

# Intelligencer

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set to share expertise

### 32nd Annual Convention

Sept. 26-28, 2013

New Orleans, LA

#### 2013 Convention Hotel:

Hotel Monteleone

214 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA

\$159 (Tuesday-Friday)

\$269 (Saturday)

The Hotel Monteleone is nearly sold out. Other hotels located within walking distance of the convention site include the Marriott, Hilton, Hampton, and La Quinta.

Reminder: Sept. 4 is the deadline for the members-only package deal and early bird registration fee.

See [ajhaonline.org](http://ajhaonline.org) for details.

## From the President:

### The 32nd annual convention is upon us!



By **Kim Mangun**  
Utah

One of my favorite courses as an undergraduate was "Modern American Fiction," a summer class that focused on works by the Nobel Prize-winning author William Faulkner. The professor had known Faulkner, so class discussions were rich with anecdotes. Among the novels we read was *Requiem for a Nun*, which contains the

powerful line, "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

The idea that an individual's past acts continue to resonate in and shape the present is a powerful one for historians. We'll see evidence of this complexity during the Friday-afternoon history tour.



*William Faulkner*

Always a highlight of the convention (and included in the package cost), it will feature tours of St. Louis Cemetery No. 1, the oldest extant cemetery in New Orleans, and Chalmette Battlefield.

The cemetery, founded in 1789 (the same year George Washington was elected president), is one of the few burial sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

More than 600 above-ground tombs are located there; they are owned by individuals, families, and societies, and were designed for multiple burials. The cemetery

has been described as "a microcosm of New Orleans history" due to the variety of people entombed there: musicians, politicians, jurists, historians, and veterans. We will meet four



*Homer Plessy*

guides there and explore the grounds in small groups. Watch for Tomb 619, which contains the remains of Homer Plessy.

Later, we'll drive by the site where Plessy was removed from the East Louisiana Railroad and arrested for violating the Separate Car Act. Plessy, who was born 150 years ago, was required to sit in the "colored" car because he was a Creole of color. His deliberate act of civil disobedience was part of a test organized by the Comité des Citoyens (Citizens' Committee), a group of prominent people of color in New Orleans who "sought to end the encroaching practice of racial segregation in the south by challenging the practice in the courts." His

**Continued on Page 2**



*Photos from Google Images*

*New Orleans - St. Louis Cemetery No. 1*

# Conference

Continued From Page 1

case, which went to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1896, established the idea that separate facilities for Black and white people were constitutional as long as they were equal.

After the cemetery tour, we'll go to Chalmette, site of the January 8, 1815, Battle of New Orleans. According to the National Park Service website, the "resounding American victory [in the 'last great battle' of the War of 1812] soon became a symbol of a new idea: American democracy triumphing over the old European ideas of aristocracy and entitlement." For decades, January 8 was celebrated as a national holiday; reenactors still commemorate the battle each January. The grounds are one of six sites of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve that "represent a treasure trove of south Louisiana's historical and cultural riches."

The area also reminds historians that "remarkable stories [can be found] where you least expect to find them." For example, a headstone for Private Lyons Wakeman in Chalmette National Cemetery marks the remains of Sarah Rosetta Wakeman. She was one of hundreds of women who disguised themselves as men to fight in the Civil War. Remarkably, her family preserved the letters she wrote and later published them. The col-

lection offers a glimpse into what it was like for the women who "enlisted in the armies of our nation's bloodiest war" and "served in constant secrecy." Wakeman's story resonates today, as the Pentagon works to fully integrate women into combat units.

Our route back to the hotel will take us through a "Make It Right" neighborhood. Founded by the actor Brad Pitt in 2007, the organization aims to build healthy, affordable homes and communities for people in need. Initial efforts focused on homebuilding in New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward, which was decimated by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. According to the website, 86 of 150 homes have been completed; a solar-powered playground and community gardens have been finished, too.

We also will pass by Fats Domino's home. The R&B artist, famous for songs such as "Blueberry Hill" and "Walking to New Orleans," tried to wait out Katrina. But he nearly died when the levee broke and rising waters flooded his home in the Lower 9th Ward. Ultimately, the 77-year-old had to be lifted out by a Coast Guard helicopter.

A white Steinway grand piano salvaged from his home recently was restored at a cost of \$30,000. Work on the piano was described as "painstaking" and entailing "a years-long process" because it was in such bad shape after being submerged in water for weeks. In September it should be on view at the Old U.S. Mint, a museum in the

French Quarter near the Hotel Monteleone. (A second Steinway belonging to Domino is on permanent display in the exhibition, "Living with Hurricanes: Katrina and Beyond," at the Presbytère on Jackson Square.) Both the Presbytère and the mint, a national historic landmark that "holds the distinct title of being the only mint to produce American and Confederate coinage," deserve a visit if you have time to spare before or after the convention.

Sightseeing is important, but you may find it difficult to leave the beautiful Hotel Monteleone—or the convention itself, for that matter. The robust program features a wide variety of paper sessions, panels, and research-in-progress presentations from which to choose. And remember that we will be presenting several important awards, including Outstanding Local Journalist (to investigative journalist Lee Zurik) and the Sidney Kobre Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism History (to David Abrahamson). The speaker at the Donna Allen luncheon (also included in the package cost) will be Peggy Scott Laborde, senior producer for the New Orleans PBS station, WYES-TV. Since 1987, she has developed, produced, and hosted documentaries and in-studio productions about New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

I look forward to seeing you soon in New Orleans. And remember: *Laissez les bon temps rouler!*



*Chalmette Battlefield, New Orleans*

*Photo from Google Images*



## AJHA Board

### Board of Directors:

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Finance Officer **Lisa Parcell**, Wichita State, [lisa.parcell@wichita.edu](mailto:lisa.parcell@wichita.edu), 316.978.6064

# Maurine Beasley receives first Women and Media Award

Maurine Beasley is the inaugural recipient of the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press "Women and Media Award."

Beasley received the award at a ceremony and "meet the author" event on Aug. 1 in Washington, D.C., where she gave a brief talk and signed copies of her latest book, *Women of the Washington Press: Politics, Prejudice, and Persistence*.

Beasley said that she feels especially honored to receive the "Women and Media Award" because it comes from a remarkable organization founded by a remarkable woman. Donna Allen, founder of WIFP, also is the namesake of an annual luncheon at the AJHA convention.

"Donna truly was an innovative thinker in communications—one who understood the need to broaden the field to include the voices and perspectives of women," Beasley said. "I owe her and the institute so much in terms of encouraging me to write about women in journalism."

Beasley praised Allen's daughter Martha for carrying on her mother's work.

"With its emphasis on summer internships for college students, the institute serves a wide audience interested in collaborating to improve the participation and portrayal of women in media," Beasley said. "I am very grateful for its recognition of my efforts."

According to a release from the WIFP, Beasley was an outstanding first choice to receive the award because of her decades-long work on behalf of women and media. An associate of WIFP for 38 years, Beasley was one of the authors of WIFP's first book, *Women in Media: A Documentary Source Book*, in 1977. The WIFP called Beasley's latest book an outstanding contribution on behalf of women and media.

— Erika J. Pribanic-Smith  
University of Texas at Arlington

## AJHA provides online research links

The AJHA web site has a new section to assist with your research. The History in the Curriculum Committee is excited to announce that our Resources for Researchers page, with links to more than 60 online archival sources, is now available at <http://www.ajhaonline.org/>. The page can help journalism and media historians find archives as well as direct links to primary materials.

Special thanks to committee members Gerry Lanosga and Beth Christian for compiling these resources and Web Editor David Davies for posting them to the AJHA site. If you have suggestions of additional online archival resources, please send them to Gerry at [glanosga@indiana.edu](mailto:glanosga@indiana.edu).

— Jon Marshall  
Medill Northwestern University

## Auction and raffle items sought for convention

As you make plans for the AJHA convention, please remember to bring items for the annual silent auction and raffle.

This year's event will take place on Thursday, Sept. 26, immediately after the opening reception.

As always, historic books, newspapers, advertisements, films, etc. are needed. But if you don't have time to visit a local antique shop, consider bringing a gift item from a media organization such as the *New York*

*Times*, *National Geographic*, *CNN* or *NPR*. Or get a gift card from iTunes or Starbucks.

You can bring items to the convention or mail them to Ford Risley, chair of the Education Committee. All money raised from the auction and raffle helps defray the travel and registration costs for graduate students who attend the convention. Last year more than \$1,800 was raised.

— Ford Risley  
Penn State University

## AJHA Officers

President: Kimberley Mangun, Utah, kim.mangun@utah.edu, 801.585.9935

First Vice President: Amy Mattson Lauters, Minnesota State University, Mankato, amy.lauters@mnsu.edu, 507.389.5523

Second Vice President: Erika Pribanic-Smith, Texas-Arlington, epsmith@uta.edu, 817.272.5252

Administrative Secretary: Carol Sue Humphrey, Oklahoma Baptist, carol.humphrey@okbu.edu, 405.585.4158

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

## Got News?

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

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Dickinson, ND 58601  
Fax: 407-823-0367  
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# 2nd VP, three board members to be elected in New Orleans



**By Amber Roessner**  
University of Tennessee

And, the AJHA nominees are ... okay, so it's not exactly the Academy Awards, but this year's call for nominations did yield a diverse pool for leadership positions in our organization. Two AJHA members have been nominated to fill the slot of 2013-2014 2nd VP, and four members were nominated for three board seats.

Here's a little bit of information about each nominee.

### Second Vice-President:

Pete Smith (Mississippi State University) has been nominated for the position of 2nd VP. He has been a member of AJHA since 2005, the year in which he received the Margaret Blanchard Dissertation Prize. In his time with the organization, Smith has been involved in numerous roles. He currently is serving on the AJHA Board of Directors, the Public



*Pete Smith*

Relations Committee, and the Curriculum Committee. He also has served as the coordinator of the AJHA Southeast Symposium for the last seven years. Most recently, Smith joined the *American Journalism* editorial staff as its inaugural Digital Media Editor, a role created to identify and solicit reviews of all types of digital content, including documentaries, websites, digital archives, apps, and exhibits.

David Vergobbi (University of Utah) has been nominated for the position of 2nd VP. He has been a member of AJHA since 1989. In his time with the organization, Vergobbi has served two terms on the AJHA Board of Directors; twelve years

as a member of the Long-Range Planning Committee; nine years as the Chair of the Nominations & Elections Committee; six years as a member of the Education Committee; three years as a member of the Task Force on History in the Curriculum; three years as the Chair of the Committee on History in the Curriculum; and one year as a member of the Resolution Committee. In addition, he remains a reviewer for the AJHA Research Committee and *American Journalism*. Vergobbi teaches in the Department of Communication at the University of Utah, where he specializes in mass media history, law, and ethics. His research areas include the frontier and early-industrial press era and law and ethics.

### Board of Directors:

Ross Collins (North Dakota State, Fargo) has been nominated to serve on the board of directors. He has been a member of AJHA since 1993. In his time with the organization, he has served in numerous roles—as the chair of the outreach committee and as a member of the History in the Curriculum Subcommittee, the Research Committee and the Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Award Committee. He also served as Treasurer of the organization from 2000-2008. Collins is a professor of communication at North Dakota State University, Fargo. His research interests include European Media, Frontier/West, Gilded Age, Propaganda/War, and World War I. His recent book, *Children, War, and Propaganda* (New York: Peter Lang, 2011), offers insights into an often ignored facet of history.



*Ross Collins*

Mark K. Dolan (University of Mississippi) has been nominated to serve on the board of directors. He has been an AJHA

## AJHA Committee Chairs

**Awards:** Mike Conway, Indiana, mtconway@indiana.edu, 812.856.1371

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

**Book Award:** Aimee Edmondson, Ohio, edmondso@ohio.edu, 740.597.3336

**Convention Sites/Convention Planning:** Patrick Cox, Texas, patrickcox7@gmail.com, 512.495.4533

**Education:** Ford Risley, Penn State, jfr4@psu.edu. 814.865.2181

**Graduate Students:** Paula Hunt, Missouri, pdhunt@mail.missouri.edu

**History in the Curriculum:** Jon Marshall, Northwestern, j-marshall@northwestern.edu

**Long-Range Planning:** Therese Lueck, Akron, tlueck@uakron.edu, 330.972.6093

**Membership:** Kate Edenborg, Wisconsin-Stout, edenborgk@uwstout.edu, 715.232.1483

**Nominations and Elections:** Amber Roessner, Tennessee, aroessne@utk.edu, 865.974.5142

**Oral History:** search being conducted

**Publications:** Paulette Kilmer, University of Toledo, paulette.kilmer@utoledo.edu, 419.530.4672

**Public Relations:** Erika Pribanic-Smith, Texas-Arlington, epsmith@uta.edu, 817.272.5252

**Research:** Linda Lumsden, Arizona, lumsden@email.arizona.edu, 520.626.3635

**Finance:** Lisa Parcell, Wichita State, lisa.parcell@wsu.edu, 316.978.6064

## Election

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Mark Dolan

member since 1998. In his time with the organization, he has served as AJHA's research-in-progress coordinator. Dolan earned his Ph.D. in Journalism and Mass Communications from the University of South Carolina in 2003. His research areas include black press history, journalism as literature, communication history, and popular culture. Dolan's work on the black press and minority voices has appeared in the *Second Annual Music Issue of Southern Cultures*, published by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Fall 2007), *Newspaper Research Journal* (Winter 2009), *Illinois Journal of History* (Autumn 2008), *Discourse and Communication* (August 2010) and *The Howard Journal of Communications* (July-September 2011). He is currently writing a book about the *Chicago Defender* for the University Press of Mississippi. He has written for several daily newspapers, including the *Savannah Morning News*, the *Naples Daily News*, and *The (SC) State*. Highlights from his newspaper work include interviews with novelists Toni Morrison, Reynolds Price, and Salmon Rushdie and bluegrass legend Doc Watson.

Michael Fuhlhage (Auburn University) has been nominated to serve on the board of directors. A longtime member of AJHA, his research interests include the development of stereotypes about Mexicans in U.S. mass media, the mid-nineteenth-century press, and the history of the book in American culture. He has served as the panels coordinator for the AJHA national convention since 2012, reviewed papers and manuscripts for AJHA and *American Journalism*, and is the faculty adviser for the Auburn chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. An assistant professor of journalism at Auburn University, Fuhlhage teaches journalism history, multimedia reporting, and newspaper editing and design. He has presented at AJHA, AEJMC, and the International Communication Association



Michael Fuhlhage

and has been published in *American Journalism*, *Journalism History*, *Etc.: A Journal of General Semantics*, the *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, and *Identity and Communication: New Agendas in Communication*.

Jonathan Marshall (Northwestern) has been nominated to serve on the board of directors. He has been a member of AJHA since 2009. In his time with the organization, he has served on the History in the Curriculum Committee and the Education Committee. As the Chair of the History in the Curriculum Committee, he contributed to a multi-year project focusing on journalism history and accreditation, moderated the 2012 AJHA President's Panel, "Valuing Media History in the Curriculum," and oversaw the retooling of AJHA's Teacher's Toolbox. Marshall (Medill/ Northwestern, MSJ 1991) is an assistant professor of journalism at Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. He specializes in research examining political communication in the last half of the twentieth century. His first book, *Watergate's Legacy & the Press: The Investigative Impulse*, was published by the Northwestern University Press in 2011. He has written for numerous media outlets, including the *Christian Science Monitor*, *CBS News' "Public Eye,"* and the *Chicago Tribune*.

You can find information about all the candidates on the AJHA website. Additional nominations can be made from the floor during the election that will be held during the annual convention in September. Dues-paying AJHA members unable to attend the conference are eligible to vote. They should send their name, email address and intent to vote online to AJHA Nominations and Election Committee Chair Amber Roessner (aroessner@utk.edu) no later than midnight Friday, Sept. 20, 2013. After elections are held on Saturday, Sept. 28, at the 32nd annual AJHA conference in New Orleans, current 2nd VP Erika Pribanic-Smith (University of Texas-Arlington) will become 1st VP, and current 1st VP Amy Mattson Lauters (Minnesota State) will become president for 2013-2014.



Jonathan  
Marshall



# AJHA members ask for increased listserv use, want more serious historical discussions

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

**Riva Brown**  
 University of Central Arkansas

In an effort to improve communication with American Journalism Historians Association members, the Public Relations

Committee recently conducted an online survey to gather information about members' perceptions and use of *The Intelligencer*, the AJHA Facebook group, and communication in general.

PR Chair Erika Pribanic-Smith designed the survey, and incoming PR Chair Riva Brown implemented it on SurveyMonkey. After the committee promoted the survey on Facebook, on the AJHA listserv, and in the Spring 2013 *Intelligencer*, 31 members responded.

The first five questions asked respondents about their habits reading *The Intelligencer*. A majority (20 respondents, 64.52 percent) indicated that they had read all four issues during the previous year. Four (12.9 percent) answered that they had read three; three (9.68 percent) said they'd read three; three said they'd read one; one (3.23 percent) had not read any of the last four issues.

A majority also indicated they had read more than half of the Winter 2013 issue (see Figure 1). Twelve (38.71 percent) said they'd read most of it; six (19.35 percent) said they'd read all of it. Eight respondents answered they'd read some but less than half, while five (16.13) said they had not read the winter issue.

Of the five who said they didn't read the Winter issue, three (33.33 percent) responded they just didn't have time. One respondent each answered lack of knowledge about it, content, format, and delivery method. Two marked "other"; one of those cited forgetfulness as the reason.

Respondents who did read the Winter 2013 edition were asked to rank the six original articles from favorite to least

favorite (see Table 1, next page). The most popular articles were a student's perspective on the AJHA Southeast Colloquium (average ranking 4.7 percent) and a discussion of a textbook that an AJHA member edited and to which several AJHA members contributed (average ranking 4.59 percent).

Ranking in the middle were the president's column on the Sundance Film Festival (average ranking 3.59 percent) and a story about two AJHA members' experience with a tornado at the University of Southern Mississippi (average ranking 3.52 percent).

The least popular were an article on the *Intelligencer* editor's travels (average ranking 2.44 percent) and the editor's movie review (average ranking 2.15 percent).

In response to a plea for suggestions to improve *The Intelligencer*, more than half of the respondents (16; 51.6 percent) recommended articles focused on historical and academic topics. Among the specific suggestions were teaching and research tips and trends, discussions of unusual interdisciplinary studies and collaborations, book excerpts and reviews, relevant research published in places that might be overlooked by members, features on new and noteworthy archives, and discussions on the role of history in general education.

One said an article in a past *Intelligencer* on the use of cameras and scanners in archives improved the respondent's research strategy.

"I love learning from our talented members," the respondent said.

Six respondents asked for more information about AJHA and its members. One suggested articles about the behind-the-scenes work AJHA does throughout the year.

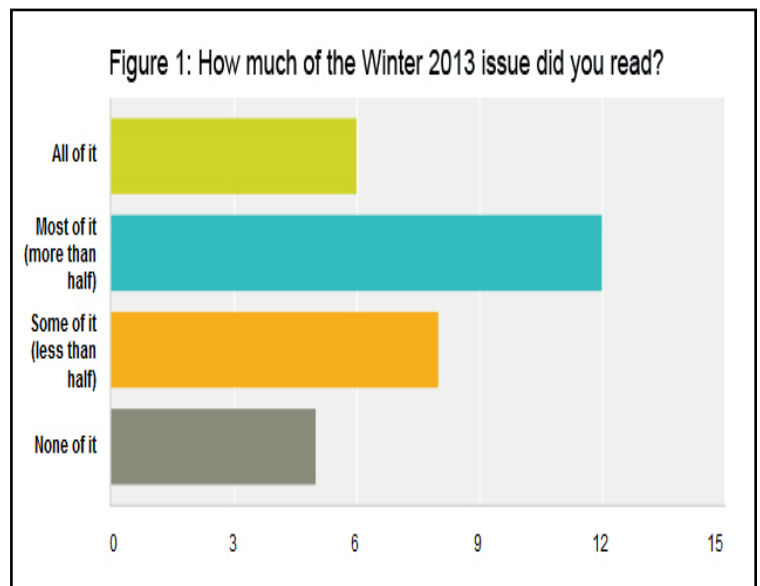
"People unfamiliar with the people involved and the business of running AJHA would benefit and, perhaps, become interested in participating," the respondent said.

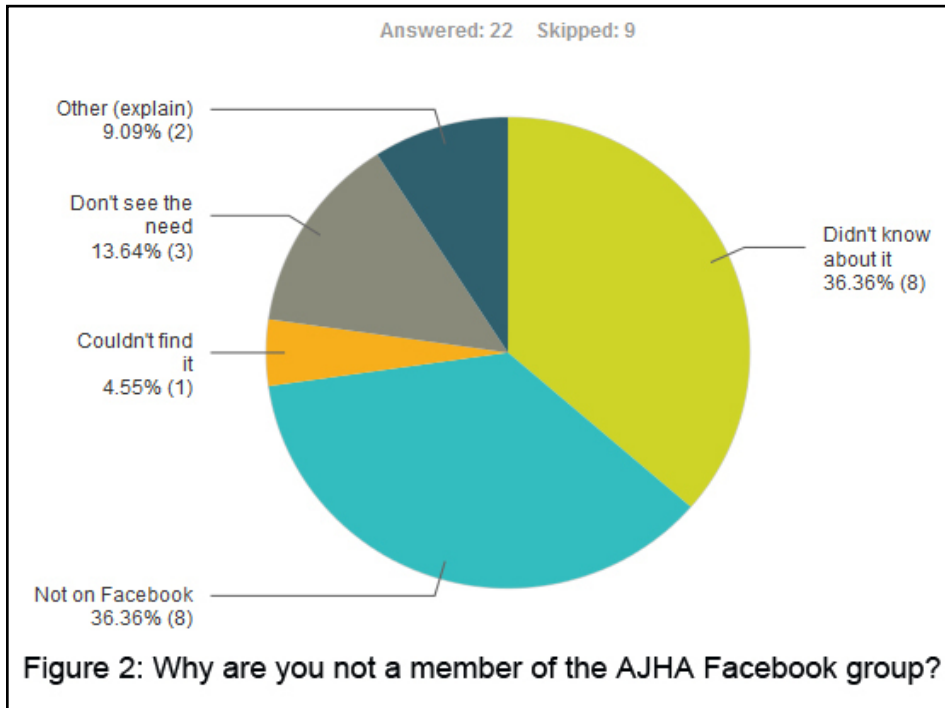
Four respondents suggested implementing a column of short items highlighting members' recent achievements and updates.

The rest of the respondents suggested changes in style or distribution. Two indicated a need to change the writing style to provide more depth, one said that the content was good but the product needed to be better promoted.

Three respondents indicated they would prefer to see the newsletter return to a paper format, indicating that they read it regularly in hard copy but don't find the time to get to it online. Conversely, two answered that *The Intelligencer* should adopt a web format rather than conforming to a traditional newsletter design. One respondent suggested doing

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Five said they wouldn't use it regardless, citing a lack of time or a lack of interest in using Facebook for AJHA. Five respondents suggested that AJHA publicize the Facebook page better.

Finally, 18 respondents answered how AJHA could improve communication in general, with most suggesting better use of email means to communicate. Of the 10 who mentioned email, two suggested relying on the JHistory listserv, while three indicated that using the AJHA listserv more often would improve communication. Three respondents encouraged listserv use to instigate more serious, historical discussion.

Other respondents suggested branching out to other social media, including Twitter (3) and LinkedIn (1). Four indicated nothing needed to be done to improve communication.

AJHA officers and the PR Committee will discuss the survey data and decide how to best address the suggestions respondents made.

**Editor's Note: In response to the survey, *The Intelligencer* will make changes in the Fall edition addressing the excellent feedback provided by AJHA members.**

## Listserv

Continued From Page 6

away with the newsletter altogether.

The next four questions asked about participation in the AJHA Facebook group. A majority (22; 70.97 percent) said that they were not members of the Facebook group; nine respondents (29.03 percent) said they were.

Of the 22 who are not members of the group, eight (36.36 percent) said they weren't on Facebook, and another 8 (36.36 percent) said they didn't know about it (see Figure 2). Three (13.64 percent) said they didn't see the need to join it, and one (4.55 percent) couldn't find it. Two who answered "other" cited Facebook fatigue and usage of Facebook for personal reasons only, not professional.

Those who are members evenly distributed their

participation on the site among posting content to the page, commenting on others' content, liking others' content, and reading content without interacting.

Of the 13 who answered what AJHA could do to increase members' participation on Facebook, eight said nothing. Three indicated they were already involved enough.

**Table 1: Ranking of Original Articles in the Winter 2013 Intelligencer**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Average Ranking
Sundance Film Festival	18.52% 5	11.11% 3	14.81% 4	29.63% 8	18.52% 5	7.41% 2	27	3.59
Editing text	11.11% 3	48.15% 13	29.63% 8	11.11% 3	0% 0	0% 0	27	4.59
Intelligencer editor travels	3.70% 1	7.41% 2	7.41% 2	22.22% 6	29.63% 8	29.63% 8	27	2.44
AJHA SE convention	37.04% 10	22.22% 6	18.52% 5	18.52% 5	3.70% 1	0% 0	27	4.70
Movie review	7.41% 2	0% 0	7.41% 2	11.11% 3	33.33% 9	40.74% 11	27	2.15
Southern Miss tornado	22.22% 6	11.11% 3	22.22% 6	7.41% 2	14.81% 4	22.22% 6	27	3.52

# Abrahamson's devotion to research, mentorship results in top AJHA award



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

A common thread runs through all six letters supporting David Abrahamson's nomination for the 2013 Sidney Kobre Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism History: Abrahamson has devoted his academic life to journalism

history research and mentorship in a way that has extended the field's reach.

The American Journalism Historians Association will award Abrahamson with its highest honor during a luncheon Sept. 26, at the annual convention in New Orleans.

Mike Conway, chair of the Awards Committee, said that Abrahamson truly exemplifies the idea of excellence in all three areas of academic life.

In addition to penning numerous journal articles and a book, Abrahamson has contributed countless hours of service to AJHA, AEJMC, and the International Association for Literary Journalism Studies—which he founded. Furthermore, his classroom work has resulted in the Charles Deering McCormick Professorship of Teaching Excellence at Northwestern University.

"To put it simply, Dr. Abrahamson has made a career of helping other scholars," Conway said.

Jan Whitt, who nominated Abrahamson, singled out his work as general editor of the "Visions of the American Press" series as one way that he has demonstrated commitment to others and support of their research. Whitt noted that several of the authors Abrahamson has worked with have won prestigious awards.

One of those authors was Mark Neuzil, who said in his support letter that Abrahamson is the best editor with whom he was worked.



*Photo by Erika J. Pribanic-Smith*  
*David Abrahamson presents a dissertation prize honorable mention certificate to Philip M. Glende at the 2011 AJHA convention.*

"The work was better for his involvement, and that is the best thing you can say about an editor," Neuzil said. "And of course, the success of the entire series of books is evidence of his steady hand and visionary leadership."

Patrick Washburn said that Abrahamson's work with the series has made a valuable contribution to the field of journalism history.

"I have found him to be a demanding editor, whose extreme diligence in working with authors has resulted in pushing them to write books that are significant because they stretch our knowledge of mass communication while at the same time being interesting, thus encouraging their use in classrooms," Washburn wrote in his support letter.

Norman Sims noted in his support letter that work on the "Visions of the American Press" series alone is a tremendous time commitment, yet Abrahamson's

own research has not suffered as a result. That research has been extremely important, according to Hazel Dicken-Garcia.

Dicken-Garcia argued that Abrahamson has a gift for drawing connections between past and present and conveying historical concepts in an understandable way. Furthermore, she said that his work has made a lasting contribution to knowledge of American magazine history.

Abrahamson has shared his knowledge not only through his writing but also through his organization of numerous colloquia at Northwestern, which Dicken-Garcia said have benefited Abrahamson's colleagues and students alike.

"Professor Abrahamson's role as a model of scholarly activity and as a mentor cannot be overlooked in any discussion of his contributions to the field," Dicken-Garcia said.

Washburn said another role that must be considered is chairing AJHA's dissertation award committee, which Abrahamson has done since 1997.

"Besides honoring young faculty who have done outstanding research, this prize is extremely important to AJHA because it is a means of attracting new members, and I do not believe anyone else could have served as a better chair," Washburn said.

Abrahamson said that he is honored and humbled that his colleagues have nominated and selected him for the Kobre award.

"In my 20 years in the academy, AJHA has always been very, very special to me," Abrahamson said.

At the awards lunch in New Orleans, Abrahamson said, he will accept the Kobre award with a speech focusing on the idea that academic research is a form of optimism about the human condition.



# Book Notes



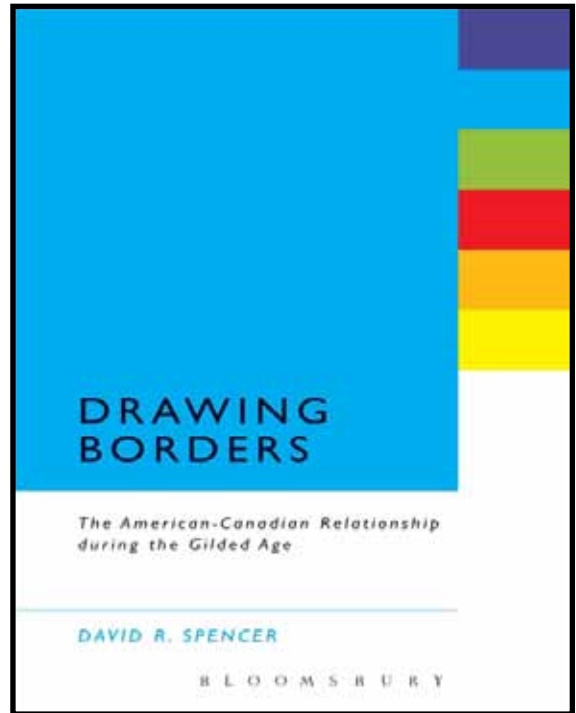
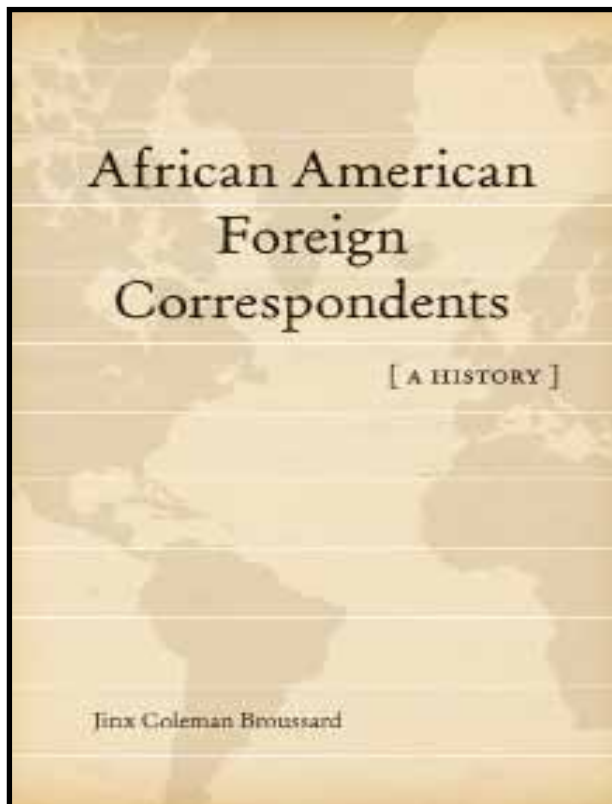
Jinx Broussard

Jinx Broussard is the author of *African American Foreign Correspondents: A History* (Louisiana State University Press, June 2013). The book traces the history of black participation in international news gathering beginning with Frederick Douglass and Mary Ann Shadd Cary in the mid-19th century and extending to the present.

A press release from the publisher states that Broussard's work demonstrates the mission and perspective of

black correspondents, who focused on a civil rights agenda and often worked for social reform and policy changes. According to the press release, "By examining how and why blacks reported information and perspectives from abroad, *African American Foreign Correspondents* contributes to a broader conversation about navigating racial, societal, and global problems."

*African American Foreign Correspondents* runs 280 pages and is available in hardcover and ebook.



David Spencer

Bloomsbury Academic published David R. Spencer's latest book, *Drawing Borders: The American Canadian Relationship in the Gilded Age*, in January 2013. *Drawing Borders* explores the complex relationship between the United States and Canada via the political cartoons of both nations. Spencer said the work is based on 140 editorial cartoons from 29 magazines and newspapers published between 1849 and 1906.

According to Bloomsbury Academic, the book examines the cultural and political differences and similarities between the two nations before analyzing the political perspectives of the cartoons. "An intriguing study by a leading Canadian-American scholar, this work is sure to interest many across the disciplines of journalism history, cartoons, media studies, communication and international relationships," the publisher said on its website.

Available in hardcover and ebook, *Drawing Borders* runs 240 pages. Cartoons that formed the basis of Spencer's study illustrate the text.

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# AEJMC teaching panel emphasizes connections between past and present



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

Panelists in the teaching session “Content and Complements: Media History in the Curriculum” at AEJMC universally emphasized that history remains relevant to the mass communication curriculum, connections are necessary

between historical and current concepts, and historical topics can and should be incorporated into non-history classes.

The panel, presented on the morning of Aug. 11, was co-sponsored by the AEJMC History Division and Council of Affiliates (American Journalism Historians Association). Therese Lueck, past AJHA president and moderator of the panel, said she believed it was the first AJHA panel at AEJMC.

Lueck said that the panel continued discussion from a session at the October 2012 AJHA convention, which focused on the structure of implementing history in the curriculum.

Panelist Osabuohien Amienyi set the tone for the session by laying out the challenges of incorporating history into the curriculum. He pointed out that curriculum revisions in the wake of budgetary cuts often result in the elimination of history courses, citing the common misconception that history belongs in the past.

“Growing up in Nigeria, I understood from the beginning that history

provides context for what I know today,” Amienyi said. “You have to know where you’ve been to know where you’re going; we need to pass along our culture.”

Therefore, he said, we ought to have history in everything we do.

Specific to mass communication, Amienyi argued that professional principles were established long ago, and students ought to understand that foundation. Furthermore, he said that students can learn from the successes and failures of those who came before them.

“A lot of changes occur in our profession, and our students don’t seem to understand those changes,” Amienyi said.

Amienyi’s program at Arkansas State University no longer has a history course. Administrators expect that historical concepts will be implemented in non-history courses across the curriculum. One suggestion Amienyi provided for accomplishing that was incorporating historical elements into assignments.

“If a photo assignment

requires shooting a building, ask students to talk about the history and architecture of the building,” Amienyi said.

Other panelists built upon Amienyi’s presentation by suggesting other ways to incorporate history into non-history courses.

Jon Marshall whispered that he sneaks a lot of history into the media issues class required of all freshmen in his program at Northwestern University.

Marshall argued that his approach, which ties together historical and current

events, allows students to learn how other journalists approached similar issues and tackled similar challenges.

Marshall takes a thematic approach as he moves through the various issues discussed in the course. For instance, he demonstrates that sensationalism and entertainment journalism go back to the very first newspaper and that Benjamin Franklin was a multi-media journalist in that he worked in a number of different

**Continued on Page 11**

## Many familiar names participate at AEJMC

Many familiar names appeared in the program for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in Washington, D.C., Aug. 8-11.

Members of the American Journalism Historians Association participated in nearly all of the History Division’s panel and research paper sessions, and AJHA members fill most of the division’s leadership positions for the coming year.

In a panel co-sponsored by the History Division and Commission on the Status of Women, Maurine Beasley and Kimberly Wilmot Voss joined professional journalists from the D.C. area to provide a variety of perspectives on Washington’s women journalists. Beasley also discussed women journalists in Washington on a PF&R panel session co-sponsored by the Entertainment Studies Interest Group and the History Division.

Jon Marshall, Michael Murray, Kathy Bradshaw, and Therese Lueck participated in a teaching panel co-sponsored by the History Division and Council of Affiliates (see separate story). Lueck also participated in a panel celebrating 40 years of the Commission on the Status of Women, co-sponsored by the CSW and

**Continued on Page 11**



*Photo by Erika Pribanic-Smith*  
*Presenters on the History in the Curriculum panel at AEJMC were, from the left, Osabuohien Amienyi, Jon Marshall, Therese Lueck (moderator), Mike Murray and Kathy Bradshaw.*

## Panel

Continued From Page 10

genres and formats.

Another example Marshall provided was the discussion of technological change, which he explained has happened many times during the history of media.

“The printing press put scribes out of business and led to outcry at the time, but it also presented a lot of opportunities,” Marshall said. “Now, social media may enable different forms of journalism than what we’re used to.”

Michael Murray also is incorporating history into an introductory course required of all students in his program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Murray noted that curricular revision often centers on textbooks, and most textbooks for basic survey courses either

inadequately address historical concepts or are too cumbersome and expensive to be practical for undergraduates.

His solution was to put together his own textbook to suit the needs of his course; it will not be sold widely.

“One benefit of this approach is that you can locate hyper-local examples that students can relate to,” Murray said.

The Pulitzers’ work in St. Louis and coverage of the St. Louis Cardinals are among the examples Murray discussed.

Murray also took special care to include ample information on journalists’ role in the Civil Rights movement. He said that recent interviews he conducted with current practitioners, including Dan Rather, indicate that topic has not been taught well.

Civil Rights was among the topics Kathy Bradshaw taught as she incorporated history into a media diversity course at Bowling Green State University.

Bradshaw’s aim was to help students understand representations of women and people of color in the media as well as their positions in the industry. She wanted to demonstrate how those things have changed and what students could do about it now.

Bradshaw broadened the reach of her message beyond her classroom by inviting diverse guest speakers to campus and enticing students outside of her class to attend. A recent panel brought AJHA members Earnest Perry, Felecia Ross and Patrick Washburn to the Bowling Green campus, along with an editor from Toledo, to provide historical and current perspectives on the black press.

Bradshaw emphasized that such a subject must be treated historically and that connections must be made.

“Today and this cultural structure has to be connected to then,” Bradshaw said. “The past is not over.”

## Familiar

Continued From Page 10

History Division.

Meg Lamme moderated a PF&R panel co-sponsored by the Public Relations and History divisions, discussing a forthcoming book on public relations history.

Historians presented 36 papers at the convention in two research paper sessions and one scholar-to-scholar session. The following members of AJHA were among the History Division paper authors:

- Mike Conway
- Caryl Cooper
- Frank Fee
- Michael Fuhlhage
- Carrie Isard (first-place student paper)
- Paula Hunt
- Paulette Kilmer
- Claudia Kozman
- Will Mari (second-place student paper)
- Vanessa Murphree
- Erika Pribanic-Smith (second-place faculty paper)
- Robert Rabe
- Amber Roessner (top 3 poster)
- Tim Vos



Kristin Gustafson and Marshall served as paper session moderators, and Fred Blevens, Carolyn Kitch, Earnest Perry, Rick Popp and Yong Volz served as discussants.



At the History Division business meeting, Kathy Roberts Forde received the Covert Award for best mass communication history journal article published during the previous year, along with her co-author Katie Foss.

Forde also took over as head of the History Division. Volz became Vice Head of the division, and Voss became Secretary/Clio Editor.

Pribanic-Smith will be taking over as research chair of the History Division for the AEJMC Southeast Colloquium.

Photos by Erika Pribanic-Smith

*Upper Middle: Historians discuss their research during a Scholar-to-Scholar session.*

*Upper Right: Kathy Roberts Forde, incoming History Division head, recognizes Amber Roessner (right) and her graduate student Jodi Rightler-McDaniels for their outstanding poster.*

*Lower Left: Michael Fuhlhage presents work he co-authored with his graduate student Julia Watterson (left).*

# Movie Review: *Alien Origin*



**By David Schreindl**  
Dickinson State University

For this newsletter I was looking for a movie that was off the radar but yet still had journalistic components.

I stumbled upon *Alien Origin* on Netflix, a 2012 effort written and directed by Mark Atkins, that I

believe went straight to video.

The movie will never win an Oscar or any other award other than maybe a razzie and was filled with no-name actors.

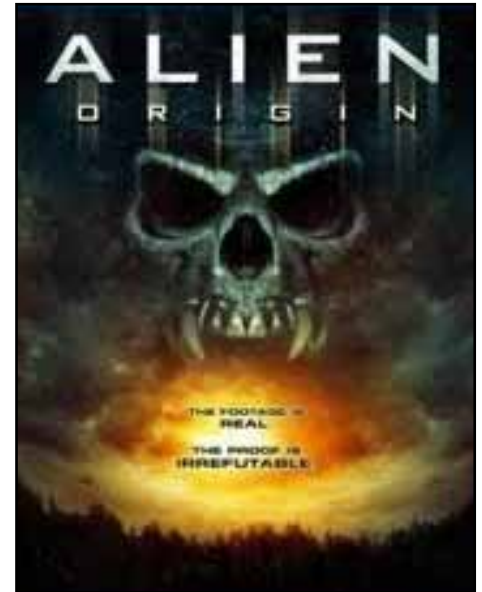
However, the movie turned into what I would call a guilty pleasure. What I found fascinating about the movie was how it

relates to today's modern camera-obsessed society we live in. It seems that any governmental activity must have an embedded journalist, especially if it involves a military mission.

The premise of the movie is there is an American journalist tagging along with a South American military expedition to set up cameras along its country's borders in order to spot rebel insurgents. The start of the movie clarifies in a print message that this footage was put together based on what video was found as none of those seen in the footage returned from the jungle. This movie was also presented in documentary style, aka *The Blair Witch Project*, without the charm.

The whole point of this expedition was to get in and get out. It was supposed to be an easy three-day trek. But after setting up camp the expedition was visited by a force that destroyed a couple of the cameras and marked up the trees in way that was clearly made by something no one had seen before. What didn't make sense was why weren't these people hurt then and yet killed off or captured by the end of the movie.

Next came a message that two researchers had gone missing. At the camp of the researchers they find a video of a trip made into a cave that showed the archeologists



finding what could only be an alien skull. What follows in the film is totally expected, a lot of chaos, screaming, and running. What I was hoping for was a shot of the actual aliens.

What made this film interesting and fun was obviously not the plot or acting, but rather the concept of embedded journalists.

Would I ever own this film or watch it again? No, but it's worth a look. And it's one I might reference in a film or media effects course.



Chelsea Vincent, in her first starring role, plays the talking head Julia Evans in *Alien Origin*. Here she is seen talking to the camera just outside the missing researchers camp.

## Popp to receive AJHA Book Award



**By Pete Smith**  
Mississippi State University

The American Journalism Historians Association has selected Richard K. Popp as the recipient of its annual Book Award. The award will be given at AJHA's next convention, to be held in New Orleans Sept. 26-28, 2013.

Popp, an assistant professor in the Department of Journalism, Advertising, and Media Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, wrote *The Holiday Makers: Magazines, Advertising, and Mass Tourism in Postwar America* (Louisiana State University Press, 2012).

*The Holiday Makers* examines the role of the American mass media, specifically magazines, in shaping postwar attitudes about leisure and travel. Using one particular magazine, *Holiday*, as his historical framework, Popp shows how Americans embraced travel during this time, and how magazines helped create a new cultural narrative regarding mass consumerism and the American vacation.

Popp's work earned praise from judges of the AJHA Book Award.

"This book joins a growing and important historiography on American consumerism," one judge stated. "Rick Popp has made a significant contribution with this book."

Another judge wrote, "[Popp's] arguments are persuasive and original, supported by ample primary source research and a deep knowledge of the relevant secondary material."

AJHA Book Award Committee Chair Aimee Edmondson said that among the 15 superb entries, the judges clearly agreed that Popp's was the best.

"Popp is a master of context and his writing is elegant and distinctive," Edmondson remarked.

A native of the Washington, D.C., area, Popp taught at Louisiana State before joining the Wisconsin-Milwaukee faculty. *The Holiday Makers* is adapted from his dissertation, which he completed at Temple University, under the supervision of Carolyn Kitch. He also won the Margaret A. Blanchard Dissertation Award in 2009.

# New Orleans journalists set to share expertise



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

When New Orleans hosts the American Journalism Historians Association for its 32nd Annual Convention next month, members will have an opportunity to hear from five print and broadcast professionals about the city's history, culture

and media.

AJHA will honor Lee Zurik, investigative reporter and news anchor, at a reception on the evening of Sept. 26. The organization will welcome documentarian Peggy Scott Laborde as speaker for the annual Donna Allen Luncheon on Sept. 27. On the afternoon of Sept. 28, journalists Norman Robinson, Renette DeJoie Hall and Beverly McKenna will sit on the local panel, "One Hundred Years of Media in Louisiana."



*Peggy Scott Laborde*

Vanessa Murphree said that the local committee selected Laborde as the Donna Allen speaker because of the cultural and historical importance of her films.

"When I moved to New Orleans 18 years ago, Peggy Scott Laborde's documentaries gave me understanding and insight into the city's fascinating, unique and colorful history," Murphree said. "Her work takes viewers back in time and shows how the city has had an important cultural influence both locally and nationally."



Murphree said that Laborde's films appeal not only to history lovers but also to almost everyone who lives in or loves New Orleans.

According to Laborde's bio, she has produced, narrated or consulted for more than 45 documentaries. Some of her documentaries have been adapted to books. Most recently, Laborde co-authored a print version of her documentary "The Lost Restaurants of New Orleans" with New Orleans food writer Tom Fitzmorris.

Senior producer for New Orleans PBS station WYES-TV since 1987, Laborde also is the host of a weekly New Orleans arts and entertainment review program called "Steppin' Out," now in its 19th season. She has received numerous awards for her community and professional work.

Another award-winning broadcast personality, Zurik is best known for uncover-



*Lee Zurik*



*Above: Hotel Monteleone. Photo from Monteleone website.*

*Left: Hotel Monteleone Carousel Bar. Photo from Google Images. Laborde photo from WYES.org. Zurik photo from mediabistro.*

ing mismanagement in New Orleans government. Local host committee member Jinx Broussard noted that Zurik is the city's most honored investigative journalist.

Zurik has been on the FOX 8 (WVUE-TV) news team since 2009. He anchors the station's 9 and 10 p.m. newscasts and serves as the station's chief investigative reporter. He has earned several Investigative Reporters and Editors, Edward R. Murrow, and Society of Professional Journalists awards, as well as a Suncoast Emmy.

His most lauded work is a series of more than 50 reports on the New Orleans Affordable Home Ownership program, which led to a federal investigation and dismantling of the program.

Such excellence in journalism dots the history of news in the state of Louisiana, which will be the focus of the local panel. The panel celebrates the centennial of the Manship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State University, where Broussard is an associate professor. Broussard will moderate the panel, and her colleague Ronald Garay will be a panelist.

Joining them on the panel, which explores the past 100 years of the state's media, will be representatives from three New Orleans media entities. Robinson is a long-time news anchor at WDSU-TV, New Orleans' oldest television station. Hall is executive editor of *The Louisiana Weekly*, and Beverly McKenna is a co-founder and publisher/editor of *The New Orleans Tribune*.