



PRESS RELEASE

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VOSS WINS AWARD FOR FOOD HISTORY

American Journalism Historians Association member Kimberly Wilmot Voss received the Association of Food Journalists first Carol DeMasters Service to Food Journalism Award for her research on food journalism history.

Established this year to honor a co-founder and former executive director of AFJ, the award was presented Sept. 11 at the annual food journalism conference in Memphis. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual who has made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of food journalism.

Voss is passionate about the history of food journalism and has written extensively about the topic. Her recent book “The Food Section: Newspaper Women and the Culinary Community” combines her interests in food history and the history of women journalists.

The book tells the stories of about 60 food journalists from across the country from the 1940s to 1970s, setting the record straight on an often maligned segment of the journalistic population.

Voss said that for nearly a decade, everything she read described female food editors as simple or unethical.

“Broad assumptions were made, yet no one cited any actual research,” Voss said. “No one gave them credit for the important work that they did.”

At times, Voss said, she wondered if she was missing something. Then she received a tweet from the *New York Times’* Pete Well stating that the newspaper’s first food editor, Jane Nickerson, had been wrongly overlooked.

Reflecting on the research process for her acceptance speech, Voss recalled that it had been lonely and scary to write a different version of food history.

AFJ recognized Voss’ pioneering work as necessary. Furthermore, according to the organization’s press release on the award, Voss’ book and other writings demonstrate an understanding of the important role that AFJ has played in promoting responsible food journalism.

Receiving the DeMasters award brings Voss full circle to the roots of her interest in food journalism. When she was growing up in Wisconsin, Voss read the work of *Milwaukee Journal* food editor Peggy Daum, a founder of AFJ.

“In addition, the award is named for Carol DeMasters, the former food editor at the *Milwaukee Sentinel*,” Voss said. “I interviewed her for my book.”

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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