



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Newly elected officers highlight service goals**

When the American Journalism Historians Association held its annual business meeting, four members were elected to serve in leadership positions for the coming three years. Recently, those new members shared their overall goals for their terms.

Dr. Ross Collins of North Dakota State was elected second vice president, a position that will lead Collins to the first vice presidency in 2017-18 academic year and the presidency in 2018-19.

“I’m so excited to have an opportunity to serve my favorite group in this way,” Collins said. “Mass media history is critical to understanding not only American democracy, but democracy worldwide. I’m hoping we can extend our reach to the global world of media history by building research and professional relationships. But what a really hope to do is this: convince everyone that journalism history isn’t only important—it’s fun!”

The AJHA also elected three new board members, Dr. Debra VanTuyll of Augusta University, Dr. Cayce Meyers of Virginia Tech and Dr. Erin K. Coyle of Louisiana State University, each of whom will serve a three-year term.

“I’m looking forward to serving on the board. Journalism history is at a transitional stage,” VanTuyll said. “The second generation of important historians – the Barbara Clouds, David Sloans, Wally Eberhardts, Hazel Dicken-Garcias – are retiring. Those of us who were the new, young turks what seems like just a few years ago are becoming the seasoned historians who are now mentoring the next generation who are engaging with new media and new historical techniques. It's an exciting time to have a role in keeping journalism history relevant and on the radar.”

Coyle listed mentorship and advocacy for the field of journalism history as primary goals during her term.

“I am honored by the opportunity to serve the American Journalism Historians Association,” Coyle said. “I hope to help AJHA continue to foster support for the field of journalism history, specifically by promoting the importance of teaching journalism history, helping to build mentorship opportunities among graduate students and scholars, and providing opportunities for members to share outstanding research.”

Myers expressed a similar excitement upon joining the AJHA leadership.

“I am delighted to be joining the AJHA board,” Myers said. “I have been attending AJHA since graduate school, and have always appreciated the support and feedback the conference has given me as a scholar. I look forward to serving on the Board, and being able to give back to an organization that has been invaluable to me.”

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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