



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

Scholars gather at annual conference



LISA BURNS | QUINNIPIAC

Top Faculty Paper winner Janice Hume (Georgia) presents her research at the AEJMC annual conference on Aug. 12 in St. Louis. For more photos of AEJMC, see Page 14.

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Beyond our Subfield: Media History's place in JMC scholarship

It's not uncommon for a sub-discipline to concentrate on research that might seem esoteric to outsiders. The latest research in molecular imaging, however revolutionary, may be of little interest to other chemists. Research in media history is arguably no different. What we consider worthwhile research may not interest our colleagues

Tim Vos



**Chair
Univ. of Missouri**

in other divisions of AEJMC. However, I'd like to argue we shouldn't be content to toil away in isolation. Historical scholarship has something valuable to contribute to our entire discipline.

The History Division has set a goal in 2011-12 to broaden the Division's conference programming to serve the interests of our members and also to appeal to AEJMC's

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ONLINE
www.aejmchistory.org

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The School of Journalism
and Mass Communications
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

CALL FOR NOMINEES

Ronald T. and Gayla D. Farrar Media and Civil Rights History Award

Honoring University of South Carolina Professor Emeritus Ronald T. Farrar and his late wife, Gayla D. Farrar, this 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 2010 or 2011.

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 four copies of the article/ chapter and a cover letter describing the



Dr. Ronald Farrar



Gayla Farrar

merits of the work. A national panel of experts will judge the contest.

The winner will receive a plaque and \$1,000 and must agree to present his or her work in a public lecture at the University of South Carolina in the spring semester of 2012. The winner's travel expenses will be covered,

Mail nominations postmarked by Dec. 1, 2011 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
Email: fordekr@sc.edu

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



2011 winner Gordon Mantler, Duke University

"The Press Did You In": The Poor People's Campaign and the Mass Media," published in the Spring 2010 issue of *The Sixties: A Journal of History, Politics and Culture*.



Media & Civil Rights History Symposium

The symposium, a biennial conference hosted by the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of South Carolina, is being planned for Spring 2013. Check <http://jour.sc.edu/mcrhs/> for more information.

History Division calls for panel proposals

The History Division is seeking panel proposals for the AEJMC national conference in Chicago, Illinois. While the Division will seek to offer a diverse program, we hope to receive some proposals that make a thematic connection to AEJMC's centennial celebration in 2012. The panel proposals are due by Oct. 14, 2011. 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 Tim P. Vos, History Division Chair, at vost@missouri.edu. Please feel free to email questions. ■

U.S. Postal Service offers prizes for postal history

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, 2011. For further details, see the web site for the Rita Lloyd Moroney Awards, <http://about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/moroney-award.htm> or contact Richard Kielbowicz, Dept. of Communication, Univ. of Washington, kielbowi@uw.edu. ■

VOSS

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*Beyond the Subfield:
JMC Scholarship*

wider membership. One way of achieving that goal is to present a research program that other divisions not only care about, but see as vital to our field.

That sentiment might sound like dissatisfaction with our research programming the last years. But that's not really the case. I'll readily acknowledge we've had a lot of good research—research that fellow media historians care about. I'm not arguing we abandon what we do well. However, if we don't broaden our research programming, I fear our toils may lead us to isolation.

The obscurity problem goes beyond programming at an AEJMC conference – it's the state of media history in general. Media history scholarship is not making other scholars sit up and take notice. The Communication and Mass Media Complete database indicates how often each article in the database is cited by other articles in the database. During the last decade or so, articles (n = 473) in *American Journalism*, *Journalism History*, and *Media History* have been cited, on average, .24 times. That's about one citation for every four articles. If you take out instances where an author is citing his or her own work, the number drops even further (to .16 citations per article). By contrast, journals from other sub-disciplines seem to be doing much better. Articles (n = 699) in *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, *Communication Law and Policy*, *Journal of Mass Media Ethics*, and *Journal of Public Relations Research* have been cited, on average, 2.20 times. That's nine times as many citations, on average, as the three history journals.

The numbers tell only part of the story. For example, books about media history have been well represented among the Tankard book award final-

ists. And articles on media history are being published in other, high profile journals, such as *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly* and *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*. So, history is still seen as significant in our discipline. But we might be on the road to insignificance if our colleagues are not citing our best history journals.

The obscurity problem goes beyond programming at an AEJMC conference – it's the state of media history in general. Media history scholarship is not making other scholars sit up and take notice.

Here's my take on what we can do about that. First, the published historical research that is being cited by others dwells on themes that are central to the nature of journalism and mass communication. For example, the most frequently cited article in the three history journals is Kevin Stoker and Brad Rawlins' "The 'light' of publicity in the Progressive Era, from searchlight to flashlight," published in *Journalism History* in 2005. It's a great piece, one I've assigned in my History of American Journalism course the last couple of years. It explores the shifting contours of a marketplace of ideas, the intersection of journalism and public relations, and the nature of objectivity and truth-telling. In other words, it explores issues central to our field; so it shouldn't come as a surprise that other scholars have noticed. I'm sure we can think of many other journalism and communication issues that can be and need to be historicized. (The flipside of this is identifying ways to encourage non-historians to make use of historical work – something I hope to address in a future column.)

Second, when we look at disciplines, such as political science, economics, and

sociology, where history plays a central role, we see that their historical scholarship is explicitly explanatory in its focus. By giving more attention to research that accounts for how change comes about, we are contributing to the broader conversation within journalism and mass communication. Granted, we're not in the business of prediction; but as Clifford Geertz has suggested, cultural and historical sensitivity allows us to anticipate the kinds of historical situations and historical actors that accelerate change. At a time when technological, economic, and normative changes are buffeting the media world, historians, who have a keen sense of how change comes about, have important wisdom to add to the scholarly conversation. Rigorous historical explanation is not easy. But we can learn from political science, economics, and sociology. Check out the work of William Sewell, Jr., Paul Pierson, and Theda Skocpol.

Third, AEJMC is a big tent and we should be comfortable with a diversity of subject matter, methods, and theoretical orientations. Frankly, one barrier to a diverse program of research at AEJMC conferences has been reviewers who have defined appropriate research too narrowly. We have reviewers who conclude that a study is too "sociological" or too "theoretical," or that the subject matter "isn't really what we do." That latter label has been used to dismiss scholarship on film, broadcasting, and interactive technology. But we are the History Division, not the History of _____ Division. We shouldn't be so willing to accept that media or communication history is only a subfield. Yes, those who research media history must have a command of a unique body of literature and a unique set of methodological tools. However, the subjects of our histories are the subjects of all AEJMC.

That's my take on the issue. And while we might agree or disagree, I hope you'll join me in embracing the goal of broadening our research program in the coming year. ■



37th AEJMC Southeast Colloquium

March 8-10, 2012

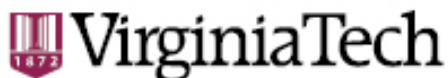
The Inn at Virginia Tech | Blacksburg, Va.

Registration will be \$115 and will cover the reception, meeting breaks, and lunch and dinner Friday.

The convention rate for rooms in the Inn at Virginia Tech is \$109 per night (plus 5% tax and \$3/night parking fee).

Research papers for the 2012 AEJMC Southeast Colloquium must be received electronically by divisional research chairs no later than 5 p.m., December 5, 2011. Papers should be in PDF format without any information that would identify authors. A separate document submitted with the paper should contain the title of the paper, the authors and their affiliations (identifying faculty and students) and contact information. An abstract of 250 or fewer words should be included with each paper.

Papers may be no longer than 25 pages, double-spaced with one-inch margins, excluding references and appendices. Only one paper per author will be accepted for presentation.



SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Research chairs and specific requirements for participating divisions are listed below.

Law & Policy Division: Prof. Courtney Barclay, Syracuse University, cobarcla@syr.edu. Papers may be no longer than 50 pages, double-spaced, including appendices, tables, notes and bibliography (if any). Bluebook citation style is preferred, but not required.

Newspaper Division: Prof. Jeffrey C. South, Virginia Commonwealth University, jcsouth@vcu.edu.

Magazine Division: Prof. Erin Coyle, Louisiana State University, ekcoyle@lsu.edu. Papers may be no longer than 30 pages, double-spaced, including notes and references. Only one paper per author will be accepted for presentation. Multiple submissions of the same paper to other divisions are not allowed.

Open Division: Prof. Dana Rosengard, Suffolk University, drosengard@suffolk.edu.

History Division: Prof. Harlan Makemson, Elon University, hmakemson@elon.edu. Papers may be no longer than 30 pages, double-spaced, including notes and references.

Electronic News Division: David Free, University of Texas at Austin, dfree@austin.rr.com.

Minutes of the 2011 annual meeting

Division Chair Ann Thorne called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm on August 12, 2011.

Lisa M. Burns



**Secretary
Quinnipiac Univ.**

The first order of business was review of the 2010 meeting minutes, which were approved as submitted.

Thorne presented the Chair's report, noting that all of the division's goals from last year were met. She thanked fellow officers Tim Vos and Lisa Burns for their assistance throughout the year. Among the Division's accomplishments were the implementation of a Best Poster award and the creation of an ad-hoc committee to review the Media History Exchange. Both the award and the committee's report were presented later in the meeting. Thorne recognized another successful year of the Division's newsletter *Clio*. She also talked about the officers' efforts to recruit new members, particularly young scholars, to the History Division and noted that these efforts will continue. Finally, Thorne stated that the Division presented an excellent slate of high-quality programming at this year's convention.

Vice-chair Tim Vos reported that 64 papers were submitted this year, 34 from faculty and 30 from students. This was a significant drop in submissions compared to recent years (2010 – 80; 2009 – 85; 2008 – 64; 2007 – 69; 2006 – 72). The acceptance rate was 59%, one of the highest in recent years, with 21 faculty and 17 student papers programmed. The Division had secured slots for 40 – 45 papers, but ended up returning 8 slots. Vos concluded by thanking the 72 reviewers.

Clio editor Lisa Burns reported that four issues of the newsletter were

History Division Goals: 2011-12

- Implement the committee recommendations for participation and support of the Media History Exchange if they have been approved by the membership.
- Ensure that *Clio* continues to serve as a vehicle for communication among media history scholars.
- Expand the ways of attracting young scholars and growing our membership.
- Support the growth of the Joint Journalism and Communications History Conference as well as other opportunities for presentations of scholarship.
- Seek to identify and explain what

it means to be a Division member and the breadth and depth of our scholarship.

- Establish a network of members willing to share their expertise, ideas, inspiration or strategies in teaching media history and mentoring others new to the field.

- Promote and support the Division's tradition of organizing high-quality research, teaching and PF&R panels for the 2012 conference.

- Broaden the History Division's conference programming to serve the interests of both the Division's membership and AEJMC's broader membership.

published. She thanked the officers and members for their contributions. She announced that Kathy Roberts Forde of the University of South Carolina would be taking over as *Clio* editor. Forde encouraged members to submit to the newsletter.

Burns also offered a report on the 2011 Joint Journalism Historians Conference, held March 12 at the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute at New York University. There were a record number of submissions (62 papers and panels) and nearly 100 scholars from around the world participated, making it the largest gathering in the history of the regional conference co-sponsored by the History Division and AJHA. The 2012 conference is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, March 10 at John Jay College in New York City. The call for papers will run in the Fall issue of *Clio* (See the call on Page

11). Under the new leadership structure for the conference, Burns will serve as the site coordinator for the 2012 meeting and Kevin Lerner of Marist College, the AJHA representative, will be the program planner. She noted that a new AEJMC History Division representative will be needed for the 2013 conference and encouraged anyone interested in the position to contact her for more information.

According to Chair Ann Thorne, the Division currently has \$13,320 in its general account. There is \$14,827.91 in the Covert Award account and \$21,127.19 in the Dicken-Garcia and Emery Travel Fund. Thorne then reviewed the Division's goals for 2011 – 2012:

- Implement the committee recommendations for participation in/

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support of the Media History Exchange (see story on Page 8 for more details).

- Insure that *Clio* continues to serve as a vehicle for communication among media history scholars.

- Expand the ways of attracting young scholars and growing our membership.

- Support the growth of the AJHA/History Division spring conference (the Joint Journalism and Communications History Conference) as well as other opportunities for presentations of scholarship.

- Seek to identify and explain what it means to be a History Division member and the breadth and depth of our scholarship.

- Establish a network of members willing to share their expertise, ideas, inspiration or strategies in teaching media history and mentoring others new to the field.

- Promote and support the Division's tradition of organizing high-quality research, teaching and PF&R panels for the 2012 conference.

- Broaden the History Division's conference programming to serve the interests of both the Division's membership and AEJMC's broader membership.

The next order of business was the presentation of awards. Thorne presented the Covert Award on behalf of chair Nancy Roberts, who could not be at the meeting. Ten articles were nominated this year. The winner was Sheila Webb, assistant professor of journalism at Western Washington University, for her article "Art Commentary for the Middlebrow: Promoting Modernism & Modern Art through Popular Culture—How *Life* Magazine Brought 'The New' into Middle-Class Homes," which was published in the Summer 2010 issue of *American Journalism*.

Book Award Chair John P. Ferré



LISA BURNS | QUINNIPIAC

Top Paper winners Janice Hume (Georgia), Jim Kates (Wisconsin-Whitewater), Michael Clay Carey (Ohio), Gerry Lanosga (Ball State)

thanked his committee of three judges who reviewed this year's 22 entries. The winning book was *Network Nation: Inventing American Telecommunications* (Harvard University Press, 2010) by Richard R. John, professor of journalism at Columbia University.

Research Chair Tim Vos presented the top paper awards. The top faculty paper was awarded to Janice Hume (Georgia) for "The Gathering Mists of *Time*: American Magazines and Revolutionary Memory." Second place went to Gerry Lanosga (Ball State) for "New Views of Investigative Reporting in the Twentieth Century." The third place faculty paper was James Kates' (Wisconsin-Whitewater) "A Path Made of Words: The Journalistic Construction of the Appalachian Trail." The top student paper went to Adrienne Atterberry (Syracuse) for her study of "Press Coverage of Indira Ghandi." The second place paper was Geah Pressgrove's (South Carolina) "The Precious Ingredient of War: The WPB Used Cooking Fat Advertising Campaign of 1943." Third place went to Michael Clay Carey (Ohio) for "Community Journalism in a Secret City: *The Oak Ridge Journal*, 1943 –

1948." The first annual Best Poster Award was presented to Kevin Lerner (Marist) for "Intellectual Heft: A.J. Liebling as an Opponent of Anti-Intellectualism in American Journalism."

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Media History Exchange (MHX) offered its report and recommendations regarding the request that the History Division sponsor the closed online community of media history scholars by paying \$3000 a year for three years (to serve as a stipend for a site administrator) in exchange for operational control, front-page signage, and access for all History Division members. Committee members John Coward, Charlene Simmons, and Dale Cressman conducted a Skype meeting with MHX developer Elliot King to learn more about the website and what benefits it could offer to History Division members. Coward outlined the positives:

It would give the Division ownership of a digital space that is invitation-only. Because the Division does not have a journal, this would offer an alternative intellectual community space for Division members.

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It could be used to attract new members, particularly younger scholars, to the History Division.

It would serve as a central meeting and collaborative space for media/communications historians.

It has the potential to evolve based on the needs and interests of its members.

Offers a tangible benefit to History Division members.

The negatives included:

It is still a work in progress. The site is currently in Beta mode and will undergo additional development in the coming year.

The current site does not do everything members might want it to do (but it has the potential to evolve).

Cressman added that, if the MHX takes off, people outside of AEJMC will see the History Division's name and this is a good way to promote the Division and the work of its members. And Simmons noted that, by supporting the site, the History Division would be able to brand it. The general recommendation of the committee was to support the MHX. During discussion of the proposal, the primary question raised was whether the Division had the funds to support it and concerns were raised that this would deplete the Division's account. The general sentiment was that the Division could afford the expense and the majority of comments were in support of the proposal. David Mindich made a motion that the Division support the MHX with \$3000 for the next two years with the option to extend that support to a third year. The motion passed with just one negative vote.

Members also considered a proposal to increase the Dicken-Garcia and Emery Travel Fund stipend, which provides travel support to the top student paper winners, from \$100 to \$200. The proposal passed unanimously.



LISA BURNS | QUINNIPIAC

History Division Book Award winner Richard R. John (Columbia)

In her final act as Chair, Ann Thorne presented the slate of officers for 2011 – 2012:

Chair: Tim Vos

Vice-Chair: Lisa Burns

Secretary/Clio Editor: Kathy Roberts Forde

PF&R Chair: Dale Cressman

Teaching Chair: Berkley Hudson

The slate was unanimously approved by acclamation. Tim Vos presented Thorne with a plaque and thanked her for her service as Division Chair. Thorne continued the tradition of presenting the incoming Chair with a souvenir from the host city, giving Vos a St. Louis Cardinals beer mug and wishing him luck in the coming year.

In other new business, members were asked to vote on their preference for the 2015 conference location. The straw vote results were Las Vegas (12), San Diego (9), San Francisco (9), and Desert Springs (0). Kathy Bradshaw, the AJHA representative to the accrediting council, told members that accredited schools would be receiving an important survey and asked them to encourage their deans to complete the survey. One of the issues is whether history should continue to be a competency area. David Mindich passed out flyers for JHistory and for the Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War and Free Expression (on behalf of David Sachsman).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m. ■

Clio

AMONG THE MEDIA

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Submissions to Clio are welcome. Please send them to: Kathy Roberts Forde at forderk@sc.edu. Electronic copy by e-mail is preferred. Submissions may also be mailed to Kathy Roberts Forde, School of Journalism and Mass Communications, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

For information, contact Forde at (803) 777-3321, or the email address above.

Recent issues of Clio may be accessed at: <http://www.utc.edu/Outreach/AEJMC-HistoryDivision/histpub.html>.

History Division sponsors Media History Exchange

At the business meeting in August, the History Division voted to sponsor the Media History Exchange (MHX)

Elliot King



Loyola

for the next two years. The MHX is a social network and archive for the interdisciplinary community of scholars working in the fields of journalism, media and communication history.

In addition to posting conference papers, finished articles and other scholarly materials in virtually any format including audio and video clips, MHX members can easily identify and network, communicate and collaborate with other scholars doing similar research and access their posted content. (Posting material on the MHX is not considered publishing that material.) Finally, a conference manager facilitates the management of small conferences and individual conference panels, including the blind peer-review process, and enables member to review conference programs, abstracts and other material.

The MHX is a private, by-invitation-only community. The entire History

Division membership will receive invitations to join the MHX by mid-November. For those of you who cannot wait, you can go to www.mediahistoryexchange.org and request an invitation.

Several small, interdisciplinary conferences and research groups are already working with the MHX including the Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference, held in March and co-sponsored by the History Division, the Symposium on the Civil War and the 19th Century Press, the International Literary Journalism Studies Association and the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals. The MHX is member-driven and all members have access to all its functionality. If you are involved with organizing a small conference or conference panel, for example, you can use the MHX functionality in that area.

The MHX currently has more than 130 members. The goal is to build a vibrant, worldwide community of scholars interested in journalism, media and communication history. If you have any questions, you can request an invitation to the MHX at www.mediahistoryexchange.org and contact Elliot King or email him directly at eking@loyola.edu. ■

Forde becomes associate editor of American Journalism

Kathy Roberts Forde, an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of South Carolina, has become associate editor of *American Journalism*, effective Sept. 1.

Forde said she is honored and delighted that Editor Barbara Friedman offered her the role.

“The journal and the American Journalism Historians Association have nurtured my career as a journalism historian, and I look forward to giving back to both,” Forde said. “I also look forward to working with Barbara, whose scholarship and leadership I have long admired.”

Forde’s selection as associate editor is part of Friedman’s plan to strengthen the journal.

“She is a highly regarded scholar whose work is ambitious and meaningful, and of course, she is a wonderful colleague,” Friedman said. “Kathy and I, together with Dolores Flamiano, who continues as the book reviews editor, offer a range of strengths and skills that I believe will combine to make the journal the best it can be.” ■



FORDE

NOMINEES SOUGHT FOR 28th ANNUAL COVERT AWARD

The History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication announces the 28th 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 2011. 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, 2012, to:

Nancy L. Roberts
Communication Department
University at Albany
1400 Washington Ave., SS-351
Albany, NY 12222

TEACHING STANDARDS

The Intellectual Autobiography: Singing out about the 'life of the mind'

One student told tales of growing up along the Black Sea in Turkey. Another wrote about an "appointment with death" that he survived in Romania.

Berkley Hudson



Teaching Chair Univ. of Missouri

One spoke of a neighborhood in Philly "inhabited by very tall, transvestite hookers." Then came other reports from students: a "typical Chinese city kid born in the '80s," a Ukrainian-style childhood in the Midwest, and a teenager's love for true crime stories that began with "a well-worn copy of *People* magazine" in a hair salon.

Early each semester, these stories emerge during the classes I devote to "intellectual autobiographies." These are three-minute read-alouds of written work. Because I enforce a time limit, I encourage students to write, revise and revise again. And to practice reading aloud. To sing with head and heart short versions of how minds and ideas evolve. In many cases, the written documents become tone poems that energize the class—not for one day but also for weeks and months.

These dispatches chronicle the lives of minds. It's a mash-up: Great Books. High Culture. Low Culture. In-Between Culture. Here come Judy Blume novels. There goes Dr. Seuss. And Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*. *The Canterbury Tales*. Hans Christian Andersen. Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma*. Ariel Levy. Welsh's *Trainspotting*. Steinbeck, *Vanity Fair*, the magazine. Hemingway. Twain. Johnny Cash. *Star Wars*. Gabriel Garcia Marquez. T.S. Eliot. *Cosmo*. *The Bell Jar*. Howard Gardner. *US Weekly*.

Galatians, Chapter 5. C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*. Bobby "Blue" Bland, the bluesman. Nichiren Diashonin, the founder of the Buddhist sect that chants nam-myoho-renge-kyo. *GQ*. Black Elk. Martin Luther King Jr. Shakespeare. Van Gogh. The London Philharmonic playing Shostakovich's "Festive Overture." Mandela's *Long Walk To Freedom*. Kapuscinski's *The Shadow Of The Sun*. W.E.B. DuBois. Weber. Montaigne. Veblen. Vonnegut. The Dixie Chicks. Jean Sheppard. Tom Robbins. Naipul. Rushdie. bell hooks.

research because I've come to believe that a lot of what happens in this world is a direct result of sexual experience, or, in some cases, lack thereof."

■ On a Christmas morning, a student woke up in a hut in Laos "to find all my possessions gone."

■ "By about age 12 I had learned that I was very different from my family and most of the people I knew. By then, I knew I was gay. This discovery became a more important part of my identity than being black or being female. I spent years in libraries and book stores

My favorite time of the school year is when we read these aloud. Regardless of whether the students are freshman or doctoral students, they struggle to pack into three minutes their intellectual autobiographies. I share my own read-aloud version. For a media historian, I find it important to see how narrative and themes emerge. And to consider the primary documents of one's own thoughts, to contemplate landscapes, sounds, smells, tastes, buildings, books on a shelf or iPad or Kindle, and to recall influential people.

They write about Polish parents who taught a child to speak English, French, and Polish and about a fifth grade teacher who required students to keep a daily journal. They write about key moments that led them to think anew about who they were, are and are becoming.

■ "My intellectual life began with memorization" at Lutheran grade school in Minnesota.

■ "I am thankful to Dr. Alfred Kinsey for founding the field of sex

(we didn't have the Internet) learning as much as I could about homosexuality."

■ "By 17, I was the kid on the plane reading Nietzsche."

■ A student lived in Africa for seven years. He read *Crime and Punishment* by Dostoevsky. He read Antonio Machado's poems. But, he wrote: "If I squeeze my brains to try to find what strictly intellectual influences have shaped my existence, I can't find any.

HUDSON

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*The Intellectual
Autobiography*

The reason is simple. My life has been modeled by people, not by books; by facts, not by theories.”

Already, you may do something that extends beyond class exercises: Why are you in this class? What would make this class perfect? What’s your media consumption? What’s media history?

For my part, I coach students in the fashion of two former professors: sex-drugs-and-rock-n-roll media theorist Jane Brown and cultural anthropologist Catherine Lutz. When Prof. Lutz proposed that we write our intellectual histories, we students looked puzzled. But after we read them aloud, we were no longer puzzled. We shared ideas, books, people who shaped us. In sharing, our cohort became more intimate, a safer place to learn.

My favorite time of the school year is when we read these aloud. Regardless of whether the students are freshmen or doctoral students, they struggle to pack into three minutes their intellectual autobiographies. I share my own read-aloud version. For a media historian, I find it important to see how narrative

I marvel at the young woman who read *Where the Red Fern Grows*—the first book that made her cry—and who said she read *Gone with the Wind* three times before she realized there was a movie...

and themes emerge. And to consider the primary documents of one’s own thoughts, to contemplate landscapes, sounds, smells, tastes, buildings, books on a shelf or iPad or Kindle, and to recall influential people.

For a small class of 10-25 students I take the time it takes to read these aloud. For a bigger class, which I don’t ordinarily teach, I would divide them into small groups, have them “think—pair—share,” and then report out the discoveries.

As students read, I take notes on significant details. Then, after every student has read, I read aloud telling moments.

To them, I say:

I salute, praise, acknowledge the boy who spent two teenaged grades behind Catholic seminary walls where he learned about “the wonders of God and the horrors of religiosity.”

I honor the young woman who

comes from “a strange town, Los Alamos, New Mexico... a community filled with static-haired, pocket-protector wearing scientists.”

I marvel at the young woman who read *Where the Red Fern Grows*—the first book that made her cry—and who said she read *Gone with the Wind* three times before she realized there was a movie, and who admired Atticus Finch like he was a real person.

I honor the spirit of the Dad who read aloud *Sherlock Holmes* to his boys.



Sometimes I have tears in my eyes. So do the students. That’s because in the best cases my students followed Red Smith’s advice about writing: they open up a vein. Of course, every class, every cohort is different.

But normally, I find a payoff for the time we spend on this. “At first, I was wondering what the point was,” a student emailed me. “But now I am actually really glad we did this.” Another wrote: “It was wonderful to hear my cohort’s work.”

For me, this has become a valuable process. I learn about their writing ability and their willingness to participate and to listen. And we all learn to share how we think, write, rewrite, speak and live.

Please direct ideas, comments and questions to HudsonB@missouri.edu. ■

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 2011. The award is given annually, and the winning author will receive a plaque and a cash prize at the August 2012 AEJMC conference in Chicago. 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 2011 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 3, 2012. Submit four copies of each book — 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

Contact Dr. Ferré at (502) 852-2237 or ferre@louisville.edu with any questions.

CALL FOR PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, PANELS AND PARTICIPANTS

The Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference

The American Journalism Historians Association and the AEJMC History Division joint spring meeting

When: SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Place: John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, 899 Tenth Avenue, New York, NY 10019 (website: <http://www.jjay.cuny.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 and Communication History 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 a broad range of colleagues 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 (2011) or have a book coming out in the spring of 2012 and would like to spend a few minutes touting your book at the conference, please contact conference co-coordinator Kevin Lerner (kevin.lerner@marist.edu) with a

brief blurb about your book.

This year, submissions will be processed through the 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. To join the Media History Exchange (membership is free) go to <http://www.mediahistoryexchange.org> and request a membership. Once you have joined, follow the step-by-step instructions describing how to upload an abstract to a specific conference. If you have any questions or run into any problems contact Kevin Lerner at kevin.lerner@marist.edu or Elliot King at eking@loyola.edu. Upload all submissions (electronic submissions only) by January 6, 2012 to the Media History Exchange at <http://www.mediahistoryexchange.org/>. Also, if you are willing to serve as a submission reviewer or panel moderator, please contact Kevin Lerner at kevin.lerner@marist.edu or by phone at 917-570-5104.

Acceptance Notification Date: February 3, 2012.

Any questions? Contact conference co-coordinators Kevin Lerner (programming or submission questions, kevin.lerner@marist.edu) or Lisa Burns (logistical or travel questions, lisa.burns@quinnipiac.edu). ■

HISTORY DIVISION OFFICERS 2011-12

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BOOK EXCERPT

Knights of the Quill: Confederate Correspondents and their Civil War Reporting

Patricia G. McNeely, Debra Reddin van Tuyll, and Henry H. Schulte, editors

■ *The introduction of this book sets up an exploration of the role of a distinct group of American Civil War journalists, collectively known as the Knights of the Quill, who used pen names to protect their safety. This historic study provides biographies of 29 of these correspondents and was nominated for the Tankard Book Award at the 2011 AEJMC conference.*

“The Confederate Press in the Crucible of War”

By Debra Reddin van Tuyll
Pages 3-5

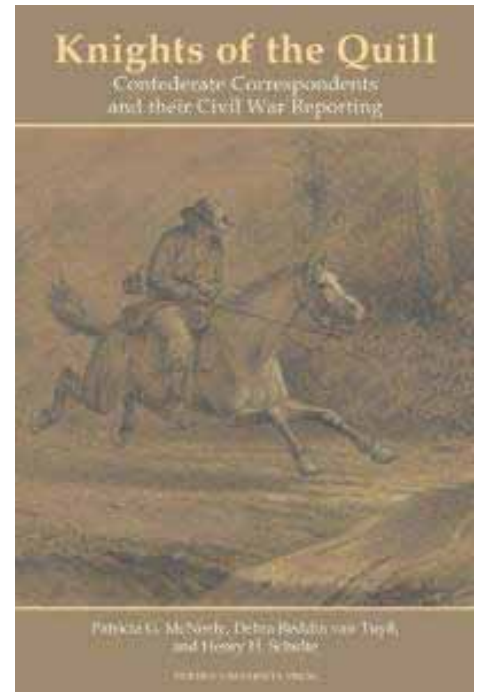
One historian has speculated that the South’s professional men disproportionately sought careers in journalism because there was little else for them to do. There really was only one dominant industry in the South, agriculture, and it did not offer the same number or kind of opportunities as the commerce-centered industries in Northern cities. Further, the news industry was less risky in the Old South than in the North. Odd as this may seem, given the much smaller population of the South, the reasons make sense. First, there were fewer newspapers in the South, thus less competition. Second, most Southern newspapers had not succumbed to the newfangled model of journalism that was sweeping Northern cities: the crime-and-scandal-ridden penny press. Southern newspapers retained their political character. The South had lived and died by politics, so to speak, through much of the 19th century. There was a market for political news and commentary. Simply put, politics paid, particularly as the debates over slavery grew more fractious and

Southern political opinion became more unified and radicalized.¹

The typical Southern newsman on the eve of the Civil War, then, was a well-educated man of prominent social standing, the perfect person to lead public opinion. He was sufficiently educated to gain respect, or at least of an elevated enough social position to have connections on the inside track of events and issues. When it came time to send reporters out into the field, some of the editors went themselves, but others hired men, and a handful of women, to follow the drums of war.

These correspondents were a new addition to Southern newspaper staffs. The emphasis on political reporting had meant commentary, not fact, was the news staple. As editors looked around for who to send off to Virginia or Tennessee or Arkansas, they looked to the men they knew, men to whom they might be connected by party ties or by some sort of previous journalistic or social ties. The result was that these paid correspondents were demographically similar to their employers.

The *Charleston Mercury’s* staff presents an excellent example of the educational pedigrees that appear to have been fairly common among Southern newspaper staffs during the Civil War period.



Mercury Editor Robert Barnwell Rhett, Jr., was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harvard University. Of Rhett’s four wartime correspondents, three had attended college, and one had an additional professional degree. His Richmond correspondent, George W. Bagby Jr., attended Delaware College and graduated with a medical degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Rhett’s short-term correspondent in the western theatre, Henry Timrod attended the University of Georgia, and Leonidas W. Spratt, the *Mercury’s* initial Virginia correspondent, had a degree from South Carolina College and had also read the law. All three men were of solidly middle or upper class backgrounds, though none was sufficiently wealthy to be able to avoid working for a living. Bagby was the son of a Lynchburg, Virginia, merchant. Timrod had been

KNIGHTS

Continued from Page 12

“The Confederate Press in the Crucible of War”

born into a life of privilege, a moneyed family with its own plantation. Even though the family lost everything when Timrod’s father died an early death and his family suffered the additional disaster of losing their plantation to fire when Timrod was an adolescent, his mother still managed to send him to the best schools in Charleston. As an adult, Timrod was downright poverty stricken, but it was a genteel poverty. Certainly, he suffered, but he had social connections who help him through his bleakest moments. Spratt sprang from a political family. He was a first cousin of President James K. Polk, and his relations have continued to serve in the high reaches of American government. His great-great nephew, Congressman John Spratt of South Carolina, has been a member of the U.S. House of Representatives since 1982.

The same type of stories can be told for many of the South’s other war correspondents. The *Charleston Courier’s* premier correspondent, considered by many to be one of the Confederacy’s two best reporters, Felix G. de Fontaine, apparently did not have a college degree, but he was the son of a French nobleman and had been educated by private tutors. Peter W. Alexander of the *Savannah Republican*, whom the *Courier* named “The Prince of Correspondents,” was a lawyer and a graduate of the University of Georgia.² John Linebaugh of the *Memphis Daily Appeal* was an Episcopalian priest and an attorney. Charles DeMorse of the *Clarksville (Texas) Standard* and James Beverly Sener of the *Richmond Enquirer* and the *Richmond Whig*, were each attorneys. Sener was a graduate of

the University of Virginia with a law degree from Washington College (today, Washington and Lee University). These men were patricians. They were knights of the quill.

This term, “knights of the quill,” was used during the war to refer to journalists from both the North and South. On at least one occasion, the

who, in many instances, were slave owners themselves.

Confederate correspondents have been criticized for their enthusiastic and patriotic support of the Southern cause — what some historians have seen as propaganda.⁵ This critique fails to consider that, for the most part, journalists of the South were

This term, “knights of the quill,” was used during the war to refer to journalists from both the North and South. On at least one occasion, the term “birds of passage” was used for those journalists who made brief appearances on the battlefield, but then scurried homeward soon afterwards, the sort of reporter to whom today’s epithet “drive-by media” might be applied.

term “birds of passage” was used for those journalists who made brief appearances on the battlefield, but then scurried homeward soon afterwards, the sort of reporter to whom today’s epithet “drive-by media” might be applied.³

James Beverly Sener, a correspondent for the *Richmond Enquirer*, referred to himself and other war correspondents with Lee’s army as knights of the quill when reporting on the difficulties they were having in receiving Northern newspapers. An unnamed Northern correspondent had used the same term a year or so previously in a story about reporters who were covering a visit by President Lincoln to West Point, but given the characterizations of Northern correspondents that proliferate in the literature, use of this term seems out of place.⁴ The term seems far more appropriate as a descriptor of the Southern editors and correspondents who tended to come from the upper echelons of society, who were products of a society where whiteness alone conveyed privilege and position, and

social and political insiders who had a personal stake in the outcome of the Confederate revolution. It would be a mistake, however, to assume that stake produced uniform agreement among the Confederate press on how that outcome should be achieved. This was an ideological revolution, as it was an actual revolution, but it was a nuanced, and to some degree, factionalized, ideological revolution. Press culture in the antebellum and Civil War South was far more complex and far less monolithic than some have portrayed it.

1. Jeffrey L. Pasley, *“The Tyranny of Printers”: Newspaper Politics in the Early American Republic* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2001), 19, 158.

2. J. Cutler Andrews, *The South Reports the Civil War* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1970), 50.

3. *Richmond Dispatch*, July 11, 1861.

4. *Richmond Enquirer*, February 6, 1863; *Richmond Dispatch*, July 1, 1862.

5. Knightley, 25. ■



Poster Award winner Kevin Lerner (Marist)

Poster session



Melita Garza (University of North Carolina)



Matt Haight (University of South Carolina)

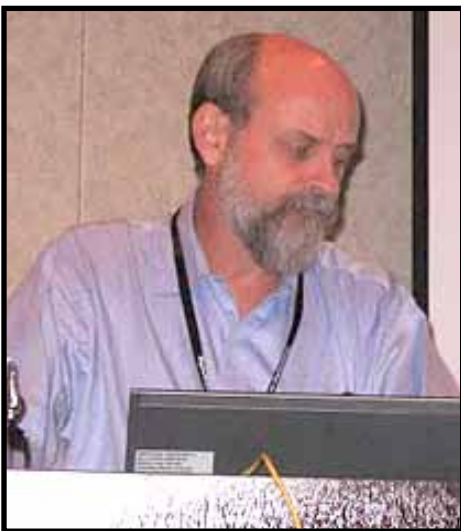


A large turnout at the History Division poster session.

Panel sessions



“Mining Media History Archives”
 panelists: David Sumner (Ball State),
 Kimberly Voss (Central Florida), Carolyn
 Kitch (Temple), Barbara Friedman
 (University of North Carolina)



Chris Daly (Boston University)



Joe Campbell (American) speaks at the blog panel.