



PRESS RELEASE

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PETE SMITH BECOMES FIRST DIGITAL MEDIA EDITOR OF AJHA JOURNAL

Glenn “Pete” Smith, an associate professor in the Department of Communication at Mississippi State University, has joined the staff of *American Journalism* as the first digital media editor.

Since the first issue in 1983, AJHA’s quarterly journal has published articles, essays, research notes, book reviews and correspondence on the history of mass communication. Beginning with the Fall 2012 issue, *American Journalism* also will include reviews of websites, digital exhibits, software and films.

A member of AJHA since 2005, Smith became editor of the new section on July 1.

“The digital media section is a timely addition to *American Journalism*,” Smith said. “We’ll use the section to explore various digital platforms and help media historians navigate that fluid landscape.”

Smith’s research interests include cultural myths in film and the intersections between 20th century media history, biography and gender. Smith wrote his first book on broadcasting pioneer Gertrude Berg and served as the primary consultant on a documentary about her.

Smith also consulted on digital projects related to the documentary, including a UCLA Film and Television Archive digital restoration project. In addition, Smith has worked for HBO Films and as a library media specialist.

Editor Barbara Friedman said that given Smith’s vast experience and enthusiasm, she is certain the new section he is curating will enhance the value of *American Journalism* for teachers and researchers.

The digital media reviews will enable educators to engage students in creative ways and to take an active role in curriculum development for online classes, Friedman said. They also will increase knowledge of digitized archival offerings for scholars with limited travel funds.

Smith said he is pleased to have the opportunity to work with Friedman, Associate Editor Kathy Forde and Book Reviews Editor Dolores Flamiano to improve an already outstanding journal.

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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