



clio

AMONG THE MEDIA

Newsletter of the History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication



notes from the head

25 History research papers set for AEJMC presentation

Twenty-five History Division research papers have been accepted for presentation at the AEJMC national convention in San Antonio in August. The roster of papers and their authors follows. Moderators and discussants for the respective sessions will be designated later.

The top faculty paper was written by Carol Wilcox of Virginia State. Her paper, "Squeezing the 'Exotic Bug': Madrid Press Criticizes Hearst's Coverage of a Cuban Revolutionary," examines reporting in the Spanish press of the Havana jailbreak in 1897 that freed a 19-year-old political prisoner named Evangelina Cisneros. The exploit was led by a reporter for William Randolph Hearst's *New York Journal*.

The author of the top student paper, and winner of the Price Award, was Noah Arceneaux of Georgia. His paper, "How Much is that Wireless in the Window? Department Stores and Radio Retailing in the 1920s," considers the retailing techniques used to sell radio receivers. The paper notes

that the role of department stores "in the social construction of American broadcasting" has been heretofore overlooked.

Authors of the second-place papers were Daniel M. Haygood of Tennessee-Knoxville and Thomas C. Terry, a graduate student at North Carolina.

Most History Division research sessions will be convened Saturday, August 13, as the following lineup indicates.

Wednesday, August 10

"Histories of Electronic Media"

Time: 8:15–9:45 a.m.

Papers:

"The Origins of Political Broadcasting Policy in American Governmental Institutions," Tim P. Vos, Seton Hall

"Racial Discourse and Censorship on NBC-TV, 1948-1960," Bob Pondillo, Middle Tennessee State

These two papers were designated for presentation by this session's co-sponsor, the Radio-Television Journalism Division:

"Before the Bloggers: The Upstart News Technology of Television at the 1948 Political Conventions," Mike Conway, Indiana

"A More Perfect Union's Jack: A Visual Representation of the Debate over Journalistic Mission within the American Democratic Experiment," Timothy R.

Getting ready for San Antonio

By Pat McNeely
Head
South Carolina

It's great to end my year as head of the history division with good news.



Our little membership drive resulted in an almost 10 percent increase in membership this year.

Along the way, we picked up 40 new members to move us from 419 members last year to 459 this year.

That makes us the fourth largest of the 17 divisions in AEJMC. We are outnumbered by the 706-member Newspaper Division, the 628-member Mass Communication and Society Division and the 524-member Public Relations Division.

I wish I could report an equally large increase in paper submissions, but in spite of making efforts to encourage more research during the year, we had another decrease. Historically, we've had 60 or 65 papers a year, but our research

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Lewis, Lyndon State

Friday, August 12

□ “Scholar-to-scholar”

Time: 11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Papers:

“Squeezing the ‘Exotic Bug’: Madrid Press Criticizes Hearst’s Coverage of a Cuban Revolutionary; Carol Wilcox, Virginia State (First place, faculty paper.)

“Manipulation of the Media: Misrepresentations, Indiscretions and Fleet Sightings,” David W. London, Central Michigan University (Third place, faculty paper.)

“Made to Order Faces: A Historical Analysis of Cosmetic Surgery and the Press, 1914–1950,” Lisa Hebert, Georgia

“Marcus Garvey’s Libel Trial for Seditious Libel in Jamaica,” Roxanne S.

Watson, Florida

“Analyzing the Images of the Journalist in Popular Culture: A Unique Method of Studying the Public’s Perception of Its Journalists and the News Media,” Joe Saltzman, Southern

California

“To Plead Our Own Cause: Two Black Newspapers Oppose the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina,” Thomas C. Terry, North Carolina

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Notes, from page 1

chair, Dane Claussen, reported that 50 papers were submitted this year, and 25 were accepted for a 50 percent acceptance rate.

Last year, we had 59 papers, which was a slight decrease from 2003. Looking back at 2000, the annual report showed that 60 papers were submitted, and 28 were accepted for an acceptance rate of 47 percent.

One of the rules in place for the History Division’s call for papers is a restriction to one submission per person. However, some scholars don’t notice the limit and submit more than one, while others, who might wish to submit two, limit themselves to just one.

Having been the Division’s research chair last year, I can say that when papers start pouring in, it’s easy to overlook two papers having been submitted by the same author, particularly if one is co-authored. And normally we have two

or three scholars who submit more than one because they don’t know about our restriction.

Many of the other divisions and interest groups do not have a limit or permit more submissions.

Our members’ meeting in San Antonio may be a good time to consider dropping the restriction of one paper submission per scholar or to raise the limit.

Some of you with better institutional memory than I may know of good reasons to keep our restriction in place, so we’d like to hear all sides of this issue. Please come prepared to support or defend a resolution to lift or amend the restriction of one paper per scholar for our paper calls.

While checking on the research question, I tried to obtain a copy of our by-laws from the AEJMC office to see if the question had been addressed before. Executive Director Jennifer McGill said there was no copy of the History

Division by-laws on file in the AEJMC national office.

If anyone has a copy, please send it to me as soon as possible, and I will send a copy to the national office and bring it with me to San Antonio. Even if we find a copy, we need to review our by-laws. If we can’t find one, we’ll need to ask in-coming head, Dane Claussen, to appoint a committee to develop new by-laws for us to consider in August 2006.

I’ve enjoyed being head of our Division this year. Please be sure to come to our members’ meeting at 6:45 p.m. Friday, August 12.

See you there.



Pat McNeely is the Eleanor M. and R. Frank Mundy Professor at the University of South Carolina School of Journalism and Mass Communications, where she chairs the print and electronic sequence and teaches writing, reporting and history. McNeely is the author of three books. She is head of the AEJMC history division in 2004-05.

Papers, from page 2

“News ‘From Yankeedom’: Southern Newspaper Coverage of the Presidential Election of 1864,” Eric David and Nicole Elise Smith, North Carolina

Saturday, August 13

□ “African-Americans, White Racism, and Newspapers”

Time: 8:15 a.m.–9:45 a.m.

Papers:

“Framing of Police Brutality and

Racism: Historical Perspectives on Mainstream and Minority Newspapers,” Sean Baker, Towson

“Oregon was a Klan State,” Kimberley Mangun, Oregon

“Covering a Mississippi Murder Trial: The Emmett Till Lynching,” Craig Flournoy, Southern Methodist

“Visions of Jubilee: Looking to Emancipation and Beyond in the Pacific Appeal, 1862–1863,” Thomas C. Terry, North Carolina (Second place, student paper.)

Expect 70, receive 50: A few surprises marked this year's History Division paper competition

By **Dane S. Claussen**

Vice-Head/Research Chair
Point Park

When I was asked write something for this issue of *Clio* about running this year's History Division research paper competition, I wasn't sure at first what I would write that wasn't predictable and obvious.

But then two things happened.

It used to be that the various AEJMC Divisions and Interest Groups would each receive about the same number of papers every year, and that the research chair of each of AEJMC's component parts could predict, easily and in advance, how much time the research paper competition was going to take. (The research chair must recruit judges, organize papers as they come in, send them to appropriate judges, then receive the judges' comments and ratings, accept some papers and reject others, organize the panels of papers, and give all this information to AEJMC for the convention program and annual report.)

But then, the percentage of papers submitted by graduate students started to increase, and the percentage of gradu-

ate students starting to “forum shop” increased dramatically. It's quite obvious now that many of our colleagues and students who are writing papers on subjects such as “the history of regulation of television,” are comparing acceptance rates in the History Division, the Law Division, the Communication Technology & Policy Division, and the Radio-Television Division (and perhaps the Mass Communication & Society Division), and sending their papers to that division which had the highest acceptance rate the year before.

When dozens of people do this, the results can be marked. The number of papers submitted to the History Division dropped to 50 this year from the usual number of 70–80. Meanwhile, the Mass Communication & Society Division, which usually gets 90–105 papers, received at least 135 this year!

What difference does it make?

Well, at the December planning meeting for this year's convention, History Division Head Pat McNeely and I lined up a total of 39 slots for papers for this year's convention, thinking we would receive 70–90 papers and we

□ “Changes and Issues, with Internal and/or External Causes, in the Journalism Profession”

Time: 11:45 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Papers:

“Keeping Step to the Music of the Drums: *Editor & Publisher* and the Problems of Journalism in the War Years and Beyond, 1914–1923,” Ronald R. Rodgers, University of Florida-Gainesville (Third place, student paper.)

“Rebuffing Refugee Journalists: The Profession's Failure to Help Jews Persecuted by Nazi Germany,” Laurel Leff, Northeastern

“An Honorable and Recognized Profession’: Bill Tilden and the USLTA's Ban of Tennis Player-Journalists,” John Carvalho, Auburn

“A Tsunami of Social Change: Media in the Eye of the Reform Storm,” Jeanni Atkins, Mississippi

□ “New Developments in U.S. Media History, 1920s-1950s”

Time: 1:30–3 p.m.

Papers:

“‘Perverts’ on the Potomac: Homosexuals Enter the News Arena,” Rodger Streitmatter, American

“How Much is that Wireless in the Window? Department Stores and Radio Retailing in the 1920s,” Noah Arceneaux, Georgia (First place, student paper, and winner, Price Competition.)

“When the Great Migration Met the Great Depression,” Brian Thornton, Northern Illinois

“The Dust Bowl Representative in the Communist Party Press: Woody Guthrie's *People's Daily World* Columns,” Matthew Blake, Florida-Gainesville

□ “Politics and Power in the 20th Century Public Sphere”

Time: 3:15–4:45 p.m.

Papers:

“Henry Luce's Anti-Communist Legacy: An Analysis of U.S. News Magazines' Coverage of China's Cultural Revolution,” Daniel M. Haygood, Tennessee-Knoxville (Second place, faculty paper.)

See Expect 70, page 5

See Papers, page 4

Call for papers:

Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression

The steering committee of the 13th annual Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression invites papers about the U.S. mass media of the 19th century, the Civil War in fiction and history, and images of race and gender in the 19th century press. Selected papers will be presented during the three-day conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee, November 10–12, 2005.

The top three papers and the top three student papers will be honored accordingly.

The purpose of the November conference is to share research and to develop a series of monographs about the 19th century press, the Civil War and the press, the Civil War in fiction and history, 19th century concepts of free expression, and images of race and gender in the 19th century press.

Papers from the first five conferences were published by Transaction Publishers in 2000 as a book of readings called *The Civil War and the Press*.

The steering committee is selecting from previous conferences a number of papers to be published in three books, titled: *The Civil War and American*

Journalism; Memory and Myth; The Civil War in Fiction and Film from Uncle Tom's Cabin to Cold Mountain, and Seeking a Voice: Images of Race and Gender in the 19th Century Press.

The symposium is sponsored by the George R. West Jr. Chair of Excellence in Communication and Public Affairs, the UT-Chattanooga Department of Communication, the UT-Chattanooga Department of History, the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, and WRCB-TV Channel 3.

No registration fee will be charged. Submission deadline is August 31.

Papers should be able to be presented within 20 minutes, at least 10 to 15 pages long.

Send papers (including a 200-300 word abstract) as an MS Word Email attachment to:

<West-Chair-Office@utc.edu>

Or, four copies of papers and abstracts may be mailed to:

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University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
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Chattanooga, TN 37403-2598
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Papers, from page 3

“Policing Authority: Photography and Police Power in *Time* and *Newsweek*, 1950-1980,” Nicole J. Maurantonio, Pennsylvania

“The ‘Arkansas Quijote’s’ Tilt Against Pentagon Propaganda: Senator J.W. Fulbright’s Challenge to the Rise of Militarism in America,” Stacey Cone, Iowa

“Propaganda and Prestige: Principal Foundations for a Canadian Film Industry, 1939-1945,” Bryan Cardinale-Powell, Georgia State

AJHA seeks nominees

Members of the American Journalism Historians Association are encouraged to submit nominations by June 1 for three new board members and for second vice president for 2005–06.

AJHA board members are elected to three-year terms and no more than one faculty member from any university or college may serve on the board at the same time. The person elected second vice president will be in line to become the AJHA president in two years.

The positions will be filled during the AJHA convention in San Antonio, October 5–8.

Nominations are to be sent to W. Joseph Campbell at wjc@american.edu.



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AMONG THE MEDIA

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Clio Among the Media is published quarterly by the History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Submissions to Clio are welcome. Please send them to: W. Joseph Campbell, School of Communication, American University, Washington, DC, 20016-8017. Electronic copy, either disk or e-mail, is preferred. For information, call Campbell at 202/885-2071, or e-mail him at: wjc@american.edu.

Recent issues of Clio may be accessed at:

<http://www.utc.edu/Outreach/AEJMC-HistoryDivision/histpub.html>

Expect 70, from page 3

would have an acceptance rate of 50 percent, give or take. But when we received 50 papers this year, we knew we certainly wouldn't and shouldn't use 39 slots for them (which would translate to a 78% acceptance rate)—unless there were 39 good-to-excellent papers. There weren't.

After reviewing and tallying all of the judges' ratings, rankings and comments on the 50 papers, I stuck with a 50 percent acceptance rate (25 papers) and gave back to the AEJMC convention one "Scholar-to-Scholar" paper slot and all 13 high-density paper slots (those offered at the convention's busiest times). In fact, I would have felt comfortable accepting only the top 22 papers rather than the top 25. After the top 22, the judges' ratings started turning uneven and their comments overwhelmingly of the tone that the papers needed major revisions.

I hope that the Council of Divisions chairs were able to redistribute the History Division's unneeded paper slots to other divisions that needed them more this year, such as the Mass Communication and Society Division.

The second thing that happened was that I read a piece by Clay Calvert and Robert D. Richards in the Law Division's newsletter in which they slammed the majority of their fellow media law professors for being content to give conference papers and not do work that has a lot more real-world im-

pact, such as writing law review articles and/or amicus briefs.

They even suggested that the Law Division dispense with research papers and instead focus on expert guest speakers and other activities. As those who know of my latest book, have seen my advocacy (particularly in the Mass Communication and Society Division) for "public intellectual" work by professors of journalism and mass communication, or understand why I just attended the National Conference

'I'm always disappointed when a judge writes no comments about any paper that he or she reviews; this year several judges were guilty of that.'

on Media Reform (May 13–15), I am highly sympathetic to the Calvert/Richards arguments—but not in all areas of mass communication scholarship.

Here in the History Division, for example, we don't make any pretense that our scholarship should be (or even can be) "useful" today in the sense of assisting journalists in doing their jobs better, or the FCC in doing its job better, or judges or legislators doing their jobs better. I enjoy reading and hearing history papers at the AEJMC convention; most are useful for my teaching,

and at least a few each year are useful in my research and writing. And that's nothing to be dismissive about. (I just wish more of the papers were better than they are!)

What else can I tell you about running this year's History Division paper competition?

I'm always disappointed when a judge writes no comments about any paper that he/she reviews, and this year several judges were guilty of that.

Second, a couple judges never seem to have met a paper that they didn't like, no matter how poorly done it is.

This tendency flies in the face of the objective of the AEJMC convention's being the premier national, even international academic conference for our very large and growing discipline.

This wouldn't be such a problem, except that every year a number of papers are submitted to our Division (and probably to all others) that just "aren't ready for prime time"—they're written by a master's student who has yet to take a theory or methodology course, or they're written by a hurried and tired professor on the afternoon of April 1, to make the April 1st postmark deadline.

I marvel at paper authors who have the gall to waste judges' time this way.



*Claussen is associate professor and director of graduate programs, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Point Park University, Pittsburgh. His latest book, *Anti-intellectualism in American Life: Magazines and Higher Education*, analyzes popular magazines from 1944 to 1996.*

History Division officers, 2004-05

Head: Patricia McNeely (South Carolina)

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Book Award Chair: Patrick Washburn (Ohio)

Covert Award Chair: Karen List (Massachusetts)

Toronto flashback:

Panel explores value of historical documentary

By Denise Matthews
Eastern Connecticut

It used to be said that there was no audience for historical documentary. Ken Burns' Civil Wars series proved that dead wrong. Now we have an entire network of history programming, the History Channel, and its global subsidiaries.

But is historical documentary the fast-food of historical scholarship—bloating us with superficialities and leaving us intellectually undernourished? Is written history in all ways superior?

Not necessarily.

Written history may have an advantage over history depicted in film documentary, in terms of being able to explore details and ambiguities in depth. But as participants noted at a History Division panel program at last year's AEJMC convention in Toronto, insightful analysis and scholarly rigor are not the exclusive domain of written history.

The panel, which was co-sponsored by the Radio-Television Journalism Division, included "American Experience" filmmaker, Eric Stange, and three other documentary filmmakers who teach university students.

Stange said he was aware of the temptations of trading screen flash for fact. But he argued that commitment to good storytelling does not preclude responsible scholarship and historical accuracy. In his documentary, "A Murder at Harvard," Stange chose a discrete incident—a 1849 murder by a Harvard professor—and thoroughly examined the details, noting how differing historians' perspectives shaped public memory of the murder.

Stange expressed frustration with documentary subjects that predate photography because documentary is

so reliant on good visuals. His frustration almost led him to decide to avoid subjects that predate photography, he said. But he refrained from taking that step and his most recent work was the four-hour PBS series about the French and Indian wars, "The War that Made America." For visuals he chose dramatization and, as a result, the role of the historical consultants on this production mushroomed.

Stange noted that historians were intimately involved in the series, adding: "And I am glad that they were there." Historians were on location and consulted on everything from Indian

*Commitment to good
documentary storytelling
does not preclude
responsible scholarship,
panelists noted.*

make-up, to battle scenes, to "answering a hundred niggling questions that no one foresaw until the last minute," Stange said.

Even with historical accuracy and scholarship in place, what can suffer most in historical documentary "is lack of context," said Tom Mascaro, an assistant professor of telecommunications at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

Mascaro said when he screens historical documentaries for his classes, he supplies readings and lectures to supplement the topic. When students develop an understanding of where the piece fits into the sweep of history, their comprehension of the documentary soars and subject becomes memorable.

"Former students, who already graduated," Mascaro recalled, "who had seen the Emmett Till documentary in my class, sent me emails when the Mis-

issippi case was reopened" in 2003.

"They haven't forgotten that history lesson," he said.

Context is vital, said Michael Majdic, who teaches a course in documentary at the University of Oregon.

He told the panel in Toronto:

"It's always important to have to understand the particular motives of any film or filmmaker. We need to know that Leni Rheifensthal's client for 'Triumph of the Will' was Adolf Hitler."

For Majdic, documentary history film and history books are distinct and should not be compared. Documentary, he said, can do what books cannot—show extensive photography, film footage, legal documents, locations, witnesses and experts speaking in their own words.

"More than any other medium they can resurrect the past, and integrate a multitude of sights and sounds into a coherent whole," Majdic said.

But he cautioned that "simplistic histories are flawed histories, and that is never more true than when studying documentary film."

The panel, which was titled "Referencing the Past in Documentaries," also noted that historians, whether they work in print or with moving image, face the task of shaping evidence into a story. It was recalled that the two-time Pulitzer winning-historian, Barbara Tuchman, defined herself as a storyteller, as "a narrator who deals with true stories, not fiction."

Tuchman's method of writing history in many respects paralleled the documentary filmmaking process, the panel noted. Both approaches cultivate strong narrative, character development, and an audiences' identification and emotional resonance with the story.



Denise Matthews is an associate professor of communication.

History Division offers impressive lineup of panels at San Antonio convention

Here is the lineup of History Division panels scheduled for the AEJMC convention in August in San Antonio.

Panels set for the first two days of the conference are listed on this page. Those panels scheduled for the closing two days are described on page 8.

Wednesday, August 10

□ “Do editorial endorsements matter anymore?”

1:30—3 p.m.

Sponsors: Council of Affiliates and History

Brief description: News media outlets, especially newspapers, have traditionally viewed opinion page endorsement of candidates at the local, state and federal level to be part of their function as community leaders. Do editorial viewpoints sway readers or viewers? Do they confuse news consumers already suspicious of bias in news coverage? Is it a throwback to an era when newspapers carried a political party label?

Panelists:

Lynnell Burkett, president, National Conference of Editorial Writers and editorial page editor, *San Antonio Express-News*
Others to be designated.

□ “Journalists, Historians and the Battle for Biography’s Soul”

5—6:30 p.m.

Sponsors: History and Council of Affiliates

Brief description: For much of the 20th century, biography was seen as primarily the province of historians. In recent years, however, more and more journalists have begun writing biographies. Do you really need a Ph.D. in history to do archival research and tell, in compelling detail, the story of someone’s life?

Some historians are uneasy with such questions and with journalists encroaching on their territory as biographers. Other historians welcome the company.

Panelists:

Robert Kanigel, MIT, and author of *The Man Who Knew Infinity: A Life of the Genius*

Brooke Kroeger, New York University, and author of *Fannie: The Talent for Success of Writer Fannie Hurst*.

Craig Seymour, *Creative Loafing*, Atlanta

Moderator: Valerie Boyd, Georgia, and author of *Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston*

Thursday, August 11

□ “The WLBT Case: Toward free expression and diversity in the media”

11:45 a.m.—1:15 p.m..

Sponsors: Law and History

Brief description: The landmark communications law case involving the license challenge against television state WLBT in Jackson, Miss., established the precedent that the public could participate in issues at the FCC—giving rise to the public interest communications movement—and put broadcasters on notice that they needed to hire more minorities and cover their entire communities, not just the white communities.

The case is relevant today because of the reinvigoration of the public interest movement.

Panelists:

Kathy Mills, author, Santa Monica, CA
Randal Pinkston, CBS News correspondent

Felix Gutierrez, Southern California
Naeemah Clark, Tennessee-Knoxville

Moderator: Kathy Mills

□ “Decisive years in American journalism”

3:15—4:45 p.m.

Sponsors: History and Law

Brief description: Panelists will review four decisive or pivotal years in American journalism, including 1835, 1897, and 1964. Panelists will consider what made those years so important to journalism and address the value and utility of year studies as a methodological approach in journalism history. Are “year studies” revealing, flexible, and useful? Do they address the periodic calls of senior scholars for methodological freshness in journalism history?

Panelists:

Susan A. Thompson, Montevallo

W. Joseph Campbell, American

Kyu Ho Youm, Oregon

Debashis Aikat, North Carolina

Moderator: W. Joseph Campbell

□ “Core Knowledge in Journalism History: Does it exist? If so, what is it? What should it be?”

5—6:30 p.m.

Sponsors: History and Graduate

Brief description: Many disciplines have what can be considered core knowledge—that is specific, commonly shared knowledge that defines the field. This panel will explore if there are any aspects of the history of journalism that all journalism and/or communications students should know, all journalists should know. Are there specific people, events, examples of reporting or other aspects of journalism history that constitute a central body of knowledge?

Panelists:

Maurine Beasley, Maryland.

Greg Borchard, Nevada-Las Vegas

Nancy Roberts, Albany

Elliot King, Loyola of Maryland

Moderator: Kate Roberts Edenberg, Minnesota-Twin Cities

See Panels, page 8

Friday, August 12

☐ “Beyond Barnum and Bernays: Rethinking Public Relations History”

1:30—3 p.m.

Sponsors: History and PR

Brief description: A number of historians have been investigating the roots of public relations with a broad lens and are finding a great deal to learn about the history of the field through the study of social reform movements and the contributions of women—in reform and in business.

This panel’s purpose is to build on the work of Marvin Olasky and Scott Cutlip by continuing to expanding beyond the P.T. Barnum-to-Edward L. Bernays model.

Panelists:

Margot Opdycke Lamme, Alabama
Karla K. Gower, Alabama
Vanessa D. Murphree, South Alabama
Karen Miller Russell, Georgia
Dane S. Claussen, Point Park

Moderator: Danny Shipka, Florida

☐ “The Alamo’s Entertaining History”

3:15—4:45 p.m., at the Alamo

Sponsors: Entertainment Studies and History

Brief description: This panel will be convened on site at the Alamo. Richard Bruce Winders, the Alamo’s historian and curator, will lead a discussion on popular representations of the Alamo in film, television, fiction and advertising and differences between reality and popular culture.

☐ From Cows to Capitals: Texas Women Journalists

5—6:30 p.m.

Sponsors: History and Commission on the Status of Women

Brief description: Barbara Jordan, Molly Ivins, Lady Bird Johnson, Kay Bailey Hutchison, and Laura Bush are just a few of the women the Lone Star State calls its own.

They have contributed to the state, the nation, and/or the world in different ways, and they have represented the media, sought to influence the media, and/or warranted the attention of the media through their actions. This panel will consider Texas women and their work.

Panelists:

Elizabeth Watts, Texas Tech
Patrick Cox, Texas
Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, Texas
Doug Newsom, Texas Christian

Moderator: Brenda J. Wrigley, Syracuse

Saturday, August 13

☐ War and War Correspondents: The Significance of News Coverage to the Nation

10—11:30 a.m.

Brief description: When the nation is embroiled in war, the conflict consumes much of media’s attention and consequently that of the nation.

This panel will look at the work of war correspondents and the coverage of America’s wars and selected military conflicts from World War II through the ongoing conflict in Iraq. Participants will consider the depth of coverage of wars, their effects on the United States, governmental involvement in media control, and (in some instances) the lasting impact of news coverage on the press and the nation.

Panelists:

Patrick Washburn, Ohio
Bradley Hamm, Indiana
Russell Cook, Bethany
Shannon Martin, Maine

Moderator:

David Copeland, Elon

Check out this site

Rob Rabe, a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has put together an impressive online bibliography of works in journalism and mass communication. Media historians are invited to visit Rabe’s site, which contains more than 3,000 entries.

The URL is: <https://mywebspace.wisc.edu/rarabe/web/resources.htm>.

Rabe calls the site “Sources in the History of Mass Communication” and its topics are quite varied, ranging from “international reporting” to “telegraph and cables” to “minority press.”

The online bibliography began emerging a few years ago, first as a 5-page list that students in the media history class Rabe taught were to consult in selecting a book to review. “At that point I decided to maintain the list for my own future use,” Rabe said, adding:

“One of my best friends is a reference librarian at Cal-Irvine, and she was looking at my site for some reason and suggested that it could be useful to a lot more people if I kept adding to it.

“So I decided that next summer to really go for it,” he said. “I spent a whole bunch of time ... roaming the massive [Wisconsin] library system,” as well as digging through the extensive bibliographies of *The Media in America: A History* and reviewing back issues of major journals, in a search for sources.

These days, Rabe said, “I probably spend approximately 10–15 hours a month on it. Some new entries are items I come across in the course of my normal reading and research. I keep a notepad and file folder in my bag and toss handwritten citations in there as I find them.”

He said he realizes the online bibliography is not without its drawbacks.

“My wife, who is an art history grad student, isn’t very impressed with the layout and design,” Rabe said. “Worse, there is no search capability so using the site requires that you have some idea what you are looking for Still, I think all in all it is a useful site and I’d be happy to know that people are using it.”

AEJMC conventions in years ahead

2006: San Francisco (Marriott), August 2-5

2007: Washington, D.C. (Renaissance), August 9-12

2008: Chicago (Marriott Downtown), August 6-9