

# LEAD TIME

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF AEJMC'S NEWSPAPER DIVISION  
MARCH 2005

## Panels set for San Antonio

By Wilson Lowrey

This year our journalism students will need to master Spanish, adjust to an increasingly partisan media environment and prepare for converging news operations – right after they learn basic English grammar.

Yes, challenges are mounting, but the division program for the 2005 convention offers footholds for scrambling educators and students.

Panel sessions will address social issues such as the splintering media environment, professional issues such as journalist privilege and the ombudsman movement, and journalism skills in court reporting and basic grammar. Two sessions focus on Latino media, including an off-site visit to a new Spanish language daily. The program also highlights industry-related research. A panel co-sponsored by Media Management will address convergence scholarship, and a special refereed paper session sponsored by the Council of Affiliates will focus on industry-related research topics, with a cash



Division officers Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez and Wilson Lowrey work on conference programming at a planning meeting in December. (Photo courtesy of M.C. Santana.)

prize for the top paper in this category.

As usual, panel proposals were numerous, and selection was difficult. Also as usual, the tight competition has produced a program that promises to be engaging, relevant and diverse. Here's what we're planning, in detail:

### Return to a partisan press?

History books talk about the partisan press as a relic of the days when political parties sponsored newspapers. The recent election season felt a bit like a time warp, as more media outlets appeared to be spouting a partisan line. As niche marketing challenges the norms of balance and objectivity, what will be the impact on the news profession

and on the democratic process? Oklahoma's Charlyne Berens and Northwestern's David Abrahamson are leading this panel. This Professional Freedom & Responsibility panel is sponsored by the Newspaper Division and co-sponsored by the Magazine Division.  
*Continued, please see page 3*

## Paper contest requires electronic submission

By Frank E. Fee

The Newspaper Division has embarked in a new direction this year with an electronic system to manage the research competition for the AEJMC Annual Convention, Aug. 10-13, in San Antonio, Texas.

We still call them research papers, but the new, electronic system will provide swift digital transmission of the research, plus automatic notification as the papers move from sender to research co-chair

to judge and back again. We expect this process to:

- Reduce the time from submission to notification.
- Cut costs to scholars who submit papers.
- Provide instant acknowledgment when a paper is submitted.
- Permit construction of a permanent database of judges and their interest areas.

- Make it easier to match judges with the paper topics in their areas of specialization.
- Save wear and tear on the judges and others involved in the competition.

Newspaper is not the first division to try this in the AEJMC family, and AEJMC itself lags behind ICA and NCA in moving to online paper submissions.

*Continued, please see page 5*

# Rivas-Rodriguez encourages educators to remain positive

**By Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez**

Charles Dickens could have been referring to the newspaper industry in 2005 when he wrote, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.”

On the one hand, we read of newspapers’ decline: readership is slipping away. The Newspaper Association of America says that daily newspaper readership is dropping steadily; we hold our breaths and read on. In 2003, the NAA analysis showed, 54.1 percent of people in the top 50 markets read a daily newspaper, a drop of more than a full percentage point from 2002. The same holds true for the lucrative Sunday newspaper readership.

Not that the industry is taking it lying down. It seeks to appeal to younger readers who have grown accustomed to free news on the Internet by establishing free tabloid newspapers. And with the rise of a substantial Spanish-speaking Latino population in many parts of the country, several mainstream papers have begun Spanish-language papers.

Hundreds of newspapers have put up wonderful Web versions, and found them competing with the mothership – adding to the sense that news should be free rather than purchased for 50 cents a day.

Meanwhile, on the content side, newspapers have never been better:

- Today there are far more resources available to journalists who can in turn produce important work in their communities and beyond.
- There is more thoughtful debate and commentary among



**Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez**

journalists, helped through organizations such as the Poynter Institute, UNITY: Journalists of Color, etc.

- Newspapers are far more exciting to read, with color, design techniques, graphics and good use of photos.

So what do we tell our students? And how do we prepare them?

What I tell them is that this is a giant story unfolding, the transformation of a business model for an entire industry and we have ring-side seats. There will likely be some new and exciting opportunities presented – perhaps they’ll be part of that.

I tell them that the business is more competitive today than ever – but that there is always room for dedicated, smart, well-prepared journalists. The skills they acquire as newspaper journalists are valuable at large papers and small papers, newsletters, and elsewhere.

As to preparation, we all have our own formulas, our own solutions. If our programs allow, and we see it as worthy, we prepare them for a converged media, showing them how to deliver a story on various platforms. We show them how to be the best reporters/editors/photographers/designers they can possibly be. We instill in them to be resourceful, with the myriad resources at their fingertips.

Because when the dust clears, we want our students to be among those who will make sure that our best journalistic traditions survive intact.

*Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez, an associate professor at the University of Texas at Austin, serves as head of the Newspaper Division.*

## Students, faculty could be courting trouble

**By Penny Summers**

What’s the difference between criminal and civil contempt? Do all juries have to be unanimous? Which is the appellant and which is the appellee? If you find yourself searching for the answers to these questions, you are far from alone.

Journalism educators and journalists bear some responsibility in promoting public understanding of the American judicial process. When educators get it wrong or ignore it, future journalists get

it wrong, consequently, those who rely on media for understanding get it wrong.

The Law and Newspaper divisions are co-sponsoring an important pre-convention workshop you should make plans now to attend: “Court-ing News: Essentials for Journalists and Those Who Teach Them to Cover the Courts.”

With issues such as secret dockets, warrant less searches, national security letters, contempt charges for journalists, high profile trials, habeas corpus and due

process emerging, educators and journalists may find themselves unequipped to explain accurately and fairly to the public what is happening. Judges find it frustrating to be providing civics lessons for journalists after a mistake has been made.

Please mark your calendar now to join us in San Antonio on Tuesday Aug. 9 from 1-5 p.m. for a pre-convention session that will serve your teaching and public understanding.

# Continued: Diverse program offers foothold for educators

## **Journalist's privilege under threat**

Recent court decisions have challenged the notion that journalists have the right to keep source identity to themselves. These cases also have sparked hot public debate about the clash between the dueling necessities of press freedom and law enforcement investigation. This panel, led by Oregon's Kyu Ho Youm and Missouri's Mike Farrell, will offer a discussion of these issues by journalists, judges, legislators and scholars. This PF&R panel is sponsored by the Newspaper Division and co-sponsored by the Law Division.

## **News ombudsmen: Credibility builders or window dressing?**

About 40 daily U.S. newspapers and a handful of TV stations have appointed ombudsmen and public editors to field audience complaints about coverage. Have these "reader representatives" improved news organization performance, or do they merely represent a PR gimmick? A panel of journalists and scholars led by Quinnipiac's Paul Janensch will hash it out. This PF&R panel is sponsored by the Newspaper Division.

## **Boom times for the Latino media**

Along with the growth in Hispanic population has come a boom in Spanish language media in cities such as New York, Miami and San Antonio as well as small communities that knew little diversity until five or 10 years ago. This mini-plenary examines growth in Hispanic print and electronic media. What forms are these media taking, how well are they performing financially, what impact are they having on communities, and how should journalism educators adjust to these

changes? Frank Fee is spearheading the Newspaper Division effort for this mini-plenary, which also is co-sponsored by the Mass Communication & Society Division, the Media Management and Economics Division, and the Community Journalism Interest Group.

## **Off-site visit to Rumbó, a new Hispanic daily**

Participants on this off-site trip will glimpse the challenges of reaching the increasingly important Spanish-language market, the state-of-the-art production process used in this and other locations, and the outlook for this and similar ventures. This visit is co-sponsored by Newspaper Division and the Minorities and Communication Division.

## **Convergence and the news**

Convergence research is still new, but the scholarship by journalism, media management and comm tech researchers has grown. Research at the newsroom level has focused on culture clashes, training and hiring, and consequences for news content, while research at macro levels has focused on corporate mergers, management strategies and regulatory changes. Panelists will discuss research trends

and theoretical approaches. Ball State's Vincent Filak and Oklahoma's Peter Gade are coordinating this research panel, which is sponsored by Newspaper Division and co-sponsored by the Media Management and Economics Division.

## **Why can't they write? Getting students up to speed on the fundamentals**

A recent string of e-mails on the division's listserv made it clear that journalism educators are pulling their hair out over students' lack of basic skills in grammar, usage, spelling and style. Some possible solutions include online exercises, grammar CDs, self-help books, university writing labs, peer tutors and entrance exams. Panelists and audience will discuss these and other methods. What has been tried and what seems to be working? Gerald

Grow of Florida A&M and Jan Larson of Wisconsin-Eau Claire head up this teaching panel, which is sponsored by the Magazine Division and co-sponsored by the Newspaper Division.

## **Pre-convention workshop: Covering the courts**

Too few reporters covering court proceedings understand what they're covering. If reporters are confused, how can they explain proceedings

to the public? This workshop, coordinated by Northern Kentucky's Penny Summers, will bring together journalists, justices and lawyers to identify and discuss the court-reporting essentials that educators need to teach future journalists. The workshop is sponsored by Law Division and co-sponsored by the Newspaper Division.

*Wilson Lowrey, an assistant professor at the University of Alabama, is Newspaper Division vice head.*



# Wanna' converge?

By Edna Negrón

Preparing the next generation of journalists has never been more complex. What do students need to know to be good journalists and work effectively in merged print, television and online newsroom operations?

Convergence is a topic tackled by many at recent AEJMC conventions and in the industry. Preliminary findings of the first phase of a recent study of newspapers conducted by the Media Design Center at Ball State University found that convergence is happening in all circulation areas.

A survey of 372 newspaper editors, released in November, showed that about 30 percent of the newspapers are involved in news gathering partnerships with television stations. But the majority of newspapers are still not fully converged with their TV partners. The next installments of the study this year will examine the role of broadcast and online operations.

While editors are defining the scope of the relationships between media, many journalism educators are moving toward teaching cross-platform journalism based, in part, on where the industry is heading. A 2002 study by the University of South Florida, found that 78 percent of professionals surveyed said that journalism majors should learn writing as well as multimedia skills, including TV production, digital photography and Web publishing.

To be sure, there's a wide variety of curricular models evolving. For example, Indiana University unveiled a new convergence curriculum at the AEJMC convention in Toronto. According to the university web site, the goal is to produce students who communicate "visually and verbally with audiences that seek out information from a variety of sources while still providing a strong core of skills in at least one type of media."

Elsewhere, the University of Kansas last fall opened a multimedia newsroom where student produce stories across platforms. At Ramapo College of New Jersey, a growing state school, the communication arts program opened a dedicated multimedia lab where students report, write and produce stories for an online news publication using a content management system. Production requires students to understand sound and motion for the Web, design principles and digital photography.

The world is already converged with multimedia and portable devices changing our way of life. So as we review our syllabi for the Spring semester, we might in consider where our classes are and where we want to go with multimedia instruction.

Last year, I was one of about 26 professors who participated in a Poynter Institute seminar exploring convergence journalism for educators. The participants represented schools that were already experimenting or adapting curriculum to reflect changes in newsrooms. Everyone agreed we need to turn out good journalists with solid, accurate information gathering and news writing skills. But when to introduce students

to cross-platform instruction, particularly what to teach in the introductory writing classes, was a primary question.

Speaker James Gentry, former dean of the University of Kansas who moved the curriculum toward convergence, explained how process and values such as ethics and teamwork and a focus on what's best for students play integral roles in re-evaluating curriculum. In the course design, audience, purpose and medium are some key considerations. What editors look for in candidates also can be a guide.

As the Poynter group discussed cross-platform curriculum, some questions raised included the following:

**Program scope:** Who will participate? Will there be journalism concentrations or tracks? Should introductory courses be designed to ensure that students are well-grounded in news writing, for example, focusing mainly on print and gradually expanding to broadcast and Web?

**Program emphasis:** Will students be well-grounded in one medium, but understand how to storytell across platforms or be proficient across media? When would you introduce visual storytelling and would students need to learn Flash, for example, to be able to tell a more effective multimedia story?

**Sequence and structure:** Where does the cross-platform reporting and writing belong? Will class be taught in labs? Will there be team-teaching?

**Investment of resources:** What will be the commitment to train faculty? What technology will be available?

**Advisement:** How and when do you advise students which courses to take?

So how does this revamped cross-platform curriculum translate to preparing students to enter an industry in flux? Editors generally seek good journalists who can report and write well and who are proficient in one medium. But they say they value the candidate who is willing to explore conveying news in other media.

For example, at the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, a Tribune newspaper and pioneer in newsroom convergence, there are seven online content producers, six radio reporter/anchors and six television producers who work with local partners, says David Blackwell, deputy managing editor for multimedia. The staff provides daily content for radio and television partners as well as operates sun-sentinel.com, primarily for breaking news. And increasingly, the newsroom print staff contributes to the converged operation.

A measure of how well we train students is their employability. And Blackwell says employees are hired for their expertise in a particular medium, but "a candidate who has expertise in one medium but is literate in how other media work has a significant edge over a candidate who is only knowledgeable about a single medium."

*Edna Negrón is an assistant professor at Ramapo College of New Jersey and teaching standards co-chair of the Newspaper Division.*

# Continued: Division goes electronic

We are using ConfMaster, a German system that the Communication Technology and Policy Division used successfully last year and will again use this year, while the Media Management and Economics Division is experimenting with another electronic system this year.

Research papers will be submitted electronically and then evaluated by judges who will be picking up their papers from a special Web site. The system will automatically keep track of papers and automatically acknowledge the movement. This process will provide for much more efficient and quick process in which judges will be able to get on the papers immediately.

By collecting the papers on the Web site, we should save up to a week traditionally spent receiving, logging, sorting, matching, and then sending papers off to be judged. Moreover, scholars who have submitted their work will be apprised of progress in a much more timely fashion than some divisions have been able to do in the past.

The information you see here will be posted to our Web site as well, and a reminder note will be sent out soon on the division's listserv to make sure that we reach the widest possible number in the scholarly community. If you have questions, though, be sure to get in touch with me at [ffee@email.unc.edu](mailto:ffee@email.unc.edu).

## SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONLINE SUBMISSION

1. Go to the paper submission Web site [http://news\\_division.confmaster.net/](http://news_division.confmaster.net/)

at and click on the link "Register as new author." Once you fill in all the required information and hit "Submit," you should receive an e-mail with your User ID and password. The system will now allow you to log in to submit papers.

2. Once you log in, you can click on the link "Edit userdata" to change your password, user ID, other specifications etc. To begin the process of submitting papers, please click on the link "Register paper." You will then be directed to a page where you will be required to enter the title of your paper, a 75-word abstract, and names and e-mail addresses of co-authors, if any.

3. Finally, click on the "Browse" button to select the file to upload. The system is configured to accept papers in the following formats: as a Word document (.doc), as a .pdf file, or as an .rtf file. [If at all possible, we recommend that you submit your paper as a word file.]

4. Once you have selected the file, click on the "Submit" button and you are done! You will receive an e-mail confirmation upon successful submission.

5. Please ensure that there is no identifying information anywhere on the paper. That is, unlike the traditional hardcopy submission, please DO NOT include a cover page with names and contact information of authors. In addition, Microsoft Word allows you to get rid of identifying information as follows: Under the File menu, select "Properties." Then, clear all fields, hit "OK" and save the file. You can double-check by going to "Properties" once again (you should NOT see any identifying information now).

6. Please note that authors must

upload their papers only on the paper submission site. Other forms of submission (e.g., electronic attachments via e-mail, fax, hardcopy) will NOT be accepted for review.

7. Authors who wish to submit papers for review will be able to upload their papers on/after March 25. The system is configured to stop accepting papers after midnight (PST), April 1, 2005.

This edition of Leadtime includes the division's official call for papers. Please visit the Newspaper Division Website at <http://aejmc.net/newspaper> for more information and the latest updates. You may also go through AEJMC's Uniform Call for Papers at the AEJ Website (<http://www.aejmc.org/calls/05papercall.html>).

## A SPECIAL RESEARCH SESSION ON NEWSPAPERS FOR AEJMC 2005

The Council of Affiliates and the Newspaper Division are sponsoring a special session on industry-oriented research, with a cash prize for top paper in this category. Papers submitted for this competition should be clearly identified.

If you have any questions or would like additional information/details, please contact: Dr. Frank E. Fee Jr., Newspaper research co-chair, e-mail: [ffee@email.unc.edu](mailto:ffee@email.unc.edu).

*Frank E. Fee is an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina and serves as research co-chair of the Newspaper Division.*

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## Special call for papers

A special refereed paper session at the national convention sponsored by the Council of Affiliates will focus on industry-related research, with a cash prize for the top paper in this category. This initiative was suggested by Randy Reddick of Texas Tech, and 139 paper topic ideas can be found at <http://aejmc.net/newspaper/news-research.html>. Earl J. Wilkinson of the International Newspaper Marketing Association came up with the suggestions after surveying members. It's hoped this pilot project will lead to research that will provide guidelines to the industry and narrow the gap between "us and them."

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## Teachers: Are you outstanding in your field?

Do you know a colleague who is an excellent teacher, who goes above and beyond the scope of his or her duties to serve students, and who has a track record of training and helping students launch their journalism careers?

The Newspaper Division wants to hear about those professors. The deadline for nominations is April 18. Look for details on the division listserv.

# Profs & pros work together

**By Kathleen Woodruff Wickham**

Every Tuesday during the fall semester five students enrolled in an advanced journalism classes at the University of Mississippi climbed into a van and rode for 90 minutes to Memphis, Tenn., to meet their professor.

Not just any professor. Their class was taught by Otis Sanders, managing editor of The Commercial Appeal, a 236,000 circulation daily newspaper, the largest in the tri-state region of Mississippi, Tennessee and Arkansas. The purpose of the class was to give the students real-time exposure to newsroom events and activities, plus opportunities to practice their skills under the watchful eyes of senior editors and reporters.

The program demonstrated an essential function of AJEMC professional freedom and responsibility activities. PF&R calls for enhancing professional relationships between educators and media professionals. In this case, the Ole Miss journalism department reached out to the profession to create a new forum for teaching essential journalism skills while at the same time creating a situation where the newspaper also benefited from access to talented writers in a non-traditional format.

“I think it improved our relationship with the Ole Miss journalism department,” Sanford said. “It was a tremendous amount of work added to my already busy load, but I enjoyed interacting with the students and teaching them a thing or two about the daily world of newspaper journalism.”

In addition to covering city council and school board meetings, staffers met with the students, as did city council members. The students assisted in election night coverage, with assignments at various campaign headquarters. The students also wrote profiles and earned bylines for their work.

Dr. Samir Husni, who developed the class, said he did so because: “We are experts at bringing the newsroom to the classroom but bringing the classroom to the newsroom is critical to breaking down the academic walls.”

Senior Marquita Brown, who held several previous internship, said, “The class combined everything that I wanted in a journalism class with the few things I felt I lacked in actual newsroom experience.”

Senior Erin Smith, who also participated, said, “I shadowed the many Memphis dispatchers, and being able to see inside the workings of a major metropolis was unbelievable. I come from small-town Oxford where minor fire calls are the news moments of the night to a city where this one man stabbed this woman eight times on the lawn on their house, and did I mention they were both naked at the time. I mean, it was a eye-opening, yet fun, experience.”

Husni, who is serving as interim chair, has two additional projects planned for the spring semester—a profile writing class will be assisting the editors of the New Albany (Miss.) Gazette to create a city magazine and newspaper design students will create a new design for the Tate County Democrat, Senatobia, Miss.

More commonly the relationship between professors and journalists rest on classroom visits by newspaper reporters and editors and having journalists serve on departmental advisory boards.

Occasionally, newsrooms will ask a professor to conduct a brown bag or training session, while also opening their doors to summer interns or a professor-in-resident program focusing on writing or editing skills. But other options exist.

Dick Hughes, editorial page editor/newsroom trainer, at the Statesman Journal, Salem, Ore., said he has held editorial board meetings in front of classes and asked a Willamette University professor to serve on the editorial board as a community member for six months.

Hughes said he would like to see more professors write columns, or encourage their students to do so, on ethical issues or current events.

“I’d love to see more professional journalists teaching as adjunct professors, and more professors taking part-time jobs or advisory roles in the newsroom,” added Hughes, who teaches the sole journalism course offered at Willamette.

Hughes said, “The class makes me a better journalist, as it constantly refreshes me despite my nearly 30 years in the craft. It builds a bridge between the newspaper and the university.”

Michael Roberts, deputy managing editor/staff development at The Arizona Republic, said that when he was training editor at The Cincinnati Enquirer most of his interaction with professors evolved around discussing interns and recruitment. He said he would have liked more information about potential interns, including their strengths and weaknesses.

“This requires a professor to really understand our newsroom and not view placing interns as a competitive sport. Several seemed to just want the placement, and really did not understand the jobs, the requirements or the work,” Roberts said.

In Phoenix, where another person recruits interns, Roberts said he is asked to speak to classes but often, “I have little idea of what the class has covered, will cover or where I might fit in.”

David Waters, associate editor of The Commercial Appeal, who teaches a class at the University of Memphis, described his relationship with the Memphis faculty as positive, constructive and collegial. He added that some professors have assisted him in preparing for the class he teaches.

However, he added, “I’ve been a bit disappointed by how ill prepared many students are when they get to my junior-senior level class. They haven’t done enough writing.”

Carla Kimbrough-Robinson, associate editor/staff development at The Denver Post, asked that professors place more emphasis on diversity and on the value of starting out at small papers.

“The most irritating thing I encounter is that professors don’t seem to realize what they can do to improve the diversity situation in U.S. newsrooms. That means the importance of feedback and getting the students to pursue internships early in their collegiate career. If journalism profs can address those two issues, we are on the same page,” Kimbrough-Robinson said.

*Kathleen Woodruff Wickham, an assistant professor at the University of Mississippi, serves as Newspaper Division PF&R chair.*

# Quotable

By Stephen Banning

Like many of you, I have reviewed papers in many divisions over the years without stopping to ask why. I posed this question to some colleagues and received a variety of responses:

"It gives a sense of what's happening in the field. You have an idea of what scholars are working on. Scholars not only gain service, they gain a broader understanding when they review for conferences. It's nice to step out of our box and look over the wall and see what others are doing." -- Professor Richard Nelson

"As a new faculty member I'm trying to get a feel for what reviewers are looking for. I can learn from manuscript writers' mistakes and as well as excellent papers." -- Assistant Professor Lisa Lundy

"I think we need people to review who know the topic area and methodology. The more who do it, the better quality of the judging." -- Assistant Professor Renita Coleman

"It's a good way to contribute to research in terms of helping others, and it helps me keep up with research in the field." -- Associate Professor Anne Cunningham

"Because colleagues ask me."-- anonymous

We hope you will offer your services to review for the Newspaper Division for the upcoming AEJMC conference. We expect each judge to review three or four articles each. For information, contact one of the research co-chairs, Stephen Banning (sbanning@lsu.edu) or Frank Fee (ffee@email.unc.edu).

## NRJ seeks back issues

The *Newspaper Research Journal* needs your help in restoring a bit of the journal's history.

The folks at the journal are looking someone to donate copies of the following issues to NRJ's archives: Vol. 1, No. 3 and Vol. 3, No. 1. These two issues will be scanned by one of our online services so that the entire collection will be available online and searchable. The two issues will have to be pulled apart, so they can't be returned.

In other news, the NRJ Web site is up at [newspaperresearchjournal.org](http://newspaperresearchjournal.org).

LEADTIME  
MARCH 2005

STEVE J. COLLINS, EDITOR  
SPECIAL THANKS TO UNIVERSITY OF  
CENTRAL FLORIDA MAGAZINE EDITING STUDENTS  
FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN EDITING THIS  
PUBLICATION.

## Let's Rumbo!

Make reservations to visit the new Hispanic daily Rumbo during this summer's AEJMC convention.

Rumbo is not a spin-off from a traditional publication, as are most Spanish-language papers. Publisher Edward Schumacher Matos, a Wall Street Journal alum, envisions Rumbo as a precursor to a string of "authentic" Latino dailies throughout Texas and beyond. Participants on this off-site trip will glimpse first-hand the challenges of reaching the increasingly important Spanish-language market, the state-of-the-art production process used in this and other locations, and the outlook for this and similar ventures.

Robert Huesca of Trinity University is coordinating the visit. Participants will be taken by van to Rumbo, which is five minutes away from the hotel.

There are 21 slots open for Newspaper Division members (though more may become available). To guarantee a spot, please contact program chair Wilson Lowrey at [wlowrey@bama.ua.edu](mailto:wlowrey@bama.ua.edu).

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## Wanted: Nominees for PF&R Professor of the Year award

By Kathleen Woodruff Wickham

The Newspaper Division seeks Nominees for the Professional Freedom and Responsibility Professor of the Year award, given infrequently in recent years.

This is your chance to nominate an individual who has demonstrated a deep and abiding commitment to one, many or all of the five areas of professional freedom and throughout his/her career. The five areas of professional freedom and responsibility: free expression; ethics; media criticism and accountability; racial, gender, and cultural inclusiveness; and public service. Nominations are due April 1.

The award is given to recognize, reinforce and reward excellence. It is open to any journalism classroom teacher who is a full-time faculty member of a bachelor's degree-granting institution of higher education in the United States.

A nomination letter of no more than two pages should cover information regarding the nominee's commitment to PF&R. A recent copy of the nominee's vita is required.

Please mail to:

Kathleen Woodruff Wickham  
PF&R chair, Newspaper Division  
Assistant professor/journalism  
Farley Hall  
University of Mississippi  
University, Miss. 38677

*Kathleen Woodruff Wickham, an assistant professor at the University of Mississippi, serves as Newspaper Division PF&R chair.*

# Newspaper Division Call for Papers

The Newspaper Division invites faculty and students to submit research papers regarding newspaper topics for presentation at the association's annual meeting. The deadline for submission is April 1.

Sessions will be devoted to theoretically based studies of newspapers or issues concerning the newspaper industry. Both quantitative and qualitative research in newspaper history, law, policy, effects, processes, use and ethics are welcome. Papers may not be longer than 25 pages, excluding tables, figures and references.

The Newspaper Division offers an open competition in which student papers compete with faculty papers. However, student

authors are encouraged to be considered for the MacDougall Student Paper Award, in which a \$200 prize and a plaque are given to the top student paper. Papers to be considered for the MacDougall Student Paper Award should be noted as such on the front page of the manuscript and in the letter of submission. All authors of the paper must be students in order to be considered for this award.

In addition to the student award, awards are given to the top three Newspaper Division papers. Winners receive a \$100 award and a plaque. All papers submitted to the division are automatically considered for these awards. All submissions will be blind refereed by a panel of independent

reviewers. Authors will be notified whether their paper has been accepted and will receive a copy of the reviewers' comments by May 15. Papers are accepted on the understanding they have not been previously presented or published and are not under consideration by a scholarly journal or by another scholarly or trade organization.

All entries should follow the AEJMC Uniform Call for Papers.

If you have any questions, or require more information about the submission process, please contact Research Co-chair Dr. Stephen Banning by e-mail ([sbanning@lsu.edu](mailto:sbanning@lsu.edu)) or Research Co-chair Dr. Frank E. Fee Jr. by e-mail ([ffee@email.unc.edu](mailto:ffee@email.unc.edu)) or phone (919-962-4071).

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