



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
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Nord wins top journalism history award

The American Journalism Historians Association has selected David P. Nord, professor emeritus in the Indiana University School of Journalism, as winner of the 2012 Sidney Kobre Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism History.

“I can't think of a more deserving recipient of this award,” said Professor Owen Johnson of Indiana University, who nominated Nord for the award. “I am proud to have served together with him in the School of Journalism for more than 30 years.”

AJHA's highest honor, the Kobre Award recognizes individuals with an exemplary record of sustained achievement in journalism history through research, teaching and professional activities. It is named in honor of the late Sidney Kobre, a newspaperman, professor and author.

Trevor Brown, Indiana University journalism dean emeritus, said that Nord established himself among the elite of journalism historians early in his career.

“His publications and intellectual prowess have earned the admiration of academic historians nationally and internationally,” Brown said.

Nord is the author or editor of four books and more than 40 journal articles and book chapters.

One of Nord's contributions to journalism history was his exploration of religious publishing in Colonial America and its influence on the field of journalism. His 2004 book, *Faith in Reading: Religious Publishing and the Birth of Mass Media in America, 1790-1860*, received AJHA's annual Book Award.

Nord also was one of the first historians to go beyond the content of newspapers and study how people used the newspaper in their daily lives. His collection of essays, *Communities of Journalism: A History of American Newspapers and Their Readers*, was published in 2001.

James L. Baughman, Fetzer Bascom Professor in the School of Journalism & Mass Communication at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, wrote that he cannot teach his undergraduate journalism history class without frequent references to Nord's research. Furthermore, Baughman said that Nord's work usually merits one or two weeks in his graduate seminar.

“The students in the seminar, who can be quite exacting critics, always find themselves impressed with Dave’s research,” Baughman wrote.

Nord earned his undergraduate degree at Valparaiso University, followed by an M.A. in History at the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. in Mass Communication from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He worked as a reporter for the Valparaiso *Vidette-Messenger* and as a reporter and editor for the Associated Press in Minnesota and North Dakota.

He spent his entire professorial career at Indiana University, from 1979 until his retirement in December 2011. In addition to teaching in the School of Journalism, Nord was a Professor of American Studies and an Adjunct Professor of History.

Nord works with the Center for the History of the Book in American Culture at the American Antiquarian Society. He also is the editor of the History News Service (<http://historynewsservice.org>), a syndicate of professional historians who connect scholarly history to popular journalism in an attempt to provide historical context to current events.

Furthermore, Nord has served as interim, acting and associate editor at the *Journal of American History*, the flagship journal of the Organization of American Historians.

Nord will receive the Kobre Award at AJHA’s annual convention, Oct. 11-13, 2012, in Raleigh, N.C.

Founded in 1981, the American Journalism Historians Association seeks to advance education and research in mass communication history. Members work to raise historical standards and ensure that all scholars and students recognize the vast importance of media history and apply this knowledge to the advancement of society. For more information on AJHA, visit <http://www.ajhaonline.org>.

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