

spig news

Newsletter of the AEJMC's Small Programs Interest Group

Fall 2007

Welcome from new SPIG head

Hollander eager to expand SPIG discussion

By Ron Hollander, SPIG head

These are lively times at SPIG, and I'm excited that as the new Head (who invented these titles?!) I can help to lead us in what promises to be a year full of innovative projects and perhaps even some new directions, picking up where outgoing head Margo Wilson ably left off.

There are at least three initiatives underway that I want to share with you:

Research of Application

This is an idea to expand our traditional research of discovery (what some might call more conventional scholarship) to include the actual, hands-on, professional work that some of us are doing in the media. Call it "freelancing" if you're more comfortable with that term.

Anyway, the goal is to recognize our members' journalistic work, and at the same time to expand the definition of "research" both as it's used at AEJMC, and especially as it's applied at many of our home institutions. As SPIGers, a lot of us teach heavy academic loads that leave little time for traditional research. But we do freelance, as we in fact came to academe from journalism (my case, by the way).

So why not recognize this reality, and also help our members to get some professional recognition that they can bring back to their deans and provosts to help with tenure, promotions and—dare I say it—raises? Thus was born our new research category.

The criteria for this competition are totally in formation at the moment under our research chairs, Carol Dykers, Salem College, dykers@centernet.net, and Pam Parry, Belmont University,

belmont.edu. So if you have any thoughts at all—anything you want to share—do get in touch with them. And never fear: the criteria will be publicized through our list serve before we go forward with this new research category.

Best Practices

This came about as a result of discussing how we in SPIG could talk with each other more and share what we are doing. Could we help each other by sharing lesson plans? Curricula? Textbook choices? Course sequences? Maybe the list serve could be used for that, or some other way? Then came the idea of sharing our entire programs through some sort of "best practices" showcase.

As with what we've started referring to as the "journalism competition" (above), we thought that maybe this, too, could be presented at the Chicago convention next August, perhaps at the new, off-site luncheon we're thinking of holding.

And just as with "research of application," the ground rules for "best

practices" are wide open. How will we choose the program(s) to be highlighted? What criteria? Will there be handouts? A booklet? How comprehensive will the presentation(s) be?

The masterminds behind this are our PF&R chairs, Michael Longinow, Biola University, michael.longinow@biola.edu, and Dave Weinstock, Grand Valley State University, weinstod@gvsu.edu. So please give your input to them. And just as with the "journalism competition," the proposal will be aired on the list serve before it gets cast in stone.

Teacher of the Year

This is a revival of a program that languished last year. We will be picking a SPIG Teacher of the Year. If you ever wanted something to impress your chair and dean, this is it. This definitely will be a competition, and right now we're planning to make the award at our proposed off-site luncheon. (There's also talk of taking an advertisement in the convention program, perhaps to highlight the winners in all three categories.)

Once again, the criteria are being formulated even as you read, in this case by our teaching chairs, Ann Colbert, Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne, colbert@ipfw.edu, and Patrick Sutherland, Bethany College, psutherland@bethanywv.edu. So give them your thoughts, and again criteria will be on the list serve for discussion before being finalized.

That's about it for the moment.

Finally, again I ask, as I did before our Washington convention, what do you want from SPIG? How can it help you more? How can it serve you better, with

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Membership Spotlight

College of New Jersey has been awarded a grant by the National Science Foundation for a demonstration project that will introduce middle schoolers to computing careers via interactive journalism. The program, Broadening Participation in Computing via Community Journalism, will receive \$600,000 from NSF over a three-year term. Principle investigators are Ursula Wolz and Monisha Pulimood, from TCNJ's computer science department, and **Kim Pearson**, English professor and SPIG member specializing in interactive journalism.

Rachele Kanigel, assistant professor of journalism at San Francisco State University, has launched a blog about student newspapers. The Student Newspaper Survival Blog (<http://collegenewspaper.blogspot.com>) includes news, tips and commentary about college newspapering for students and faculty and staff advisers. The blog is a companion site to her book, *The Student Newspaper Survival Guide*, published last year by Blackwell Publishing.

Dr. Tamara L. Gillis, associate professor of communications at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College, took second place in the Best Practices in Teaching Media Ethics competition, at AEJMC in Washington, D.C.

Mary Carmen Cupito, associate professor at Northern Kentucky University, presented research at AEJMC by Michele Day, an NKU graduate student working with her on a directed research project, "Teaching Convergence: Journalism Education Adapts in the Digital Age."

Pam Parry, APR, associate professor of journalism at Belmont University, presented a research paper to the Scholastic Journalism Division titled, "Media Convergence in the Classroom: A National Survey of How Mass Communication Academics are Confronting a New Paradigm."



S. Camille Broadway (Texas-Arlington), wins the 2007 GIFT grand prize. Also pictured (from left to right) are Scholastic Journalism Head Monica Hill (North Carolina-Chapel Hill), Community College Journalism Association Past President John Neal (Brookhaven) and GIFT Coordinator Edna Bautista (Benedictine).

Once Upon a Times:

Creative reporting project earns Camille Broadway 2007 GIFT prize

Dr. S. Camille Broadway of the University of Texas-Arlington was chosen as the 2007 Great Ideas For Teachers grand prize winner at the recent AEJMC convention in Washington, D.C.

Her GIFT is titled "Once Upon a Times: How To Use Fairytales to Teach Beat Reporting and Review Lead Writing."

Broadway received a plaque and a \$100 check from the GIFT sponsors: Community College Journalism Association, Small Programs Interest Group, Scholastic Journalism Division and International Communication Division.

Her GIFT and 24 other great ideas for teachers are included in a special journal. Copies of the 2007 GIFT edition

are still on sale for \$10, or three for \$25 (plus \$3 each to cover postage and envelope). Limited copies of the 2006 GIFT journal are also available. To order the GIFT journals, send requests to aejmcgift@yahoo.com.

The non-profit GIFT program celebrated its 8th anniversary this year with 60 submissions in the spring; 25 were chosen to participate in the poster session at the summer convention with Broadway being judged as the top GIFT scholar.

GIFT photos from Washington, D.C., can be viewed on a public album at <http://gift2007.bravehost.com>.

More information about the GIFT program is on the Web site at <http://www.geocities.com/aejmcgift>.

Minutes of fall 2007 business meeting

Members discuss future sites, welcome new officers

Margo Wilson called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. and invited all to attend the social immediately following the meeting.

The first order of business was to elect officers for the 2007-2008 year. Meeting attendees elected the following (with their emails):

Head: Ron Hollander, Montclair State, hollanderr@mail.montclair.edu

Vice Heads: John Jenks, Dominican University, jjenks@dom.edu
Vivian Martin, Central Connecticut State, martinv@mail.ccsu.edu

Secretary: Berrin Beasley, University of North Florida, bbeasley@unf.edu

Co-Chairs Research: Pam Parry, Belmont University, parryp@mail.belmont.edu
Carol Dykers, Salem College, dykers@centernet.net

Co-Chairs Teaching: Ann Colbert, Indiana Purdue Fort Wayne, Colbert@ipfw.edu
Patrick Sutherland, Bethany College, psutherland@bethanywv.edu

Co-Chairs PF&R: Dave Weinstock, Grand Valley State University, weinstod@gvsu.edu
Mike Longinow, Biola University, michael.longinow@biola.edu

Liaison CSM: Phyllis Alsdurf, Bethel University, p-alsdurf@bethel.edu

Liaison CSW: Teresa Heinz-Housel, Hope College, housel@hope.edu

Membership: Brian Steffen, Simpson College, brian.steffen@simpson.edu
Jim Sernoe, Midwestern State University, jim.sernoe@mwsu.edu

Newsletter: Cheryl Bacon, Abilene Christian University, baconc@acu.edu
Web site: Susan Lewis, Abilene Christian University, lewiss@acu.edu

Listserv: Brian Steffen, Simpson University, brian.steffen@simpson.edu

Hot Topics Panel

Co-Chairs: Kim Landon, Utica College,

klandon@Utica.edu; John Hanc, New York Institute of Technology, jhanc@optonline.net
Assisting: Carol Dykers, Salem College, dykers@centernet.net

Old Business. Margo reminded members of how successful Terry Dalton's Hot Topics panels on Katrina in 2006 and the Virginia Tech shootings in 2007 were, and encouraged members to generate ideas for 2008.

She also asked SPIG members to send Susan Lewis material for the Web site and to mention any new material submitted on the listserv.

Margo announced the remaining SPIG panels at the conference and asked members to start suggesting panel ideas for next year's conference. She explained that panels with co-sponsors from other divisions or interest groups are encouraged.

Margo reminded members that SPIG has 3.5 chips to use when planning conference programs, or 7 chips if each panel has a co-sponsor from other divisions or interest groups. GIFT costs SPIG .5 chips and Scholar to Scholar was free in 2007.

Treasurer's report. Margo explained that SPIG had \$2,312.80 last fall, and as of July 25, 2007, had \$2,260.61, for a loss of \$52.19. She said the money was spent to fund travel to the winter chip auction, labels for the newsletter and to help pay for a plaque for the GIFT program. SPIG has 107 members paying dues at \$7.50 each.

At the Council of Divisions meeting, division heads were asked to have their members vote on the preferred location of the 2011 conference. AEJMC will meet in:

Chicago	2008
Boston	2009
Denver	2010
Undetermined	2011
Chicago	2012
Washington D.C.	2013

Margo shared with members the list of cities offered as potential conference sites for 2011 with hotel room estimates

and following discussion, members voted Minneapolis as their preferred meeting location. Margo will forward this information to the Council of Divisions.

Also, all papers presented in D.C. will be available from the AEJMC Web site after Sept. 1, and the password to access the papers is AEJMCDC07.

New Business. Margo expressed concern about the research paper competition. She reported that only three papers were submitted, and that because of the electronic submission process, one paper was inaccessible, so that SPIG only had two research papers submitted. Both were accepted, which gave our group a 100 percent acceptance rate, upon which AEJMC frowns.

Members discussed the possibility of adding a peer-reviewed creative competition (scholarship of application) to better reflect the diversity of the work AEJMC members do.

Members voted unanimously to divide the research paper category into research of discovery (research papers) and research of application (creative work).

Margo then charged the research chairs to develop a plan for the creative work competition and present it to members via the listserv for discussion.

Regarding the Teacher of the Year competition, Margo announced that there hadn't been one this year, and that she was concerned about the volume of materials applicants were asked to submit in previous years. She charged the teaching co-chairs with simplifying the application criteria for next year. The Teacher of the Year would be only for SPIG members.

Margo turned the meeting over to Ron Hollander, incoming SPIG head, to discuss what else SPIG should do. Members suggested a number of possible ideas, such as sharing syllabi on the Web site and Web conferencing. It was also suggested that SPIG have a more visible networking opportunity, and Ron explained that SPIG has an executive slot that could be used for an informal event such as awarding the Teacher of the Year

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Regional Conference Dates

AEJMC Southeast Colloquium, March 13-15, 2008, Auburn University Hotel and Conference Center, Auburn, Ala. Contact John Carvalho at carvajp@auburn.edu.

AEJMC Midwinter Conference Feb. 29–March 1, 2008, Point Park (Pa.) University. Contact: Anthony Moretti, 412-392-4311; amoretti@pointpark.edu.

Send your news for the next SPIG news to baconc@acu.edu, or for the SPIG website to lewiss@acu.edu

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award. Another member suggested that we continue to offer “nuts and bolts” how-to teaching panels.

Also suggested was a best practices program, where members could share information about what innovative or effective things their programs are doing. Margo asked the PF&R co-chairs to make a recommendation to the Head regarding this idea, and Mike Longinow pledged to make a proposal before Labor Day.

Finally, Brian Steffen, who manages SPIG’s listserv, invited members to join the listserv. One may do so by following the directions on our Web site, which are:

Send an email to the following address: spig@simpson.edu

Leave the subject line blank. Click

“off” any automatic sig line you append to your emails. Then write in the body of the message: `Subscribe spig`

Ron made a motion to thank Margo for her service during the past year and the meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Submitted by Berrin Beasley
Aug. 23, 2007

Welcome from Ron Hollander continued from p. 1

your teaching, your research (in whatever form), your administration? Any and all thoughts would be most welcomed.

Please let us hear from you:
hollanderr@mail.montclair.edu
Vivian Martin, co-vice head, martinv@mail.ccsu.edu, and John Jenks, co-vice head, jjenks@dom.edu.