AJHA members flock to Southeast Colloquium

By Erika J. Pribanic-Smith
University of Texas-Arlington

Several American Journalism Historians Association members made the trip to Columbia, South Carolina, in March for the 2011 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Southeast Colloquium and concurrent Media & Civil Rights History Symposium.

Both hosted by the University of South Carolina’s School of Journalism and Mass Communications, the Southeast Colloquium took place March 17-19 at the Hilton Columbia Center, while the Symposium was March 18-19 at the adjacent Columbia Convention Center.

Kathy Roberts Forde, coordinator of both events, said that the USC School of Journalism and Mass Communications faculty planned on launching what will be an annual Media & Civil Rights History Symposium at the same time as the AEJMC regional event to capitalize on the Colloquium’s strong tradition in mass communication history.

Barbara Friedman moderated research sessions at both events.

Continued on Page 5
Papers and panel proposals are now in, and convention details for Kansas City can now be found on the AJHA website (http://ajha-online.org). We’re lucky that last year’s president, Earnest Perry, will be the site host of what is shaping up to be a great convention—one befitting our 30th year.

But do YOU really need to be there, especially if you’re not presenting a paper or contributing to a panel? After all, AJHA will be the second Missouri convention for some of us this year, with AEJMC in St. Louis in August. And of course AEJ is much larger, with the opportunity to meet (however briefly) more colleagues from more places.

And yes, when professors are losing jobs and universities are slashing travel budgets—even as some convention expenses keep rising—there might be a temptation to skip meetings that one might otherwise attend.

Still, especially if you’re a graduate student or a young faculty member, this isn’t the convention to miss. Let me explain why.

Kansas City is a great place to visit, with a wealth of entertainment and historical options. There will be no shortage of ways to have a good time. But that's not why you should be there.

At my first AJHA convention I was thrilled by the opportunity to talk about history with the authors of one of my textbooks, and in Kansas City you will have a similar opportunity to chat with the top media historians in the country. But that’s not why you should be there, either.

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No, you should be there because of what it can do for your career. Not just lines on a vita, but meaningful, fulfilling projects that might shape the rest of your academic life.

Each book and chapter I’ve written has come about as a direct result of AJHA convention contacts; I’ve heard others say the same. Some projects resulted from panel discussions or paper sessions, but perhaps even more came via informal gatherings such as committee meetings, meals, the silent auction, and the annual historic tour—the sorts of things you don’t tend to have time for at a larger, less discipline-specific convention.

For that reason, I encourage you to not only come to the convention but also to sign up for extra events, even though some of those events are considerably more expensive than they used to be. Without the benefit of hindsight, if I were younger (and poorer), I might be inclined to pass on things that I now know will probably enhance the careers of some of our members.

By the way, a discussion of convention expenses will be on the board agenda in October, and I welcome your input on the issue. Feel free to share your thoughts with other board members or me before we meet.

And on a totally unrelated note, a recent study found that I live in the sixth-safest metro area in the country in terms of natural disasters. Until recently, I never felt guilty about that. We get snow, and we’ve had an unusually cold, wet spring, but that’s nothing—especially compared to the tornadoes, hurricanes and massive flooding that have been top U.S. stories in recent years.

I mention the weather because some of those events have directly affected several of our AJHA friends and colleagues. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers. And when you see them in Kansas City, ask if they’re involved in a project that you might help with.
NY Joint Journalism gathering largest ever

By Lisa Burns
Quinnipiac University

One hundred journalism and media historians from around the world gathered March 12 at New York University’s Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute for this year’s Joint Journalism Historians Conference.

What began as the Northeast regional meeting of the American Journalism Historians Association and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication’s History Division has grown into an international, interdisciplinary conference that included participants from universities across the U.S. and Canada as well as researchers from England, Wales, the Netherlands, Spain, and Australia.

This was the largest gathering in the history of the annual conference with 66 presentations on the program. This followed a record number of submissions according to conference co-coordinator and program planner Lisa Burns (Associate Professor of Media Studies, Quinnipiac University).

Mitchell Stephens of New York University delivered the keynote address “Journalism and News: Untangling Their Histories,” based on his latest book. The day ended with a “Meet the Authors” panel in which 11 authors promoted their recent books.

Committee chair vacancies upcoming for Education, Membership and Research

Three members are stepping down as committee chairs, creating vacancies with the Education, Membership and Research committees.

Committee chairs are appointed by the president to three-year terms. They are responsible for submitting committee reports for consideration at the annual conventions. They also serve as members of the Long-Range Planning committee.

The AJHA constitution notes that the Education committee “will work to enhance abilities and knowledge of members to teach the history of subjects appropriate to the discipline of journalism history.”

The Membership committee “will inform prospective members about the benefits of membership in the Association and propose ways to increase those benefits.”

The Research committee “will foster thoughtful research by members and will be responsible for conducting the research paper competition for the annual convention. This committee selects the recipients of research awards issued by the Association.

Any member interested in filling one of these chairships should contact Terry Lueck, first vice president, by email at tlucek@uakron.edu.
Saint Peter’s College held its Fourth Annual Media and History Conference on Thursday, 7 April 2011.

Co-sponsored by the Departments of Communication and History, the event was coordinated by Jean Palmegiano.

The conference theme was “If It Bleeds, It Leads: Reporting on War and Crime.” Keynote speaker Ford Risley, Pennsylvania State University, spoke on “Newspapers Make War: America’s Civil War Press.”

Among the 400 plus attendees were guests from other institutions, New York and New Jersey journalists, and SPC faculty and students. The College library also mounted a month-long exhibit on the conference theme.

– Eugenia Palmegiano

Call for Papers
Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression
November 10 - November 12, 2011

The steering committee of the nineteenth annual Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression solicits papers dealing with U.S. mass media of the 19th century, the Civil War in fiction and history, freedom of expression in the 19th century, images of race and gender in the 19th century press, presidents and the 19th century press, and sensationalism and crime in 19th century newspapers. Selected papers will be presented during the three-day conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, November 10-12, 2011. The top three papers and the top three student papers will be honored accordingly. Winners of the student awards will receive $250 honoraria for delivering their papers at the conference.

The purpose of the November conference is to share current research and to develop a series of monographs. This year the steering committee will pay special attention to papers on 19th century concepts of free expression, presidents and the 19th century press, and sensationalism and crime in 19th century newspapers.

Submission Deadline: August 31, 2011

The symposium is sponsored by the West Chair of Excellence in Communication and Public Affairs, the UT-Chattanooga Department of Communication, the UT-Chattanooga Department of History, the Hazel Dicken-Garcia Fund for the Symposium, the Walter and Leona Schmitt Family Foundation Research Fund, and Alexander Street Press. No registration fee will be charged.

Papers should be able to be presented within 20 minutes, at least 10 to 15 pages long. Send your paper (including a 200-300 word abstract) as an MS Word e-mail attachment to West-Chair-Office@utc.edu or mail four copies of your paper and abstract to:

Dr. David Sachsman
West Chair of Excellence in Communication and Public Affairs
Dept. 3003
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
615 McCallie Ave.
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37403-2598
(423) 425-4219,  FAX (423) 425-2199
david-sachsman@utc.edu
www.utc.edu/Academic/SymposiumOnThe19thCenturyPress/
AJHA members attend AEJMC colloquium

Continued from Page 1

and participated in a panel on academic journal publishing at the Southeast Colloquium. She said the two events blended together so well, it seemed like they’d always been paired.

“Many of the scholars attending the Southeast Colloquium have long been interested in civil rights history, so South Carolina was an opportune setting for substantive discussions about the role of mass media in the civil rights movement,” Friedman said.

Aimee Edmondson served as discussant on a History Division research session at the Southeast Colloquium and presented original research at the Symposium. She said she wished that the two events could be held in conjunction every year.

“It gave me much more bang for my buck coming from out of state,” Edmondson said. “I got to sit in on the law and history sessions of AEJ Southeast, then run next door for a wonderful in-depth look at emerging media and civil rights scholarship.”

Although the two events were in separate buildings, they shared a keynote luncheon on March 18. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Isabel Wilkerson discussed the challenges she faced compiling oral histories for her book about millions of African Americans escaping the South’s Jim Crow laws—The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America’s Great Migration.

Friedman said Wilkerson was the perfect speaker to address participants of both events. Forde agreed.

“I was delighted with the quality and fit of her keynote address, which spoke not only to those interested in the history of civil rights and media but also to those interested in the role of long-form journalism in contemporary public discourse,” Forde said.

The keynote luncheon also included the presentation of USC’s Ronald T. and Gayla D. Farrar Media & Civil Rights History Award. Named for a retired USC professor and his wife, the award recognizes the best journal article or chapter in an edited collection about the historical relationship between the media and civil rights published in the previous two years.

Jane Marcellus received second place in the Farrar Award contest for her article “Southern Myths and the Nineteenth Amendment: The Participation of Nashville Newspaper Publishers in the Final State’s Ratification,” published in the Summer 2010 issue of Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly.

Marcellus said that she appreciated the broad perspective those organizing the Symposium had on the topic of civil rights in that they included women’s voting rights in the scope of research.

“It’s so easy to think of civil rights as applying only to race,” she said.

Twenty-five scholars, some traveling from as far as South Africa and the U.K., presented research papers on media and civil rights topics at the Symposium. Among them were AJHA members Jinx Broussard, David Bulla, George Daniels, Edmondson, William Gillis, Gwyneth Millinger and Gerry Lanosga.

AJHA had excellent representation on the Southeast Colloquium program as well, both within and outside the History Division.

Harlen Makemson, History Division research chair for the Colloquium, said he constantly is impressed by the caliber of historical research submitted to the Southeast Colloquium. He added that the Colloquium serves as an excel-

Continued on Page 6
Southeast Colloquium attracts AJHAers

Continued from Page 5

lent venue for historians to share their ideas and for young scholars to receive mentoring.

“It’s a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for graduate students, where they can get valuable feedback on the work that they’re doing from established scholars in the history field,” Makemson said.

Two graduate students who have presented at AJHA in recent years received accolades for the history research they presented at the Southeast Colloquium: Robert D. Byrd Jr. from the University of South Alabama won the History Division’s top student paper award, and Melita M. Garza from the University of North Carolina won the division’s second-place student paper award.

AJHA member Gerry Lanosga received the second-place faculty paper award in the History Division.

Other AJHA members with research on the Southeast Colloquium program were Kathy Bradshaw (Radio-Television Journalism Research Division; discussant, Open Division), Joseph Bernt (Radio-Television Journalism Research Division), George Daniels (Radio-Television Journalism Research Division), Erika Pribanic-Smith (History Division; discussant, Newspaper Division), and Mike Sweeney (History Division; discussant, Radio-Television Journalism Research Division).

David Abrahamson participated in two History Division panels that were co-sponsored with the International Association of Literary Journalism Studies, a group founded in 2006 to promote and improve scholarly research and education in the field of literary reportage.

Abrahamson, who holds several positions within IALJS, said that in addition to the group’s own annual convention, it is developing a tradition of having sessions at other conferences. He presented his own research on the panel “Observe and Interpret: Literary Journalism and the Politics of Reform,” and he moderated the panel “A Humanizing Voice: Global Perspectives on Literary Journalism and Social Justice.”

Abrahamson noted that the eight presenters slated for the two panels hail from four countries.

“The international aspect of our organization and the research we present offers a much richer understanding of the field of literary journalism,” Abrahamson said.

The Colloquium and Symposium were not the only venues in Columbia for AJHA’ers to enjoy good history. The convention hotel was a few minutes’ walk down streets lined with historic site markers to the South Carolina State House, surrounded by statues and monuments honoring events and people crucial to the state’s history. A museum of South Carolina history and the Confederate Relic Room were within a short drive.

Just beyond the State House sits the 210-year-old campus of the Colloquium’s host university. Some of AJHA’s historians took advantage of the location and conducted research for future projects at USC’s archives.

Kathy Roberts Forde presents the History Division’s Second-Place Faculty Paper Award to Gerry Lanosga.
Congratulations to Ira Chinoy, winner of the 2011 AJHA Margaret A. Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Prize.

The 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 include both quantitative and qualitative historical dissertations, written in English, which have been completed between January 1, 2010, and December 31, 2010.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to Patrick Farabaugh, Philip Glende and Kristen Gustafson. Honorees were notified of their award earlier this year, and all four winners will present their dissertations at the AJHA Kansas City Convention. Abstracts are below:

**WINNER OF 2011 AJHA MARGARET A. BLANCHARD DOCTORAL DISSERTATION PRIZE:**

Dr. Ira Chinoy, Bethesda,Md.

“Battle of the Brains: Election Night Forecasting at the Dawn of the Computer Age”

Director:
Maurine H. Beasley
Phillip Merrill College of Journalism
University of Maryland

This dissertation analyzes the circumstances under which a new technology was employed by the news media, examining journalists’ early encounters with computers as reporting tools and focusing on election-night forecasting in 1952. It uses documents from dozens of collections, interviews, and, for the first time, the complete CBS and NBC broadcasts.

This dissertation asks how and why election night and the nascent field of television news became entry points for computers in news reporting. It argues that although the computers were employed as path-breaking “electronic brains,” they were used in ways consistent with election-night traditions back to the 19th century that showcased news reporting and new technology.

The networks considered the live use of computers as attention-getting devices, but the ability to forecast from early returns did not represent a sharp break with pre-computer approaches. While computers were promoted as key features of election-night plans, the “electronic brains” did not replace “human brains” as primary sources of analysis. Therefore, the computer’s technical utility was less a force for initial adoption than its utility for showmanship and prestige.

This suggests that a new technology capacity to provide both technical and symbolic value may aid in its adoption by the news media.

**THREE HONORABLE MENTION AWARD WINNERS**

(in alpha order by author):

Dr. Patrick Farabaugh, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

“Carl McIntire and His Crusade Against the Fairness Doctrine”

Director:
Russell Frank
College of Communications
Pennsylvania State University

This dissertation examines the fundamentalist radio commentator Carl McIntire and his station, WXUR, played in the demise of the Fairness Doctrine. The doctrine required radio and television stations to devote a reasonable percentage of broadcast time to issues of public importance within the licensee’s community, and to provide programs that discussed different and opposing views on important community issues.

The FCC denied WXUR’s license renewal application in 1970, arguing that the station did not comply with the Fairness Doctrine. Following the FCC’s deci-
sion, McIntire launched a national crusade against the doctrine, one that influenced the opinions of lawmakers, the courts, and the American public.

Despite their historical significance—WXUR is the only radio or TV station in American history to be denied license renewal by the FCC as a direct result of Fairness Doctrine violation—McIntire and WXUR have been largely ignored by media studies scholars. This dissertation seeks to address this oversight.

McIntire’s legacy in American broadcasting does not end when the FCC suspended its fairness requirement in 1987. The doctrine’s demise contributed to a resurgence of politically conservative commentary on America’s radio airwaves. Today, the nation’s talk radio stations are dominated by politically conservative commentators, thanks, at least in part, to the path cleared by McIntire.

This dissertation increases our understanding of McIntire and WXUR and their underappreciated contribution in shaped not only U.S. communication policy, but also America’s contemporary talk radio landscape.

Dr. Philip M. Glende, Monona, Wisc.
“Labor Makes the News: Newspapers, Journalism, and Organized Labor, 1933-1955”

This dissertation examines how daily newspapers covered organized labor between 1933 and 1955. Although many publishers opposed organized labor, press coverage was more supportive than critics asserted. However, ongoing conflict within the labor movement and in the community created legitimate story frames that worked to discredit unions.

Prominent publishers used their papers to promote anti-unionism, but some newspaper executives were liberal voices for unions. Others tried for economic or professional reasons to offer neutral news coverage even as they presented strong opposition on the editorial pages. Syndicated political columnists presented a range of opinion on organized labor, though, like publisher, many were conservative.

The American Newspaper Guild was a divisive force as political action and workplace organizing polarized editors and reporters and gave journalists a firsthand experience with unions.

Labor leaders understood they needed the commercial press for legitimacy, but they also saw value in denouncing the press as an enemy. Indeed, union leaders often had friendly relations with some journalists while insisting the industry as a whole was used in a propaganda campaign against organized labor. This work is based primarily on archival records, oral histories and memoirs, published essays, sociological studies and a sampling of newspapers.

Dr. Kristin Gustafson, University of Washington-Bothell
“Grassroots, Activist Newspapers From Civil Right to the Twenty-First Century: Balancing Loyalties and Managing Change”

This research looks at social movements and media in new light as it examined how grassroots, activist media in the late twentieth century and early twenty-first century changed over time and how news workers balanced loyalties to journalism, causes, and communities.

Journalism historians have addressed the important role ethic and gay/lesbian media play in communities and as a part of a broader media landscape.

Alternative media and social movement scholars have discussed how activists engage with communication. These two conversations come together in this examination of two newspapers that emerged in Seattle, Washington, amid the Civil Rights movement and published to at least 2010.

The International Examiner served pan-Asian and Asian American communities, and the Seattle Gay News served gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer communities. A grounded analysis built upon interviews with newspaper workers, qualitative content analysis of newspapers, and examination of archival records.

The longitudinal approach showed how the newspapers experienced stages that were similar—including beginning under sponsorship of a community organization—and were shaped by organizational, movement, community, economic, and other pressures.

And the in-depth examination of news practitioners showed how they upheld traditional journalism norms while also maintaining friendly relationships with activism and communities.
2011 AJHA CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
October 6 - 8, 2011
Hotel Phillips
106 West 12th Street  Kansas City, MO 64105
816-221-7000  800-433-1426
www.hotelphillips.com

ACCESS THE HOTEL PHILLIPS RESERVATION SYSTEM FROM THE HOTEL'S HOME PAGE, WWW.HOTELPHILLIPS.COM.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING HOW TO MAKE YOUR AJHA GROUP RESERVATION BEGIN ON PAGE 3.

PLEASE READ THAT SHEET PRIOR TO MAKING YOUR RESERVATION. THIS INFORMATION WILL ALSO BE POSTED ON THE AJHA HOME PAGE: HTTP://AJHANOINE.ORG/.

DATES TO REMEMBER!!

Saturday, September 3, 2011
♦ HOTEL ROOM RESERVATION DEADLINE--Rooms reservations made AFTER this date pay full price! There are a limited number of double rooms and we have reserved all available so make your reservation early!
♦ AJHA EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE--Registrations postmarked AFTER this date will pay the late registration costs, also the "Members Only --PACKAGE DEAL" will not be available after this date.

Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
♦ REGISTRATION opens
♦ BOARD OF DIRECTORS meeting

Thursday, October 6, 2011
♦ 7:30 a.m. Buffet Breakfast
♦ 8:00 a.m. President’s Welcome

Saturday, October 8, 2011
♦ 10:10 a.m. General Business Meeting
♦ 11:50 a.m. Working Lunch for AJHA Officers & Board

Registration Fees:
Includes admission to all paper and panel sessions, hot breakfast buffet on Thursday and Saturday mornings, Thursday Award Lunch and Welcome Reception on Thursday evening, and coffee/tea breaks.

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<th>Registration Postmarked on or before Sept. 3, 2011</th>
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STUDENTS & MEMBERS -- Do not forget to complete your meal preference for the Thursday Lunch on the second page under SPECIAL EVENTS, it is included in your registration fee -- We need to know the number attending and the meal type. Thanks, this really helps the convention planners.

Please complete the Special Events, Name, & Payment sections on page 2.
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**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AJHA CONVENTION**

**TOTAL for Registration & Special Events $**

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Credit Card Type: MasterCard  Visa
Credit Card Number: Exp Date: Security Code: