



**PRESS RELEASE**

August 16, 2016

For Immediate Release

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**TEEL TO RECEIVE AJHA BOOK AWARD**

The American Journalism Historians Association has selected Leonard Teel as the recipient of its annual Book of the Year Award. Teel will receive the award and discuss his research during a special session at the 35th annual AJHA convention in St. Petersburg.

Teel, professor emeritus in the Department of Communication at Georgia State University, wrote *Reporting the Cuban Revolution: How Castro Manipulated American Journalists* (LSU Press, 2015). In it, Teel reveals the untold stories of 13 American journalists in Cuba whose stories about Fidel Castro's revolution changed the way Americans viewed the conflict and altered U.S. foreign policy in Castro's favor.

According to one judge, Teel's account of Castro's relationship with the press skillfully draws upon a variety of historical documents and telling details.

"This book brings to life an important episode in journalism history and breaks new ground by reinterpreting – with solid evidence – Castro's manipulation of American journalists during and immediately after the Cuban revolution," the judge wrote.

Another judge stated that Teel presents a compelling story of a pivotal time in American history.

"Leonard Teel narrates a fascinating account about a baker's dozen of journalists on whom the United States relied for their insights and understanding of the Cuban Revolution," the judge said. "Reporting the Cuban Revolution shows American reporters posing as sugar planters, miners, and tourists in an effort to get the story of a revolutionary island nation that unbeknownst to them would bring the world to the brink of nuclear war."

Teel thanks his fellow journalism historians for their support and advice.

“I know for a fact that this book, as it is now, would not have been written without advice from my AJHA colleagues,” Teel remarked. “In the beginning they prodded me to rethink the project. Afterwards they confirmed my new focus, recognizing what was the book’s backbone – that is, how and why the U.S. mass media could have been so thoroughly manipulated.”

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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