

# Clio

among the media



Newsletter of the History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication • [www.aejmchistory.org](http://www.aejmchistory.org)



## Notes from the Chair

**Ann Thorne**  
Chair  
*Missouri Western State University*

Last year History Division Chair, Elliot King, with the help of the executive board, distilled the Divisions' goals to just six items. Even though this is a smaller number than in the past, the goals themselves are ambitious. All of these goals are listed in this issue of Clio, along with the minutes of the meeting.

One of the goals that will have tremendous impact is our commitment to explore ways to participate in and support the Media History Exchange in building a media historians' community. As you may remember from the Spring 2010 Clio, or if you attended the Journalism History preconference or business meeting in Denver, Elliot King wrote a grant and received funding from the National

Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Start Up to develop the Media History Exchange.

The site will combine a digital archive for research papers and abstracts with social networking, as well as providing a conference management tool that can be used by AJHA, the Joint Journalism Historians Conference (sponsored by the History Division and the AJHA) and other journalism history conferences. A prototype was demonstrated in Denver. The program should be online and working in time for the Joint Journalism Historians Conference to use as a management tool for its spring meeting.

It will be up to the History Division to decide what *Continued on p. 14*

## Waking Up To the Cold War

**Edward Alwood**  
*Quinnipiac University*

The Summer issue of Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly includes my article, "The Spy Case of AP Correspondent William Oatis." It is a study of an Associated Press reporter who was imprisoned in Czechoslovakia in 1951 for espionage. What it does not say is that I was severely injured while conducting the research and almost killed.

I began my work in the summer of

2002 in Prague when I met with a leader of the 1989 "Velvet Revolution," the uprising that ousted Czech Communists. My source described secret police files on Oatis and urged me to request them though I was not a Czech citizen.

I returned to Prague in November 2002 to begin the process. But while I was at the Czech national rail station, I mysteriously fell into a construction site and plunged into a dark, 20-foot pit, breaking my back and suffering severe

*Continued on p. 2*

### Issue Highlights

**Standing on the Shoulders of Giants**

*Berkley Hudson* .....3

**Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting**

*Tim Vos* .....5

**Unlikely Juxtapositions**

*Jane Marcellus*.....7

**Free For All**

*Elliot King*.....10

**Using Blogs to Promote Media History**

*Mary Lamonica* .....12

**Tennessee Conference**

*Mark Cheatham*.....16

## Waking Up To the Cold War *Continued from p. 1*

head injuries. Czech doctors initially thought I was a victim of bioterrorism. The fall of 2002 was a dangerous time with war in Afghanistan and a soon-to-be-launched attack on Iraq.

At Motol Hospital in Prague, doctors kept me on life support in a medically induced coma for three weeks because of my head injury. They told my family that I was not expected to survive. After I awakened from the coma, I learned that I had undergone spine surgery and that I had contracted pneumonia. I later learned that I had also contracted MRSA, the antibiotic-resistant methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, a potentially lethal staph infection. MRSA has received considerable attention in recent years but I had not heard of it in 2002.

After six weeks in the hospital, I was able to return home but there were concerns that the Czech authorities would not allow me to leave the country since I was infectious. My doctors provided documents explaining the circumstances and Czech security allowed me to board the plane. "I like excitement," I told my dean when I arrived in Boston, "but this was over the top."

I was taken to Yale University Hospital where I underwent additional surgeries to treat my infection. Then, I was sent to a rehabilitation hospital for four months to receive round-the-clock antibiotics through a plastic tube in my arm. I was also tethered to a vacuum machine to treat my wounds, a device I called my "dust buster."

Prague police never determined exactly what happened. With a minimum of effort, they concluded that it was an accident that was my fault and closed the case. I maintained that I was pushed.

In late 2003, I learned that the Ministry of the Interior approved my request for Oatis' files and I cautiously returned to Prague. The aura

of mystery continued when I found that someone broke into my locker at the archives. Nevertheless, I completed my work and found a fascinating, overlooked part of journalism history.

I had not understood the danger of researching the murky, secretive world of international espionage until November 2002. In the Czech Republic, as elsewhere in Eastern Europe, there is deep concern among former Communists, especially former secret police, that if their names are revealed they may face prosecution and possible financial ruin. Someone may have thought that my research would expose some ghastly deeds from the Communist era and name the individuals who were responsible. Or, perhaps someone mistook my name for "Atwood," one of Oatis' sources in 1951 who was suspected of spying for the CIA. The circumstances never became clear.

What did I learn? I learned not to travel alone when I reach back into the past. I leaned to be more vigilant. Though I tend to interview sources in public places as a safeguard, I must realize that someone with an ulterior motive may be eavesdropping. I also learned that the Cold War did not really end with the fall of communism in 1989. My research showed that Eastern Europe was not a safe place for William Oatis in 1951 and my experience showed that it was not safe for me 51 years later.

### Covert Award Nominations

The History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication announces the 26th annual competition for the Covert Award in Mass Communication History. The \$500 award will be presented to the author of the best mass communication history article or essay published in 2010. Book chapters in edited collections also may be nominated. The award was endowed by the late Catherine L. Covert, professor of public communications at Syracuse University and former head of the History Division. Nominations, including seven copies of the article nominated, should be sent by March 1, 2011, to Karen K. List, Journalism, 108 Bartlett Hall, UMass, Amherst, MA, 01003. For further information, contact: Nancy L. Roberts  
Covert Award Committee  
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### AEJMC History Division Call for Panel Proposals

The History Division is seeking panel proposals for the AEJMC 2011 national conference in St. Louis, Mo. The panel proposals are due by Oct. 13.

The proposals should include the following information:

- Summary of what the session topic will be
- Possible speakers, including names if possible
  - Suggested co-sponsoring divisions
  - Estimated cost, if any
- Name of contact person for the session

Please send all proposals to Ann Thorne, History Division Chair, [thorne@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:thorne@missouriwestern.edu). Please feel free to email questions.

## Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Berkley Hudson  
Teaching Chair  
University of Missouri



On a worktable in my office, all five, dark blue, hardbound volumes of *A History of American Magazines* sit together and upright on display.

Frank Luther Mott, aided by his wife Vera Ingram Mott and daughter Mildred Mott Wedel, wrote these books over the course of a decades-long blast of writing and scholarship. Mott published these while he was a dean and professor at Iowa and then Missouri. Two volumes won the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1939.

Mott gave a signed set to a junior colleague, media historian William Howard Taft. Years later, before Taft retired, he gave them to his junior colleague Don Ranly. After Ranly retired, he gave them to me. Once a semester, I carry the books as totems to my classes. I pass them around and talk about Mott, Taft, and Ranly and their deep interests in the co-mingled realms of research, writing, and teaching.

For me the books represent a part of the rich web of mentorship that benefits me as a teacher of media history. They also represent the importance of the flow of mentorship.

Mentor, it is said, taught Telemachus, son of Odysseus. To encourage us to think more deeply about our own mentorship, I offer a simple definition, drawn from two of my mentors, Jungian James Hillman and mythologist Michael Meade: To be a mentor, you need only to know more than someone else about something they want to learn. And you are willing to share that knowledge.

This may seem obvious and simple. To me, however, it is a powerful concept.

We stand, as Google Scholar reminds us, on the shoulders of giants. Long before Google, Jane Brown at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill had introduced me to the scholarly tradition, a brotherhood, a sisterhood of mentors. Living, dead, unknown and unknown, who help us find our way.

Catherine Lutz, who taught me cultural anthropology at UNC, required our class to write short intellectual autobiographies that focused partly on mentors. Now, in every class I teach, I have my students write these and then read them aloud.

Recently our Missouri associate dean Esther Thorson queried our doctoral faculty and asked if we could help her create a family tree of our scholarly lineage. Primary on my tree is a most significant branch. It is labeled Margaret A. Blanchard. She served as my doctoral advisor. She died in 2004. I forever will belong to her global cohort of media history scholars, those of us she showed, one-to-one, how to teach. I regularly reach out to that cohort to seek counsel about my teaching.

In addition to the name of Peggy Blanchard, I could create here

a mind-boggling list worthy of the King James Version of biblical beagats. This would include others who mentor me and those I mentor.

I encourage you to create such a list now. As you do so, you might answer these questions: Who encouraged you to take advantage of teaching workshops or retreats, pedagogy classes, and university centers devoted to teaching excellence? Who helped you to create teaching or research support groups that meet virtually or face-to-face?

Who inspires your work as a teacher? When is the last time you sent them a short, hand-written note of appreciation? When is the last time you visited with them in person?

As you answer these, consider how you can extend your network of those you mentor and those who mentor you. Think about what role the History Division of AEJMC or other local, regional or international organization could or do play in your development as a mentor.

Provocatively, I also ask alike of grad student, mid-career professor and seasoned senior faculty:

What do you need to do to improve your teaching of media history?

Who can mentor you? Who can you mentor?

Please direct ideas and questions to [HudsonB@missouri.edu](mailto:HudsonB@missouri.edu)

# Clio

Among the Media

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Submissions to *Clio* are welcome. Please send them to: Lisa Burns, <lisa.burns@quinnipiac.edu>. Electronic copy by e-mail is preferred.

Submissions may also be mailed to Lisa Burns Quinnipiac University 275 Mount Carmel Ave SB-MCM Hamden, CT 06518

For information, contact Lisa Burns (203) 582-8548, or the e-mail address above.

Recent issues of *Clio* may be accessed at:  
[www.utc.edu/Outreach/AEJMC-HistoryDivision/histpub.html](http://www.utc.edu/Outreach/AEJMC-HistoryDivision/histpub.html)

## Call for Entries: Best Journalism and Mass Communication History Book

The History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication is soliciting entries for its award for the best journalism and mass communication history book of 2010.

The award is given annually, and the winning author will receive a plaque and a cash prize at the August 2011 AEJMC conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

The competition is open to any author of a relevant history book regardless of whether he or she belongs to AEJMC or the History Division. Authorship is defined as the person or persons who wrote the book, not just edited it. Only those books with a 2010 publication (copyright) date will be accepted.

Compilations, anthologies, articles, and monographs will be excluded because they qualify for the Covert Award, another AEJMC History Division competition.

Entries must be postmarked no later than February 5, 2011. Four copies of each book must be submitted, along with the author's mailing address, telephone number, and email address, to:

John P. Ferré  
AEJMC History Book Award Chair  
Department of Communication  
University of Louisville  
Louisville, KY 40292  
Please contact Dr. Ferré at 502.852.2237  
or [ferre@louisville.edu](mailto:ferre@louisville.edu) with any questions.

## Call for Entries: History of the U.S. Postal Service

The United States Postal Service sponsors two annual prizes for scholarly works on the history of the American postal system. Conference papers, theses, dissertations, or published works by students are eligible for a \$1,000 award; published works by faculty members, independent scholars, and public historians are eligible for a \$2,000 award. The deadline is Dec. 1, 2010. For further details, see the web site for the Rita Lloyd Moroney Awards, <http://www.usps.com/postalhistory/moroneyaward.htm> or contact Richard Kielbowicz, Department of Communication, University of Washington, [kielbowi@u.washington.edu](mailto:kielbowi@u.washington.edu).

## Minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting

Tim Vos  
Secretary  
University of Missouri



Division Chair Elliot King called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. on August 5, 2010. King announced that the business meeting would be “green”—the agenda, minutes, goals, etc., would be projected on screen rather than printed and distributed. King presented the minutes of the 2009 business meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

King presented the chair's report, noting that the Division produced another slate of excellent convention programming. The new review criteria were successfully implemented for the 2010 research paper competition. In addition to selecting papers by z-scores, a paper also needed at least two positive reviews. The awards program is also functioning smoothly. King reported that the Division has close to \$12,000 in its account, but little money is outgoing. He suggested the Division consider spending some of these funds in ways that will attract new members to the Division. King then reported that the March

joint conference with the American Journalism Historians Association was a success. Lisa Burns of Quinnipiac University has now assumed organizer duties for the conference along with Kevin Lerner of Marist University. The Southeast Colloquium was also a success. *Clio* continued without interruption in 2009-10.

Vice-chair Ann Thorne reported that 80 papers were submitted in the research competition and 39 were accepted for presentation, an acceptance rate of 49 percent. Faculty accounted for 31 of the accepted papers and students accounted for 8—a greater disparity than in recent years. Programming space for papers was very tight due to a “chip reduction.” A plan for awards for poster presentations is being crafted. Thorne also reported that Karen List is stepping down as coordinator of the Covert Award and asked that those interested in serving in the position be in touch with her via email.

*Clio* editor Tim Vos reported that the division successfully produced and distributed four issues of *Clio* in 2009-10. He thanked members for their contributions. Incoming *Clio* editor Lisa Burns solicited input and participation for 2010-11.

Nancy Roberts, filling in for Karen List, announced the winner of the 26th annual Covert Award in Mass Communication History. This year's winner was Patrick Daley, associate professor at the University of New Hampshire. Daley won the award for “Newspaper Competition and Public Spheres in New Hampshire in the Early Revolutionary Period,” published in *Journalism & Communica-*

*tion Monographs* in Spring 2009. The piece was selected from 11 nominated articles. Daley was not able to attend the business meeting, so Roberts read a statement of thanks on his behalf.

John Ferre announced the award for best media history book published in 2009. Three judges examined 11 nominees for the award. This year's winner was Hugh Richard Sloten from University of Otago (New Zealand) for *Radio's Hidden Voice: The Origins of Public Broadcasting in the United States*. Sloten accepted the award and thanked the Division for helping underscore the importance of history to his home university.

King presented the History Division's top research paper awards. Top faculty paper went to Kathy Roberts Forde for “The Communications Circuit of John Hersey's ‘Hiroshima.’” Second place paper went to Joseph Campbell for “‘Severe in Invective’: Franc Wilkie, Wilbur Storey, and the Improbable ‘Send Rumors’ Quotation” and third place paper went to Janice Hume for “Building an American Story: How Early Historians Used Press Sources to Remember the Revolution.” The top student paper award went to Patrick File for “United States v. Shiver and the Rise of the Public Policy Rationale for Journalist's Privilege: 1894-1897.” Second place paper went to Gigi Alford for “Press Freedoms in the American Colonies, 1755-1765: The Public and the Printers” and third place paper went to Amy Snow Landa for “Jessica Mitford's ‘Experiment Behind Bars’ and the Moral Craft of Investigative Journalism.”

King stated that refunding the Co-

*Continued on p. 6*

vert Award remains an item of unfinished business. Members asked what it will take to properly endow the award; King relied that there is no clear answer. King then presented division goals for 2010-11 (reprinted elsewhere in this issue of Clio).

Ann Thorne proposed that an award be created for top poster presentations at the conference. The executive board would establish criteria for the award, which would be announced in the winter Clio. Several members raised issues or questions, including would the award be based on substantive content or visual presentation? Thorne responded that the intent is to award posters for excellence in visual presentation of substantive content. Other questions included could

the award be announced before the conference to help the conference goers get travel funds and can we put top papers in poster sessions to underscore the importance of posters? Thorne responded that top papers have been scheduled in poster sessions in the past. Other members wondered if the award would downgrade the significance of scholarly substance and whether some papers were just less suited to visual display. David Mindich moved to empower the executive committee to establish a poster award. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved on a 33-3 vote of the membership.

King presented an overview of the Media History Exchange, an NEH-

sponsored archive and social network designed to foster collaboration and interaction among journalism historians. The executive board will form an ad hoc committee to monitor the development and use of the Exchange. Members were asked to email Thorne if there are interested in serving on the committee. The committee will report back at the 2011 conference with a recommendation on whether or not to contribute funds for



Award Winners From Left to Right: Janice Hume, Amy Snow Landa, Richard Hugh Slotten, Patrick File, Gigi Alford, Kathy Roberts Forde

ongoing maintenance of the Exchange.

King presented potential venues for the 2014 AEJMC conference: Atlanta, Jacksonville, Miami, Tampa, and Montreal. Members were polled to indicate their preferences. Top vote getters were Montreal (31), Miami (2), Tampa (2), and Jacksonville (1). Thorne will pass along the results at the Council of Divisions meeting.

Kathy Roberts Forde solicited submissions to the AEJMC Southeast Colloquium, which will be held March 17-19, 2011, in Columbia, South Carolina. The Media and Civil Rights History Symposium will be held in conjunction with the Colloquium.

Lisa Burns announced that the

Joint Journalism Historians Meeting will be held at New York University on March 12, 2011. She encouraged submissions and, in particular, participation from graduate students.

David Mindich announced a call for papers to the Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression, to be held November 11-13, 2010 at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Mindich also reminded members of the JHistory online community for journalism historians. The community includes some 500 members.

Information was also circulated on the Great Plains Radio History Symposium to be held October 22, 2010 at Kansas State University.

King presented the slate of officers for the AEJMC History Division for 2011:

- Chair – Ann Thorne
- Vice-Chair – Tim Vos
- Secretary/Clio Editor – Lisa Burns
- PF&R Chair – Jane Marcellus
- Teaching Chair – Berkley Hudson

Membership unanimously approved the slate.

King thanked the membership for the opportunity to serve the division as chair and presented incoming chair, Ann Thorne, with a sheriff's badge and gift. Thorne presented King with a plaque, expressing the division's gratitude for King's service. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

## Unlikely Juxtapositions: Reaching Out to Other Divisions

Jane Marcellus

PF&R Chair

Middle Tennessee State University



of a single division more than others.”

PF&R activities with other divisions are encouraged. This leads me to think about the many ways that historians can work with other divisions to come up with creative ideas for panel proposals and even research papers. I believe creativity is often the result of juxtaposing seemingly unlike areas and thinking about what questions or issues arise.

For example, perhaps a panel could emerge out of the juxtaposition of free expression, racial, gender, and cultural inclusiveness, and media technologies of the past. What can this tell us about these issues in regard to emerging technologies today? If enough people are addressing related issues, could this be a panel with, say, the Communication Technology division?

Another example: How could a historical examination of media criticism and accountability be combined with interests of those in the Cultural and Critical Studies division, whose members' work deals heavily with that standard? Or what about divisions that historians might not normally think of working with, such as Media Management and Economics?

In a way, I think we have an obligation to do this. We talk a lot about the lack of interest in media history and how historians have to compete with emerging media in our curricula and elsewhere. But the flip side is there's a historical angle on just about everything. By working with other divisions, we can help others become more interested in what we do.

In Denver, a surprising number of people showed up on the last afternoon of the conference for a joint History-Media Ethics Division panel titled "Ethics Across Time" that examined how historians can deal with ethical considerations in our research about the past without falling into historical presentism. I was organizer for the panel. It came out of concerns that emerged in my research about how I might look at issues in the past that. I may write a column about that panel in the future, but my point here is that I wouldn't have thought to do the panel if I hadn't thought about juxtaposing history and ethics.

So keep this in mind as you think about what you'll be doing next year in St. Louis and how you might help your students brainstorm ideas for their work. Again, creative ideas can come out of seemingly unlikely juxtapositions.

# AEJMC Southeast Colloquium 2011

March 17–19, 2011

## General Call for Papers and Panel Proposals



### Media and Civil Rights History Symposium

The School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of South Carolina proudly announces the first annual **Media and Civil Rights History Symposium**, to be held jointly with the AEJMC Southeast Colloquium. The Farrar Media and Civil Rights History Award, recognizing the best history journal article or chapter in an edited collection on the relationship between the media and civil rights, will be given at the symposium. The winner of the award will receive \$1,000 and have symposium expenses covered. For more information about the award and symposium, see [jour.sc.edu/mcrhs](http://jour.sc.edu/mcrhs) beginning Sept. 1, 2010.

the Hilton Columbia Center, located in the Vista, the revitalized arts and entertainment district of Columbia, and near campus and the Statehouse.

**For more information**, please contact Kathy Roberts Forde at 803-777-3321 or [fordekr@sc.edu](mailto:fordekr@sc.edu). For registration, travel, and hotel information, please visit the Southeast Colloquium 2011 Web site at [jour.sc.edu/sec2011](http://jour.sc.edu/sec2011).

**Research papers:** Authors are invited to submit completed research papers to the paper chairs listed on the right by the postmark deadline of Dec. 13, 2010. All papers must be submitted via first class U.S. Mail or overnight delivery. Graduate students are encouraged to submit papers. Four copies of each paper should be submitted. One copy should have a title page with identifying information (name, faculty or student designation, affiliation, complete U.S. postal address, phone number, and e-mail address), and three copies should contain a title page with no identifying information. No other identifying information should be included on any of the copies. Each paper should include an abstract of 250 words or less attached behind the title page (with no identifying information). Length of papers should not exceed 30 pages including references and tables (50 pages for Law and Policy papers—see specific call on colloquium Web site for additional details). No electronic submissions will be accepted. Authors of accepted papers will be notified by the end of January 2011. Acceptance and/or submission of papers to colloquium paper competitions does not prevent authors from submitting to AEJMC divisions for the national convention. The author of each accepted paper (at least one author in the case of a coauthored paper) must present the paper at the colloquium, March 17–19, 2011, or may have the invitation to present rescinded and may not claim acceptance of the paper on a CV or other such report. Winners of top paper awards in each division also are expected to attend the business luncheon and meeting on Saturday, March 19, 2011.

**Panel proposals:** Panel proposals should be submitted to Kathy Roberts Forde, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208, with a postmark deadline of Dec. 13, 2010, and should include a brief description of the panel along with proposed panelists. Proposals should not exceed three double-spaced pages.

The University of South Carolina Columbia is located less than 8 miles from the Columbia Metropolitan Airport and approximately 95 miles from the Charlotte/Douglas International Airport (in Charlotte, N.C.).

Hotel rooms are reserved at a special conference rate at

#### History Division

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March 18–19, 2011 • Columbia, S.C.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of South Carolina will host the first Media & Civil Rights History Symposium on March 18–19, 2011. This event is designed to bring together civil rights and media historians to share scholarly knowledge on the vital relationships between civil rights movements and issues and various types of public communication in the modern world. We welcome scholars from various disciplines, and we invite work that approaches civil rights and media history from a range of contexts, perspectives, and periods.

## Call for Papers and Panel Proposals

Symposium organizers are currently accepting proposals for individual papers and panel sessions on all aspects of the historical relationship between media and civil rights. We encourage submissions from graduate students. The deadline for paper and panel proposal submission is Nov. 1, 2010.

A complete proposal will include the following:

- An abstract of no more than 500 words, for both papers and panels.
- A one-page curriculum vitae for each paper author or panelist.
- Complete contact information for each paper author or panelist, including email addresses.

Panel proposals should provide a panel title and indicate the panel moderator.

Submissions should be sent via first class U.S. Mail or overnight delivery. Late or emailed submissions will not be considered.

### Mail papers, panel proposals and award nominations postmarked by Nov. 1, 2010 to:

Kathy Roberts Forde  
School of Journalism and  
Mass Communications  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, SC 29208

### For more information contact:

Kathy Roberts Forde  
Phone: 803.777.3321  
E-mail: [fordekr@sc.edu](mailto:fordekr@sc.edu)

## Announcing the Inaugural Farrar Media Civil Rights History Award

Honoring University of South Carolina Professor Emeritus Ronald T. Farrar and his wife, Gayla D. Farrar, this new award recognizes the best journal article or chapter

in an edited collection on the historical relationship between the media and civil rights.

Submitted articles or chapters should be works of historical scholarship and must have been published in 2009 or 2010.

We encourage submissions that address the media and civil rights from a range of historical contexts, periods, and perspectives.

Scholars may nominate and submit their own work or the work of others by sending three copies of the article/chapter and a cover letter describing the merits of the work.

The winner will receive a plaque and \$1,000. To receive the award, the winner must agree to present his or her work in a featured address at the symposium. The winner's symposium expenses will be covered. A national panel of experts will judge the contest.



Dr. Ronald T. Farrar

## *Free for All: The Internet's Transformation of Journalism* by Elliot King.

(Northwestern University Press: Evanston, Illinois, 2010. 328 pgs.) Reprinted with permission

### **Journalists Discover Blogging** (pgs. 232-234)

While many of the early blogs were truly personal diaries and other attempts at personal expression, as usual journalists were also among the early adopters. Andrew Sullivan had joined *The New Republic* in 1986, and in 1991, he was named the magazine's editor in chief, the youngest person ever named to the post. In 1995, Sullivan, a devout Catholic who described himself as a libertarian but was largely seen as a conservative politically, published *Virtually Normal: An Argument About Homosexuality*, in which he discussed his own homosexuality and defended same sex marriage.<sup>49</sup> Not surprisingly, the book received a controversial reception. By the year 2000, Sullivan had become a freelance writer, and he felt that he needed an online presence. At first, a friend posted old columns and essays on a Web site for him, but when the process became tedious, his friend introduced him to Blogger. Sullivan, in his own words, was completely clueless technologically. But he realized that he could post new writing directly on Blogger. He had written for online publications before, both a LISTSERV for gay writers and for *Slate*. He decided to try combining a British style of crisp, short commentary with a more personal, essayistic, first-person form of journalism. He found the experience an "exhilarating literary liberation."

Sullivan was not the first prominent journalist to launch a blog. Mickey Kaus, who had written for the *Washington Monthly*, *Newsweek*, and once again *The New Republic*, had written the blog-like *Chatterbox* column in *Slate* magazine in 1997. In

1999, he launched the *Kausfiles* as a private blog, which was often written as interior monologues and conversations with a nonexistent editor.

A handful of other established journalists began to experiment with blogs. But the breakthrough moment came with the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Although the traditional news media gave round-the-clock coverage to the events, the thirst for news simply could not be satisfied and the traditional media's Web sites could not handle the rush of traffic.<sup>52</sup> In addition to the coverage itself, the normal political commentary seemed unable to address the enormity of the situation and the impact it had on so many people adequately. In response, established bloggers deviated from what they normally did to provide coverage. Dave Winer, for example, began posting one-line news flashes, clips from Webcams, and links to other blogs from eye witnesses.<sup>53</sup>

Many journalists also felt they needed a personal outlet to express their feelings. In a typical example, Jeff Jarvis, a former columnist of the *San Francisco Examiner* and the founding editor of *Entertainment Weekly*, was actually trapped in the cloud of dust generated by the collapse of the Twin Towers. A few days later he started a blog. "I had a personal story that I needed to tell," he said later. As soon as his blog launched, other bloggers started to link to him. He found that he had "joined this great conversation."<sup>54</sup>

Blogging was the quintessential democratic medium. Anybody could do it. After the events of 9/11, eye witness accounts flooded the Internet. The

left-wing documentary film maker Michael Moore blogged about telephoning a friend in the World Trade Center and having the phone go dead when the building collapsed. Jon Katz posted his account of watching the towers collapse as well. While many of the accounts were posted on personal blogs, Katz posted his on *Slashdot*, which was known for its coverage of technology.<sup>55</sup> All sorts of people started posting both what they saw and how they felt about the event in blogs, newsgroups, forums, and chat rooms. Shortly after the event, the blog *www.worldnewyork.org* was set up to capture people's stories and provide links to other information sources. Blogs were also used to host survivor registries. The sheer volume of the output of blogs was captured in archive sites like *NYC Bloggers* and, later, the September 11 Digital Archive Project. The chaos was "a galvanizing point for the blogging world," said Dan Gillmor, director of the Center for Citizen Media, who for ten years served as a columnist for the *San Jose Mercury News* and wrote a blog for *Silicon Valley.com*.<sup>56</sup>

From that point, blogging spread like wildfire. From fewer than one hundred Web sites that might be called blogs in 1999, it was estimated that there were close to 500,000 blogs by 2002, and a blog was being started every 40 seconds.<sup>57</sup> By 2004, according to Technorati, there were more than four million blogs. That year, blogs were being added at the rate of 12,000 a day, or one every 7.2 seconds.<sup>58</sup>

*Endnotes Ctd on Pg 15*

## **THE JOINT JOURNALISM HISTORIANS CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, PANELS AND PARTICIPANTS**

When: SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2011

Time: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Place: Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, New York University, 20 Cooper Square, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10003

(website: <http://journalism.nyu.edu/>)

Cost: \$50 (includes continental breakfast and lunch)

You are invited to submit a 500-600 word proposal for completed papers, research in progress or panel discussions for presentation at the Joint Journalism Historians Conference—the American Journalism Historians Association and the AEJMC History Division joint spring meeting. Innovative research and ideas from all areas of journalism and communication history and from all time periods are welcome. Scholars from all academic disciplines and stages of their academic careers are encouraged to participate. This conference offers participants the chance to explore new ideas, garner feedback on their work, and meet colleagues from around the country interested in journalism and communication history in a welcoming environment. Your proposal should include a brief abstract detailing your presentation topic as well as a compelling rationale why the research is of interest to an interdisciplinary community of scholars.

We are also looking for participants for our "Meet the Author" panel. If you published a book in the past year (2010) or have a book coming out in the spring of 2011 and would like to spend a few minutes touting your book at the conference, please contact conference co-coordinator Lisa Burns ([Lisa.Burns@quinnipiac.edu](mailto:Lisa.Burns@quinnipiac.edu)) with a brief blurb about your book. This year, submissions will be processed through the new Media History Exchange, an archive and social network funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities and administered by Elliot King (Loyola University Maryland), the long-time organizer of this conference. Send all submissions (electronic submissions only) by January 5th, 2011 to Lisa Burns, conference co-coordinator (Quinnipiac University): [Lisa.Burns@quinnipiac.edu](mailto:Lisa.Burns@quinnipiac.edu) (Tel: 203-582-8548). You'll then receive details on uploading your proposal to the Media History Exchange. Also, if you are willing to serve as a submission reviewer or panel moderator, please contact Lisa Burns.

Acceptance Notification Date: February 6th, 2011

Any questions? Contact conference co-coordinators Lisa Burns (programming or submission questions, [Lisa.Burns@quinnipiac.edu](mailto:Lisa.Burns@quinnipiac.edu)) or Kevin Lerner (logistical or travel questions, [kevin.lerner@marist.edu](mailto:kevin.lerner@marist.edu)).

### **History Division: Goals for 2010-2011**

1. Establish an award recognizing poster presentations and the annual conference (both in HD and Scholar-to-Scholar sessions).
2. Explore ways to participate in and support the Media History Exchange to foster more scholarly communication and to build the media historians' community.
3. Continue to expand *Clio* as a vehicle for communication among media history scholars by increasing the substantive content of interest to scholars and teachers in each issue.
4. Identify ways to attract young scholars to the study of history
5. Seek additional methods to promote the work of Division members by alerting them to additional relevant venues for the presentation and publication of their scholarship.
6. Support and promote the Division's tradition of organizing high-quality research, teaching and PF&R panels for the 2011 conference.

## USING BLOGS TO PROMOTE MEDIA HISTORY

Mary M. (Cronin) Lamonica  
New Mexico State University

As media historians, we all know the difficulties inherent in trying to obtain grants for book projects. A colleague and I settled on an interim step we'd like to share with you. We

not) during the current economic downturn. We knew a documentary project was at hand. We had intended to call our work "The New Hard Times." A book (or maybe two) on the



October 1937. "Abandoned garage by Russell Lee for FSA

create a history blog as a first step to publicize our work. And we're hoping that the blog can serve as a vehicle to help us obtain further funding to continue our book project.

Based on the positive feedback we've received in just five weeks from people who found our blog, we've discovered that we're also helping publicize history—something we're pleased to do.

As a spoiler, I should note that this is a history hybrid project—part present day and part history. Should that concept cause consternation, you should stop reading now.

Our project was conceived two years ago from scattered discussions between myself and my colleague, photo professor Bruce Berman, about how people were coping (or

subject is the eventual goal, although the book's title will probably change several times before its completion.

As our conversations took shape, we discussed parallels and differences between today and the Great Depression. And we discussed the extensive documentary work done during the Depression-era by the photographers who worked for the Farm Security Administration (FSA). When people think of the Great Depression, the iconic images captured by FSA photographers (like Dorothea Lange's "Migrant Mother" photograph) often come to mind.

The FSA, as it was known, was one of many federal programs to emerge during President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration. The FSA tried to alleviate rural poverty by

## Call for Clio Contributions

Welcome to my first issue of *Clio*. I am looking forward to serving as your editor this year.

I would like to encourage all History Division members to contribute to upcoming issues of the newsletter. Like your local news station says, if you see media history happen, let us know! Share your stories and photos with us. The deadlines for upcoming issues are December 15th (Winter), February 15th (Spring) and June 15th (Summer).

*Clio* welcomes your articles and commentaries on any issues related to the field. We don't have a smart phone "app" (yet), but you can send your contributions or suggestions to Lisa Burns, *Clio* Editor, [Lisa.Burns@quinnipiac.edu](mailto:Lisa.Burns@quinnipiac.edu), or by mail, School of Communication, Quinnipiac University, 275 Mount Carmel Ave., SB-MCM, Hamden, CT 06518.

purchasing sub-marginal farm land and moving farmers. The administration also tried to tackle other rural ills, including soil erosion, while helping the agrarian poor by teaching them scientific agriculture, bookkeeping, and other skills.

The FSA's Information Divisions, which was meant to be just one aspect of the agency, became its legacy. Initially, the photographers were hired to undertake public relations work by documenting both the



July 2010, Abandoned gas station, Elida, NM by Bruce Berman/NMSU

plight of poor farmers and the help given to them by the government.

By the latter 1930s, however, Roy Stryker, the director of the FSA's Information Division, broadened his photographers' mandate without seeking government approval. Stryker, an economist who previously taught at Columbia University, understood the value of documentary photography and saw an opportunity. He directed his photographers to fully document rural life in America, rather than just photograph FSA projects.

By the early 1940s, more than 250,000 photos of rural and urban life had been taken by FSA photographers. Of those, more than 164,000 remain. The collection, which includes a

number of early color photographs, has been digitized and is available via the Library of Congress's website.

Both Bruce Berman, and myself wanted to research and publicize Farm Security Administration photographer Russell Lee's work in New Mexico. But, we didn't want to stop there. We wanted to retrace his route through New Mexico and report on and photograph the people who, today, live in the same small towns Lee visited in the late 1930s and early 1940s. We were

not looking to do a "re-photography" project. In other words, we were not going to stand on the same spots Lee stood seventy years ago and show the same vistas today. We also were not necessarily looking to photograph the descendants of those photographed in the 1930s and 1940s. Our school, New Mexico State University, gave us \$3,500 in seed money to begin. So, we did.

Five of the FSA photographers: Dorothea Lange, Russell Lee, Arthur Rothstein, John Collier, Jr., and John Vachon, all spent time in New Mexico and captured slices of rural New Mexican life during the 1930s and early 1940s. They portrayed the lives of New Mexico's Native Americans, Mexican Americans, and Anglos,

*Continued on Pg. 14*

## History Division Officers

2010-2011

**Ann Thorne**  
Missouri Western  
State University  
Chair

**Tim Vos**  
University of Missouri  
Vice Head and Research  
Chair

**Lisa M. Burns**  
Quinnipiac University  
Secretary/Newsletter Editor

**Jane Marcellus**  
Middle Tennessee  
State University  
PF&R Chair

**Berkley Hudson**  
University of Missouri  
Teaching Standards Chair

**Kittrell Rushing**  
Tennessee-Chattanooga  
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**John P. Ferré**  
University of Louisville  
Book Awards Chair

**Nancy L. Roberts**  
University at Albany, SUNY  
Covert Award Chair

as well as documenting the lives of migrants heading to California via roads like U. S. Highway 60.

Of all of the FSA photographers who documented the Southwest, Russell Lee (accompanied by his journalist wife, Jean) spent the most time in the region. That factor, plus his compassionate portrayals led us to focus on Lee's work. We spent substantial time considering what Lee accomplished in New Mexico.

After we undertook preliminary drives across the western portion of Highway 60—from Socorro to the Arizona border—our New Mexico work halted until we journeyed to Texas. More specifically, to the University of Texas at Austin and to Southwest Texas State University at San Marcos, both of which hold Russell Lee's personal papers, including his photographs, notebooks, and letters. We spent substantial time with the archival materials. We then gathered and read the scholarly books and journal articles written about the FSA and Russell Lee before resuming our NM journey. We also perused, via microfilm, hundreds of letters written to and from the FSA photographers and their boss, Roy Stryker. The Stryker papers are held at the University of Louisville.

Once informed, we determined to travel, as closely as possible, the same roads that Russell and his wife, Jean Lee took seven decades ago. And, we also were determined to interview and photograph people in the same spirit.

During our travels this summer we've met many people, including Lucy Pino of Magdalena who evoke Lee's spirit of community. Mrs. Pino, after decades spent in

California raising a family, returned to her home town of Magdalena and decided her small community needed a library. It now has one.

Lucy Pino and many of the other people you will meet via our blog live along Russell Lee's roads. We began with Highway 60 which stretches the length of New Mexico. We also traveled to far eastern and far southern New Mexico along the same routes, taking in Roswell, Hatch and other communities Lee photographed.

If he had not passed on in 1986, Russell Lee would still recognize much of the region. Certainly much of the landscape remains unchanged. And many of the buildings Lee photographed still stand. But it is the spirit of the people, the ranchers, miners, rodeo queens, migrant workers, teachers, librarians, farm kids, and others that Lee would still appreciate.

Yet, there are changes. The rural, mountain community of Pie Town which Lee made famous in 1940 via more than 620 photos of migrant homesteaders is much quieter today. Most of the 250 families who relocated there moved on by the 1950s when drought made farming almost impossible. Today it is home to approximately 100 hardy, yet often kind, souls. And, yes, there's still pie at two restaurants.

Just down the road from Pie Town on the hot, dry plains of San Augustin, is the VLA—the Very Large Array—a collection of 27 satellite dish radio antennas. The Array's antennas are so enormous—25 meters in diameter—that they sit on railroad tracks which are used to move them. The antennas are used to take pictures

of the universe. We think Russell Lee would appreciate them.

Much of our blog, then, is devoted to the small communities along NM Highway 60—Russell Lee's road, the FSA road. The road and its communities proved irresistible subjects to us today in large measure because of precisely what you will not find. Most of the journey lacks the chain restaurants, motels, and stores whose presence makes you feel like America is a generic place.

Instead, Highway 60 remains a two-lane road. It's paved now, but is still largely rural. It's a road where you'd better stop for gasoline when you see a station. And it remains a road where people wave at you as you drive by. We hope you will join us on our journey by viewing this blog. You can find it at: [www.russell-lee-road.com](http://www.russell-lee-road.com). Please feel free to give us feedback. You can reach us at: [bruce@bruceberman.com](mailto:bruce@bruceberman.com) and [mlamonic@nmsu.edu](mailto:mlamonic@nmsu.edu).

#### Notes from the Chair

*Continued Pg 1*

kind of participation and support to provide. At the business meeting it was decided that the History Division executive committee would appoint a committee to look at this and make a recommendation at next year's business meeting in St. Louis. That committee will be formed in the next few weeks. If you would like to serve on the committee, please contact me at

*Continued on p. 15*

#### Notes from the Chair

*Continued Pg 14*

[thorne@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:thorne@missouriwestern.edu).

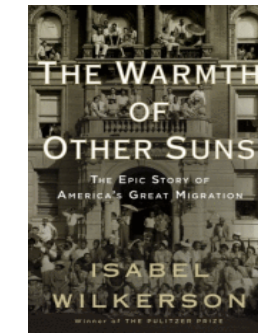
Another important goal is to establish an award recognizing top poster sessions at the annual AEJMC conference. We completed the first part of this goal at the annual meeting in Denver. Members voted to vest the responsibility for deciding how this would be accomplished with the current executive officers. We have been talking about this already and will keep you updated. We will be making the final decision by March, and it will be announced in the Spring Clio.

Expanding Clio is another goal this year. This fall Clio has new and expanded coverage, as will future issues. We hope to keep Division members informed about the activities of many of the members.

The remaining goals are equally important: attracting young journalism history scholars, promoting Division members' work, and of course, keeping up the Division's commitment to organizing high quality research, teaching, and PF&R for the 2011 conference.

These are challenging goals. I am excited about the year ahead, and look forward to working with the officers and membership in making these goals become reality.

## Media & Civil Rights History Symposium/SE Colloquium Keynote Speaker Announced



Isabel Wilkerson, author of the acclaimed book *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration* (Random House, 2010), will be the keynote speaker on Friday, March 18, 2011, for the joint luncheon of the AEJMC Southeast Colloquium and the Media & Civil Rights History Symposium, both held at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. The first African-American woman to win the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism, Ms. Wilkerson has written what Toni Morrison has called a "profound, necessary" chronicle of the Great Migration, the movement of millions of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North and West in the early twentieth century. Ms. Wilkerson is the Director of the Narrative Nonfiction Program in the College of Communication at Boston University. To learn more about the Colloquium and Symposium, please see the ads in this issue of Clio.

Endnotes to *Free for All: The Internet's Transformation of Journalism* by Elliot King.

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53. Robert Andrews, "9/11: Birth of a Blog," *Wired*, September 11, 2006, <http://www.wired.com/techbiz/media/news/2006/09/71753> (accessed March 31, 2009).
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55. Steven Schneider, Kirsten Foot, et. al, "One Year Later: September 11 and the Internet," Pew Internet and American Life Project, September 5, 2002, [http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2002/PIP\\_9-11\\_Report.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2002/PIP_9-11_Report.pdf). (accessed March 31, 2009).



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## Report from the 2010 Tennessee Conference of Historians

Mark R. Cheatham  
*Cumberland University*

The 2010 Tennessee Conference of Historians was held on the campus of Cumberland University (Lebanon, TN) on 10-11 September 2010. Approximately seventy historians attended the two days of the conference; most came from within the state, but a handful came from as far away as Massachusetts, Michigan, and Pennsylvania.

Dr. Charles Crawford and Dr. Doug Cupples of the University of Memphis were responsible for soliciting papers and creating panel sessions for this year's conference. Panel topics varied extensively this year, as they often do. A session on the Civil War, unsurprisingly, drew a lot of attention, as did the session on President Andrew Jackson and U.S. Supreme Court justice John Catron. Other selected sessions addressed Native Americans, nineteenth-century religion, and technology and history.

This year's conference keynote address, "Clasping Hands over the Bloody Chasm: Civil War Veterans' Reunions and the Path to Reconciliation," was delivered by Dr. Caroline Janney, associate professor of history at Purdue University. An Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer, Dr. Janney is the author of *Burying the Dead but Not the Past: Ladies' Memorial Associations and the Lost Cause*, as well as numerous articles on the Civil War, the Lost Cause, memory, and gender. Her talk was interrupted by what sounded like gunfire outside of Baird Chapel, the site of the luncheon. A quick investigation discovered that fireworks had been set off to mark the

beginning of Cumberland University's first home football game. Still, as Janney quipped off the cuff, one could not have asked for better sound effects to accompany her topic.

On Friday evening, Cumberland University hosted a reception for the conference attendees. Harp music played in the atrium of Labry Hall as historians traded gossip and ate from the fine spread provided by Pace Pope and Regena Poss, two of CU's long-time staff members. Afterwards, Carole Bucy led a roundtable discussion with two other panelists that elicited much discussion. Civil rights activist Joan Browning was in the audience and added a personal perspective to the movement that students particularly appreciated. Cumberland University president Harvill Eaton was also in attendance and emphasized the role of Cumberland alumnus Myles Horton in fighting racial inequality via his Highlander Folk School. (Going unmentioned by the panelists was W.E.B. Du Bois' experiences as a teacher in nearby Watertown.)

Plans for next year's conference were still being made. It appears, however, that the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga will be the host institution in the fall of 2011.

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## Reviewers for the 2010 History Division Paper Competition

*The History Division wishes to recognize the 62 colleagues listed below for reading and evaluating the research papers submitted for possible presentation at the AEJMC convention in Denver. Many thanks to everyone for their support of research in the History Division.*

Thomas Allen, *East Carolina*  
Carol Atkinson, *Central Missouri*  
James Aucoin, *South Alabama*  
Tamara Baldwin, *Southeast Missouri State*  
Mary Beadle, *Mirapoint*  
Maurine Beasley, *Maryland*  
Joseph Bernt, *Ohio*  
Katherine Bradshaw, *Bowling Green State*  
Mark Brewin, *Tulsa*  
Lisa Burns, *Quinnipiac*  
Kenneth Campbell, *South Carolina*  
Catherine Cassara-Jemai, *Bowling Green State*  
Dane Claussen, *Point Park*  
Ross Collins, *North Dakota State*  
John Coward, *Tulsa*  
Douglas Cumming, *Washington & Lee*  
Chris Daly, *Boston*  
Patricia Dooley, *Wichita State*  
Dale Edwards, *Northern Colorado*  
Lillie Fears, *Arkansas State-Jonesboro*  
John Ferré, *Louisville*  
Karla Gower, *Alabama*  
Donna Halper, *Lesley University*  
Donna Harrington-Lueker, *Salve Regina*  
Berkley Hudson, *Missouri*  
Carol Sue Humphrey, *Oklahoma Baptist*  
Bill Huntzicker, *St. Cloud State*  
Cathy Jackson, *Norfolk State*  
Richard Junger, *Western Michigan*  
Elliot King, *Loyola-Maryland*  
Meg Lamme, *Alabama*

Laurel Leff, *Northeastern*  
Linda Lumsden, *Arizona*  
Jane Marcellus, *Middle Tennessee State*  
Jon Marshall, *Northwestern*  
Janet McCoy, *Morehead State*  
Ron McGee, *Alaska Anchorage*  
Michael McGill, *Virginia's College at Wise*  
Melissa Meade, *Colby-Sawyer College*  
Tim Meyer, *Wisconsin-Green Bay*  
James Mooney, *East Tennessee State*  
Lisa Mullikin Parcell, *Wichita State*  
John Pauly, *Marquette*  
Katrina Quinn, *Slippery Rock University*  
Aleen Ratzlaff, *Tabor*  
Sally Renaud, *Eastern Illinois*  
Nancy Roberts, *Albany, SUNY*  
Ron Rodgers, *Florida*  
Ken Sexton, *Morehead State*  
Donald Shaw, *UNC Chapel Hill*  
Michael Smith, *Campbell*  
Reed Smith, *Georgia Southern*  
Randall Sumpter, *Texas A&M*  
Wendy Swanberg, *Wisconsin*  
Leonard Teel, *Georgia State University*  
Bernell Tripp, *Florida*  
Ann Thorne, *Missouri Western State*  
Debbie van Tuyll, *Augusta State*  
Kimberly Voss, *Central Florida*  
Patrick Washburn, *Ohio*  
Susan Weill, *Texas State San Marcos*  
Julie Williams, *Samford*