



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
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TEEL WINS TOP JOURNALISM HISTORY AWARD

The American Journalism Historians Association has selected Leonard Teel as winner of the 2014 Sidney Kobre Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism History. Teel is a professor of Communication and director of the Center for International Media Education at Georgia State University.

David Sloan, who nominated Teel for the honor, wrote that Teel is the type of person whose accomplishments would speak well for the award itself and provide great evidence of the outstanding record that the award recognizes.

AJHA's highest honor, the Kobre Award recognizes individuals with an exemplary record of sustained achievement in journalism history through research, teaching and professional activities. It is named in honor of the late Sidney Kobre, a newspaperman, professor and author.

Teel is the author of numerous books, encyclopedia entries, articles and essays. Most notable among his works is a biography of Ralph Emerson McGill, which won the 2002 Frank Luther Mott-Kappa Tau Alpha Award for best book in mass communication, and *Into the Newsroom: An Introduction to Journalism*, which has gone through three editions and been translated into Spanish, Arabic, Armenian and Chinese.

Furthermore, Sloan noted that Teel's 30-year teaching career has been a distinguished one.

"He has been what we would think of as the model scholar/teacher, the individual who upholds the highest standards for his students, his colleagues and his field," Sloan wrote.

Among Teel's teaching accomplishments is the founding of the Georgia State University Journalism History Society and its refereed journal the *Atlanta Review of Journalism History*, which primarily showcases student scholarship. Teel also has strengthened the position of journalism history in the graduate and undergraduate curriculum at GSU and sponsored several student papers at the AJHA Southeast Symposium.

AJHA previously has honored Teel for his work with students with the National Excellence in Teaching Award in 2011.

Teel's mentorship has extended beyond his own students at GSU to other students at AJHA and junior faculty as well. Giovanna Dell'Orto wrote that Teel has been a kind, compassionate and attentive

mentor, always ready to listen and give guidance to junior colleagues. Ross Collins relayed a similar sentiment.

“I can confidently say that Dr. Teel’s guidance is one reason I received tenure and later was promoted to full professor,” Collins wrote.

Finally, Sloan said that Teel has been one of the most dedicated members of AJHA since attending his first conference in 1984. In addition to serving as president of AJHA, Teel has served two terms on the Board of Directors, sat on the Task Force on History in the Curriculum, and hosted the 1989 national convention in Atlanta.

Teel earned his undergraduate and master’s degrees at University of Miami, followed by a Ph.D. in British History from Georgia State University. He has worked as a reporter, feature writer, columnist, and copy editor at *The Atlanta Constitution and Journal*, *The Washington Evening Star*, *The Miami Herald*, *Fort Lauderdale News* and *The Lancaster News Era*. He also has freelanced in computer-assisted newsroom production for CNN, where he won a Broadcast Emmy for team coverage of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

Teel will receive the Kobre Award at AJHA’s annual convention, Oct. 9-11, 2014, in St. Paul, Minn.

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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