



Intelligencer

VOLUME 27 NUMBER 1 FALL 2009

Officers elected at Birmingham convention, Perry takes helm as AJHA president for 2009-2010

AJHA members elected **Therese Lueck**, University of Akron, second vice president and three new board members at the organization's general business meeting in Birmingham in October.



Lueck

New board members are **Mike Conway**, Indiana University; **Gwyneth Mellinger**, Baker University; and **Doug Ward**, University of Kansas. They will replace members whose terms have expired: **Brian Carroll**, Berry Col-

lege; **Amy Lauters**, Minnesota State University; and **Karla Gower**, University of Alabama.

Ernest Perry, University of Missouri, took the helm as president, and **Jim McPherson**, Whitworth University, moved up to first vice president.

Research Committee Chair **Janice Conway Hume**, University of Georgia, reported that scholars submitted 73 papers for the convention, of which 38, or 52 percent, were accepted.



Mellinger



Conway

On-line paper submissions

Hume said next year's paper competition will be conducted on-line.

The AJHA Board approved the on-line submission and reviewing plan at its meeting earlier in the week. A beta test of the process was successful. On-line submissions and reviewing will save the organization a considerable amount on postage and will simplify the process of getting papers to reviewers, Hume reported.



Ward

Is journalism history mass comm history?

Board decision at Birmingham meeting: 'Yes'

The judging of AJHA's book award contest led the board of directors to reconsider its definition of "journalism history" during its annual meeting in Birmingham last month.

The issue arose when President Julie Williams reported to board members that Book Award chair Rich Kaplan wanted to limit the contest to books about journalism. That would bar books about broad-

cast entertainment, public relations, advertising and other mass media topics.

According to Williams, Kaplan reported that some reviewers have asked him about how AJHA defines "journalism" within the context of the book prize.

Board members unanimously agreed that the organization, at

Continued on next page

Continued on next page

Table of Contents

Page 3: President's column

Pages 4, 5 & 7: News on annual awards

Page 6: Photos from the Birmingham convention

Future AJHA
Convention Sites

2010: Tucson
2011: Kansas City
2012: North Carolina

AJHA Officers

President: Earnest Perry,
Missouri, perryel@missouri.edu,
573.882.4214

First Vice President: James
McPherson, Whitworth,
jmcperson@whitworth.edu,
509.777.4429

Second Vice President: Terry
Lueck, Akron,
tlueck@uakron.edu, 330.972.6093

Administrative Secretary: Carol
Sue Humphrey, Oklahoma Baptist,
carol.humphrey@okba.edu,
405.878.2221

Treasurer: Mavis Richardson,
Minn. State, Mankato,
mavis.richardson@mnsu.edu,
507.389.3299

New award approved

To encourage more research into press coverage of wars, the AJHA board approved a new award honoring the best paper in the area of War and the Media.

Member Wallace B. Eberhard suggested creation of the award.

“A review of our convention programs and media history research in general reveals considerable interest in this subfield. . . . Nations and groups within nations seem always to be at war with one another; the press plays a variety of roles at these times. . . . It is a fertile and critical field for mass media historians,” Eberhard wrote to the chairs of the Research Committee and the Awards Committee.

Officers elected at Birmingham meeting

Continued from previous page

History in the curriculum

Chair **David Vergobbi**, University of Utah, reported that he and other task force members are working to put into action proposals made last year by the Task Force on History in the Curriculum. The report is available online at ajhaonline.org.

Vergobbi said only about one-half of the 500-plus mass communication programs in the U.S. have mass media or journalism history courses. The task force’s goal is to increase the number of mass media history courses being offered.

Convention administrator

Incoming President Earnest Perry announced the board wants a new position for the organization. He said the board approved an amendment to create the position of convention administrator. **Beverly**

Hadley, University of Texas John Nance Garner Museum, would be the first named to the position. Approval of the amendment will be necessary at next year’s convention.

Finances

AJHA remains financially healthy, according to finance reports submitted during the Birmingham business meeting.

Treasurer **Mavis Richardson**, Minnesota State University, Mankato, reported the organization’s assets are about \$88,000 with annual expenses of about \$37,000. AJHA earned an extra \$2,000 from the dues increase instituted this year, she said.

For the first time, *American Journalism*, AJHA’s quarterly journal, turned a profit in 2009, largely because of \$9,000 in royalty earnings from the on-line database EBSCO.

Defining ‘journalism history’ for AJHA

Continued from previous page

least since 1998, has accepted a broad definition of journalism with no intent to limit recognition of histories that examine other mass communication practices beyond print and broadcast news.

To help clarify the issue, the board approved the following statement as representing the organization’s approach to journalism history: “For purposes of written research papers and publications, the term ‘journalism history’ shall be seen as a continuous process, emphasizing but not necessarily confined to subjects of American

mass communications. It should be viewed not in the context of perception of the current decade, but as part of a unique, significant, and time-conditioned past.”

Got News?

The newsletter is published in November, February, May and August. Submission deadlines are Nov. 1, Jan. 15, April 15 and July 15. Email is preferred, but you may also fax or mail to:

Jim Aucoin
Department of Communication, UCOM
1000, University of South Alabama,
Mobile, AL 36688
Fax: 251-380-2850
Phone: 251-380-2806
jjmaucoin@yahoo.com

AJHA Board

Board of Directors:

Ross Collins, North Dakota State,
ross.collins@ndsu.edu,

701.231.7295

Mike Conway, Indiana,
mtconway@indiana.edu,
812.856.1371

Dolores Flamiano, James
Madison, dflamiano@gmail.com,
540.568.3034

Barbara Friedman, North
Carolina, bfriedman@unc.edu,
919.843.2099

Gwyneth Mellinger, Baker,
gwyn.mellinger@baker.edu,
785.594.4554

Vanessa Murphree, South
Alabama, vmurphree@gmail.com,
251.455.3455

David Vergobbi, Utah,
david.vergobbi@utah.edu,
801.485.4626

Doug Ward, Kansas,
dbward@ku.edu, 785.864.7637

Julian Williams, Clafin, jm2953_
scs@hotmail.com, 352.871.2221

Ex Officio:

Former Pres. **Julie Williams**,
jjwilla@samford.edu,
205.939.3215

Former Pres. **Tammy Baldwin**,
Southeast Missouri, 573.651.2174
tbaldwin@semo.edu

American Journalism editor **Jim
Martin**, North Alabama,
jrmartin@una.edu, 256.765.4945

Historian **Dale Cressman**,
Brigham Young, cressman@byu.
edu, 801.422.1686

Intelligencer editor **Jim Aucoin**,
South Alabama, jimaucoid@
yahoo.com, 251-380-2806

Webmaster **Brian Carroll**,
Berry College, bc@berry.edu,
706.368.6944

From the president . . .

AJHA has become stellar organization because members provide hours of service

By Earnest Perry
University of Missouri

In the months leading up to this year's annual convention in Birmingham I received plenty congratulatory phone calls and emails. It really began to pick up after my school posted a story on our website. I was humbled by all the attention and usually responded with the saying "you should be offering condolences instead of congratulation."

Taking a leadership role in any organization brings with it a lot of hard work and responsibility. I would not expect anything less, however I also understand that I can't do it alone.

I was asked countless times by members during the Birmingham convention what I would focus on during my year as president. In trying to answer that question I kept coming back to two things – research and service. The topic of my first newsletter column will address service. I plan to talk about research in my next column, but many of you will hear more about that area in the coming weeks through the AJHA listserv, emails and phone calls.

In the area of service I'd like to point out that AJHA would not be the stellar organization it is today without the countless hours of service given by many of its members. This year, AJHA members worked tirelessly on initiatives that

led to programs and services to enhance the organization. Here are just a few:

Treasurer Mavis Richardson and Registrar Amy Mattson

Lauters worked with our bank to setup a system that will allow members to pay for their convention registration by credit card.

We used the system during the Silent Auction this year and some convention registrations after the early bird deadline were paid by credit card. Mavis and Amy are currently working on a way to utilize the credit card system for membership dues.

Research Chair Janice Hume and past President Fred Blevens developed an electronic submission system for the convention paper competition. A group of AJHA members tested the system, and it works great. The system will save those submitting papers and those reviewing them time. It will save the research chair time and her institution money, which in this economy is crucial.

Convention Sites Committee Chair Patrick Cox and his assistant Beverly Hadley were hard at work this past summer making final preparations for the Birmingham convention, finalizing the hotel for next year's Tucson convention and securing a hotel for the 2011 convention in Kansas City. AJHA is a growing organization and our conventions require a lot of prepa-

Continued on next page



AJHA Committee Chairs

Awards:

Convention Sites/Convention

Planning: Patrick Cox, Texas,
pcox@mail.utexas.edu, 512.495.4159

Dissertation Awards: David
Abrahamson, Northwestern, d-
abrahamson@northwestern.edu,
847.467.4159

Education: Barbara Friedman, North
Carolina, bfriedman@unc.edu

Finance: Victoria Goff, Wisconsin,
Green Bay, goffv@uwgb.edu,
920.465.2536

Graduate Students: Amber
Roessner, Georgia, lashaw@uga.edu

Long-Range Planning: Julie
Williams, jwilliams@samford.edu,
205.939.3215

Membership: Paul Gates,
Appalachian State, gatesph@appstate.
edu

Nominations and Elections: Caryl
Cooper, Alabama, cooper@apr.
ua.edu, 205.348.3593

Oral History: Reed Smith, Georgia
Southern, rsmith@georgiasouthern.
edu

Outreach: Gwyn Mellinger, Baker,
gwyn.mellinger@bakeru.edu,
785.594.4554

Public Relations: Vanessa
Murphree, South Alabama,
vmurphree@gmail.com,
251.380.2800

Publications: Paulette Kilmer,
University of Toledo, pkilmer@pop3.
utoledo.edu, 419.530.4672

Research: Janice Hume, Georgia,
jhume@uga.edu, 706.542.5980

History in the Curriculum: David
Vergobbi, Utah, david.vergobbi@
utah.edu, 801.485.4626

Web Site: Brian Carroll, Berry
College, bc@berry.edu, 706.368.6944



Award winners at AJHA Convention

Left to right, Betty Winfield, Missouri, winner of the Kobre Award for 2009; Ford Risley, Penn State, winner of the History Book Award for 2009; and Jean Palmegiano, St. Peter's College, chair of the awards committee.

Join us next year at the Tucson convention

Next year's AJHA's annual convention will be held in Tucson, Ariz., Oct. 6 to Oct. 9, 2010.

The convention will be held at the Hotel Arizona. Field trips will include a Friday visit to the Sonoran Desert Museum and the Old Tucson Studios, with perhaps an optional trip on Sunday into Mexico. Plans are to hold the

reception at the Arizona History Museum.

Local coordinator is Linda Lumsden, University of Arizona.

The 2011 convention will be held in Kansas City from Oct. 5 to Oct. 8 at the Hotel Phillips.

The 2012 convention will be held in North Carolina, in the Chapel Hill or Raleigh area.

AJHA stellar because of members' service

Continued from previous page

rations. Because of this, the board unanimously voted to create the position of Convention Administrator. Beverly, who has gone above and beyond the call of duty the past several years, will serve in that capacity.

There were many other acts of service to AJHA, from committee work to paper and book reviews, to preparation for the Silent Auction. Many members are doing a lot

of work to make this a top-flight organization, but we need more.

In this newsletter and on the organization's website, ajhaonline.org, there is a list of committees with contact information for the chairs. I implore you to get involved. It's great that we all get together and have a good time at the convention every October. However, in order to have that good time and enjoy the benefits of AJHA we need your help. Now is the time to serve.

AJHA awards go to 10 scholars

McKern research grants, best book, best article, best papers

Five AJHA scholars received **Joseph McKern Research Grants** for 2009-2010. Each project receives \$1,250.

The awards went to:
Ronald J. Zboray
and **Mary Saracino Zboray**, University



Zboray

of Pittsburgh, for a study of Southern newspaper readers during the Civil War.



Fee

Frank E. Fee Jr., University of North Carolina, for a study

of Frederick Douglass and Julia Griffiths and their fight against slavery.

Kimberly Wilmont Voss, University of Central Florida, for a multimedia encyclopedia of women page editors.



Voss

Barbara Friedman, University of North Carolina, for a study of the mass media, the first lady, and the maternal role.



Friedman

Best Article award

Gwyneth Mellinger, Baker, won this year's American Journalism best article award for " 'Rekindling the Fire': The Compromise that Initiated the Form Integration of Daily Newspaper Newsrooms," 25:3 (Summer 2008): 97-126.

Book award

This year's media history book award went to **Ford Risley**, Penn State, for *Abolition and the Press: The Moral Struggle Against Slavery*, Chicago: Medill Visions of the American Press.



Risley

Paper awards

Maurine Beasley Award: **Jane Marcellus**, Middle Tennessee, for " 'Dear D': Sophie Treadwell's 1915 Correspondence from the 'Big War Theatre'." Runners-up were **Mary M. Cronin**, New Mexico State, "Patrotic Ladies, Gallant Heroines, and Dangerous Women: Images of Confederate Women in Southern Newspapers, 1861-1865"; and **Pamela A. Parry**, Southern Mississippi, "Second Fiddle, Not Second Rate: Associate Role Obscures Anne Wheaton's Contributions to Public Relations."

J. William Snorgrass Award:

Jason A. Peterson, Berry College, "They Deserve a Stinging Defeat: Mississippi Newspaper Coverage of Jones County Junior College's Appearance in the 1955 Junior Rose Bowl and Mississippi's First Brush with Integrated Athletics." Runners-up were: **Jinx Coleman Broussard** and **Cristina Mislan**, Louisiana State, for "Better Off in Vietnam:



Peterson

The Foreign War Correspondence of Ethel Payne and Thomas Johnson"; and **Kim Mangun**, Utah, for "On to St. Louis: The Expedition of the Black Bicycle Corps, 1897."

Robert Lance Award for outstanding student paper: **Megan Fromm**, Maryland, for "Becoming First Amendment Freedom Fighters: The First Decade of the Student Press Law Center." Runners-up were **Pamela A. Parry**, Southern Mississippi, "Second Fiddle, Not Second Rate: Associate Role Obscures Anne Wheaton's Contributions to Public Relations"; **Amber Roessner**, Georgia, "Sporting Life and the 'Fairer Sex': Debating a Woman's Place in the National Pastime"; and **Michael T. Marcellus**, Missouri,



Marcellus

"Cameras in the Courts: A Case for Increased Judicial Transparency."

W. David Sloan Award for best faculty paper: **Jane Marcellus**, Middle Tennessee, for " 'Dear D': Sophie Treadwell's 1915 Correspondence from the 'Big War Theatre'." Runners-up were: **Joseph R. Hayden**, Memphis, "Stirring the 'Wild Waves': The Press, the Senate and the Treaty of Versailles (1919)"; **Noah Arceneaux**, San Diego State, "Department Store Television, 1925-1950"; and **Charles Lewis**, Minnesota State, Mankato, "Wise Decisions: A Frontier Newspaper's Coverage of the Dakota Conflict."

Good times captured at Birmingham AJHA meet



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

1. David Abrahamson, Northwestern; David Spencer, Western Ontario; and Wally Eberhard, Georgia, at the Saturday night gala dinner.

2. Carolyn Kitch, Temple, and David Davies at the Silent Auction.

3 & 4. Pat Washburn, Ohio, and Aimee Edmondson, Ohio, atop Vulcan, the tallest cast-iron statue.

5. Kathy Roberts Forde, South Carolina, at the auction.

6. President Earnest Perry, Missouri, and former President Fred Blevens, Florida International, at the auction.

7. Doug Ward, Kansas, and Maurine Beasley, Maryland, at the gala dinner.

8. Mike Conway, Indiana, and Mike Murray, Missouri at St. Louis, at the 16th Street Baptist Church.

Book award entries sought by AEJMC

Best mass comm history book sought for recognition

The History Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication is soliciting entries for its award for the best journalism and mass communication history book of 2009.

The award is given annually, and the winning author will receive a plaque and a cash prize at the August 2010 AEJMC conference in Denver.

The competition is open to any author of a relevant history book regardless of whether he or she belongs to AEJMC or the History Division. Authorship is defined as the person or persons who wrote the book, not just edited it. Only those books with a 2009 publication (copyright) date will be accepted.

Compilations, anthologies, articles, and monographs will be excluded because they qualify for the Covert Award, another AEJMC History Division competition.

Entries must be postmarked no later than Feb. 5, 2010.

Four copies of each book must be submitted, along with the author's mailing address, telephone number, and email address, to:

John P. Ferré
AEJMC History Book Award
Department of Communication
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292

Riley seeks AJHA bloggers

Sam Riley at Virginia Tech would like to hear from other AJHA members who are doing a blog of their own, or else have done one in the past. He asks that all such persons email him at sriley@vt.edu, after which he will get in touch to ask a few simple questions about these blogs.

Riley is doing an experimental, informational blog of his own in conjunction with a reference book he has edited having to do with America's celebrity culture. The book is due to appear in December 2009, published by ABC-CLIO. This blog may be seen at celebrityblogspot.com. It offers information about the temporary celebrity.

Hiley Ward, 1929-2009

Hiley H. Ward of Warrington, Pa., a journalist, author of 14 books and teacher whose work was honored by the Pulitzer Prize committee, died Oct. 1 of leukemia. He was 80.

AJHA honored Ward in 2000 by granting him the Kobre Award.

Hiley had a long and distinguished career. In the 1960s and early '70s, he was religion editor for the Detroit Free Press. His work took him overseas frequently, including assignments in the Middle East, and Central and Eastern Europe. He covered every session of the Vatican Council in Rome.

He was part of the reporting team that covered the riots in Detroit



Local History Winner

Cecil Whitmire, president of Alabama Landmarks Inc., nearly single-handedly saved the 1927 Alabama Theatre movie palace in downtown Birmingham. That achievement won him AJHA's Local Media History Award for 2009. Whitmire has researched the history of movie palaces.

in 1967, earning the newspaper the Pulitzer Prize for general local reporting in 1968. He also was awarded the William Leidt award from the Episcopal Church in 1968, the Texty award for best new textbook in communications, education, performing and visual arts in 1997 by the Text and Academic Authors association. He served as president of the Religion Newswriters Association, U.S.-Canada, from 1969 to 1972.

After leaving the Free Press, Hiley taught journalism at Mankato (Minn.) State and then at Wichita State University. He ended his teaching career at Temple University's communications department.