

Clio

among the media



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

Beginning this year, AEJMC papers to be submitted electronically

By Debbie van Tuyll
*Augusta State
Vice Chair*

“They” promise me it won’t be so bad, “it” being the electronic submission of papers for this year’s convention.

Those of us who attended the AEJMC mid-winter planning meeting in New Orleans got a demonstration of the on-line submission process, and it did seem straight forward. I have to admit that the skeptic in me thinks the true test of the system will come at 11:59 **central standard time** on the night of April 1.

Do note the words in bold face: **central standard time**. Usually when a time is synchronized like that, it’s tied to the eastern time zone or is a reference to the time where the submitter is located. Not so with AEJMC paper submissions this year.

If you live in the eastern time zone, you have until 12:59 a.m. your time April 2 to submit. If you live in the mountain time zone, you have until 10:59 p.m. your time April 1 to submit. If you live in the pacific time zone, you have until 9:59 p.m. your time April 1 to submit. Don’t get that 11:59 p.m. time set in your mind unless you live in the eastern time zone. Otherwise, you’ll have a nasty surprise in store when you log on to the submission site: you won’t be allowed to submit your paper.

The submissions will be processed through a site provided by All Academic Inc. According to its web site (www.allacademic.com), All Academic, is a service company that facilitates electronic submission of conference papers and abstracts, and it’s been doing so for the last 15 years.

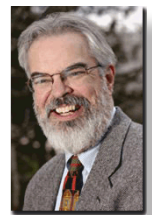
To submit a paper, you’ll log on to the site (<http://convention2.allacademic.com/one/aejmc/aejmc07>) and create a new account. Then put your user ID and password in the

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notes

from the chair



Remembering an ‘academic father’

And the vital ‘so what?’ question

By W. Joseph Campbell
*American
Chair*

It hurts to lose your “academic father.” That’s what Bob Stevenson was to me. Bob was an outstanding scholar in international communications at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. And he was my Ph.D. adviser. Bob died of a heart attack in late November.

His career of 31 years at the journalism school at North Carolina was remembered in mid-January, at a memorial gathering in Chapel Hill. It was strange to return to campus and confront the finality of Bob’s passing, that he no longer would be there to consult on research projects or go for a beer afterward on Franklin

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Small conferences

Fertile ground for generating ideas



Wendy Swanberg of the University of Wisconsin at Madison receiving from UT Chattanooga Chancellor Roger Brown a certificate recognizing Swanberg's "Outstanding Student Paper."

By Debbie van Tuyll
Augusta State
Vice Chair

We're moving into the "paper-deadline" season for journalism historians, and no doubt, *Clio* readers are starting to think about which papers are going to be ready this spring and where to send them. Like all of you, I'm considering the usual suspects, which for me includes a small conference held annually exactly in my area of speciality, the Symposium on the 19th Century Press, Civil War, and Freedom of Information. Maybe there are more of those small, intimate, specialized-topic conferences out there, but it seems to me that their numbers are limited, and that's too bad.

Special topic conferences like the one I go to are generally fertile ground for generating ideas among scholars who work on closely related topics, and they are also good training grounds for graduate students. At least, that's been my experience at the 19th Century Press

symposium which is sponsored by the West Chair of Excellence at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

I started attending that conference about a decade ago as a second-year Ph.D. student. My first presentation there was my second scholarly presentation ever. Even before the conference began, people who had been

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active in setting it up were reaching out to make me feel welcome. Barbra Strauss Reed from Rutgers, knowing graduate students are always short on money, e-mailed me several weeks be-

fore the conference to offer to share her room. Hazel Dicken-Garcia from Minnesota made it a point to compliment me on my paper, despite the roughness of my presentation style and the very obvious flaws in my untutored writing and research.

To have two noted senior historians take such a personal interest in a green graduate student was a heady experience, but that's the beauty of such specialized conferences. With usually fewer than 50 people attending, it's possible to talk about ideas with the luminaries in the field, and to get to know them as something more than names on journal pages. That encourages young scholars to stretch themselves, and sometimes, they, in turn, can teach the more established researchers a thing or two, too.

Plus, there's nothing like finding a colleague who actually WANTS to talk about the suppression of Democratic newspapers by Republican authorities in the North or how John Mosby was portrayed in that old TV show you remember from childhood, "The Gray Ghosts," or the effects of co-operationist editors on Mississippi's decision to secede in 1861.

Probably the most important outcome of this conference is the way it's stimulated interest in the 19th century press. Attendance has grown

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Small conferences



Braving unseasonably chilly temperatures and a brisk breeze, symposium participants hear United States Park Service Historian Jim Ogden explain the battle for Missionary Ridge from Orchard Knob, the site of General Grant's battlefield headquarters.

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each year, and the papers continue to be good. Further, the entrepreneurial conference organizers, David Sachman, West Chair of Excellence in UT-Chattanooga's Communication's Department, and Kit Rushing, chair of that department, have developed a cottage industry in publishing books of readings based on conference papers.

The first one, *The Civil War and the Press*, was published in 2000 by Transaction Publishers. Two new books are to be published by Purdue University Press in the next couple of years.

That, ultimately, is the value of smaller conferences: they stimulate productive, important scholarship in niche areas that might not get a lot of attention at the larger conferences.

Just think about what we might know about the history of the African-American press, women journalists, alternative or community newspapers, the wire services, religious journalism, or the evolution of professional ethics if a handful of us got together each to share what we know!

If you'd like to know more about the annual Symposium on the 19th Century Press, Civil War, and Freedom of Expression, check out its web site: <http://www.utc.edu/Academic/Communication/conference/index.php>

*Photographs by Kit Rushing
University of Tennessee-Chattanooga*

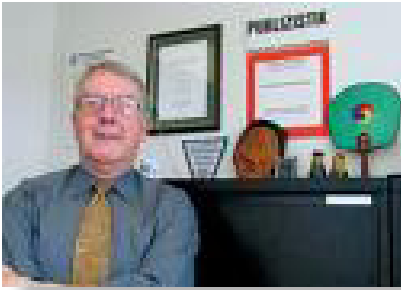
Save the date

The History Division members' meeting at the AEJMC convention in Washington, D.C., will be convened at

7 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11

The meeting agenda will feature recognition of authors of the convention's top faculty and student history papers. Please plan to attend.

Remembering an ‘academic father’



Bob Stevenson

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Street.

Dozens of Bob’s colleagues and former students attended the memorial. They heard Don Shaw and Richard Cole recall Bob’s courtesy and his gentlemanly ways. Shaw and Cole recalled how Bob would spend his own time and money in helping newly arrived international students get settled in Chapel Hill. They spoke, too, of the sparkling writing style that characterized the many books, articles, and conference papers that Bob wrote.

Ann Cooper-Chen of Ohio University, one of Bob’s many former Ph.D. students, spoke of Bob’s wide travels from his base in Chapel Hill. Bob loved traveling and cherished his “gold medallion” frequent-traveler status with Delta Airlines. Ann also recalled that Bob typically was an early and enthusiastic adopter of new media technology.

Bill Chamberlin of the University of Florida, who was perhaps Bob’s closest friend, described Bob’s struggles against heart disease. Bill and his wife were with Bob when he suffered the fatal attack outside a Monet exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh.

Listening to the tributes, I found myself often nodding in agreement, and thinking how Bob’s life and work

still offered us lessons and examples. Bob was a gentleman—even when goaded at academic conferences by scholars who disliked his moderate-to-conservative leanings and analyses. Bob did write smoothly and well—a reminder that scholarly writing need not be opaque and inaccessible.

But for me, Bob’s most enduring lesson was his insistence that high-quality research answer the impertinent yet vital “so what?” question. And research that lacked an analytical patina—that failed to spell out significance—made few real contributions to creating new knowledge.

Bob had corollaries to the “so what?” question, too. He used to tell graduate students in his research methods course that failing to answer “so what?” led to the even more devastating questions of “who cares?” and “why bother?”

He was right, of course. The “so what?” question is vital to scholarly inquiry. “So what?” should be a guiding question at all levels of research—from conference papers to journal articles to book projects: So what is new and important here? So what does this research tell us about broader issues and contexts? So what is the significance of this research?

Too often, as Bob used to point out, such questions are not even raised in journalism and mass communication research. (He once told me after reading a dissertation: “I don’t think I ever got to the ‘so what?’ question. I couldn’t even find an answer to ‘why?’” Bob had a wry sense of humor.)

He wasn’t a fist-pounding dogmatic about this. That wasn’t his style. But he did encourage his students to go

beyond the merely descriptive and not to overlook the “so what?” question. And their research was better for it.

Bob was far from alone in recognizing the importance of the “so what?” question. One of the pre-electronic issues of *Clio* that I keep in a readily accessible file is from 10 years ago—winter 1997. The lead article, by Carolyn Kitch, was drawn from interviews with four journal editors who discussed trends in journalism history research.

It’s a wonderful article—one that I’d like to make available at the 2007 convention in Washington, D.C.

In the article, Barbara Cloud (then editor of *Journalism History*) and John Soloski (then editor of *Journalism & Mass Communication Monographs*) separately addressed the importance of significance, of “so what?”

Here’s what Barbara said:

“There is a tendency in journalism to let the reader figure out what it all means, to let the evidence speak for itself. Academic authors are expected to extract the meaning for the reader, or at least offer the author’s interpretation of the evidence.”

And John specifically invoked the “so what?” question, saying: “The single most common weakness in submissions ... is the problem of significance. We get articles that are well written and that tell a great story with great details—but in the end, you have to ask, ‘So what?’ The manuscript goes into great depth but is limited conceptually.”

That issue of *Clio* offered timeless advice for journalism historians—advice that Bob Stevenson surely would have appreciated and seconded.

Looking ahead to August

History panels set for AEJMC convention

Six panel presentations will highlight the History Division program at the AEJMC convention in Washington, D.C., in August. And for the first time in years, the Division will sponsor a pre-convention program—at the Library of Congress.

The lineup of panels was decided in early December at AEJMC's Council of Divisions planning meeting in New Orleans. The centerpiece of the annual planning meetings is what is known as the "chip auction," at which the respective AEJMC divisions, councils, and interest groups "buy" spots on the program, using their modest allotments of poker chips. (Each chip is worth one spot on the convention program.)

The History Division received one fewer programming chip at the New Orleans meeting, under a "chip rotation" policy. That policy—in which all divisions share, once every three years—is intended to allow AEJMC's newest interest groups to have places on the convention program.

Despite losing a spot on the convention program, the History Division will sponsor panels that all promise to be terrific. And here are titles and brief descriptions of each; the co-sponsoring division is listed in parentheses:

- "Myths, Lies, and Omissions in American Journalism History"—Research panel. (GLBT Interest Group): 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 9. This panel will seek to create trouble by analyzing enduring legends in American

journalism. Panel organizer: Michael Socolow, Maine.

- "Is Journalism History 'Serious' History?"—Teaching panel (Scholastic Journalism): 5 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 9. This panel will explore the distinctions—real and perceived—between history and journalism history and will explore ways of creating links



and strengthening those already in place. Panel organizer: Debbie van Tuyl, Augusta State.

- "Silences and Omissions: What the Black Press Did Not Cover"—Research panel (Minorities and Communication): 3:15 p.m. Friday, Aug. 10. This panel will discuss what is missing in the record of the black press, and why. Panel organizer: Brian Carroll, Berry.

- "Teaching Media History in an Age of Convergence"—Teaching panel (Graduate Education Interest

Group): 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 11. This panel will discuss approaches for teaching media history in an undergraduate curriculum and discuss what is most effective in promoting students' understanding and appreciation of the field. Panel organizer: Ann Thorne, Missouri Western.

- "Public Relations History"—Professional Freedom and Responsibility panel (Public Relations): 10 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 12. This panel will present four historical studies of public relations, spanning the 1830s through the 1980s. Panel organizer: Meg Lamme, Alabama.

- "The Echo Chamber at Mach Speed: Meta-Reporting in the Nation's Capital"—Professional Freedom and Responsibility panel (Council of Affiliates): 11:45 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 12. The first telegraphic message was sent to Baltimore from Washington, D.C. And the speed and reach of political reporting has never been the same since. This panel will consider: Are the times in which we live anything other than the result of a natural progress that started in the Nineteenth Century? Panel organizer: Deb Aikat, North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

The pre-convention program will be during the afternoon of Wednesday, Aug. 8, at the Library of Congress. The program will include a tour of the Library's magnificent Jefferson Building, followed by presentations by representatives of important read-

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ing rooms—including Newspaper, Manuscript, and Prints and Photographs. They will discuss topics relevant and useful to journalism historians.

Additional details about the 2007 convention will appear in the spring and summer issues of *Clio*.

Covert award Nominations sought

The AEJMC History Division announces the 23rd 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 2006. Book chapters in edited collections may also 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 eight copies of the article nominated, should be sent by March 1, 2007, to Karen K. List, Journalism Department, 108 Bartlett Hall, UMass, Amherst, MA 01003.

Visit the History Division
online at
aejmchistory.org

AHJA seeks '07 award nominations

The Awards Committee of the American Journalism Historians Association seeks nominations for its three major awards--the Kobre Award, the Book of the Year Award for 2006, and the History Award to recognize a practicing journalist's contributions to the field.

- The Kobre Award, the organization's highest honor, recognizes individuals with an exemplary record of sustained achievement in journalism history through teaching, research, professional activities, or other contributions to the field of journalism history. Award winners need not be members of the AJHA. Nominations for the award are solicited annually, but the award need not be given every year. Those making nominations for the award should present, at the minimum, a cover letter that explains the nominee's contributions to the field as well as a vita or brief biography of the nominee. Nominations are due by May 1, 2007, and should be submitted to David R. Davies, School of Mass Communication & Journalism, University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive #5121, Hattiesburg MS 39406. Email address: dave.davies@usm.edu

- The AJHA book award recognizes the best in journalism history or mass media history published during calendar year 2006. The book must have been granted a first-time copyright in 2006. Entrants should submit

five copies of their books to the book award coordinator by March 31, 2007. Send materials to Earnest L. Perry Jr., Missouri School of Journalism, 179C Gannett Hall, Columbia MO 65211. Email address: <perryel@missouri.edu>.

- AJHA's History Award recognizes practical journalists who through their work have made a contribution in some way to journalism history. Nominations for the award are solicited annually, but the award need not be given every year. Nominating letters and supporting materials should be submitted by May 1, 2007, to David R. Davies, School of Mass Communication & Journalism, University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive #5121, Hattiesburg MS 39406. Email address: dave.davies@usm.edu.

The awards will be presented at AJHA's annual convention, Oct. 10-13, 2007, in Richmond, Va.

Future AEJMC Conventions

2008: Chicago
Marriott Downtown

2009: Boston
Sheraton
August 5-8

Using AEJMC's new electronic paper-submission system

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appropriate boxes, click on the green “go” button, and you’ll be taken to a screen where you have the option to submit a paper. Follow that link to the next page where all the divisions and interest groups are listed. You can either read the division’s call for papers or click on the division name to submit a paper. If you want to submit a paper, click on the word “paper” and it will take you to an information sheet that asks you for the title of the paper, the abstract, and AV requests. You can copy and paste all the requested information from a word processing application. Make sure you use the appropriate capitalization. The program is finicky about that.

Next you’ll come to a screen where you have to list the authors of the paper. The program wants the author names listed in the order they are to appear in the program, and you must also designate each author name as a presenter or non-presenter. You probably want to ensure your co-authors have already created their accounts on the site so that when you search for authors, their names will appear. Otherwise, you can’t finish the submission until you’ve submitted all their personal information and created the account for them.

You’ll need to submit your proposal (i.e., paper), and it must be in one of the following formats to be accepted

by the system: Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF, Word Perfect, Plain Text, Rich Text Format (rtf). After you’ve submitted your paper, be sure to go to the message center and print out the confirmation that the system has received your paper. This is your submission proof in case something goes awry. You’ll find in the message center that you have tabs to click for your in-coming and out-going messages (inbox and outbox) and an archive of previous messages as well. You decide what goes to the archive and what stays in the in or out box.

If you decide to withdraw a paper, return to the main menu and click on “submit or edit a paper.” In the

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History Division goals: 2006-07

History Division Chair W. Joseph Campbell has outlined 10 goals for the division this year. Although these goals were published as part of a longer story in the fall *Clio*, we publish them here in order to highlight the History Division’s work for this academic year. The goals are:

1) Seek to maintain, and even bolster, the quality of research papers submitted to the annual AEJMC convention, and specifically encourage senior scholars to submit papers for prospective presentation at the 2007 convention.

2) Encourage and invite Division members—including senior scholars—to submit articles and essays to the quarterly *Clio* newsletter.

3) Seek to enhance the Division’s on-

line presence, and work to achieve a smooth transition to the online submission and judging of research papers for the 2007 convention.

4) Seek to organize a meeting of the Division’s recent former chairs, for an informal discussion to coincide with the AEJMC convention in 2007.

5) Continue to find ways to highlight the research and contributions of non-tenured faculty who are members of the Division.

6) Renew the Division’s tradition of organizing high-quality research, teaching, and PF&R panels for the 2007 convention.

7) Seek to incorporate into the Division’s 2007 convention plans and programs the resources of Washing-

ton, D.C., including (but not limited to) the Library of Congress and/or the National Archives.

8) Maintain and promote collegial ties with the American Journalism Historians Association.

9) Maintain the Division’s traditional support for regional conferences, including the Southeast Regional Colloquium and the joint History Division/AJHA Northeast Conference.

10) Make an assessment of the Division’s disparate funds, recognizing that two of the funds are tapped each year with no fresh resources being applied to them. Also, seek guidance of the membership about the Division’s dues structure.

AEJMC moves to electronic submissions

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second set of options, you'll have the choice of editing or deleting your paper. When I walked through a test of the system in preparing this article, the only problem I had was the first time when, at that screen, I clicked on "edit" rather than "delete." I got an error message, but the second time through, I had no problem. Please note that you can't actually edit your paper at this point, only the title, abstract, audio-visual request or list of authors.

The process took less than half an hour, even with all the back-and-forthing I did to check out different option buttons. Even the least computer-literate of us ought not to have too much trouble.

However, because this is a new process for us, my best advice is to submit early. That way, if glitches or goblins strike, you'll have plenty of time – central standard time – to get them fixed.

To submit a paper,

1. Log on to site (<http://convention2.allacademic.com/one/aejmc/aejmc07>)

2. Follow the instructions to create a new account.

3. Put your user ID and password in the appropriate boxes, click on the green "go" button, and you'll to to a screen where you have the option to submit a paper.

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