leaving its indelible mark on our students' journey from classrooms to gainful employment. As our students prepare materials to market themselves, we are often called upon for critiques, advice, and proofreading. I have heavily leaned on colleagues immersed in the TV News industry to help me guide my graduating students and position them for success during this challenging time. Their advice might help you as we attempt to seamlessly shepherd our students into professional positions.

Aspiring television journalists need a reel to showcase their work. Some of my own students at the University of Florida have resisted including stories with Zoom interviews on their reels. They perceive Zoom reflects lower quality. News-Press & Gazette Director of News and Marketing Michael Fabac oversees news content in ten media markets. He says, "Zoom interviews are commonplace on all local and network newscasts. They are not problematic at all." WTXL-TV News Director Vicki Bradley adds, "Make sure the lighting is good. Make sure the person you are talking to is looking in the right direction. Don't be afraid to communicate these things to your interviewees." Zoom interviews are here to stay. Students should embrace this and make them as aesthetically pleasing as possible.

Students must catch the eye of a hiring manager. Fabac says, "show me your ability to generate unique angles and produce compelling stories for broadcast and digital platforms."

Bradley adds, "You only have seconds to catch a hiring manager's attention. Put your best, most unique and most creative work first and that will pull a manager in." I tell my own students to use their montage to highlight their presence and creativity. Every clip used should be as technically clean as possible.



Networking is more important than ever. E.W. Scripps Company Emerging Talent Leader Chip Mahaney says, "Sign up and attend (virtual) conferences. You never know whom you will meet who can help you get your first break." Bradley highlights the emerging importance of LinkedIn and says, "It's a great place to showcase your work. There have been many times that I've started watching a reel because it popped up on my feed." I facilitate networking in class by matching students with professional mentors. Mahaney encourages all instructors to engage more with the broadcast community, "Invite industry pros (even recruiters like me) into your classrooms. Journalists working in your local market are excellent choices, but with video conferencing, don't assume you can't land a big fish in New York or L.A. or D.C."

# Grants, Memberships, and Graduate Students amid Challenging Times

By Heidi Makady, Graduate Student Liaison, [makady.h@ufl.edu](mailto:makady.h@ufl.edu)

As a doctoral student, this year I was excited to see the newly announced grant program opportunity to encourage the research of emerging scholars in journalism. The AEJMC Collaborative Scholar Grants announced in February opened a unique opportunity for us to continue to explore journalism in practice and theory.

Applying for grants and getting research funding is a great opportunity for graduate students and one of the key steps for doctoral students in their journey. However, it can be challenging for some who may be driven away from the application vis-à-vis experienced members. With the different challenges that this year carried, seeing opportunities such as AEJMC's scholar grant that was specifically designed and dedicated for graduate students, is one of the things that we needed to hear about. In addition, opening those grants for students working as a lead researcher on projects in partnership with a faculty member allows faculty support and mentorship which can encourage our application. I ask that we reach out broadly to fellow grad students via outlets they are most active on to make sure they are aware of those opportunities and their availability.

As our division's graduate liaison, I encourage fellow graduate students too to apply for those grant chances whenever they see them, and our faculty to encourage their graduate students who are currently working on research projects. Meanwhile, I want to invite fellow graduate students too who are interested in our division to join our membership for additional benefits. Our membership is \$10 annually for AEJMC graduate student members.

**STATIC is the newsletter of the Electronic News Division of AEJMC. It is published three times a year (Fall, Spring and Summer) and distributed to all members via our listserv, website and social media accounts.**

**All members are welcome and encouraged to submit articles or article ideas for future editions. If you are interested in submitting, please contact Justin Blankenship, division secretary and new editor at [jzb0124@auburn.edu](mailto:jzb0124@auburn.edu)**