



PRESS RELEASE

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DAVIS TO BE HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED ADMINISTRATOR

The American Journalism Historians Association has selected Dr. Charles N. Davis, dean of the University of Georgia Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, to receive this year's Distinguished Administrator Award. Davis will be recognized during the Awards Reception at the Hilton St. Petersburg Bayfront Hotel on Thursday, Oct. 8, in St. Petersburg.

Fred Blevens, professor at Florida International University's College of Communication and Journalism, nominated Davis for this award.

"Charles Davis has long been a supporter of media history and the AJHA," Blevens said. "As an administrator at the University of Missouri and the Grady College, he has recognized the importance of history in the curriculum. He has hired and promoted faculty who teach and conduct research in media history. I'm delighted that we have this opportunity to honor him."

Janice Hume, head of the journalism department at the University of Georgia, feels fortunate to work with Davis at UGA.

"I'm absolutely delighted that AJHA is honoring Charles Davis with this award for administrative excellence. You could search the country and not find a better dean," Hume said. "He is supportive of media history and is a strong advocate of the First Amendment. He's an administrator whose first reaction is always 'let's do this.' We couldn't be any luckier at Georgia to have him at the helm."

After graduating from North Georgia College, Davis worked for 10 years as a full-time journalist for newspapers, magazines and a news service in Georgia and Florida before completing a master's degree from UGA and earning a doctorate in mass communication from the University of Florida. At Florida,

Davis worked as a research assistant in the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information under the mentorship of the legendary Dr. Bill F. Chamberlin, whom Davis credits as being instrumental in shaping his own academic career.

Davis went on to teaching stints at Georgia Southern University and Southern Methodist University before joining the faculty at Missouri, where he served as a department chair and as executive director of the National Freedom of Information Coalition before assuming the deanship at the University of Georgia. His teaching honors include the Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Teacher of the Year Award in 2008, the Provost's Award for Junior Faculty Teaching in 2001, and the University of Missouri Alumni Association's Faculty/Alumni Award in 2008.

Davis is honored to receive this prestigious award and urges everyone to continue the important work of teaching media history to future generations of journalists.

“As a longtime friend of so many AJHA members, and as a legal scholar with a deep appreciation for the rigor of historical research, I can't tell you how touched I am by this recognition,” Davis said.

“Deans of journalism and mass communication programs must continue to support the inclusion of media history in our curricula, as each passing day serves to remind us all that history informs the present in ways great and small. We're better communicators because of our embrace of the history of our profession.”

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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