



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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HUMPHREY TO RECEIVE AJHA BOOK AWARD

The American Journalism Historians Association has selected Carol Sue Humphrey as the recipient of its annual Book Award. The award will be given at the AJHA national convention, to be held in St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 9-11, 2014.

Humphrey, a professor in the Department of Anthropology, History and Political Science at Oklahoma Baptist University, wrote *The American Revolution and the Press: The Promise of Independence* (Northwestern University Press, 2013).

Part of the Medill School of Journalism's "Visions of the American Press" series, *The American Revolution and the Press* argues that newspapers played an important role during America's struggle for independence by keeping Americans engaged in the war even when the fighting occurred in distant locales.

Humphrey studied hundreds of newspaper articles, autobiographies, diaries, letters and personal papers to craft what Book Award Committee Chair Aimee Edmondson called "an important narrative of the 'times that tried men's souls.'"

Edmondson said that the Book Award Committee reviewed 18 entries for this year's competition, and a distinguished panel of experts agreed that Humphrey's book was most deserving of this honor.

One judge praised the book as meticulously researched and masterfully written. Another said Humphrey's work demonstrates the influence of the press during the Revolutionary Era.

"The role of the press during the revolution has never been questioned, but there certainly have been boisterous debates about the degree to which it influenced the direction and momentum," a judge wrote. "This book lays to rest any doubt, asserting that newspapers of the time were front and center."

Humphrey said she was somewhat in shock to learn of the award. She expressed her gratitude to all of the AJHA members who have encouraged her to research and write, particularly Peggy Blanchard, David Sloan, David Copeland and David Abrahamson.

The American Revolution and the Press, which includes a foreword by Copeland, also is a finalist for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Tankard Book Award.

Humphrey has written several books about the media during the Revolutionary War and in early America, including *The Press of the Young Republic, 1783-1833*.

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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