



PRESS RELEASE

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BETH KASZUBA WINS BLANCHARD DISSERTATION PRIZE

The American Journalism Historians Association has chosen Beth Kaszuba as the winner of the 2014 Margaret A. Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Prize.

Kaszuba, who earned her doctorate from the Pennsylvania State University, won the award for her dissertation titled, “‘Mob Sisters’: Women Reporting on Crime in Prohibition Era Chicago.”

The dissertation examines the work of five women who worked for the *Chicago Tribune* as general assignment reporters during the 1920s. They covered the city’s crime epidemic with sarcasm, cynicism and slang.

Since 1997, AJHA has given the annual Blanchard prize to the best doctoral dissertation on mass communication history completed during the previous calendar year.

Kaszuba will receive \$500 and a plaque during the annual AJHA convention in St. Paul, Minn., in October. She said she is honored to win the award, partly to make her adviser, Ford Risley, proud.

“He backed and believed in the merit of my project from the beginning and kept me on track,” Kaszuba said. “I’m also pleased to bring more attention to the groundbreaking, Jazz Age female news reporters at the *Chicago Tribune*, whose work has gone largely unrecognized for far too long.”

Risley said it is great to see Kaszuba’s work recognized. “Beth wrote an outstanding thesis that challenges the longstanding view that female reporters worked in narrowly prescribed roles before World War II,” he said.

The following three scholars received honorable mention for their dissertations, and each will receive a \$200 award:

- Kaylene Armstrong for “Telling Their Own Stories: How Student Newspapers Reported Campus Unrest, 1962-1970,” completed at the University of Southern Mississippi (director David R. Davies)
- Patrick C. File for “ ‘Bad’ News Travels Fast: The Telegraph, Syndicated Libel, and Conceptualizing Freedom of the Press, 1890-1910,” completed at University of Minnesota (director Susanna Blumenthal)
- Jessica L. Ghilani for “Selling Soldiering to Consumers: Advertising, Media, and the Volunteer Army,”

completed at University of Pittsburgh (director Ronald J. Zboray).

David Abrahamson, chair of the Margaret A. Blanchard Dissertation Prize Committee, said the group had especially rich dissertations to consider this year.

"The winner and honorable mentions were notable not only for the originality of their arguments, but also the thoroughness of their research, and, not least, the clarity of their writing," Abrahamson said.

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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