



The Newsletter of the Electronic News Division of AEJMC

The Rundown

.....

Award Winner.....1

New Journal Editors.....3

Business Meeting.....4

Research Report.....5

Virtual Teaching Lessons.....5

Full Conference Schedule....7

 Tues: (Pre-Conference).....7

 Wed:.....8

 Thurs:.....9

 Fri:.....11

 Sat.....14

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Dupont First Ever Bliss & Burkum Double Winner

by Bill Silcock, Awards Committee Chair

The winner of this year's Edward L. Bliss Award for Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Education and the Larry Burkum Service Award is, for the first time in division history the same professor. Dr. Nancy Dupont is the first faculty member to win both awards in the same year and first from the University of Mississippi School of Journalism and New Media to receive the Edward L. Bliss Award.



Dr. Nancy Dupont, University of Mississippi

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2020-21

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Dr. Dupont responded with pure joy at the news reflecting on the meaning of both tributes, "I think the awards mean how much some students were touched by my career. I never will believe the number of former students willing to write for me!"

Associate Professor Mary Rogus of the Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio would agree. A past Bliss Award winner herself and member of the Bliss committee, she noted, "Dr. Nancy Dupont is the consummate electronic journalism educator. The quotes from her students are inspiring. Her service to broadcast journalism education through both AEJMC and BEA is unparalleled. But it is from the one-on-one conversations about teaching that I always walk away with something unique I can take back to my classroom."

Another member of the Bliss Committee, Dr. Laura Smith of the University of South Carolina, reflected on her devotion to student-centered learning and elevating the profession through classroom instruction. "For decades, Nancy's been dedicated to the development and well-being of her students, the ongoing evolution of our industry, and organizations like ours which support the craft of broadcast news and digital storytelling. Doing what we do ... and doing it well ... is embodied in Nancy. She's an amazing teacher and colleague."

Electronic News Division Head Ken Fischer, a past Bliss winner and one of the judges this year, observed, "Nancy is the complete package. She is a long-time professional with years of service to organizations. Her classroom teaching has put young professionals into newsrooms across America." Joining Fischer in recognizing her leadership is another Bliss and also a Burkum Award winner, Dr. Bill Davie, Louisiana-Lafayette Professor of Communication who focused on Dupont's scholarship. "She not only teaches her students the best ways to write their first drafts of history with compelling words, pictures, and sounds, but she also has taught them the long view of journalism."

Article Continued on page 14

New Editors take over EN division Journal

by Bill Davie, Publications Committee Chair

Electronic News is under new editorial management with three editors chosen to move the quarterly journal forward in research and scholarship. Leading the new team is the interim dean of the School of Journalism and New Media at the University of Mississippi, Dr. Debora Wenger. Joining her as Associate Editor is Dr. Keren Henderson and Founding Editor Dr. Robert Papper, both faculty members at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University.

Electronic News has gained a worldwide reputation for applied research through peer-reviewed articles, invited essays, and book reviews. Dean Wenger's scholarship closely aligns with the journal's mission. "In fact, the first scholarly article I ever published was in Electronic News in 2008 and that success gave me the confidence to continue researching and publishing," she stated, adding that Electronic News provides a valuable platform for professionals "at the intersection of the industry and the academy." The editorial team will bring more "inclusion of voices that have not always been well represented in our discipline," stated Wenger.



Dr. Debora Wenger, University of Mississippi



Dr. Keren Henderson, Syracuse University

Prior to joining the academy, all three editors worked television news. Dr. Henderson was a producer at WAFB-TV in Baton Rouge, and has published articles in *Electronic News* analyzing the state of journalism in contemporary local television newsrooms. She considers the journal to be a “home for big thinkers across news platforms as well as a bridge between scholarship and practice.” Wenger and Henderson are working in tandem with Founding Editor, Bob Papper, who has served with three previous editors for *Electronic News* – Charles Tuggle (North Carolina), Anthony Moretti (Robert Morris University), and Jenn Bureson (Virginia Tech).

Moretti is helping the new editors become familiar with publisher Sage’s online interface. In 2021, the journal will be re-branded as *Electronic News: a Journal for Broadcast and Mobile Journalism* to reflect the division’s new name. Martha Avtandilian is the publisher’s representative at Sage Publications headquartered in Thousand Oaks, California, and says she will be working on improving the journal’s impact and reach.



Important Business On Deck At This Year’s Division Business Meeting

by Ken Fischer, Division Head

We have a lot planned for the Electronic News Division Business Meeting on **Thursday, August 5. We are scheduled to start at 8:45pm CDT.** We will begin with recognizing our paper competition winners then will turn it over to the Bliss and Burkum Committee as the division honors the first-ever winner of both awards in the same year, recently retired professor Dr. Nancy Dupont of the University of Mississippi. Following the Bliss/Burkum ceremony we will conduct important annual business. This will include plans for our upcoming division name change in October, changes in the *Electronic News Journal* leadership and potential plans to partner further with RTDNA. We will also have our chair reports, officer elections and start planning for a return to an in-person conference at Detroit 2022.

Division Paper Competition Report

by Aphrodite Salas, Research Chair

We are gearing up for a series of excellent END conference presentations. Sincere thanks to everyone who submitted full papers, extended abstracts and to all those who participated in the review process.

- We accepted the top 13 ranked full papers, the top 3 ranked extended abstracts and the top 3 student papers.
- Because one of the student papers was in the top 13, our total number of presentations will be 18.
- Our acceptance rate was approximately 50% overall.
- The cutoff score was 3.79 overall (full papers and extended abstracts).

Full Division Conference Schedule: pages 7 - 14

Lessons Learned After A Year of Pandemic Teaching

by Laura K. Smith, AEJMC Standing Committee on Teaching Member-Elect

Earlier this year, I became one of three Electronic News members elected to an AEJMC leadership position. First and foremost, I'd like to thank you for having confidence in me (and for your votes). Second, I'd like to congratulate Mary Rogus (PF&R) and Greg Perreault (Research). They will serve you well!

My job over the next three years will be to represent you all on the Standing Committee on Teaching. Teaching brings me incredible joy. I love research and service. But to me, there's nothing better than the feeling you get when one of your students turns in a piece of journalism that demonstrates they've been paying attention. They read, listened, thought about it, went out into the field, tried something new and came up with something worth crowing about. Even the small victories are just that – victories.

When it comes to my own learning curve as a teacher, I feel the same way. We live, we learn. Throughout the Covid crisis, I've read, listened, thought about it, gone out into the field, tried something new and come up with something I'm proud of. Despite the disruption and my discomfort, I tried a bunch of new things. Some worked. Others didn't. Although I'm tired to the bone, I've found the last 16 months incredibly rewarding and I've learned to cherish even the tiniest of "wins".



I know many of you are exhausted from asking questions, like: What do I need to learn about online pedagogy, so my students won't fall too far behind? How will I teach F2F and remotely at the same time? How in the world can we still put on a newscast?

Yes, this past year has been remarkably hard! But I think broadcast and mobile journalism professors like us were well situated to give

our students the very best that modern education has to offer. Most of us are at least somewhat tech savvy. We understand well how to put puzzles together using a lot of little pieces. We work well on deadline. And the cherry on the top... our students are desperate to learn what we have to offer. They want to succeed in a very competitive industry. As luck would have it, the skills and resilience they've learned in this past year directly mirror what was happening in America's newsrooms.

I believe what we and our colleagues teach has never been more important. Good journalism plays a crucial role in fighting mis- and dis-information. New data from Nielsen show local news is especially important to communities at this moment in history – outpacing both cable and network news. Audiences rely on us to provide high-quality information so they can make quality decisions and live healthier, happier lives.

In the years to come, I'm sure new and different challenges are coming our way. What we teach – and how we teach it – will change again. It's important to communicate and stay nimble. I hope to relay your successes and struggles to our colleagues on the Standing Committee on Teaching. Again, thank you for your support. Don't forget to bask in the summer as you rest your weary bones! We have our work cut out for us come fall.

Electronic News Division Schedule for AEJMC Conference 2021

All Times CDT

Tuesday August 3: PRE-CONFERENCE

1:30 to 5:00 p.m. / PC000

Preconference Workshop Session (no additional charge)

Centering Self Care in Journalism: Managing Stress, Dealing with Trauma, and Accepting Emotion as Truth Telling News Coverage

1:30 pm to 2:45 pm — (w/breakout discussion at end of panel)

Moderator: **Gina Baleria**, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication & Media Studies, Sonoma State University

Panelists

Allissa Richardson, Assistant Professor of Journalism & Communication, University of Southern California

Cassie Schirm, Reporter/Anchor out of the Triad in North Carolina

Moni Basu, Michael and Linda Connelly Lecturer for Narrative Nonfiction - Department of Journalism, University of Florida; former Journalist; Author, Chaplain Turner's War

The panel will explore the impact of direct trauma exposure, vicarious trauma exposure, burnout, and related stresses on individual journalists and news teams. Panelists will offer knowledge and tools on how to suitably address mental health issues for student journalists as they emerge, and how to build a culture in the classroom of collegial support through times of acute and prolonged crisis and upheaval, and the stressors that are inherent to the work of doing journalism.

3 pm to 4:30 pm — Self Care Workshop

Presenter: **Elana Newman**, Professor of Psychology, Tulsa; Research Director, Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

With news professionals challenged by so many unprecedented events, The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma, a project of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, will offer a workshop on resilience building amid crisis. The session will mainly focus on techniques for self-care and collegial support and offer best practice techniques for journalism educators and other news professionals on how to support individuals and news teams and foster a supportive work environment.

4:30 pm to 5:00 pm — Discussion with attendees & participants about how to help students

Elana and Gina will lead discussion of where educators should focus with students to prepare them as best, we can, as well as summarize the main points of the session.

Wednesday August 4

11a.m. to 12:30 p.m. / W020

Teaching Panel Session: Minorities and Communication & Electronic News Divisions

The Black Effect: How Podcasting Could Help Diversify Our Students' Storytelling and Prepare Them for the Podcasting Marketplace

Moderating/Presiding : **Laura K. Smith**, South Carolina

Panelists

Kim Fox, American University of Cairo , **Kelli Boling**, Nebraska-Lincoln

Bryan Jenkins, Howard . **Taylor Jennings-Brown**, Meredith Corporation

1 to 2:30 p.m. / W030

Teaching Panel Session : Electronic News Division and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Interest Group

Raising Awareness: Teaching Cultural Competencies, Diversity, and Inclusion in the J-School Classroom

Moderating/Presiding : **Rachel Grant**, Florida

Panelists:

Jesús Ayala, California State Fullerton , **Harrison Hove**, Florida
Shamarria Morrison, WPSD-TV . **Aphrodite Salas**, Concordia

5 to 6:30 p.m. / W061

Refereed Research Paper Session

The Seeking and Shaping of Electronic News

Moderating/Presiding: **Dylan McLemore**, Central Arkansas

Production and Improvisation: Digital Native News Video as an Emerging Narrative Style

Mary Bock, **Robert Richardson**, **Christopher T. Assaf** and **Dariya Tsyrenzhapova**, Texas at Austin

Exploring Audience Criteria for Perceptions of Online News Videos

Michael Koliska, Georgetown, **Neil Thurman**, LMU;
Sally Stares, City University of London and **Jessica Kunert**, University of
Hamburg

Factors that Affect Social Media Credibility as a News Channel: The Impact of Network Relationships, Source Perceptions and Media Use

Jiyoung Cha, San Francisco State

An Agenda-setting Test of Google News World Reporting on Foreign Nations

Anna Young and **David Atkin**, Connecticut

Discussant: **Bill Davie**, Louisiana

Thursday August 5

9 to 10:30 a.m. / T002

Teaching Panel Session: Electronic News Division & Entertainment Studies Interest Group

It's All Fun and Games: The Blending of News, Advertising, and Entertainment in the New Media Environment

Moderating/Presiding: **Lindsey Maxwell**, Southern Mississippi

Panelists:

Miles Kahn, Full Frontal with Samantha Bee, **David Morris**, South Carolina-Aiken
Alec Tefertiller, Baylor , **Gwen Nisbett**, North Texas

1 to 2:30 p.m. / T031

Teaching Panel Session: Media Management, Economics and Entrepreneurship and Electronic News Divisions

Integrating Product Management into a Media Curriculum

Moderating/Presiding : **Allie Kosterich**, Fordham

Panelists:

Tony R. DeMars, Texas A&M-Commerce, **Sonia Garcia**, Austonia.com
Cindy Royal, Texas State , **Laura Smith**, South Carolina

8:45 to 10:15 p.m. / T085

Electronic News Division Divisional Members Business Meeting/Social

Moderating/Presiding : **Ken Fischer**, Oklahoma

Edward L. Bliss Award for Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Education

Larry Burkum Service Award

Nancy Dupont, Mississippi

Friday August 6

9 to 10:30 a.m. / F003

Teaching Panel Session: Mass Communication and Society and Electronic News Divisions

Problems or Possibilities? Pedagogical Approaches to Teaching Skills Courses Online in a Pandemic

Moderating/Presiding : **Lee Hood**, Loyola-Chicago

Panelists

Neal Bennett, Rutgers, **Dean Cummings**, Georgia Southern

Steve Hayes, Georgia State , **Shaina Holmes**, Syracuse

Julian Rodriguez, Texas-Arlington, **Angeline J. Taylor**, Arizona State

1 to 2:30 p.m. / F017

PF&R Panel Session: Media Ethics and Electronic News Divisions

Dealing with Bad Political Actors: Implications for Ethics, Law and Policy

Moderating/Presiding: **Bill Davie**, Louisiana

Panelists

Ed Wasserman, California Berkeley, **Lee Wilkins**, Missouri

Maniko Barthelemy, Louisiana, **Robert Mann**, Louisiana State

3 to 4:30 p.m. / F032

PF&R Panel Session: Electronic News and Political Communication Divisions

The Sinclair Effect: Issues of Media Ownership and Framing of Protests in Local Television News

Moderating/Presiding

Kylah J. Hedding, Iowa

Panelists

Charisse Gibson, anchor, WWL-TV, New Orleans, LA

Danielle K. Brown, Minnesota, Twin Cities, **Travis L. Dixon**, Illinois

Johanna Dunaway, Texas A&M, **Philip Napoli**, Duke

5 to 6:30 p.m. / F046

Refereed Paper Session

Electronic News Media in a Political and Social Context

Moderating/Presiding/Discussant: **Ken Fischer**, Oklahoma

The View of the Blue is Bigger than Black and White

Melissa Williams and Lindsey Maxwell, Southern Mississippi

Ten Days of Twitter's "Who to Follow" Algorithm as the Architect of an Election Season Social Network

Dylan McLemore, Central Arkansas

"Keep Your Politics Off of My Face(book)!" Online News & Hostile Media Bias in the COVID-19 Social Media Environment

Sherice Gearhart and Ioana Coman, Texas Tech

Alexander Moe, SUNY Brockport and **Sydney Brammer**, Texas Tech

Antecedents of News Avoidance: Competing Effects of Political Interest, News Overload, Trust in News Media, and 'News Finds Me' Perception

Manuel Goyanes and Alberto Ardèvol-Abreau, Carlos III University,

Homero Gil de Zúñiga, University of Salamanca/Pennsylvania State

7 to 8:30 p.m. / F061

Top Paper Session: The Best of Electronic News

Moderating/Presiding: **Beth Concepción**, Oglethorpe University

What Influences the Influences?: Examining National Culture, Human Development and Journalism Influences (Top Paper)

Steven Collins, William Kinnally, and Jennifer Sandoval, Central Florida

Hostility Toward the Press: A Synthesis of Terms, Research, and Future Directions in Examining Harassment of Journalists (Second Place Paper)

Kaitlin Miller, Alabama

Local News on Facebook: How Television Broadcasters Use Facebook to Enhance Social Media News Engagement (Third Place Paper)

Miao Guo and Fu-Shing Sun, Ball State

Distant Suffering of Coronavirus Outbreak: Comparing BBC World and Al Jazeera English Epidemic Reporting in China (Top Student Paper)

Wendy L.Y. Leung, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Discussant: **Mary T. Rogus**, Ohio

Saturday, August 7

12:30 to 2 p.m. / SoI6

Research Panel Session

Hurricane Katrina: A Look Back at Reporting and How the Storm Changed the Media Landscape in New Orleans and the Gulf South

Moderating/Presiding: **Dylan McLemore**, Central Arkansas

Panelists

Travers Mackel, WDSU-TV New Orleans, **Lindsey Maxwell**, Southern Miss

Norman Robinson, WDSU-TV New Orleans (retired)

Mark Schleifstein, The New Orleans Times-Picayune / Advocate

Nikki Usher, Illinois

Dupont Wins Bliss and Burkum, Cont.

Also noting Dr. Dupont's love of history, Burkum Award winner and Interim Dean Debora Wenger at the University of Mississippi summed up her legacy. "Nancy has set the standard for what it means to be a teacher-scholar. She never forgot to put the learning of students first, but she also loved exploring journalism history and helping us to put our profession in context."

Presented annually by the Electronic News Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, this award recognizes an electronic journalism educator who has made significant and lasting contributions to the field. Bliss Chair Dr. Bill Silcock, emeritus assistant dean at the Walter Cronkite School, noted her exemplary leadership. "Nancy is an ideal role model for 21st-century journalism

education impacting students, fellow faculty, and global audiences."

Silcock and Burkum Award Chair Professor Hub Brown, dean of the College of Journalism and Communications at the University of Florida, made the joint announcement at the Broadcast Education Association News Division meeting in April 2021. Dupont had served twice as chair of that organization as well as head of AEJMC-END (video link below). <https://youtu.be/HtKXpKenuVQ>

Dean Brown noted what a friend and example Professor Dupont has been for all of us. "Over many years now, you would be hard-pressed to find anyone who has had a more positive impact on our division, been a better guide, leader, and

role model than Dr. Nancy Dupont. She has been an unparalleled force for good in our division, in AEJMC, and electronic journalism writ large."

Fellow Burkum committee member, Dr. Tim Brown, associate professor at the University of Central Florida, "Without a doubt Dr. Dupont has been a model for so many of us over the years. Her numerous stints as division head and chair are obvious examples, but it's also the 'casual conversations' and the informal 'task force' leadership roles that rarely get documented that make her so special. When journalism education has called, she has answered. She is truly worthy of this honor."

During the announcement ceremony BEA Executive Director Heather Birks pointed to Dupont's service leadership. "When I think of individuals who are always ready to get involved, available to give advice and make things happen or provide a unique solution to a problem, Nancy Dupont is the top of mind. Her extensive and "extraordinary" service to journalism and journalism education exemplifies the AEJMC Electronic News Division's Larry Burkum Service Award."

AEJMC's incoming president echoed those sentiments in her note of commendation. "I offer my heartiest congratulations to Professor Dupont. Faculty members like her, with significant professional experience and a willingness to connect with colleagues across the country through service work for national associations, enrich the educational experiences of undergraduates," said Dr. Susan Keith, associate professor at Rutgers University and president-elect of AEJMC.

In the spirit of the unprecedented celebration, Dupont will be honored with both awards at the annual AEJMC-END social on August 5, 2021. And in honor of her distinguished career, the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association has established the Nancy Dupont Broadcast Adviser of the Year Award for the top MS HS broadcast program adviser. Contributions in Professor Dupont's honor are being accepted online at <http://bit.ly/DupontAward>. Checks can also be sent to the University of Mississippi Foundation, with the Dupont Award in the memo line, 406 University Ave., Oxford, MS 38655.

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