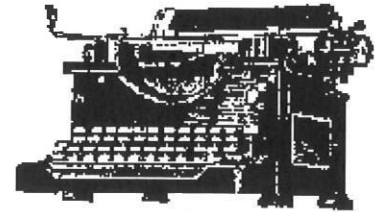


January 1996 Newsletter

This is the text of the newsletter mailed to members in January, with some changes and updates.



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Anaheim convention

The Small Programs Interest Group, in its second full year of operation, will have seven programs, either solely sponsored or cosponsored, on the agenda at the national AEJMC conference next summer in Anaheim. Each of the panel proposals submitted was placed on the schedule during planning at the winter meeting in Austin the weekend of Dec. 1. In addition, the Magazine Division asked the group to cosponsor a program on Integrating Literary Techniques Into the Teaching of Objective Writing. How to get P&T at Small Programs if Publication in Refereed Journals is Required, proposed by Barbara G. Ellis of McNeese State University, will be a sole sponsored program. It is scheduled for 1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10.

SPIG will be the primary sponsor of four panels. Two of them will be cosponsored by the Community College Journalism Association. They are Faculty Members in Small Programs and Media Advising Responsibilities, proposed by James Stewart of Nicholls State University, and From Newswriting to Media Writing: Strategies for Teaching the New Basic Course, proposed by Amy Kiste Nyberg of Seton Hall University. Stewart's panel is set for 2:45-4:15 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, and Nyberg's is scheduled for 4:30-6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11. The proposal submitted by Kim Landon of Utica College of Syracuse University, The Challenges and Techniques of Teaching Mass Communication Law in a Small program, will be cosponsored by the Law Division and is scheduled for 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11. The panel suggested by Cathy Johnson of Evangel College, Internships: What Works and What Doesn't, will be cosponsored by the Internships & Placement Interest Group and is scheduled for 2:45-4:15 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 11.

The Communication Technologies & Policy Division and SPIG's Jeff Overholtzer of Lynchburg College both submitted panel proposals on Internet applications in the classroom. SPIG will cosponsor the panel, which is scheduled for 10:30 a.m.-noon Tuesday, Aug. 13.



It's time to make a difference by getting involved!

by **Terry Dalton**
SPIG Chair

Happy New Year!

Hardly seems possible that nearly five months have elapsed since we gathered for the AEJMC in Washington. And, in about seven months, we'll be packing our bags for the '96 convention in Anaheim-Disneyland, here we come!

I'd like to begin by passing out kudos to two of our members: Vice Chair James Stewart, and Cathy Johnson, newsletter editor. For the second year in a row, James agreed to represent SPIG at AEJMC's critical midwinter meeting held in Austin, Texas, on Dec. 1-2. Traveling from Louisiana at his own expense - and, as we all know, during an especially hectic time in the semester - James succeeded in getting all seven of our panel proposals through the maze of bartering and deal-making that characterizes the busy midwinter meeting (see his report above). Along the way, he got us not only desirable time slots for the sessions, but picked up an extra cosponsor or two to help enhance our visibility and, we hope, boost attendance at the panels. Thanks, James, for another job well done!

Equally deserving our accolades is Cathy Johnson, editor of this Newsletter. Did you notice how quickly you received the Fall Newsletter after the August convention? Since I receive all the division and interest group newsletters, I believe I can state with accuracy that SPIG was the first AEJMC unit to produce a newsletter following the Washington meeting. More importantly, our four-page Fall '95 Newsletter was, in my humble opinion, an informative and attractive document that included a full report on SPIG decisions and activities in Washington, an up-to-date membership list, and a form for '96 convention panel proposals. Not surprisingly, the Newsletter you're now reading is right on schedule. Nice work, Cathy!

As a group, however, I think we can do quite a bit better in certain areas. Let me be more specific: While we should be proud of increasing our convention panels from four in Washington to seven in Anaheim, it's worth noting that all but one of our successful panel proposals were submitted by members of SPIG's executive board. It's great to have a board with that many solid ideas, but it also means that nearly 90% of us failed to float a proposal for Anaheim. Surely we can do better than that.

The Fall Newsletter also solicited ideas and suggestions from members in a variety of areas, ranging from Jeff Overholtzer's request for what materials you'd like to see included on our home page of the World Wide Web, to the recruitment ideas sought by Bill Richter and Liz Michel, to Cathy Johnson's plea for what you'd like to read in future issues of the Newsletter. While I haven't spoken with all these folks recently, I sense that the overall response to their pleas has been something less than overwhelming.

Clearly, if we're going to grow and provide a valuable service to all the folks working in small programs, we need to do it together and not rely so heavily on a handful of members. As SPIG secretary-treasurer Amy Kiste Nyberg reminds us elsewhere in this Newsletter, our group has the potential to not only become a force within AEJMC, but to make ourselves known to others who are in search of a place to call home at AEJMC. So, whether it's by newsletter, e-mail, fax, phone, letter or a hand-scrawled note, let's start talking to each other a little more so that our home is visited by more of the SPIG family. A good place to begin might be by telling Cathy what you'd like to see in the next Newsletter, which will appear in the summer. Or better yet, send her something by the June 15 deadline. Her phone number and regular mail & e-mail addresses can be found in the masthead below.

Finally, while it's too late to submit a panel proposal for the August 10-13 convention in Anaheim, it's not too early to

start thinking about a panel idea for the '97 convention. And it's always good time to tell me or James (or any board member) what you'd like to see SPIG do that it hasn't yet tackled. Remember, SPIG is not yet two years old - come grow with us!



Member finds home at AEJMC

by Amy Kiste Nyberg
SPIG Secretary-Treasurer

I am a wandering academic as far as my research goes. I do comic books, but since there is no comic book division at AEJMC, I've been, at various times, a magazine person, a history person and a qualitative person. When I attended AEJMC as a graduate student, I was interested in the conference as a forum for my research. But what I really wanted from AEJMC this year was a place to exchange ideas about the other half of my job - teaching.

I searched through my 1995 AEJMC program looking for teaching-related panels. A panel titled What They Didn't Teach Us in Graduate School caught my eye. I'm a relative newcomer to the professorial ranks (I started at Seton Hall University in fall 1993 after a very long career as a gradstudent), and I wanted to find out how others were coping with their elevation from graduate student to professor.

I was particularly interested in the presentation titled Life as a New Assistant Professor. As it turned out, the panelist was from Ohio State University, and her experiences were nothing like mine. She was talking about relationships with graduate students. She was commenting on her work load. I thought to myself -- WHAT grad students? and - I'd kill for a teaching load like that.

Does everyone who comes to AEJMC work for a major research institution? No. Then where were the people like me? Well, I found some of them in a new AEJMC interest group called, logically, the Small Programs Interest Group. And for the first time, I got involved with the organizational side of AEJMC. I attended the business meeting and learned about how programming decisions are made. I volunteered to help put together a teaching panel.

Why did I get involved this year? It's because the Small Programs Interest Group can give me what I've been searching for since I started teaching at the university level - a place to share ideas and approaches with colleagues who know that quality journalism education doesn't just happen at those big schools.

I realize I'm preaching to the converted, but I want to emphasize just how important I think it is for us to keep this interest group alive and well, to use the Small Programs Interest Group to highlight concerns unique to us, to become an important part of what AEJMC offers its membership, and to make ourselves known to others who, like me, are in search of a place to call home at AEJMC.



Spread the news about SPIG

If you are receiving this newsletter, you already know about the Small Programs Interest Group and how valuable it is. So I'm going to ask a favor of each of you.

I know that the new semester/quarter is upon you, so this isn't going to be a time-consuming favor. All I ask is that you either forward a copy of this newsletter to a colleague who benefit from joining our group, or contact me with his or her name, address and phone number. As you know, the continued success of our interest group is centered in its membership. Not only will you help others by informing them about the Small Programs Interest Group, but you'll also be helping yourself by making our group stronger.

And speaking of making our group stronger, here is just a quick reminder to make sure you check off the SPIG box and include \$5 when you renew your AEJMC membership.

Here is to a happy and prosperous new year.



SPIG speeds onto the information superhighway

Help needed now to fuel the engine!

Jeff Overholtzer at Lynchburg College is gathering material for inclusion on a World Wide Web page based on the interests and needs of SPIG members. He encourages members of the group to send him any of the following material: World Wide Web addresses for links relating to journalism, writing, publishing or other areas of interest to members; Syllabi for your courses; Teaching tips that relate to teaching writing, using computers in the classroom, use of guest speakers, etc.; Information on fellowships, training opportunities, internships and other items of interest to members.

The material should be in electronic form - the preferred way to send it is to e-mail it to Overholtzer@lynchburg.edu.

Textual material, such as a syllabus, can easily be e-mailed by copying it from a word-processing program and pasting it into an e-mail message (both Mac and Windows users: look under the edit menu). Any questions about transmission of materials should be addressed to Overholtzer at his e-mail address. He may also be reached by phone at (804) 544-8688, or by mail at 1501 Lakeside Drive, Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va. 24501.

Materials sent to him will be incorporated in the SPIG Web site and will be available worldwide for anyone with Internet access.

For the uninitiated, the World Wide Web is a user-friendly portion of the Internet that incorporates text, graphics and even sound and video. The Web is accessed with Netscape or similar software; one asset of the Web is its ability to link material stored in different computers through the use of point-and-click hyperlinks.



Spig Officers

Terry Dalton - chair
James Stewart - vice chair
Amy Kiste Nyberg - secretary-treasurer
Cathy Johnson - newsletter editor
Jeff Overholtzer - Web Page coordinator
Liz Michel - membership recruitment co-chair
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