



PRESS RELEASE

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AJHA LAUDS SCHOLARS WITH RESEARCH GRANTS

The American Journalism Historians Association recognized Michael Martinez and Roger Mellen with Joseph McKerns Research Grants during its 33rd Annual Convention in St. Paul, Minn., Oct. 9-11.

Martinez, assistant professor at the University of Tennessee's School of Journalism and Electronic Media, received funding for his project, "Eyewitness to History: The Image and Public Memory of President Lyndon Baines Johnson Through the Eyes of Yoichi Okamoto."

"The \$1,250 award will fund travel to conduct archival research at the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin, Texas, to study Yoichi 'Okie' Okamoto, President Lyndon Baines Johnson's presidential photographer," said Martinez. "This research is one part of a much larger project to study the photographers responsible for the image and memory of all the presidents from President John F. Kennedy to the present and the photographs they produced."

Mellen, associate professor in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications at New Mexico State University, earned the research grant for his work, "History of the Lee Family and Freedom of the Press in Virginia."

"I have been exploring for many years the origins of the free press clause in the First Amendment. There have been many fallacies about the genesis of this constitutional protection so important for journalists," Mellen said. "I hope to learn more about how—and why—a free press has earned this protection, and what it meant to those who originated the concept."

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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