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## PAST AWARDEES

- 1997 Julie Hedgepeth Williams, "The Significance of the Printed Word in Early America"; Director: David Sloan, University of Alabama
- 1998 David R. Davies, "An Industry in Transition: Major Trends in American Daily Newspapers, 1945-1965"; Director: David Sloan, Univ of Alabama
- 1999 Nora Hall, "On Being an African-American Woman: Gender and Race in the Writings of Six Black Women Journalists, 1849-1936"; Director: Hazel Dicken-Garcia, University of Minnesota
- 2000 Dale Zacher, "Editorial Policy of the Scripps Newspapers During World War I"; Director: Patrick Washburn, Ohio University
- 2001 Aleen J. Ratzlaff, "Black Press Pioneers in Kansas: Connecting and Extending Communities in Three Geographic Sections, 1878-1900"; Director: Bernell E. Tripp, University of Florida
- 2002 Mark Edge, "Pacific Press: Vancouver's Newspaper Monopoly, 1957-1991"; Director: Patrick Washburn, Ohio University
- 2003 Mark Feldstein, "Watergate's Forgotten Investigative Reporter: The Battle Between Columnist Jack Anderson and President Richard Nixon"; Director: Margaret A. Blanchard, University of North Carolina

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## 2004 MARGARET A. BLANCHARD DOCTORAL DISSERTATION PRIZE



The AJHA Margaret A. Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Prize, established in 1997 and named in 2003, is awarded annually for the best doctoral dissertation on mass communication history. Named in honor of the late Professor Margaret A. Blanchard of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill -- superb scholar and the source of guidance and inspiration for generations of doctoral students of journalism history -- the prize is accompanied by a cash award of three hundred dollars.

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**2004 AJHA ANNUAL CONVENTION  
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# AMERICAN JOURNALISM HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION

## 2004 MARGARET A. BLANCHARD

### DOCTORAL DISSERTATION PRIZE

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#### AWARDEE

Guy Reel, "The Wicked World: The National Police Gazette, Richard K. Fox, and the Making of the Modern American Man, 1879-1906"  
Director: Patrick S. Washburn, Ohio University

#### HONORABLE MENTION AWARDEES

Brian Carroll, "When to Stop the Cheering? The Black Press, the Black Community, and the Integration of Professional Baseball"  
Director: Margaret A. Blanchard, University of North Carolina

David Kaszuba, "They are Women, Hear Them Roar: Female Sportswriters of the Roaring Twenties"  
Director: Ford Risley, Pennsylvania State University

Danna Walker, "Reason and Radicalism: The History of Donna Allen and Women's Activism in Media"  
Director: Maurine H. Beasley, University of Maryland

#### ABSTRACTS

Guy Reel, "The Wicked World: The National Police Gazette, Richard K. Fox, and the Making of the Modern American Man, 1879-1906"

This dissertation uses quantitative and qualitative analysis to examine portrayals of crime, sex and sports in the pages of the National Police Gazette, a lurid New York City magazine that flourished in the late 1800s and early 1900s. This period, with its rapidly changing workforce, urban demographics and gender roles, is cited by scholars as a watershed era in the creation of modern American masculinities. The purpose of this study is to determine how the Gazette contributed to and reflected those trends under its long-time publisher, Richard K. Fox. The study concludes that through its framing of "manly" activities as well as oppositional masculinities, the Gazette endorsed a culture of modern manhood that still survives. For the quantitative analysis, 278 issues of the Gazette from 1879 to 1906 were examined for illustrations depicting sporting figures, criminal activities and sexual imagery. Over this period, the Gazette displayed a relative balance in sports and sexual/theatrical portrayals, with depictions of crime dropping after the beginning of the twentieth century. Thus, the publication was found to be consistent in its promotion of masculinities, thriving in this role because it spoke to generations of men and boys about strength, sexu-

ality, morality, and manliness.

Brian Carroll, "When to Stop the Cheering? The Black Press, the Black Community, and the Integration of Professional Baseball"

During the first half of the twentieth century, baseball flourished alongside banking, insurance, gambling, and printing as one of the most successful African American business enterprises. This dissertation focuses on the close working relationship between Negro league baseball and the black press and the changes in that relationship over time. Black newspapers in Negro league cities helped to organize competition, adjudicate disputes, inform fans and drum up support, and, ultimately, position and present the segregation-dependent leagues as a case for professional baseball's integration. The newspapers treatment of and relationships with baseball officials, team owners, players, and fans, are analyzed, beginning in 1920 with the founding of the Negro National League and finishing in 1957 with the dissolution of the last league of substance. Over time, the relationship changed resulting in shifts in coverage that could be described as moving from brotherhood to paternalism, then from paternalism to nostalgic tribute and even regret. These shifts are analyzed, providing a lens through which to examine one of American society's great dilemmas. To preserve the flower - in this case the Negro leagues - would have been to limit the opportunities of blacks and to perpetuate disenfranchisement and subordination. Achieving the larger societal goals of integration and equal opportunity, however came with the pain of watching the flower die on the vine, a pain not unlike that caused by the sacrifice of other once-vibrant black institutions.

David Kaszuba, "They are Women, Hear Them Roar: Female Sportswriters of the Roaring Twenties"

Contrary to the impression conveyed by many scholars, women's participation in sports journalism is not a new or relatively recent phenomenon. Rather, the widespread emergence of female sports reporters can be traced to the 1920s, when gender-based notions about employment and physicality changed substantially. Those changes, together with a growing leisure class that demanded expanded newspaper coverage of athletic heroes, allowed as many as thirty-five female journalists to make in-roads as sports reporters during the 1920s. Among them were the New York Herald-Tribune's Margaret Goss, one of several newspaperwomen whose writing focused on female athletes; the Minneapolis Tribune's Lorena Hickok, whose coverage of a male sports team distinguished her from virtually all of her female sports writing peers; and the New York Telegram's Jane Dixon, whose reports on boxing and other sports from a "woman's angle" was representative of the way many women cracked the male-dominated field of sports journalism. Besides exemplifying the different types of sports reporting practiced by female journalists of the period, these women highlight how female sports journalists simultaneously accepted and challenged social and professional norms of the era. Thus, they provide a lens for understanding the wider gender and equality issues that underlay women's lives during the Jazz Age.

Danna Walker, "Reason and Radicalism: The History of Donna Allen and Women's Activism in Media"

This dissertation is a study of Donna Allen, the founder of the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press and Media Report to Women, a feminist newsletter on women's efforts to influence the mass media. Allen lived from 1920 to 1999. My intent is to assess Allen's influence in the women's movement as it related to media. I show that her life can be used to illuminate the origins of significant feminist activism and thought in the communication field and in communication academia. I wrote a biography of Allen in relation to her work in founding the institute and MRW. By tracing Allen's participation in the feminist movement within communication, I analyze what actions activists took and why, as well as what the goals of feminism in activism and scholarship within communication were in the last part of the 20th century. I document the efforts of feminists to change mass communication theory and education, and I highlight the praxis of feminist communication - the publications of feminist journalism. I also show how Allen linked women in a global effort to gain access to technology and use media to produce social change. I conclude that Allen was a leader in what I called mediafeminism, a movement by women as communicators and networkers to take action on media in the way that the ecofeminist movement takes action based on women's connection to the environment. By examining Allen's life and her work in communication, this dissertation contributes to a burgeoning area of research into the effort and impact of women's media activism over the last three decades on media reforms, public perceptions, media technology, and communication history and education.