Lueck takes over as president, Mattson Lauters elected 2nd vice-president

Kansas City, Mo. – Therese “Terry” Lueck, professor and Fulbright Scholar in Journalism in the School of Communication at The University of Akron, has ascended to the role of president of the American Journalism Historians Association.

Lueck, who served as AJHA’s first vice-president during the past year, began her term as president at the end of the organization’s most recent conference, which took place Oct. 6-8 in Kansas City, Mo.

“The decision to run crystallized several years ago,” Lueck recalled. “I saw two groups of people—heady intellectuals, and at the same time, the most fun group of people I’ve had the pleasure of hanging around. I wanted to do whatever I could to help them.”

Amy Mattson Lauters of Minnesota State University was elected by acclamation to the position of second vice-president. An AJHA member for 11 years, she has served as the AJHA Convention registrar for five years.

Elected to the board of directors were Berrin Beasley of the University of North Florida, Linda Lumsden of the University of Arizona, and Lisa Parcell of Wichita State University.

Lueck has at least three goals for the upcoming year. The most important of these goals is to push forward the work of the AJHA History in the Curriculum Committee, formed several years ago to foster the development, accreditation, and retention of media history courses in college journalism and communication programs.

“History is under attack in the accreditation process. It’s never been completely vested in the process,” Lueck stated. “We need to work to get history courses integrated into the curriculum and measure their value in accreditation.”

Lueck also wants to do a thorough review of the AJHA bylaws to make sure they are accurate and reflect the current practice. Accordingly, she has formed an ad hoc committee with current AJHA first vice-president Kimberley Mangun, an assistant professor of communication at the University of Utah, and AJHA secretary Carol Sue Humphrey, a professor of history at Oklahoma Baptist University.

Lueck also plans to work with the AJHA graduate student members in planning their own social event at next year’s convention.
from the president...

Campaign for history’s value, visibility

By Terry Lueck
Akron

Swept up in your passion for history, humbled by your heady intellectualism and impressed by the pride you take in one another’s accomplishments, I am still overwhelmed from our Kansas City experience!

With the convention culminating my year as first vice president, I noted the trends of the discussions, looked toward our coming year and saw a need for us to pursue two goals: value and visibility. You are amazing storytellers; please keep encouraging each other to seek popular as well as scholarly venues to weave your narratives into the public imagination.

At a time when the study of history is under siege in higher education, you are those best situated to identify and broadcast, if you will, the value of media history. “Any subject of study needs justification,” Peter N. Stearns, Heinz Professor of History at Carnegie Mellon University, reminds us in a recent essay that builds on our robust convention and listserv discussions.

Award-winning educator Leonard Teel encouraged us to develop the genius in each of our students. Stearns asks, “How can we understand genius … if we don’t use what we know about experiences in the past?”

It is not news that today’s media are in flux, reflecting the seismic shifts in the geopolitical landscape. Stearns argues, “Only through studying history can we grasp how things change.” Constituencies bemoaning the lack of role models in this challenging climate may be convinced by the notion that through “moral contemplation” the study of history “helps create good businesspeople, professionals, and political leaders.”

Perhaps the most effective arguments for colleagues and administrators on the value of studying history lie in his enumeration of the skills that students develop:

• The Ability to Assess Evidence.
• The Ability to Assess Conflicting Interpretations.
• Experience in Assessing Past Examples of Change.

For discussions with those most affected by our pedagogy, we are lent the phrasing that “history particularly prepares students for the long haul in their careers … beyond entry-level employment.” Especially for those of us who teach first generation college students who are emerging from blue-collar backgrounds, the sense that history “provides a real grasp of how the world works” may give them an anchor in an uncertain future.

Each year I discover a deeper sense of camaraderie with you, the members of AJHA. I am thrilled to be able to provide leadership for the coming year. You have long spoken for others whose voices have been lost to history; now is the time to wage our own “double v” campaign for media history: value and visibility.

Former President Jim Startt shared the Stearns essay that poses the question “Why Study History?” from the American Historical Association. A link to the full text of Stearns’ answer to this question is posted on the “Toolbox” page of the AJHA website.
Donna F. Stewart, editor and publisher of The Call, was honored at the Donna Allen Luncheon during AJHA’s annual convention in October.

Named for the founder of the Women’s Institute for Freedom of the Press in Washington, D.C., the event honors a woman who has made significant contributions to the field of journalism. Stewart graduated from Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, in 1977 with a bachelor’s degree in journalism.

She returned to Kansas City, her hometown, and began working for The Call as a general assignment reporter. In 1984 she was promoted to managing editor. Stewart purchased the newspaper in 2003.

“It’s been a privilege to now observe my 34th year of service to the greater Kansas City community through my employment and ownership of The Call,” Stewart wrote recently.

The Kansas City Call was founded in 1919 by Chester A. Franklin. He eschewed the tabloid sensationalism that was popular then and focused instead on “presenting the achievements and worthwhile happenings among the African American community.” His wife, Ada Crogman Franklin, “believed The Call’s most outstanding asset was its reputation for accurate and truthful reporting.”

Today, Stewart describes The Call as “an advocate for those who need one” and notes that it is an important voice in the greater Kansas City community.

Kathy Roberts Forde, an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of South Carolina, has become associate editor of American Journalism, effective Sept. 1.

A twentieth-century American media historian with research interests in the First Amendment, the African American freedom struggle, literary journalism, and the history of the book and print culture, Forde has published articles in journals such as Communication Law & Policy, American Journalism, and Journalism Practice.


Forde’s selection as associate editor is part of Friedman’s plan to strengthen the journal. During her year as editor, Friedman said she has worked to expand the journal’s content to reflect a wide range of approaches to historical scholarship and to otherwise challenge journalism historians to think about the field in new and exciting ways.

Friedman said that it seemed like the opportune time to take on a partner in the endeavor, and Forde was a prime candidate.

“She is a highly regarded scholar whose work is ambitious and meaningful, and of course, she is a wonderful colleague,” Friedman said.
AJHA Committee Chairs

Awards: Mike Conway, Indiana, mctconway@indiana.edu, 812.856.1371
Convention Sites/Convention Planning: Patrick Cox, Texas, pcox@mail.utexas.edu, 512.495.4533
Dissertation Awards: David Abrahamson, Northwestern, d-abrahamson@northwestern.edu, 847.467.4159
Education: Ford Risley, Penn State, jfr4@psu.edu, 814.865.2181
Finance: Lisa Parcell, Wichita State, lisa.parcell@wsu.edu, 316.978.6064
Graduate Students: Molly Yanity, Ohio, mollykyanity@gmail.com
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Membership: Noah Arceneaux, San Diego State, noah.arceneaux@sdsu.edu, 619.594.3236
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Oral History: Reed Smith, Georgia Southern, rsmith@georgiasouthern.edu, 912.681.0531
Public Relations: Erika Pribanic-Smith, Texas-Arlington, epsmith@uta.edu, 817.272.5252
Publications: Paulette Kilmer, University of Toledo, pkilmer@utnet.utoledo.edu, 419.530.4672
Research: Linda Lumsden, Arizona, lumsden@gmail.arizona.edu, 520.626.3635
History in the Curriculum: Jon Marshall, Northwestern, j-marshall@northwestern.edu
Book Award: Aimee Edmondson, Ohio, edmondso@ohio.edu, 740.597.3336

AJHA Intelligencer

KC Conference Research Awards

The 30th Annual AJHA conference saw 67 papers submitted with 38 accepted for a rate of 57%. Of the 38 accepted papers, 20 were by faculty members and 18 were by graduate students. There were 30 Research-in-Progress submissions, with 20 accepted. Ten panels were accepted for the convention as well.


The Maurine Beasley Award for the best paper on a topic in women’s history went to Caryl Cooper for “Selling Negro Women to Negro Women and to the World: Rebecca Stiles Taylor and the Chicago Defender, 1939-1945.” Honorable mention went to Kathleen L. Endres for “Lost in Space? American Magazines Frame Women Astronauts and Cosmonauts, 1960-1985.” The awards were presented by Maurine Beasley.


The following people won the Joseph McKerns Research Grants: Earnest Perry, John Crawford, Amber Roessner, and Noah Arceneaux.

The award for the best article in American Journalism this past year went to Michael Stamm. Honorable mentions were awarded to Sheila Webb and Gerald Fettner.

The AJHA Teaching Award went to Leonard Teel of Georgia State University.
Calls

**Blanchard Dissertation Prize**

**Deadline for entries (postmark date):** February 1, 2012.

The American Journalism Historians Association (AJHA) Margaret A. Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Prize, given for the first time in 1997, is awarded annually for the best doctoral dissertation dealing with mass communication history. An honorarium of $500 accompanies the prize, and a $200 honorarium is awarded to each honorable mention.

Eligible works shall include both quantitative and qualitative historical dissertations, written in English, which have been completed between January 1, 2011, and December 31, 2011. For the purposes of this award, a “completed” work is defined as one which has not only been submitted and defended but also revised and filed in final form at the applicable doctoral-degree-granting university by December 31, 2011.

To be considered, nomination packets must include:

(a) One copy of the complete dissertation;
(b) Four copies each of the following items, with all author, school, and dissertation committee identification of any kind whitewashed out:
   (i.) a single chapter from the dissertation (preferably not to exceed 50 manuscript pages, not including notes, charts or photographs);
   (ii.) a 200-word dissertation abstract,
   (iii.) the dissertation table of contents;
   (c) a letter of nomination from the dissertation chair/director or the chair of the university department in which the dissertation was written;
   (d) a cover letter from the nominee indicating a willingness, should the dissertation be selected for a prize, both to attend the awarding ceremony and to deliver a public presentation based on the dissertation at the 2012 American Journalism Historians Association Annual Convention.

*Note: Regarding Paragraph (b.)(i.) above, as a guide to selecting a chapter for submission, the Award Committee has in the past expressed a preference for a chapter which, if possible, highlights the work’s strengths as a piece of primary-sourced original research.*

Nominations, along with all the supporting materials, should be sent to: Prof. David Abrahamson, Chair, AJHA Margaret A. Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Prize Committee, Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University, 1845 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208.

**Covert Award Nominations**

The History Division of the Assn. for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) announces the 28th 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 2011. Book chapters in edited collections also may 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 seven copies of the article nominated, should be sent by March 1, 2012, to:
Nancy L. Roberts, Chair
Covert Award Committee
Communication Department
University at Albany
1400 Washington Ave., SS-351
Albany, NY 12222
nroberts@albany.edu

**Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference**

(The American Journalism Historians Association and the AEJMC History Division joint spring meeting)

When: SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2012
Time: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
Place: John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York, 899 Tenth Avenue, New York, NY 10019
(website: http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/)
Cost: $50 (includes continental breakfast and lunch)

You are invited to submit a 500-600 word proposal for completed papers, research in progress or panel discussions for presentation at the Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference. Innovative research and ideas from all areas of journalism and communication history and from all time periods are welcome. Scholars from all academic disciplines and stages of their academic careers are encouraged to participate. This conference offers participants the chance to explore new ideas, garner feedback on their work, and meet a broad range of colleagues interested in journalism and communication history in a welcoming environment. Your proposal should include a brief abstract detailing your presentation topic as well as a compelling rationale why the research is of interest to an interdisciplinary community of scholars.

We are also looking for participants for our “Meet the Author” panel. If you published a book in the past year (2011) or have a book coming out in the spring of 2012 and would like to spend a few minutes touting your book at the conference, please contact conference co-ordinator Kevin Lerner with a brief blurb about your book.

This year, submissions will be processed through the Media History Exchange, an archive and social network funded by the National Endowment of the Humanities and administered by Elliot King (Loyola University Maryland), the long-time organizer of this conference. To join the Media History Exchange (membership is free) go to http://www.mediahistoryexchange.org and request a membership. Once you have joined, follow the step-by-step instructions describing how to upload an abstract to a specific conference. Upload all submissions (electronic submissions only) by January 6th, 2012 to the Media History Exchange at http://www.mediahistoryexchange.org. Also, if you are willing to serve as a submission reviewer or panel moderator, please contact Kevin Lerner.

Acceptance Notification Date: February 3rd, 2012

Any questions? Contact conference co-coordinators Kevin Lerner (programming or submission questions, kevin.lerner@marist.edu) or Lisa Burns (logistical or travel questions, lisa.burns@quinnipiac.edu). Or visit the JJCHC website at http://journalismhistorians.org
In the summer of 2000, I ended a twenty-year career as an investigative reporter and embarked upon a new one, as a doctoral student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. And I needed a topic for my dissertation. I put together a dozen possible subjects to pursue and sat down with my faculty advisor, Prof. Margaret “Peggy” Blanchard, for guidance. I never got past the first idea on my list: a biography of syndicated columnist Jack Anderson. She embraced it immediately and I set out to work.

Anderson is largely forgotten today, but in his heyday—from the 1950s through the 1970s—he was the most famous and feared investigative reporter in the US, loved and loathed for his pioneering exposes, which ranged from classified national security secrets to politicians’ sex lives. My goal was to resurrect him from the dustbin of history and put his work in its proper historical context. But it was a daunting assignment. For one thing, the written record he left behind during his fifty-year career was staggering: twenty books, more than 10,000 syndicated columns, thousands more magazine and newsletter articles, radio and television broadcasts, speeches and interviews—literally millions of words in all. Along with his correspondence, memos, and reporters’ notes, his papers filled some 200 boxes.

Luckily, Peggy Blanchard was a wise woman, and she urged me to narrow my topic. Instead of tackling the entirety of Anderson’s life for my dissertation, I decided to focus on his battle with Richard Nixon, both before and during his presidency. Even this proved more ambitious than I originally realized because Nixon had generated even more historical records than Anderson: tens of thousands of documents obtained by federal investigators during the Watergate scandal; unprecedented number of memoirs of Nixon aides that were written to pay legal bills or rehabilitate their reputations; and nearly 4000 hours of the (in)famous Nixon White House tapes. Throughout it all, like Forrest Gump, Jack Anderson appeared and reappeared, dogging Nixon for a quarter century.

Once my dissertation was complete, I began the process of turning it into a book. Originally, I anticipated expanding it into a full-length narrative biography of Anderson’s life and career, one in which his battle with Nixon was just a small part. But the book publishing industry was starting to undergo the same kind of economic turmoil that print journalism was also experiencing, and I discovered that publishers had little commercial appetite for an Anderson biography; he had simply become too obscure and distant a figure for such lengthy treatment. Luckily, I once again found

Continued on next page
a wonderful mentor, a Manhattan literary agent named Alice Martell. Her advice was the same as Peggy Blanchard’s: narrow my topic by focusing on Anderson’s battle with Nixon. I put together a book proposal and sample chapters, and Alice shopped it to publishers all over New York. Several were interested but in the end the choice came down to two: Oxford University Press, an academic publisher, and Farrar, Straus and Giroux, a trade publisher. Ultimately, I decided that I wanted to reach a wider popular audience and so I chose FSG.

The process afterward should have been an easy one. After all, my dissertation provided the foundation for this book, and with a looming deadline and relatively modest word count, my publisher wasn’t expecting much more than what I had already written. But my obsessive perfectionism led me to take another three years to finish my research. Like a man possessed, I tracked down hundreds of additional books and articles, and thousands of primary source documents, housed in dozens of archives around the country. I filed Freedom of Information Act requests with fifty different agencies of the federal government, conducted more than 200 oral history interviews of my own, and tracked down dozens of hours of taped interviews with others.

It proved a fascinating adventure. Although many archives and interviews turned out to be worthless, a select handful produced incomparable new information. Still others fell somewhere in between. The problem, of course, was that I couldn’t anticipate which archives or interviews would prove fruitful and which wouldn’t; and so I cast my net as widely as possible, never knowing what I might turn up.

Unfortunately, I encountered many roadblocks along the way. Various federal agencies and the Nixon estate refused to release records, citing national security and personal privacy even though virtually all of the individuals involved died long ago. The CIA’s response to my F.O.I.A. request, for example, consisted mostly of news articles or other material already available to the public—with government paperwork often so heavily censored as to be worthless. Other agencies withheld documents that Anderson himself had publicly disseminated more than three decades earlier.

Thankfully, Anderson’s papers contained many of these documents, as well as his original columns, drafts of articles and speeches he delivered, and letters and photos going back to his childhood. Other primary source documents were also quite helpful. It took years of prodding, but Anderson’s 2000-page FBI file, although heavily redacted, offered incomparable insights into the muckraker’s long battle with FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, who scrawled delicious insults about Anderson in shaky handwriting: “jackal,” “rat,” “skunk,” and “lower than the regurgitated filth of vultures.” The FBI files also revealed that Anderson had previously cultivated Hoover and benefited from his leaks before turning on him and exposing his corruption (even rifling through his garbage looking for evidence of homosexuality by Hoover).

Similarly, many choice nuggets of new information were supplied by the 6000 pages of FBI files on Anderson’s boss, columnist Drew Pearson, which were helpfully supplied to me by Prof. Michael Sweeney of Ohio University (who seemed nearly as glad to unload these boxes of documents, which he had used for his earlier research, as I was to receive them). In addition, Pearson’s papers at the University of Texas included memos Anderson wrote about his efforts to dig up dirt on Nixon long before he was president. And the private archives of Nixon advisors John Ehrlichman, Charles Colson, and Robert Mardian produced new material that further flushed out details about the White House battle with Anderson. (In Ehrlichman’s case, he jotted down notes on his calendar quoting the President’s instructions to investigate Anderson for homosexuality—a preposterous allegation but one that served as a reminder to leave no stone unturned in searching archival records.)

The National Archives proved invaluable. Its collections from Watergate prosecutors and from Nixon’s presidency, including the files of aides H.R. Haldeman and...
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John Dean, documented their zealous efforts to target Anderson at the President’s behest. Nixon’s pre-presidential files also recorded the long-running feud between the politician and the columnist. And I stumbled onto evidence of Anderson’s own corruption in two remote sections of the National Archives—the JFK assassination papers and a 1963 Senate hearing on foreign lobbying, both of which contained testimony about bribes allegedly paid to the investigative reporter.

In the end, the Nixon White House tapes proved to be the most important—and challenging—source of new information. Sur-reptitiously recorded on automatic voice-activated technology, they captured embarrassingly frank discussions in real time and offered the single most illuminating record of the President’s war on Anderson. However, they were also often muffled or scratchy, making them difficult to hear clearly. With the help of student research assistants, I transcribed dozens of previously unpublicized White House tapes and hired an audio engineer to make the words more comprehensible. I was also careful to have at least two sets of ears listen to each recording to try to ensure accuracy as much as humanly possible.

Oral history interviews were also critical to my research. Anderson himself was the most valuable of these sources; he spent dozens of hours answering my questions—and, before that, those of the ghostwriter for his memoirs. These interviews were taped and I had them transcribed. Water-gate burglar E. Howard Hunt also granted me a lengthy interview in which for the first time ever he admitted details of his role in an aborted White House plot to assassinate Anderson. I did not know that my interview with Hunt would elicit such a confession when I traveled to interview him at his Miami home; but I did know that the opportunity to meet the conspirator who helped topple Nixon’s presidency was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I could not resist regardless of what information it produced for my book.

The sheer volume of the material I unearthed was overwhelming. It was like trying to put together a 10,000-piece puzzle—with a third of the pieces still missing. After all my efforts, the best I could hope for was partial, not total, reconstruction of the past, which inevitably still contained gaps, missing pieces of information, unanswerable questions, unknowable answers.

To try to understand all of this as best I could, I drew up a time line and organized my book based on chronology, “the spine of history and the key to causation,” as the popular historian Barbara Tuchman has characterized it. “Events do not happen in categories—economic, intellectual, military—they happen in sequence,” Tuchman added. “When they are arranged in sequence as strictly as possible down to the month, week, and even day, cause and effect that may have been previously obscure, will often become clear, like secret ink.” This definitely turned out to be true in my research.

Indeed, except for a flashback about the White House plot to murder Anderson that opens my book, I wrote the manuscript largely in chronological fashion. At the same time, I tried to maintain strict standards of academic rigor by providing extensive endnotes; but I also avoided irrelevant scholarly asides that might detract from the genuinely dramatic narrative arc that characterized the battle between these two larger-than-life protagonists.

The result was a manuscript about twice as long as my publisher had commissioned. Ultimately, we both compromised; the book ended up significantly shorter than what I first turned in but substantially longer than my publisher had originally anticipated. It was, I think, a better book because of this collaboration.

The most unexpected part of this odyssey occurred in 2006, a few weeks after Anderson died: Two FBI agents came by my house, flashed their badges, and demanded to rifle through the 200 boxes of personal papers that I had persuaded the journalist to donate to my university. The FBI claimed that these archives, which were in the process of being catalogued, contained classified papers leaked to Anderson decades before—and announced that they now wanted to use these documents to prosecute the leakers. I was shocked and so was Anderson’s family. We went public about the FBI’s heavy-handed plot to rifle through a dead reporter’s files. Editorial condemnation was swift and unanimous across the political spectrum and all over the country. The Senate Judiciary Committee held hearings on the case and I was called as a witness to testify. Senators from both parties excoriated the FBI, which quickly backed down. In death as in life, Jack Anderson continued to torment government officials.

As for my book, the hardback was published in the fall of 2010, the paperback in the fall of 2011. The entire process was the most creative and challenging intellectual exercise of my life. Thanks to all my friends and colleagues, especially at KTA, who helped along the way.

Finally, I encourage readers to check out additional material about my book, including audio and video links, at www.poisoningthepress.com. Free examination copies are available by emailing my publisher at academic@macmillan.com. And I would be delighted to send a free DVD and other supplementary teaching aids to anyone who assigns my book to their students; just email me at Prof.Feldstein@gmail.com.