

# spig news

**Summer 2021:** Official newsletter of the AEJMC Small Programs Interest Group

## Biola's KiYong Kim is Teacher of the Year

By Jackie Incollingo  
Rider University

This year's distinguished winner of SPIG's top teaching award is KiYong Kim, a member of the public relations faculty at Biola University in La Mirada, California, who was praised by colleagues for his interactive teaching style and dedication to students.

Presentation of the 2021 Ginger Rudeseal Carter Miller Teacher of the Year Award will occur during SPIG's virtual business meeting Thursday, July 29, at 6:30 p.m. Central Time.

One of Kim's Biola colleagues noted, "Students love him because he is clear, kind, and inclusive, seeing each student through the lens of hope in their potential capacities. Faculty and staff value him because he is collaborative and insightful, constantly communicating with curiosity and humility."

Another Biola colleague wrote that "KiYong loves his students" and that Kim is known for offering granola bars and tea from his extensive collection before the pandemic. The colleague also wrote that he effectively and personally connects with students through the computer screen during remote teaching.

A Biola student wrote, "Professor Kim delivers the highest quality of teaching I have ever received. As he teaches, he remains passionate, engaging, relatable, humble, and kind."



**KiYong Kim is a member of the public relations faculty at Biola.**

She added, "I leave every interaction with Professor Kim feeling excited about PR and good about myself. He shows genuine excitement for all of my achievements and never holds back compliments or wisdom."

All SPIG members are encouraged to attend the business meeting and award presentation. There is no conference fee to attend this event; however, members **MUST** register in advance for this meeting:

<https://tinyurl.com/5chavspw>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email



**Kalen Churcher**

### head notes

## It's been a year of challenges, growth for all

Well, here we are. It's that time of year when we typically find ourselves getting conference-ready, packing bags, boarding flights and catching up with old friends in hotel lobbies and coffee shops.

Although our annual AEJMC conference will once again take on a virtual format, I know that won't stop the excellent discussions and camaraderie that the SPIG members have come to enjoy.

But, first things first ... congratulations!

We made it through another challenging year, a year that was not without its own set of hurdles, roadblocks and issues. We've learned what works, what doesn't, and with what things we need to do better.

No doubt, we've also grown personally, with many of us grappling with issues of injustice in not only our academic communities, but

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## head notes

# New SPIG resources in place

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our home communities, as well.

Still, there is much more work to do.

We're up for a challenge, however. I was able to see it in a number of the conference submissions SPIG members offered this year. We want to do better, and we know we need to.

As this year's chair, I had the opportunity to have a sneak peek at this year's conference line-up, and it's a good one. Be sure to check out the panel descriptions and please try to check out as many as possible.

This year marks an important one, as Vice Chair Jeremy Sarachan and I will be participating in SPIG's "five year" (+one) assessment. The process focuses on research, teaching and PF&R areas. The outcome of the meeting will ultimately allow us to renew our place as an AEJMC

interest group. I know we're both excited to share all of the great things that have been happening with our group.

If you haven't seen the new edition of Teaching Journalism and Mass Communication, be sure to check it out online. There are some great articles and book reviews covering a wide variety of topic areas.

Social media have always been an important tool for our interest group. Throughout the past 18 months, that importance has been magnified. In addition, our listserv, which has always been popular among our members, has flourished, allowing us to discuss everything from online teaching techniques to co-curricular activi-

**I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the conference. In the spirit of New Orleans, grab a po'boy ... gumbo ... some beignets ... and log in.**

ties to course content.

We have also started an online speaker and expertise bank, so that not only can we better diversify our panels, but also invite guest speakers into our classrooms – in person or remotely. The bank can help members find potential research collaborators as well.

I am thankful for the opportunity I had this year to serve

as SPIG's chair, and I am so very grateful for all of the help and support the members have offered.

I'm looking forward to the opportunity to see many of you at the conference. So, treat yourself! In the spirit of New Orleans, grab a po'boy ... gumbo ... some beignets ... and log in. Don't forget we'll be operating on Central Time.

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## aejmc 2021 conference

# Pre-conference to focus on developing your career

**A**cademic folklore suggests the rewards of earning tenure and promotion often include academic freedom and a stronger sense of job security.

But what does tenure and promotion in the 21st century actually look and feel like for professors? Does tenure and promotion still matter? Moreover, did it ever matter?

Maybe you are on track for tenure and promotion from assistant professor to associate professor, or maybe you have already earned tenure and promotion to full professor. Either way, if you have ever had the above questions or questions about what is next for you in an academic career – you are in luck.

A group of sages will gather Aug. 2 for a pre-conference AEJMC workshop focused on career development. They will share their experiences as well as answer audience questions concerning tenure, promotion, and rising through the academic ranks in the 21st century.

AEJMC 2021 will be held virtually Aug. 4-7, with a day of pre-conference workshops set for Tuesday, Aug. 3. To register for the conference, visit <http://aejmc.org/events/virtual21/register/>.

The Small Programs Interest Group (SPIG) will collaborate this year with Internships and Careers Interest Group (ICIG) to co-sponsor the pre-conference workshop that explores career development from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (CT).

The workshop will run in three parts, and registered attendees can join in the discussion as time allows. The workshop is free to all registered conference attendees,

and the workshop link will be accessible Aug. 2 through the conference's virtual portal.

Each session is expected to run approximately 75 minutes.

Here are the workshop details, including topics and expected panel participants:

### Part 1: “We’ve Earned Tenure & Promotion! Now What?!”

As an assistant professor, the first three to five years in rank are focused toward acquiring credibility and national recognition through research and creative works. The reward of earning tenure and promotion provide relief and potentially a reduced-stress workload, at least during the dossier evaluation period. But what's next? This panel will address this question and offer ideas for how to avoid academia burnout and progress as an associate professor.

**Moderating/Presiding:**  
Christina Smith, Georgia College

**Panelists:**  
John Chapin, Penn State  
Felicia McGhee, UT-Chattanooga  
Jeremy Sarachan, St. John Fisher  
Brian Steffen, Simpson College  
Leigh Wright, Murray State

### Part 2: “Promotions, Pandemic and Panic”

How has the pandemic affected the pursuit of promotion and tenure and what can individuals, administrators and departments do to help assure a fair playing field for women and minorities? This will look at strategies to help mitigate the negative effects on teaching, research and service.

**Moderating/Presiding:**  
Liz Atwood, Hood College

**Panelists:**  
Kay Colley, Texas Wesleyan  
Ralph Hanson, Nebraska-Kearney  
Pam Parry, Southeast Missouri  
Kate Stepaniuc, Southeast Missouri

### Part 3: “Do I Want to Be an Academic Administrator? The Pay Looks Good, But is it Worth It?”

This panel will look at the pros and cons of becoming a department chair or program director. What do administrators wish they had known before they accepted the job?

**Moderating/Presiding:**  
Liz Atwood, Hood College and  
Christina Smith, Georgia College

**Panelists:**  
Kelly B. Bruhn, Drake  
Kenneth Pybus, Abilene Christian  
Carrie Sipes, Shippensburg  
Marquita Smith, Mississippi

## aejmc 2021 conference

# Top papers share research on partnerships, justice

**T**wo papers will highlight the SPIG Research Panel at AEJMC 2021 online.

Chris McCollough of Jacksonville State will present his poster based on his first-place paper, "Building Sustainable Client Partnerships: A Non-Profit Outreach Center's Value to Developing a Service-Learning Pedagogy."

One of the judges in the competition described this paper as "a valuable contribution to the area of service learning and its effectiveness as a learning opportunity that



**Chris McCollough**



**Dawn Francis**

can lead to potential employment."

Dawn Francis of Cabrini will present her second-place paper,

"Methods for Teaching Social Justice Journalism."

According to one judge, this paper is "a compelling pilot study worth hearing about in detail this summer, information that would serve any JMC prof well but relevant to smaller programs seeking to distinguish themselves."

Research Co-Chair Carrie Buchanan from John Carroll will be discussant, and Dave Madsen from Morningside will be moderator for the session.

## milestones



**Michael Ray Smith**, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, recently became the Research Fellow at LCC International University in Klaipeda, Lithuania. Smith conducts research on Christianity and media and writes for Religion Unplugged.

<https://tinyurl.com/j7tn3y4b>

## thinking ahead to 2022



**Two years of virtual conferences will soon be behind us. That's certainly not the same as being gathered in person with our friends and colleagues. Here's a cheerful thought to keep you looking toward the future: The AEJMC Conference for 2022 is scheduled to be live and in person at the Detroit Marriott at Renaissance Center. Dates are August 3-6.**