



**PRESS RELEASE**

April 9, 2015

For Immediate Release

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**CARRIE TERESA WINS BLANCHARD DISSERTATION PRIZE**

The American Journalism Historians Association has selected Carrie Teresa as the winner of the 2015 Margaret A. Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Prize.

Teresa, an assistant professor at Niagara University, won the award for her dissertation titled, “Looking at the Stars: The Black Press, African American Celebrity Culture, and Critical Citizenship in Early Twentieth Century America, 1895-1935.”

This study examined how African American journalists and editors writing at the height of Jim Crowism covered celebrity culture and how this coverage was connected to the fight for civil rights.

Teresa will receive \$500 and a plaque during the 2015 AJHA national convention in Oklahoma City in October.

Teresa completed her dissertation at Temple University under the direction of Carolyn Kitch.

AJHA grants the annual award to the best doctoral dissertation dealing with mass communication history completed during the prior calendar year. The prize has been awarded since 1997.

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

- Sid Bedingfield for “Beating Down the Fear: The Civil Sphere and Political Change in South Carolina, 1940-1962,” completed at the University of South Carolina (director Kathy Roberts Forde, now at University of Massachusetts-Amherst).

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- Kevin Lerner for “Gadfly to the Watch Dogs: How the Journalism Review [MORE] Goaded the Mainstream Press Toward Self-Criticism in the 1970s,” completed at Rutgers University (director David Greenberg).
- Robert J. Woodruff for “Foretelling the Everyday: Early Modern English Almanacs Prepare a Public for News,” completed at the University of Maryland (director Maurine Beasley).

All four scholars will discuss their work during a special session at the AJHA national convention.

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 [ajhaonline.org](http://ajhaonline.org).

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