



Intelligencer

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B'ham offers visitors a lot

By Julie Williams
Samford University

Birmingham, Ala., is rolling out traditional Southern hospitality for the AJHA convention Oct. 7-10.

We value that old Southern graciousness, but Birmingham is not the Old South of *Gone With the Wind* (although Margaret Mitchell did live a few blocks from our convention hotel for a while). No, Birmingham did not exist during the Civil War. The city was founded on the last hiccup of the



Birmingham's Vulcan statue overlooks the city.

Appalachians in 1871 because all raw materials needed in making iron occur together here.

Despite bypassing the slavery era, Birmingham struggled infamously with racial segregation, which gave the city the tortured image that everyone knows today. That image is worth studying but isn't the whole story. I'm eager to show off Birmingham beyond the stereotype.

That said, the weather should be right out of the stereotype. Bring a sweater, but I doubt you'll need it. The normal high in October is 75 degrees. The normal low is 52. Our meeting place, the Doubletree Hotel Birmingham at 808 South 20th St., has an outdoor swimming pool that will be filled

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VP, board candidates nominated

By Caryl Cooper
University of Alabama

This year's call for nominations yielded a diverse pool for leadership positions in our organization. Two AJHA members have been nominated to fill the slot of 2009-2010 second vice president, and seven members will compete for three board seats. Nominations may be made from the floor during the election, which will be held during the annual convention in October.

Terry Lueck (Akron) and **Ross Collins** (North Dakota State) have been nominated for the position of second vice president. Current second vice president **Jim McPherson** (Whitworth) will become first

vice president, and current first vice president **Earnest Perry** (Missouri) will become president for 2009-2010.

Lueck is a professor at the University of Akron and has been a member of AJHA since 1993. As a member, Lueck has served on the board of directors and spearheaded Ohio's AJHA team to host the Rockin' 'n' Rollin' Cleveland convention in 2004. Lueck's scholarship focuses on magazines, newspapers, and women. In collaboration with AJHA member Kitty Endres, Lueck published two volumes



Lueck

on women's periodicals. One volume was judged among the 10 most important books in magazine journalism history in the 1990s.

Collins is an associate professor of communication at North Dakota State University-Fargo. He has been a member of AJHA since 1992. He served as outreach coordinator, and from 2001-2008 as treasurer. In addition, he is a member of the board of directors, and for a number of years has served as a convention paper reviewer and *American Journalism* re-



Collins

viewer. Collins specializes in international journalism history (France), World War I journalism history, and frontier U.S. journalism history.

Board of Director candidates

In addition, seven candidates have been nominated to fill three positions on the board of directors. They are **David Bulla** (Iowa State), **Gwyn Mellinger** (Baker), **Joe Bernt** (Ohio), **Mike Conway** (Indiana), **Ron Rodgers** (Florida), **Dane Claussen** (Point Park), **Doug Ward** (Kansas) and **Jane McConnell** (Minnesota State University Mankato).

Directors whose terms expire

See **CANDIDATES** Page 9

From the president . . .

Alabama's star-crazed past

By Julie Williams
Samford University

Everyone around here knows that "Stars Fell on Alabama," but it takes a mathematician working with a historian to count up exactly how *many* stars. It all began with a meteor shower on Nov. 12-13, 1833, when tens of thousands of meteors streaked across the sky all over the Southeast, shining most brilliantly in northern Alabama. *The Florence Gazette* described "thousands of luminous bodies shooting across the firmament in every direction.... [T]he meteors succeeded each other in quick succession." *The Gazette* was the only calm observer. People earnestly prepared for the world's end, sometimes confessing sins that shocked loved ones. Roosters crowed dawn at 3 a.m.

The star show inspired a pop song called "Stars Fell on Alabama" a century later. The starry-eyed 1934 jazz number

by Frank Perkins and Mitchell Parish sentimentally declared, "We lived our little drama, We kissed in a field of white, And stars fell on Alabama, Last night." The song was a hit, and stars fell all over themselves to record it -- Guy Lombardo, Ella Fitzgerald, Louis Armstrong, and Jimmy Buffet among them. Also in 1934 Carl Cramer published a book about Alabama life called *Stars Fell on Alabama* that concluded the stars had missed a better target.

Alabama's longstanding fascination with falling stars was renewed on Nov. 30, 1954, when a meteorite crashed through the roof of Ann Hodges' home in Sylacauga, Ala. The straying star bounced



around the room before hitting Ms. Hodges on the hip, leaving a nasty bruise. This still is the only known meteorite to have actually hit someone. The 1954 meteorite strike seemed to have been predicted by the 1833 meteor shower and the 1934 song, and indeed by the sign for the Comet Drive-In Theater across the street from the Hodges home, which featured a neon comet streaking across the sky.

It's probably no wonder, after all that, that the state adopted the phrase "Stars Fell on Alabama" for automobile tags from 2002-2008. As if to affirm the slogan, the winner or first runner-up of American

Idol in 2003, 2004, 2005, and 2006 was from Birmingham. Idol held auditions in Birmingham in 2007, but we didn't even have a finalist that year, to much local head-scratching.

Now that that license slogan has been eclipsed and our American Idol star has winked out, we Alabamians need another starfall to feed our addiction, and luckily, a supernova is coming. Stars will fall on Alabama again from Oct. 7-10, when the luminaries of the media history world will descend on Birmingham about eight blocks from my house for the annual American Journalism Historians Association convention.

As you have guessed from our repetitive love affair with meteors, we Alabamians do things in multiples. In just that spirit, I was struck by AJHA stars twice this year. Somehow

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Tour to include visit to sites of racial violence

Continued from Page 1

and refreshing. If you *must* do business, the hotel has wireless high-speed internet free in the lobby or \$9.95 per day in your room.

Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport (BHM) is located just 7.5 miles from the hotel. The good news is that Southwest flies into BHM, and other airlines try to beat Southwest's prices. When your plane arrives, call the hotel at 205-933-9000, and the front desk will send the free hotel shuttle. If you drive, parking at the Doubletree's deck will cost \$8 per day if you're registered at the hotel or \$10 per day if not. Hey, it's cheaper than a plane ticket, and drivers will be popular with people who want to go to nifty Birmingham events that weekend, such as the vintage motorcycle race at Barber Motorsports Park, the St. George Middle Eastern Food Festival (check out the chocolate-covered baklava), and the nationally renowned haunted house at spooky Sloss Furnaces.

But you won't have to drive anywhere to have fun. The Doubletree is a three-block walk from Birmingham's pre-eminent historic entertainment district, Five Points South. The walk is up a gentle hill, or you can hitch a ride for 25 cents on a frequent "Dart" trolley that stops right outside the hotel door. At Five Points you can find shopping, pubs, and a wide array of restaurants, including Highlands Bar and Grill, ranked one of the top five restaurants in the United States. You can sample Birmingham's prevailing local cuisine, Mediterranean, particularly Lebanese and



B'ham's historic 16th Street Baptist Church.

Readers can access the conference registration information AND the hotel registration at www.ajhaonline.org, clicking on "28th Annual Convention Information." The room rate through Sept. 15 is \$129 per night. The conference registration discounted through August 31. The hotel advises early registration, as the number of rooms at that rate is limited.

Greek. Many Mediterranean eateries are open 24 hours (you never know when the desperate need for baklava will strike) and feature al fresco dining, which is delightful in October. Nine blocks in the other direction is Lakeview, Birmingham's other historic entertainment district and home of various eateries and pubs. Lakeview hosts Pepper Place Farmer's Market on Saturday morning, where you can buy Alabama-made crafts and foods. I recommend the pecan brittle.

On the way to Lakeview are antique shopping, more pubs and eateries, and the site of our gala dinner, the Fish Market, a locally iconic Greek restaurant. The Fish Market processes its own shellfish

on the nearby Gulf Coast and imports olive oil from the owner's hometown in Greece for an authentic experience. Don't worry, landlubbers; beef and vegetarian dishes are on the menu, too. And, of course, there will be more baklava.

You won't want to miss our historic tour, which starts at Birmingham's excellent Civil Rights Institute museum. The museum recently acquired the tank that notorious Public Safety Commissioner Bull Connor rode in as he oversaw the use of water cannon and police dogs against children protesting for civil rights in Kelly Ingram Park, where we'll also go. We'll stop in at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, where four young girls were killed by a bomb in

1963. Sixteenth Street, still an active church, is not normally open for tours, but we've been invited in to contemplate the tragic attack and the resulting outrage that led to liberty and justice for all.

Our tour also will visit Vulcan, the world's largest cast-iron statue, who stands proudly over Birmingham while mooning the suburb of Homewood. Sculptor Giuseppe Moretti chose to depict this Roman god of the forge without any britches on his backside. Despite that oversight, we Birminghamians have been crazy about our half-naked city symbol since he was cast in 1904. Bring your camera to pose near Vulcan's "buns of steel," and tour Vulcan's fine museum on the iron and steel industry in Birmingham. After that, take the elevator to the top for a stunning view of Birmingham. Or, if you want to develop your own buns of steel, take Vulcan's stairs.

So what are you waiting for, y'all? Log on to www.ajhaonline.org and make your reservations!



Program offers papers, panels, events

2009 AHJA Program

Wednesday, October 7

2-6 pm CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Foyer

1:30-6:30 pm BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

University Room

7 pm BOARD OF DIRECTORS DINNER

"Dutch"; open to board members & invited guests

Thursday, October 8

7:30-9:30 am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Foyer

8 am-5 pm CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Foyer

8 am-3:30 pm AUCTION/RAFFLE

Foyer

8-8:50 am WELCOME & PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Heritage Room I

Julie Hedgepeth Williams

Samford University

AJHA President, 2008-2009

9-10 am

PAPER SESSION

African Americans and the Press

Heritage Room II

Moderator: Dale Zacher – University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Kim T. Gallon – Sewanee: University of the South

The Emergence of Modern Black Newspapers and Mass Black Public in the Early Twentieth Century

Mia C. Long – University of Alabama

Runaway Slave Advertisements During the Civil War as Placed in Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina Newspapers

Bernell E. Tripp – University of Florida

"Sable Divinities": Racial Bias and the Impact of Image on the "Colored Aristocracy" in the Antebellum North

PANEL DISCUSSION

Praising Famous Men: James Agee and the History of American Literary Journalism

Centennial Rooms I/ II

Panelists will explore the journalistic significance of Agee and Walker Evans' groundbreaking work on white Southern tenant farmers, *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*.

Moderator: James Aucoin – University of South Alabama

Paul Ashdown – University of Tennessee

John Hartsock – State University of New York-Cortland

Angie Maxwell – University of Texas, Austin

10:10-11:10 am

PAPER SESSION

Journalistic Style and Substance

Heritage Room II

Moderator: Ford Risley, Pennsylvania State University

Lisa Mullikin Parcell – Wichita State University

Early American Newswriting Style: Who, What, When, Where, Why and How

Adam J. Kuban – University of Utah

Pondering Pedagogical Pastime: An Analysis of the First Formally Recognized U.S. Journalism Education Curriculum

Kristin L. Gustafson – University of Washington

Crime Stories Done Differently: Applying an Alternative and Community Media Lens to the *International Examiner's* Workers and Publication

PANEL DISCUSSION

LOCAL PANEL: Who Speaks for Birmingham? Media Coverage of Birmingham in the Civil Rights Era

Centennial Rooms I/ II

Samford University Historian S. Jonathan Bass will screen and discuss the role of the 1961 CBS documentary, "Who Speaks for Birmingham?" and Samford undergraduate Haley Aaron will discuss her research into the students who participated in the documentary.

11:20 am-12:20 pm

PAPER SESSION

War and Media

Heritage Room II

Moderator: Patrick Washburn, Ohio University

Jinx Coleman Broussard and Cristina Mislan – Louisiana State University

Better Off in Vietnam: The Foreign War Correspondence of Ethel Payne and Thomas Johnson

Ross F. Collins – North Dakota State University

It's Your War, Kids: Selling World War I to American Children

Whitney Jackson Spivey – University of Missouri

The Impact of the First World War on the *Texas Posten*, a Swedish-Language Paper

PANEL DISCUSSION

Centennial Rooms I/ II

The Prism of Identity: The Challenge of Isolating Social Position in Media History

Drawing upon scholars' work with race, gender, sexual orientation, and regional identity, this panel will explore the



historian's challenge in addressing the complex networks of identities that inform their subjects.

Moderator: Linda Lumsden, University of Arizona
Janice Hume – University of Georgia
Kimberley Mangun – University of Utah
Gwyneth Mellinger – Baker University

12:30-1:40 pm PRESENTATION OF THE SIDNEY KOBRE AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Heritage Room I

Betty Winfield, University of Missouri, will be honored with the Kobre Award.

1:50-2:50 pm

PAPER SESSION

Crusades by and against the Press

Heritage Room II

Moderator: Kathleen Endres – University of Akron
Thomas C. Terry – Idaho State University
His Criticism Never Ceased: A Community Journalist's Pulitzer Prize-winning Campaign Against the Ku Klux Klan
Mark Peterson – University of Utah
A Vote for Repeal is a Vote for Temperance: How Utah Killed Prohibition
Ulf Jonas Bjork – Indiana University-Indianapolis
Newspaper Medicine: Medical Journals Attack the Press, 1893-1913

PANEL DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT'S PANEL: Pay It Forward: Planning an AJHA Regional Symposium as a Showcase for Undergraduate and Graduate Student Research

Centennial Rooms I/ II

Using their various experiences with the AJHA-Southeast Symposium, panelists will lead a discussion on the history, planning and organization, and benefits of organizing an AJHA regional symposium.

Moderator: Julie Williams – Samford University
Leonard Teel – Georgia State University
Glenn "Pete" Smith – Mississippi State University
Dianne Bragg – University of Alabama

3-4 pm

PAPER SESSION

Covering Race

Heritage Room II

Moderator: Aleen Ratzlaff – Tabor College
Dolores Flamiano – James Madison University
African Americans in *Life*, 1936-1948: From Sensational Racism to Civil Rights
Kimberley Mangun – University of Utah
On to St. Louis: The Expedition of the Black Bicycle Corps, 1897
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

PANEL DISCUSSION

Journalism in a Time of Crisis (sponsored by the Graduate Student Committee)
Centennial Rooms I/ II

Graduate students will analyze the professional, political, and cultural responses of journalists to various crises in American history.

Moderator: Mark Slagle – University of North Carolina
Erika Pribanic-Smith – University of Alabama
Amber Roessner – University of Georgia
William Gillis – Indiana University

4:10-5:10 pm

PAPER SESSION

Everything is Political

Heritage Room II

Moderator: John Ferre – University of Louisville
Joseph R. Hayden – University of Memphis
Stirring the "Wild Waves": The Press, the Senate and the Treaty of Versailles (1919)
Summer Hill-Vinson – University of Missouri
Who is a Moderate?: The Political Moderation of Three Southern Journalists from 1948 to 1964
Jon Bekken – Albright College
Chicago Newspaper Strikes from the Progressive Era to Taft-Hartley: United Employers Confront Divided Labor

PANEL DISCUSSION

Copyright, Contracts, and Other Legal Issues for Media Historians

Centennial Rooms I/ II

Four authors, including a lawyer, will offer suggestions and answer questions on how media historians can handle copyrights, contracts, and other legal issues.

Moderator: David Sloan – University of Alabama
David Copeland – Elon University
Karla Gower – University of Alabama
Debra van Tuyl – Augusta State University

5:30-7:30 pm RECEPTION & LOCAL MEDIA HISTORY AWARD

Heritage Room I

7:30-9:30 pm SILENT AUCTION

Heritage Room I

7:30 pm INTEREST GROUP MEETINGS

**Friday, October 9****7-8:15 am SCHOLARS' BREAKFAST**

University Room

8:30-9:45 am YOUR CHOICE OF TWO SIMULTANEOUS PAPER SESSIONS**Public Relations**

Heritage Room II

Moderator: Margot Opdycke Lamme – University of Alabama

Karla Gower – University of Alabama

The U.S. Supreme Court and its Impact on the Rise of Corporate Public Relations, 1873-1904

Pamela A. Parry – University of Southern Mississippi

Second Fiddle, Not Second Rate: Associate Role Obscures Anne Wheaton's Contributions to Public Relations

David L. Remund – University of North Carolina

The World's Work: Arthur W. Page and the Advent of Social

Responsibility in Corporate Communications, 1922-1927

Ronald R. Rodgers – University of Florida

The Roots of Enmity: Public Relations and the Disintermediation of the Press

Sports

Centennial Rooms I/ II

Moderator: Michael Sweeney – Utah State University

Patrick S. Washburn and Joe Lowe – Ohio University

The Beginning of American Sports Journalism, 1733-1857

Ray Gamache – College of St. Scholastica

"The Golden Age of Sportswriting": Media, Memory and Meaning

Amber Roessner – University of Georgia

Sporting Life and the "Fairer Sex": Debating a Woman's Place in the National Pastime

Mike Sowell – Oklahoma State University

Is She or Isn't He?: Exploring the Gender Identity Controversy Over the First Female Byline in a National Sports Publication

9:55-11:30 am 2009 AJHA MARGARET A. BLANCHARD DISSERTATION AWARD

Heritage Room I

Moderator: David Abrahamson – Northwestern University

Winner:

Richard K. Popp – Louisiana State University (Director Carolyn Kitch, Temple University)

"Magazines, Marketing and the Construction of Travel in the Postwar United States"

Honorable mentions (alphabetical order):

Aimee Edmondson – Ohio University (Director Earnest L. Perry Jr., University of Missouri)

"In Sullivan's Shadow: The Use and Abuse of Libel Law During the Civil Rights Movement"

Ray Gamache – College of St. Scholastica (Director Maurine Beasley, University of Maryland)

"Evolution of the Sportscast Highlight Form: From Peep Show to Pathé to Pastiche"

Stephanie Ricker Schulte – University of Arkansas (Director Melani McAlister, George Washington University)

"State Technology to State of Being: The Making of the Internet in Global Popular Culture"

11:40 am-12:50 pm DONNA ALLEN ROUNDTABLE LUNCHEON

University Room

Lynn Brooks, news director of WVUA in Tuscaloosa

1:10-5:30 pm HISTORIC TOUR

- Tour leaves from hotel lobby at 1:10 p.m. sharp

5:50 pm DINNER ON YOUR OWN**Saturday, October 10****8:10-10 am****RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

Heritage Room II

Moderator: Mark Dolan – University of Mississippi

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Centennial Rooms I/ II

Moderator: Fred Blevens – Florida International University

9:45-11:15 am COFFEE & HOT TEA SERVICE

Foyer

10:10-11:40 am GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING, AWARDS & ELECTIONS

Heritage Room I

11:50-12:50 am WORKING LUNCH FOR AJHA OFFICERS

University Room

1-2 pm YOUR CHOICE OF TWO SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS**PAPER SESSION****Women, Ladies, Heroines**

Heritage Room II

Moderator: Maureen H. Beasley – University of Maryland

Jane Marcellus – Middle Tennessee State University

"Dear D": Sophie Treadwell's 1915 Correspondence from the "Big War Theatre"

Mary M. Cronin – New Mexico State University

Patriotic Ladies, Gallant Heroines, and Dangerous Women:

Images of Confederate Women in Southern Newspapers, 1861-1865

Paula Hunt – University of Missouri

Sybil Ludington: A Revolutionary Heroine for the Twentieth Century

PANEL DISCUSSION**Teaching Mass Media History to Undergrads**

Centennial Rooms I/ II

Using Mark Fuhlhage's survey of media history syllabi as a jumping-off point, panelists will discuss how professors are meeting the challenge of making journalism history relevant to today's students.

Moderator: Michael Fuhlhage – University of North Carolina



Earnest Perry – University of Missouri
 Barbara Friedman – University of North Carolina
 Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez – University of Texas, Austin
 Kathy Roberts Forde – University of South Carolina

2:10-3:10 pm

PAPER SESSION

Media and the Law

Heritage Room II

Moderator: Karla Gower, University of Alabama

Megan Fromm – University of Maryland

Becoming First Amendment Freedom Fighters: The First Decade of the Student Press Law Center

Michael T. Martinez – University of Missouri

Cameras in the Courts: A Case for Increased Judicial Transparency

Reed Smith – Georgia Southern University

Regulating the Regulators: The Fight to Define *ex parte*

Communication Standards at the Federal Communications Commission

PANEL DISCUSSION

Through Historical Perspective: Black Press Coverage of Contemporary Issues

Centennial Rooms I/ II

Panelists will discuss coverage of current issues by the black press with a historical perspective on social and political matters of importance to African Americans.

Moderator: Caryl Cooper – University of Alabama

Felecia Ross – Ohio State University

Teresa Jo Styles – North Carolina A&T University

Susan Weill – Texas State University

3:20-4:20 pm YOUR CHOICE OF TWO SIMULTANEOUS SESSIONS

PAPER SESSION

Journalists and Journalism

Heritage Room II

Moderator: Jim McPherson – Whitworth University

Charles Lewis – Minnesota State University, Mankato

Wise Decisions: A Frontier Newspaper's Coverage of the Dakota Conflict

Julien Gorbach – University of Missouri

From Victim to Public Enemy: Ben Hecht, Gangsterism and Militant Zionist Propaganda, 1939-1947

Ford Risley – Pennsylvania State University

The President's Editor: John W. Forney of the *Press* and *Morning Chronicle*

PANEL DISCUSSION

Making Connections in Journalism History

Centennial Rooms I/ II

This panel will suggest ways to make scholarly connections among diverse works by journalism historians, arguing that the use of technology and the widening of fundamental conceptual frameworks offer general pathways to a new, broader journalism history.

Douglas Ward – University of Kansas
 Eugenia Palmegiano – St. Peter's College
 Patrick Washburn – Ohio University

4:30-5:30 pm

PAPER SESSION

Hearing and Seeing

Heritage Room II

Moderator: Terry Lueck – University of Akron

Noah Arceneaux – San Diego State University

Department Store Television, 1925-1950

Ellen J. Gerl – Ohio University

Beverly Rae Kimes: Automotive Journalist under the Hood

Linda Lumsden – University of Arizona

Striking Images: Visual Rhetoric in the Radical Press, 1908-1917

PANEL DISCUSSION

Refocusing the Eye: New Research and Perspectives on CBS News

Centennial Rooms I/ II

The authors of three new books on CBS television news will discuss their findings, ranging from birth of the newscast, the influence of Fred Friendly, and coverage of NASA.

Moderator: Michael Murray – University of Missouri-St. Louis

Ralph Engelman – Long Island University

Harlen Makemson – Elon University

Mike Conway – Indiana University

6-9:30 pm GALA DINNER & BOOK AWARD PRESENTATION

The Fish Market Restaurant

612 22nd Street South

Ford Risley, *Abolition and the Press: The Moral Struggle Against Slavery* (Northwestern University Press, 2008)

Highlights of conference to be videotaped for later viewing

Some events at this year's annual convention of the American Journalism Historian's Association will be videotaped for inclusion on AJHA's Web site.

Kyl Reinson (St. John Fisher College) will supervise students from his college and from Samford University in Birmingham.

A profile of the local media

history award winner will be put together, and other special presentation events will be videotaped.

Brian Carroll (South Dakota) is the ajhaonline.org webmaster. He said the video package will give AJHA a higher profile.

Longer range plans call for even more videotaping at the 2010 convention in Tucson.

Make your hotel reservation by Sept. 15 to get a deep discount on the room rate.

Auction offers true treasures

Doug Ward
University of Kansas

The AJHA Silent Auction and Raffle is a true treasure hunt.

Just consider the things that show up year after year: out-of-print (and even rare) books, old newspapers, magazines and broadsides, CDs, DVDs, and advertising and marketing posters, to name but a few.

And who can resist Mike Sweeney's annual performance as auctioneer?

This year's auction will take place from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8, in Heritage Room I. Money raised during the event helps defray the travel and registration costs for graduate students who attend the convention. Last year's event raised about \$2,100. Since 2001, when the Silent Auction and Raffle began, it has raised more than \$16,000.

It's a great time and a great cause, but we need your help. Here's what you can do:

Donate items. We depend on AJHA members for auction donations. Bring your items with you, or if you have a lot of bulky or heavy things, mail

You can enjoy the cash bar, browse and place your bids.

them to the hotel in advance (see below). The best items – those that bring in the highest bids – are related to journalism and mass communication history. Receipts to use for tax purposes will be available at the table. Donated items will be accepted through Friday morning of the convention.

Hotel mailing. The Doubletree Hotel Birmingham charges a handling fee for packages sent in advance. That fee ranges from \$1 for envelopes to \$2.50 for packages up to 25 pounds to \$25 for those 51 pounds and over. It also charges up to \$5 a day for packages stored for longer than 24 hours. Items mailed to the hotel in advance should be addressed to: (Member's name), AJHA Convention, Oct. 7-10, 2009, Attn: Bill Pfaff, Catering Director, Doubletree Hotel Birmingham, 808 South 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35205.

Volunteer. We welcome assistance with checking in donated items and setting up items before the auction. A

silent auction table will be set up near the registration table in the hotel and we will need volunteers during the day and in the evening before and during the auction. Graduate students are especially encouraged to get involved.

Buy a raffle ticket or two or ten. Raffle tickets cost \$1 and are a great way to support the auction. Past raffle items have included specialty t-shirts, a hotel package, gift certificates, goody bags and other assorted items. Winners are announced during the auction.

Attend the silent auction and bid. The fun begins as soon as the doors open. You can enjoy the cash bar, browse and place your bids. After about an hour, the silent bidding ends and the items are distributed to the new owners. A live auction for the remaining items follows, with Mike Sweeney as auctioneer. Our motto: "No item left behind!"

Questions? Contact Doug Ward at dbward@ku.edu or 785-864-7637 if you would like to help, or stop by the silent auction table during the convention and volunteer.

AJHA members contribute to book on celebrities

Sam G. Riley (Virginia Tech University) has a book in production at ABC-CLIO. Its title is "Star Struck: An Encyclopedia of Celebrity Culture." It is scheduled to be out by the end of 2009.

A number of contributors to the book are members of AJHA. "What we are doing in this book is recent media history of an unusual sort as we examine many corners of our nation's ubiquitous celebrity culture, which of course depends heavily upon the media," Riley said.

In conjunction with the book, Riley is writing a blog, Celebrityblogsburg.blogspot.com, which expands greatly on one entry in the book: Temporary Celebrity. "I am enjoying blogging very well," Riley said, "in part because of the ability to put video and photos on the blog to illustrate what I'm writing about these temporary or one-shot celebrities. Such individuals have occupied a lot of space in both our news and entertainment media, and to my knowledge, no one has paid much attention to them as a content category."

The scope of both the book and the blog is from the end of World War II to 2008.

Teaching award being revamped

The lack of nominations for AJHA's journalism history teaching honor has resulted in the decision to not award one this year.

The teaching committee will work to revise the nomination application to simply the requirements for putting someone's name up for the award.

Stars in Alabama, again

Continued from Page 2

you elected me president AND decided to have the convention in my hometown, making me also the local host. Clunk! Clunk! Ann Hodges was only hit ONCE by a star! How do these things happen?

No matter how it happened, I'm jazzed (no pun intended for Mr. Perkins and Mr. Parish) about having all of you to my hometown -- indeed, to my neighborhood. We will hear 38

star-quality papers, 37 brilliant panelists, 19 researchers enlightening us on their work in progress, superstar writers of the four best dissertations on media history in the nation, the author of the best book on media history on the planet, and other leading lights.

This is a starshower that surely will convince the state to restore that "Stars Fell on Alabama" slogan to the license plates.



Interior of the Alabama Theatre, renovated by Cecil Whitmire.
Photo by M. Lewis Kennedy.

Media history award honors theater work

AJHA will deviate from its tradition of honoring a local journalist when its members meet in Birmingham in October.

By agreement of the board of directors, the organization will instead honor a media figure, Cecil Whitmire, who AJHA President Julie Williams says singlehandedly saved a 1920s-era movie palace in downtown Birmingham.

Whitmire stopped the city from allowing a bank to bulldoze the Alabama Theatre, then he raised the money necessary to renovate it, complete with gilding and Morocco-themed decor.

The rejuvenation sparked the redevelopment of downtown Birmingham, Williams said.

Opera Birmingham performs in the Alabama Theatre.

Moreover, the revitalization of the Alabama Theatre led another benefactor to restore the nearby Carver Theatre, which now serves as a venue for the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame.

Whitmire has begun restoring a third Birmingham theater, the Lyric.

AJHA's local journalist award usually honors a journalist who has an association with media history and has done something in the public interest.

Whitmire is not a journalist, but the board agreed he is worthy of the award, which this year will be the Outstanding Local Media History award.

Bald & Uglier To Roast AJHA President

The AJHA Bald & Ugly Club will roast President Julie Williams at this year's convention. The roast will be Friday evening.

Vice President Jim McPherson will emcee the event, and the roasters will be Tammy Baldwin, David Davies, David Sloan, Leonard Teel, Bernell Tripp and David Vergobbi.

John Ferré will be the bouncer.

The roast will be at the Mellow Mushroom restaurant.

AJHA members who wish to attend can email Sloan at wmd-sloan@bellsouth.net

Seven candidates nominated for three board positions

Continued from Page 1

this year are **Karla Gower** (Alabama), **Brian Carroll** (Berry College), and **Amy Lauters** (Wichita State).

Bulla is an assistant professor of journalism at Iowa State University. He is the author of *Lincoln's Censor*, from Purdue University Press. Bulla's research agenda focuses on Civil War journalism.

Mellinger is professor and chair of mass media and communication at Baker University, as well as a weekly columnist for the *Topeka Capital-Journal*. She has been a member of AJHA for five years and has chaired the Outreach Committee for two.

Bernt is a professor of journalism, director of graduate studies, and founding director of the Scripps Survey Research Center at Ohio University. He teaches graduate seminars in magazine research, content analysis, and literature of journalism as well as undergraduate courses in media history, magazine feature writing, and literary journalism.

Conway is an assistant professor in the Indiana University School of Journalism. His book, *The Origins of Television News in America: The Visualizers of CBS in the 1940s*, is being published this year by Peter Lang as part of its "Mediating American History" series. He joined AJHA six years ago when he was a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin. Conway spent close to 20 years in television and radio news before his academic career.

Rodgers is an assistant professor in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at the University of Florida. He teaches basic and advanced editing and the literature of journalism. He has 20-plus years of experience in the newspaper business working overseas in Japan and South Korea, and in Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska as a reporter, editorial writer, copy editor, slot editor, assigning editor and page designer.

Claussen is a professor and director of graduate programs at Point Park University in Pittsburgh, Pa. His professional experience includes management positions at several daily, weekly and alternative. He has served as an expert witness/consultant for newspaper managers. Claussen is currently the editor for *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator*.

Ward is an assistant professor of journalism at the University of Kansas. He is the author of *A New Brand of Business: Curtis Publishing Company, Charles Coolidge Parlin, and the Origins of Market Research* (Temple University Press, forthcoming). A member of AJHA since 2004, he is the coordinator of this year's silent auction.

McConnell is the chair of the Department of Mass Communication at Minnesota State University Mankato. She has been involved with AJHA for approximately 20 years and has presented papers, served as a moderator and served on numerous committees.



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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:

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Future AJHA
Convention
Sites

2009: Birmingham
(Oct. 7-11)
2010: Tucson
2011: Kansas City



Arthur Rothstein took this shot outside of Birmingham, Ala., in 1936 while on assignment for the Farm Security Administration.

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