



PRESS RELEASE

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SWEENEY NAMED LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER

The American Journalism Historians Association has selected Mike Sweeney, associate director for graduate studies at the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, as the 2015 Sidney Kobre Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism History recipient.

As 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.

Eugenia Palmegiano, professor emerita of history at St. Peter's University, praised Sweeney for his contributions to the field of journalism history.

"History is losing its audience because too many historians are speaking to each other in jargon instead of acquainting the public with the past in clear language," she said. "Mike is one of the few who has used media of all sorts to reverse the trend."

Sweeney served as AJHA's president in 2004-2005, but is perhaps better known for his uncanny ability as the Media History auctioneer. He has been responsible for raising significant funding for graduate students during the (not so) silent auction.

"As the crowd-pleasing auctioneer, he cajoled and teased attendees into making purchases or donating funds totaling thousands of dollars to benefit graduate students," said Bernell Tripp, associate professor at the University of Florida.

Sweeney has authored 18 books, 10 refereed journal articles, 14 encyclopedia entries, and 24 refereed conference research papers. In 2002, Sweeney won the AJHA Book Award for *Secrets of Victory*. These accomplishments have not gone unnoticed by his peers.

“I know of no more polished writer in our ranks,” said Maurine Beasley, professor emerita at the University of Maryland.

Sweeney earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, followed by a Master of Journalism at the University of North Texas and a Ph.D. in Journalism from Ohio University. He worked as a reporter for National Geographic, where he filed daily news dispatches for the website on the progress of Dr. Robert Ballard’s expedition to Titanic.

Sweeney will receive the Kobre Award at AJHA’s annual convention, Oct. 8-10, in Oklahoma City, Okla.

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.

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