



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **VERGOBBI BUILDS ON AJHA'S MOMENTUM AS NEW PRESIDENT**

New AJHA President David Vergobbi begins his term continuing long-term projects and also setting new goals on membership, AJHA conventions and the role of history in the curriculum.

Vergobbi, an associate professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Utah, was installed president of AJHA at the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in St. Petersburg, Florida.

As president, Vergobbi wants to introduce new goals for AJHA focusing on both growing the organization and responding to issues concerning teaching history.

Vergobbi listed the following among his goals for this year:

- A survey of journalism and mass communication administrators that will address history's potential for helping them maintain curriculum and instruction standards.
- Encouraging members to not only join committees, but to seek committee chair positions.
- A campaign to monitor and respond to First Amendment violations via teaching, research and public outreach.
- A discussion of possible financial assistance for retired members to attend conventions.
- An invitation to all members for their input and suggestions.
- Clarifying and defining the constitutional duties of the Development Committee.
- A continued drive for increased membership.

Vergobbi said he is excited about being able to give back to AJHA, which had a major impact on his academic career.

“Having been involved with AJHA since 1989, I’m delighted and honored to be president of the organization,” Vergobbi said. “The people I’ve met, the work and positions I’ve held in the organization, have defined my academic career in many ways. As an officer I can say ‘Thank you’ through my service, and I’m grateful for the opportunity.”

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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