



**PRESS RELEASE**

November 4, 2013  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**FEE WINS TOP AMERICAN JOURNALISM AWARD**

*American Journalism* selected “Breaking Bread, Not Bones: Printers’ Festivals and Professionalism in Antebellum America,” authored by Frank E. Fee Jr., as the winner of the Best Article Award for 2013.

Editor Barbara Friedman presented the annual award in September during the American Journalism Historians Association 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention in New Orleans.

Fee, an associate professor emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, said he came across the topic while researching the first days of Frederick Douglass’ *North Star* in Rochester. He found microfilm of three Rochester dailies’ accounts of what they called “Franklin Dinners,” held on or about the anniversary of Benjamin Franklin’s birth in January to celebrate and advance printing and journalism.

“Not having heard of these before, I began investigating, and out of that emerged a new research agenda on early attempts to professionalize newspapering,” said Fee, who received a Joseph McKerns Research Grant Award from AJHA in 2009.

“Breaking Bread, Not Bones” ran in the Summer 2013 issue of *American Journalism* and was featured with teaching ideas and exercises on the journal’s website at <http://www.american-journalism.org/>.

The Best Article Award honors research published in *American Journalism* during the past year that is original and rigorous and makes an outstanding contribution to developing scholarship in the field of journalism and mass communication history. The journal’s Editorial Advisory Board singled out Fee’s article for its meticulous use of archival sources, its elegant prose, and deepening understanding of the roots of professionalization.

“This article challenges long-held beliefs about the origins of professionalization,” one judge wrote. “You might say that contribution alone makes it worthy of the Best Article Award, but in addition, Frank demonstrates a level of care with his sources and with the narrative that make this an exemplar of historical scholarship.”

*American Journalism* also recognized Noah Arceneaux, associate professor in the School of Journalism and Media Studies at San Diego State University, as runner-up for the Best Article Award. His article, “News on the Air: The *New York Herald*, Newspapers, and Wireless Telegraphy, 1899-1917,” appeared in Spring 2013.

*American Journalism* is the quarterly academic journal of the AJHA. 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. Visit <http://www.ajhaonline.org>.

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