



PRESS RELEASE

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AJHA announces McKerns Grant Recipients

The American Journalism Historians Association recently recognized four scholars, representing universities in Georgia, Texas, Mississippi and Washington, for their outstanding ongoing research in the area of media history.

At the AJHA National Convention in St. Petersburg, Florida, the 2016 Joseph McKerns Research Grants went to Debra Reddin van Tuyll of Augusta University, Melita Garza of Texas Christian University, Pete Smith of Mississippi State University and Will Mari of Northwest University.

“The reviewers were impressed with the way theory informed the proposals,” Research Grant Committee Chair Michael Fuhlhage, assistant professor of communication at Wayne State, said. “We were also impressed with the thoroughness of the winners' research proposals, the timetables they outlined, and their resourcefulness in identifying primary sources to seek out.”

The grant recipients' research agendas are diverse and touch on transnational, multilingual and 20th Century American topics.

Reddin van Tuyll is currently examining “The Pre-Famine Irish-American Press, 1809-1840”; Garza “Ignacio Lozano and La Opinion”; Smith “An Investigation of Journalist Merle Miller’s Role in Recording the 1950s Broadcasting Blacklist”; and Mari “A History of English-language Newspaper Newsrooms in Kigali, Rwanda.”

The McKerns Grant is intended to provide research assistance and to recognize and reward the winners. Up to four grants for up to \$1,250 apiece are awarded upon review and recommendation of the Research Grant Committee.

The grant is named in honor of the late Dr. Joseph McKerns, who taught at both The Ohio State University and Southern Illinois University. McKerns served as the fifth president of AJHA (1986-87) and was editor of *The Biographical Dictionary of American Journalism* (1989).

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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