Intelligencer

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 1  Fall 2012

From the President:

Technology and History is the Future

It’s snowing outside my 1928 Salt Lake City home. Flakes as big as a quarter swirl in the air, gather on the boughs of my neighbor’s large pine tree, slip off the roof. A doctoral student advised me in an email to “snuggle in with some hot chocolate.”

He was close: I’m enjoying a steaming mug of black tea and marveling at the ability to virtually attend sessions of the symposium, “Astride Two Ages: Technology and the Civil War,” [http://americanhistory.si.edu/astride-two-ages-technology-and-civil-war-symposium] being held at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

The real-time webcast of the session on wartime uses of the portable tabletop printing press was particularly interesting. Several companies manufactured presses and kits that allowed for the production of documents ranging from receipts to military orders to camp newsletters.

An 1862 advertisement in Harper’s Weekly [http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/search/object/nmah_1345493] for the Cottage Printing press and kits noted: “From the ease with which they can be transported from place to place, they will be found exceedingly useful in the Army. Rear-Admirals Farragut and Goldsborough have them in constant use, and speak of them in the highest terms.”

Printing Office No. 3 sold for $50 (the equivalent of about $1,100 today) and included: “Press (prints 7¼ x10¼ inches), eighteen pound font of Pica, four fonts of fancy type, one font of combination border, three type cases, leads and rule, composing sticks, ink roller, two chases, furniture, ink, ink slab, and galley.” The cheapest “printing offices” could be had for $20; the most expensive cost $100.

Portable presses continued to be useful after the Civil War. Tufts College reportedly used one for “printing circulars, recitation bills, labels for books in the library, and labels for minerals in the cabinet....” And an advertisement for the Cincinnati Type Foundry’s Army printing press touted its usefulness to journalism: “This is the cheapest reliable device we know of for printing a country paper of small circulation.”

The opportunity to watch the live webcast came at the end of a week that seemed to focus on technology and history. When there are no glitches and technology works as it should—such as with the museum’s use of a live streaming platform—it can bring history to life for scholars, students, and the public.

When technology doesn’t work properly, well, we’ve all had our moments in the classroom when a Skype conversation with a guest speaker was a bust, or a streamed documentary failed to play, or a PowerPoint presentation crashed.

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AJHA 32ND NATIONAL CONVENTION SET FOR SEPT. 2013 IN NEW ORLEANS


Moving the convention to the end of September from its usual October time allowed the Convention Sites Committee to book the historic Hotel Monteleone, in the heart of the French Quarter.

“A four diamond hotel that was recently restored and has been featured in the New York Times and many other national publications, the Hotel Monteleone has provided us a fabulous rate of $159 per night,” said Patrick Cox, chair of the Convention Sites Committee.

Cox said that then AJHA President Terry Lueck and the Board of Directors, along with the Convention Sites Committee, unanimously approved New Orleans and the Hotel Monteleone for the 2013 convention.

Jinx Broussard of Louisiana State University, Brenda Edgerton-Webster of Xavier University of Louisiana and Vanessa Murphree of University of Southern Mississippi will serve as the local planning committee and hosts.

Murphree noted that the hotel features a roof-top pool that AJHA members likely will be able to enjoy in late September. She said the hotel’s Carousel Bar is famous for literary clientele, including Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote, William Faulkner and Rebecca Wells.

“We will be steps away from Royal Street shopping and Bourbon Street entertainment,” Murphree said. “We’ll also be a short walk or cab ride away from the World War I Museum, the Civil War Museum, the Ogden Museum of Southern Art and the Contemporary Arts Centers, all located in a central arts district.”

Cox said the local committee will be planning historic tours of the “Vieux Carre” and the Crescent City, as well as some entertaining dinners.

For 125 years, the Monteleone family has owned the landmark hotel located at 214 Royal St. For information on the conference hotel, visit hotelmonteleone.com.
American Journalism Historians Association Taps Schreindl as New Intelligencer Editor

By Pamela Parry
Belmont University

Dr. David R. Schreindl, assistant professor of communication/history/journalism at Dickinson State University in Dickinson, N.D., has been appointed the new editor of the *Intelligencer*, a publication of the American Journalism Historians Association.

Dr. Paulette D. Kilmer, AJHA Publications Committee chair, said, “The committee was impressed with his enthusiasm, the strong letter of support from Schreindl’s school, and his vision for making the newsletter more visible in its online format.”

Schreindl answered a national call for applications last summer, and the AJHA Publications Committee recently recommended him to fill the post from among the candidates.

“We all rely on the *Intelligencer* editor to keep us informed about AJHA issues and events,” said Kilmer, professor of communication at the University of Toledo. “The newsletter provides a vital pipeline of information that showcases AJHA’s role in promoting media history and members’ achievements, as well as offers a testing ground for ideas about change. Some articles offer insights into teaching history and doing research.”

Schreindl holds his doctor of philosophy degree in journalism from Ohio University. It was through the help of Dr. Pat Washburn and Dr. Joe Berndt that he continued his interest in journalism history. He first discovered his interest in journalism history while at Brigham Young University under the tutelage of Dr. Ed Adams and Dr. Dale Cressman.

At Dickinson State University, he teaches an array of courses, including U.S. History 1877 to present, and advises the student newspaper and the university’s literary magazine.

“I am thrilled and honored to be given this opportunity,” Schreindl said. “It also allows me to dust off some reporting skills and get back to writing news/feature stories that I loved to do prior to graduate school.”

He added, “I have always been interested in history and the role newspapers have played in covering history. The interest grew from stories about both my grandfathers’ roles in WWII. My thesis at BYU was looking at US-Japanese relationships through the lens of the *New York Times* leading up to Pearl Harbor. With this interest I wanted to get involved in AJHA, and this position gives me a chance to get involved.”

“My email box is always open. I am looking for ideas for original content. I want to shine the light on the great work so many of our members are doing.”
NEW PRESIDENT HAS BIG PLANS

By Chandra D. Clark
Florida A&M

Thank former AJHA President Earnest Perry for inspiring Kimberly Mangun to run for president of the American Journalism Historians Association.

“Earnest Perry initially planted the idea of running for office when we talked at a convention some six or seven years ago,” Mangun said. “At the time, I was serving on the Board of Directors and enjoying helping the organization.”

She said that she missed being an integral part of AJHA after rotating off the board in 2008.

“I was fortunate to be elected second-vice president in 2010. Now, I feel very lucky to be following in the footsteps of so many great presidents,” Mangun said.

Mangun, assistant professor of communication and journalism sequence coordinator at the University of Utah, assumed her post Oct. 13, 2012, at the AJHA annual convention in Raleigh, N.C.

Her excitement about AJHA is evidenced by her goals for the upcoming year. In 2012, Mangun began working with then-President Terry Lueck and Administrative Secretary Carol Sue Humphrey to revise the Bylaws and Constitution to ensure that those documents align with AJHA’s current practices and procedures.

“My goal this year is to continue that work and to present proposed amendments in time for members to vote on them when we convene in New Orleans next September,” Mangun said.

She also plans to work with an ad hoc committee that is investigating ways that AJHA can encourage organizations to archive their digital records.
This week, I went to a sneak preview of Steven Spielberg’s movie, Lincoln, [http://www.thelincolnmovie.com/] with a friend who is the rare-books curator at my university’s library. Before we could enter the theater, we had to leave our cell phones in a paper bag with an attendant and stand still while another employee used a handheld wand to check our bodies for hidden devices.

Luise and I had to laugh about the measures being taken to prevent us, two historians, from recording any parts of the film. Neither of us has access to the Internet on our phones, nor can we take photos on our pay-as-you-go models. But, as the attendant pointed out, we might call someone during the movie who could then do an audio recording of it. As it turned out, all of the measures to protect the film were for naught.

We waited—and waited—with the rest of the theatergoers for the film based partly on Doris Kearns Goodwin’s book to begin. Finally, after 45 minutes of trying to get the movie to play beyond the opening credits, the screening was halted. I wondered how many people were going to collect their phones and tweet something like: Tried to see #LincolnMovie but Abe had already left the building.

Earlier in the week, I went low-tech: I threaded microfilm of a newspaper onto the take-up reel, turned on my iPod, and settled into research mode. The pages zipped by; the songs shuffled. And then I caught Lee Ann Womack singing “Something Worth Leaving Behind”: “Hey Mona Lisa, who was Leonardo? Was he Andy Warhol? Were you Marilyn Monroe? Hey Mozart, what kind of name is Amadeus?

“It’s kinda like Elvis: You gotta die to be famous. I may not go down in history; I just want someone to remember me.”

We historians ensure that people do go down in history and are remembered for their actions, whether good or bad. We give people a voice and tell their stories. And we sort fact from fiction. As the Lincoln production notes [http://www.thelincolnmovie.com/media/LincolnProductionNotes.pdf] attest, Lincoln is one such individual who “has long existed on the razor’s edge between myth and flesh-and-blood man.”

This “remembering and sorting” also was evident in many of the research topics scholars presented at the convention in Raleigh. Cathy Jackson considered how Jesse James was immortalized in dime novels. Ann Bourne analyzed Andrew Carnegie’s generous support of public libraries. Burton Buchanan studied how Bess Bolden Walcott became Tuskegee Institute’s “great communicator.” And Chandra Clark focused on the “hell-raising” career of editor Almena Davis Lomax.

Those of you who attended AJHA’s thirty-first annual convention likely are still thinking about the quality of research our organization fosters and presents. This year, the idea of remembering also came up during the panel, “The Vanishing Media Archive: Challenges for Historical Research in the 21st Century.” Just as the streaming of events has made history more accessible to scholars, students, and the general public, so has the digitization of primary sources. There is no denying that collections such as the ProQuest History Vault, [http://cisupa.proquest.com/ksc_assets/home/congressionalcollectionsoverview]
which “allows researchers to walk through the door of traditional archives with the click of a mouse,” contain an amazing variety of documents.

According to a brochure, the vault eventually will “house 23 million pages of digitized primary source material.”

But do a Google search with the phrase “vanishing media archive,” and you’ll discover articles about how “our online history is disappearing at an astonishing rate [and] creating a black hole for future historians.”

One recent BBC column [http://www.bbc.com/future/story/20120927-the-decaying-web] noted the usefulness of tweets and other “ephemeral communication” in documenting breaking news, yet that “vital contemporary historical record” often ceases to exist “before we’ve been able to gauge its importance.”

A Bloomberg Businessweek [http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2012-09-20/the-disappearing-web-decay-is-eating-our-history] article discussed how “small pieces of history wind up getting lost” once new information replaces old. Of course, both of those articles were published online. Meanwhile, librarians (and historians) have “raised red flags ... about the rate at which digital data are disappearing.”

AJHA and its members are uniquely poised to engage in this conversation. For starters, the Board of Directors has approved the formation of an ad-hoc committee to explore ways that the organization can encourage journalists and others to save digital records. Pete Smith (Mississippi State University), Gwyn Mellinger (Baker University), and I are on this committee.

Contact one of us if you’d like to help brainstorm ideas. AJHA members also are seizing opportunities presented at conferences to preserve records.

For example, after a small group of individuals toured the offices of the Kansas City Call last year, Earnest Perry began discussing with the publisher how the University of Missouri can help archive newspapers and business records of the 93-year-old publication.

And following this year’s Donna Allen Luncheon, which honored Wyndham Robertson for breaking gender barriers during her long career in journalism and communication, members encouraged her to think about donating her papers to her alma mater. Pete Smith also hopes to conduct an oral-history interview with Robertson.

Similarly, Reed Smith, chair of the Oral History Committee, has done excellent work chronicling the history of AJHA through interviews with senior members of the organization. Reed has stepped down after six years of service and this committee needs committed individuals. Interested in getting involved? Let Amy Lauters (Minnesota State University-Mankato) know.

This promises to be a busy year for AJHA. I look forward to working with you—and for you. But now, it’s time to clear the snow and refill my mug of tea.

AJHA Members Named to Top Journalism Professors List

Members of the American Journalism Historians Association are among the nation’s top journalism professors.

Ross Collins (North Dakota State University), Chris Daly (Boston University), Carolyn Kitch (Temple University), Joe Marren (Buffalo State College), Michael Smith (Campbell University) and Bob Stepno (Radford University) were named as six of the “Top 50 Journalism Professors in 2012,” as compiled by journalismdegree.org.

“Our organization has many excellent teachers,” said Ford Risley, AJHA Education Committee chair. “It’s great to see several of them recognized in this way.”

Journalismdegree.org is a blog that provides information and tips for students on journalism careers, schools, degrees and industry networking. Recent blog posts include “22 Useful Sites to Find Journalism Internships,” “25 Essential iPad Apps for Journalists” and the “Top 30 Job Sites for Careers in Broadcast Journalism.”

The blog also includes information on English and general communication degrees.

According to the blog, the “Top 50” list was completed using independent research. It is intended to recognize the accomplishments of top-tier journalism and communication professors.

The names on the list include educators who have helped train students to adapt to the challenges of a shifting digital news environment and workforce.

The complete list can be found at http://journalismdegree.org/top-professors/
Graduate Media History Essay Prize Available

The deadline for entries for the Media History Graduate Student Essay Prize is the December 31, 2012.

We seek to encourage new and innovative scholarship in the field ‘media history,’ broadly defined, and have established this prize to highlight the best new work in the field undertaken by current graduate students.

We welcome submissions of 6000-7000 words in length that address questions related to media history in all periods and that cross or challenge disciplinary boundaries, including history, literary and cultural studies, politics, communication studies, economics. We welcome work, written in English, with an international scope.

Topics may include (but are not limited to):

- press history since its beginnings
- the history of radio and television broadcasting
- advertising
- periodicals
- the media and industrialization
- the media and social/cultural change
- global media and histories
- illustration, photography, visual culture
- media forms
- the structures and infrastructures of media
- the media and globalization
- the historiography of the media
- theoretical approaches to the study of media history
- class, gender, ethnicity, and the media.
- methodological issues associated with the study of media history.

The winner will receive £750 in addition to publication in the Media History and free access to the journal online for one year. Two runners-up will receive free access to the journal online for one year.

Call for Entries: Best Journalism and Mass Communication History Book

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 2012.

The award is given annually, and the winning author will receive a plaque and a cash prize at the August 2013 AEJMC conference in Washington, D.C. 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 2012 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 received no later than February 4, 2013. Submit four copies of each book along with the author’s mailing address, telephone number, and email address to:

John P. Ferré
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Please contact John Ferré at 502.852.2234 or ferre@louisville.edu with any questions.