

CTEC

Summer 2007

Communication Technology
Division Newsletter

Get ready for Washington!

DANIELA V. DIMITROVA
Division Head



Greetings division members! I am glad to report that CTEC has had another great year as a division, thanks to all of you division officers and division members.

As the AEJMC convention gets closer, I'd like to highlight a couple of things that are unique about this year's convention: first, Wednesday offers many interesting pre-convention opportunities. We are co-sponsoring a wonderful all-day workshop on multimedia titled "Teaching and Working in a Multimedia World." I certainly hope many of you will be able to

attend. Note that on the convention registration form, this five-panel workshop is called: "**Industry Leaders**" (VISC, CTEC, MAG, RTVJ, CCJA) - **Wednesday, August 8, 1 - 10 p.m.** and has a \$35 fee. Also, convention programming continues through Sunday afternoon so make note of that as you make your travel plans.

The Washington convention will keep you busy. It offers many exciting events, including the opening gala in the Newseum and the AEJMC keynote address by renowned journalist Bill Moyers, both on Thursday evening. As always, CTEC's program includes the **Jung-Sook Lee (Thursday, August 9, 8:15 a.m.)** and the **Best of the Web (Saturday, August 11, 8:15 a.m.)** sessions. Stop by to find out who are the winners

this year. Our **top faculty papers** are scheduled for **Friday, August 10, 11:45 a.m.** You can find the complete CTEC program in this newsletter.

I would also like to remind you about the division **members' meeting** where we will elect next year's officers. The meeting will take place on **Friday at 8:30 p.m.** and I hope you'll be able to attend. We welcome fresh faces and self-nominations for the different positions. If you are interested in becoming an officer and would like more information about a particular position, you can email me before the convention.

Get ready for another capital experience. Look forward to seeing you in D.C.!

Daniela V. Dimitrova is an assistant professor at Iowa State University and can be reached at danielad@iastate.edu.

These are the "best of the web" winners

CINDY ROYAL
Best of the Web Competition Coordinator



The judging has been completed on the AEJMC Best of the Web competition and the results are in. Thirty-eight entries were submitted across four categories. First place was awarded in each category, with three categories awarding

2nd place prizes. The Journalism Sites category, which had the most entrants with 16, awarded a tie for 2nd place.

The winners will present their sites at the Best of the Web panel on August 12 at 8:15am during the AEJMC National Convention in Washington D.C. All conference attendees are invited. Links to the winning sites can be found on the Communication Technology Web site. This AEJMC competition has been conducted each year since 1997. It is sponsored jointly by the Communication Technology division and the Visual Communication division. Roxanne O'Connell and I would like to thank the entrants for their outstanding contributions.

Category 1 – Department/School site

1st Place: Michael Scott Sheerin – Florida International University – School of Journalism and Mass Communication - <http://jmc.fiu.edu/>
Co-creators - Brian Friedman, Carlos Alvarez

Category 2 – Teaching Sites

1st Place: Gary Hansen – Kent State University – Media, Power, and Culture Course Site - <http://classes.jmc.kent.edu/mpc>
2nd Place: Carol Schwalbe – Arizona State University – Advanced Online Media Course Site - <http://www.public.asu.edu/~clutyk/Advanced/>

Category 3 – Journalism Sites

1st Place: Howard Goldbaum – University of Nevada, Reno – A Living Legacy: Six Generations of the Dressler Ranch - <http://www.jour.unr.edu/goldbaum/dressler/index.html>
Co-Creators: John Caldwell, Traci Garvin, Dylan Krenka, Kanako Nobori, Heather Shalzenberger, and Gang Wu
Tie: 2nd Place: Carol Schwalbe – Arizona State University – Children of the Borderlands - <http://cronkitezine.asu.edu/children/>
Co-Creators: Ljiljana Ciric (undergraduate) Michael Lisi (undergraduate)

Tie: 2nd Place: Rich Beckman – University of North Carolina – Atacama Stories - <http://www.atacamastories.org>

Co-Creators: Senior Producer: Mike Schmidt (staff); Director of Infographics: Alberto Cairo (Assistant Professor); Associate Producer: Gabriel Dance (Graduate Student); Audio Coach: Jay Heinz (Graduate Student); Programming Consultant: Tom Jackson (Graduate Student)

Category 4 – Creative

1st Place: Kim Grinfeder – University of Miami – National Geographic Photocamp - <http://viscom.miami.edu/photocamp>
Co-creators: Brian Schlansky
2nd Place: Edgar Huang - Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis – Searching for an Ideal Streaming Technology - <http://www.iupui.edu/~nmstream/index.php>
Co-creators: Clifford C. Marsiglio Manager of Development - The Testing Center Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis

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Balanced programming

MARK TREMAYNE
Vice Head

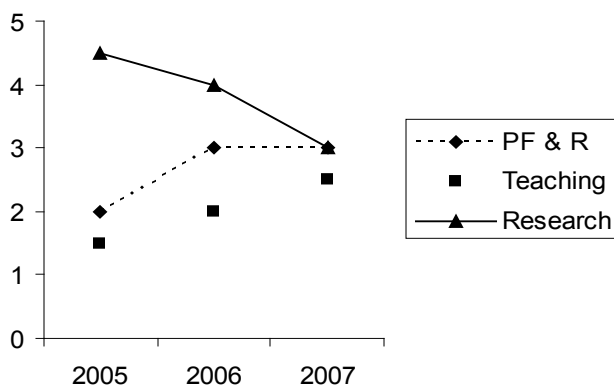


If you attend the AE-JMC 2007 Convention in Washington D.C. you will find, as usual, a wide variety of sessions sponsored or cosponsored by the Communication Technology

division. These sessions will cover issues related to teaching, research and professional freedom and responsibility (PF & R). That, too, is typical. While the picture may look the same from year to year there have been small changes more recently that I decided to document in this article.

In 2005 the bulk of our programming was in the research area with only a few panels dedicated to teaching and PF & R. While the emphasis on research carries certain advantages, in general the association would like to see balance among the three areas. The Communication Technology division has moved in that direction in each of the last two years as the accompanying figure depicts. Excluding

**CTEC Convention Panels
(excluding refereed research)**



CTEC Accepted Paper Topics

	2005	2006	2007
Law/Policy	18	12	7
Blogs/Citizen Journalism	8	9	7
Politics/Democracy	6	10	7
Adoption/Diffusion	7	7	6
Online Journalism	5	3	7
Other Web	5	4	9
Health	5	1	3
Advertising/Commerce	2	1	6
Misc.	4	9	5

refereed research sessions which are necessary to accommodate the ongoing popularity of our division for research submissions, we have used our remaining program slots to present a balanced array of panels. In 2007 these slots were closely divided among research, teaching and PF & R.

As for refereed research papers over the last three conferences, CTEC has been stable in overall numbers with at or just over 110 papers submitted in 2005, 2006 and 2007 and an acceptance rate around 50 percent each year. But as with changes in panel types over the last few years, the topics of refereed research papers accepted for presentation have varied as well. For the purposes of the analysis presented here, I coded each paper into the category of best fit although there were cases where multiple topics applied. See the accompanying table for details.

In 2005 accepted papers in the legal or policy area were by far the largest single group. After 2005 the division dropped “and Policy” from its name in hopes of achieving a better balance of submissions

by encouraging authors to consider other divisions when “technology” was not the central focus of their work. This change appears to have achieved the desired result; overall submissions did not suffer but the balance among topics is better. Noticeable growth areas for 2007 are “Other Web” which encompasses topics such as social networking (MySpace, etc.) and other types of web use, “Advertising/Commerce,” and “Online Journalism.” Blogging, citizen journalism, democracy and the Internet, and technology adoption are topics that have been consistently popular over the last 3 years.

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Great slate of research

Refereed Sessions at 2007 Convention

JAMES D. IVORY
Research Chair



Thanks to a lot of great submissions and plenty of hard work from diligent reviewers, CTEC has a great lineup of research papers scheduled for presentation at August's upcoming AEJMC convention in Washington, D. C. We received 110 submitted manuscripts, a total that is fairly consistent with those of recent years (112 submissions in 2006, for example). Of those, we were able to accept 57, resulting in a 51.8% acceptance rate overall. This acceptance rate is also more or less consistent (if just a hair higher) with our typical acceptance rate of around 50%. After acceptances and rejections were determined, two late withdrawal notices from accepted authors left a final tally of 55 papers to be presented at the 2007 convention.

A lot of effort goes into a successful research paper competition, and the bulk of it comes from two groups I want to thank straight away. First, of course, the paper submitters deserve credit for their dedication to submitting good scholarship to the division—and finding time to do so by the April 1 deadline! Convention-goers will very much appreciate the opportunity to see the fruits of their labor in August.

I am also hopeful that those who had a paper submission rejected were able to benefit from reviewers' helpful feedback—which brings me to the other group I am keen to thank. As always, we had a great set of reviewers who put in long hours reading and critiquing research paper submissions between the April 1 submission deadline and the May 1 review deadline.

We had 114 well-credentialed volunteer reviewers from all over the world who volunteered to help us out, and some even took on an extra paper or two when another assigned reviewer had difficulty completing the task. I was very pleased with the thorough job that these volunteers did for us, and it was a pleasure to work with them.

After determining paper acceptances, I arranged papers into sessions and assigned volunteer moderators and discussants. Our 55 research papers are organized into eight sessions, two of which are scheduled on

each day of the convention from Thursday, August 9, to Sunday, August 12. We'll start off quickly at 8:15 a.m. Thursday, August 9, with our "Jung-Sook Lee Paper Competition Award Winners" session, which is co-sponsored by our friends at the Graduate Education Interest Group, followed by a session titled "Internet Use: Motivations and Consequences" at 11:45 a.m.

The pace of the divisions' research presentations is similar on Friday, August 10, with an "Online Health and News Information" session at 8:15 a.m. and our "Top Faculty Papers" session at 11:45 a.m. Saturday, August 11, the division's research presentation schedule resumes with a pair of great poster sessions. First, we're represented in an AEJMC Scholar-to-Scholar Poster Session at 11:45 a.m., and we've got a long list of terrific posters in the Joint Poster Session co-sponsored with the Communication Theory and Methodology and International Communication Divisions at 3:30 p.m. These poster sessions are stocked with strong scholarship: Over half of our accepted papers will be shared during the two Saturday sessions. To wrap up the CTEC schedule of refereed research, we've got back-to-back sessions on Sunday, August 12: "Web Features, Content, and Use" at 10 a.m. and "Development and Adoption of New Communication Technologies" at 11:45 a.m.

With all of these great refereed research sessions in the program, it may be hard to imagine that CTEC would have been able to squeeze anything else in, but of course, that's not the case. Our officers and members have worked hard to put together a number of panel sessions addressing topics in teaching, research, and professional responsibility.

Also, be sure to attend the CTEC members meeting Friday, August 10, at 8:30 p.m. and the social that follows it at 10:15 p.m. Again, thanks to all of the submitters, reviewers, officers, and members that made this year's refereed research paper competition schedule possible. I hope to see you all in D.C.!

James D. Ivory is an assistant professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and can be reached at jivory@vt.edu.

PF&R programs

MARIA FONTENOT
PF&R Committee Chair



Don't miss the Professional Freedom and Responsibility events at this year's convention in Washington, D.C.

Thursday, Aug. 9,

3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.:

Media Management and Economics, Communication Technology, Law and Policy and Media Ethics Divisions and Entertainment Studies Interest Group

Mini-plenary PF&R Panel Session: The Media Democracy Agenda: A Discussion featuring FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps

Moderating: Jerry Condra, SUNY at Oswego

Panelists: Justin Brown, Florida; Ron Leone, Stonehill; Beth Blanks Hindman, Washington State; Erik Ugland, Marquette
Jerry Condra, SUNY at Oswego

Saturday, Aug. 11, 1:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.:

Newspaper and Communication Technology Divisions

PF&R Panel Session: Maintaining Quality in the Face of New Media Pressures

Moderating: John Russial, Oregon

Panelists: Rosental Alves, Texas at Austin
Mindy McAdams, Florida; John McIntyre, assistant managing editor for the copy desk, Baltimore Sun; Leslie-Jean Thornton, Arizona State

Sunday, Aug. 12, 8:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.:

Communication Technology and Media Management and Economics Divisions

PF&R Panel Session: Neutral or Not: Will Unfettered Broadband Content and Services Prevail in the Future of the Internet?

Moderating: Justin Brown, Florida

Panelists: Jim Eggenesperger, Iona College; Bill Herman, University of Pennsylvania; James L. Gattuso, Heritage Foundation; Robert McChesney, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign / Free Press
Shawn McIntosh, Columbia University

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CTEC Research Sessions for 2007 AEJMC Convention in Washington

Thursday, August 9

8:15 am to 9:45 am

Jung-Sook Lee Student Paper Competition Award Winners (Co-Sponsored With Graduate Education Interest Group)

Moderating/Presiding: James D. Ivory, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Perceived Credibility of Job Search Sites and Users' Intention to Post Resume*
Wonsun Shin, Minnesota

Senior Scholar Discussant: S. Shyam Sundar, Pennsylvania State

Factors Behind Frequency and Duration of Using Social Networking Websites: Motivations, Perceptions, and Privacy Concerns**
Jiyoung Cha, Florida

Senior Scholar Discussant: Sally McMillan, Tennessee

Internet-television, Peer-to-Peer Technology and Free Speech: Lessons from Web 1.0***
Mark Caramanica, Florida

Senior Scholar Discussant: Dale Herbeck, Boston

* First Place Student Paper
** Second Place Student Paper
*** Third Place Student Paper

11:45 am to 1:15 pm

Internet Use: Motivations and Consequences

Moderating/Presiding: Barbara Hipsman Springer, Kent State

Effects of Secondary Internet Use on People's Time-efficiency: Two Time-diary Studies in Korea and the United States
Young Min Baek, Pennsylvania

The Role of Animation in Targeted E-mail Messaging at the Worksite
Betsy Aumiller, Susan B. Byrnes Health Education Center

Online and Offline Activism: Communication Mediation and Political Messaging Among Blog Readers
Homero Gil de Zuniga, Aaron Veenstra,

Emily Vraga, Ming Wang, Cathy DeShano, and Dhavan V. Shah, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Internet Use and Political Empowerment
Seungyoon Lee and Jae Eun Chung, Southern California and Dan Krimm, IP Justice

Discussant: Robert Magee, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Friday, August 10

8:15 am to 9:45 am

Online Health and News Information

Moderating/Presiding: Michael Longinow, Biola

Perceived Knowledge, Emotion, and Health Information Use: Exploring Antecedence and Consequence of Patients' Worry
Sun-Young Lee, Hyunseo Hwang, Robert Hawkins, and Suzanne Pingree, Wisconsin-Madison

From Have Nots to Watch Dogs: Understanding the Realities of Senior Citizens' Use of the Internet for Health Information
Sally McMillan, Elizabeth Johnson Avery, Tennessee and Wendy Macias, Georgia

Breaking News on the Web: Top Story Life and News Topic and Type
Jin Xu, Winona State

Chronicling the Chaos: Tracking the News Story of Hurricane Katrina from the Times-Picayune to Cyberspace
Susan Robinson, Wisconsin-Madison

Discussant: Robert Logan, U.S. National Library of Medicine

11:45 am to 1:15 pm

CTEC Top Faculty Papers

Moderating/Presiding: James B. Benjamin, Toledo

The Perceived Ethicality of Web Sites and Its Implication for Persuasion Processes*
Robert Magee, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and Sriram Kalyanaraman, North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Mobile Phone Text Messaging Overuse Among Developing World University Students**

Stephen Perry, Illinois State and Kevin Lee, Western Carolina

The Interconnected Web: Media Consolidation, Corporate Ownership, and the World Wide Web***

Charlene Simmons, Tennessee-Chattanooga

Risk Judgments of Online Privacy****
Siyoung Chung, Hichang Cho and Jaeshin Lee, National, Singapore

Discussant: Richard Schaefer, New Mexico

* First Place Faculty Paper
** Second Place Faculty Paper
*** Third Place Faculty Paper
****Fourth Place Faculty Paper

Saturday, August 11

12:15 pm to 1:30 pm

AEJMC Scholar-to-Scholar Poster Session

Why Do You Read Blogs and Update Your Facebook Page So Much? Using Psychological Variables to Predict Specific Internet Behaviors
John Wirtz and Julie Jones, Minnesota

Impression Formation Effects in Computer-mediated Communication and Human-computer Interaction
Sriram Kalyanaraman, North Carolina at Chapel Hill and S. Shyam Sundar, Pennsylvania State

Does the Internet Add Value to Traditional Products?
Jennifer Kowalewski, North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Exploring the Next Frontier of Television: A Global Analysis of Issues Affecting the Development of Mobile Television
Sylvia Chan-Olmsted, Florida

Discussant: Carol Dykers, Salem

continued on page 5

CTEC Research Sessions for 2007 AEJMC Convention in Washington

3:30 pm to 5 pm

Joint Poster Session (Co-Sponsored With Communication Theory and International Communication Divisions)

Understanding Diffusion of J-blogs: An Examination of Factors Affecting Korean Journalists' Blog Adoption
Yonghwan Kim, Texas at Austin

Behind Closed Doors: China's Internet Censorship and its Implications on the Blogosphere
Shao-Jung Wang and Junhao Hong, Buffalo

The Mediasphere and the Blogosphere in Canada: Analysis of Content and Link Practices Among Journalist-Blogs
Abby Goodrum, Ryerson

The Dynamics of China's Technical Internet Censorship System
Guangchao Feng and William Y. Lai, Hong Kong

Discussant: Christine Ogan, Indiana

Identity and Intimacy in Online Social Networking: Qualitative Study of Young Women's Experiences on MySpace
Denise Bortree, Florida

Weight Loss Blogs: An Analysis of their Potential as Adjuncts to Women's Dieting Efforts
Paula Rausch, Florida

Collective Identity on Hate Group Web Sites
Michael McCluskey and Heather LaMarre, Ohio State

What's on Wikipedia, and What's Not...? Completeness of Information on the Online Collaborative Encyclopedia
Cindy Royal and Deepina Kapila, Texas State at San Marcos

Discussant: Daniela Dimitrova, Iowa State

Using the Internet for Specialized in-Depth Information
Daniel Riffe, Ohio; Steve Lacy and Miron Varouhakis, Michigan State

The Digital Divide and the Knowledge Gap

Lu Wei and Douglas Blanks Hindman; Washington State

Comments Discussion and the Public Sphere: A Case Study on Comments in Online News Site
Yejin Hong, Minnesota

Marshaling McLuhan's "Laws" to Explicate New Media
Mike Dorsher, Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Discussant: Charlene Simmons, Tennessee-Chattanooga

Customization vs. Personalization: The Role of Power Usage and Privacy
Sampada Marathe, S. Shyam Sundar and Christen Reese, Pennsylvania State

The Role of Trust in Interactive Communication: Antecedents and Consequences of Website Trust
Jisu Huh and Soyoen Cho, Minnesota

Online Consumer Trust in the Context of Internet Experience—Exploring Antecedents and Consequences
Liuning Zhou, Southern California

Discussant: Sela Sar, Iowa State

If You Build it, Will they Come? Blogs in the Journalism and Mass Communication Curriculum
Jane B. Singer, Central Lancashire/Iowa

Frames and Opinion in the Blogosphere: Testing Attitude Constraint in Political Blog Readers
Aaron Veenstra, Rosalyna Wijaya, Emily Acosta and Muzammil Hussain, Wisconsin-Madison

Parsing out the Players in the Blogosphere: Developing a Predictive Model of Blogging and Blog Readers
Julie Jones and John Wirtz, Minnesota

From Expression to Influence: Understanding the Change in Blogger Motivations Over the Blogspan
Brian Ekdale, Kang Namkoong, Timothy Fung, Muzammil Hussain, Madhu Arora, Wisconsin-Madison and David Perlmutter, Kansas

Discussant: Mark Tremayne, Texas at Austin

Choosing is Believing: How Web Gratifications and Reliance Affect Internet Credibility Among Politically Interested Users
Tom Johnson, Texas Tech

Does Interactivity Serve the Public Interest? The Role of Political Blogs in Deliberative Democracy
Kim Garris, Jamie Guillory, Russ Manning and S. Shyam Sundar, Pennsylvania State

Discussant: Seungahn Nah, Kentucky

Sharing, Connection, and Creation in the Web 2.0 era: Profiling the Adopters of Video-sharing and Social-networking Sites
Hsuan-Ting Chen, Texas at Austin

An International Empirical Analysis of Broadband Adoption Factors
Sangwon Lee and Justin Brown, Florida

The U.S. Transition to Digital Television: The Final Steps
Pete Seel, Colorado State

Predicting iPod Implementation: Use and Impact of an iPod
Tang Tang, Ohio

Discussant: Amanda Sturgill, Baylor

Gatekeeping Journalists' Weblogs: The Influence of Media Organizations and Individual Factors over U.S. Journalists' Perceived Autonomy
Hyeri Choi, Texas at Austin

Gatekeeping: From Inception to the Internet
Michael Beam, Ohio State

Perceived Credibility of Online Media: A Study of Social Significance, Personal Significance, and Interactivity Factors
Ji Young Kim and Stephen Masielac, Syracuse

Discussant: Benjamin J. Bates, Tennessee-Knoxville

continued on page 6

CTEC Research Sessions for 2007 AEJMC Convention in Washington

Sunday, August 12

10 am to 11:30 am

Web Features, Content, and Use

Moderating/Presiding: Jennifer Kowalewski, North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Are You Searching or Surfing? The Effects of Searching vs. Surfing
Hyo Jung Kim, Jeesun Kim and Kevin Wise, Missouri-Columbia

Reply Magnets and Preferential Attachment in Online Political Discussions: A Network Analysis of Six Months of Discussions in 20 Political Newsgroups
Itai Himelboim, Minnesota; Danyel Fisher, Microsoft Research;
Eric Gleave and Marc Smith; Microsoft Research

Comparing audiences' Responses to Real Versus Virtual Human
Product Endorsers on an E-commerce Site
Li Gong, Osei Appiah and Troy Elias, Ohio State

From Product to Service: Dynamic Content in Online Newspapers
Mark Tremayne, Amy Schmitz Weiss and Rosental Alves, Texas at Austin

Discussant: Tom Johnson, Texas Tech

11:45 am to 1:15 pm

Development and Adoption of New Communication Technologies

Moderating/Presiding: Vandana Pednekar-Magal, Grand Valley State

Satellite Radio Adoption Dynamics:

Adopter Cognition, Technology Fluidity and Technology Cluster
Carolyn A. Lin, Connecticut

Factors Affecting the Adoption Intent of VoIP Services: Focusing on Weighted Expected Improvement and SEM
Byeng-Hee Chang, Sungyunkwan

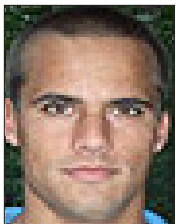
VOIP-Telephone Service: Economic Efficiencies and Policy Implications
Sangho Seo, Konkuk

Predictors of the Adoption of Entertainment, Information, Communication, and Transaction Services on Mobile Phones
Jiyoung Cha and Sylvia Chan-Olmsted, Florida

Discussant: Sriram Kalyanaraman, North Carolina-Chapel Hill

MySpace was super-hot in 2006, now it's all about Facebook

DAVID STANTON
Webmaster



Every summer the University of Florida hosts a summer journalism camp for high school students. I've been working with the program a couple of years now and am always blown away by how the

kids are using communication technologies. MySpace was super-hot last year. Now it's all Facebook. I took a straw poll, and most said they sometimes check MySpace but live on Facebook. Many people new to social networking sites might not notice many differences. One evening after classes, the new brand of ultrafast networking and content sharing smacked me in the face.

One student had created a new group just for the summer program. Within a few days, friends added friends and the group swelled to the majority of the participants. The photo students were posting each day with images from the camp, from nightly activities and randomness. Other campers were adding their own photos from personal cameras. It was fascinating to read the wall

-- where members post comments related to the group. Now three days after the end of camp, the group has 63 members, 64 posts and 237 photos. A guy from Orlando and a girl who came from the Jersey Shore have been chatting it up this evening.

Now we can
share almost
any type of info
about ourselves

Facebook comes off to me as a glorified address book and e-mail hybrid, but the recent opening of the platform to third-party developers has yielded a sudden glut of new content. There are now applications allowing members to share things like a map of recent travels, a political ideology compass (thank you Washington Post), and various widgets to display favorite whatever's as

aggregated from other socially enabled sites like flickr, last.fm and Twitter.

So, now we can share almost any type of info about ourselves from the mundane, to the personal, to the probably-should-be-private. Do we need this much information? Is my life enriched by knowing the our college's webmaster just gave his lawn its first full mowing of the year? Or that a former student has been listening to Jimi Hendrix this afternoon? Who knows. I guess it doesn't hurt, and perhaps I feel more connected to friends dispersed far and wide.

The cat is out of the bag. Maybe we'll all have second thoughts down the road and wish we could take all of this stuff back from prying eyes. Maybe some of the high school kids I spent last week preaching journalistic ideals of objectivity, responsibility and ethics will want to take some of this stuff back from the quasi-public sphere. Like those photos of them holding a bottle of whiskey and giving a big thumbs up.

David Stanton is a Ph.D. student at the University of Florida and can be reached at dstanton@ufl.edu.

Midwinter success in Reno

JIM BENJAMIN
Mid-Winter Coordinator



The 2007 AEJMC Midwinter Conference was held February 23-24 at the Reynolds School of Journalism, University of Nevada, Reno. The conference involved more than 170 educators and graduate students. The keynote speaker, John Pauly of Marquette University, dedicated his talk on "Journalism Matters" to the memory of Reynolds School of Journalism's late dean Cole Campbell. Dean Campbell died in an automobile accident in Reno in January of 2007. Continuing our long standing tradition, CTEC assisted the conference planner, Jennifer Greer, in the overall program planning as well as conducting our division's research reviews. Working with Professor Greer, CTEC posted a web site publicizing the conference. We also assisted in coordination the submissions and programming of the research submissions for the 11 divisions

participating in the conference: Communication Technology, Communication Theory and Methodology, Cultural and Critical Studies, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Graduate Education, International, Mass Communication & Society, Media Management and Economics, Minorities and Communication, Science Communication, and Visual Communication.

CTEC division's research presentations were judged by a panel of CTEC leaders: Daniela Dimitrova, Iowa State University, Vincent F. Filak, Ball State University, Maria Fontenot, Texas Tech University, Jacob Groshek, Indiana University, Jimmy Ivory, Virginia Tech, Sri Kalyanaraman, University of North Carolina, Sally McMillan, University of Tennessee, and John Pavlik, Rutgers University. Each submission was read by three reviewers. Our faculty research submissions had a 67% acceptance rate and our student submission acceptance rate was 75%.

It is not too early to plan for next year's midwinter conference. The venue details

will be announced after our annual meeting in August, but we want to continue our division's strong presence at the annual meeting. The AEJMC Midwinter Conference is an annual forum for the presentation of research. It follows a rather informal structure that allows for presentations and extended discussions in a relaxed setting. The conference judges evaluate abstracts rather than full papers. However, authors of proposals accepted for presentation at the conference must submit complete research papers, not exceeding 30 pages, to their discussant two weeks prior to the conference. Watch for the detailed call in an upcoming newsletter.

It has been a genuine pleasure serving as the Midwinter Conference Coordinator for CTEC this year. I want to thank the participants, judges and all the members of AEJMC who made the 2007 Midwinter Conference such a success.

Jim Benjamin is professor and chair of the Department of Communication at the University of Toledo and can be reached at jbenjam@utoledo.edu.

iPhones, the CTEC division, and you

Enjoy the benefits of becoming a member of our division

JACOB GROSHEK
Membership Chair



This article was drafted just hours before the highly anticipated iPhone went on sale. This was an event that saw people camped out in long lines for days just to be among the first to purchase the latest and perhaps most advanced communicative technology to date.

It was also a day where news organizations (especially 24-hour television news networks) devoted a substantial amount of coverage to the release of the iPhone and what it would mean not only for customers, but also for society.

Many on-air experts, newsmen, and soon-to-be customers tossed around words like "revolutionary," "unprecedented," and "must-have." Perhaps it is too enticing and inviting to believe that technology can dramatically alter the world for the better and make nearly anything seem possible. As

much as the media was integral to creating buzz surrounding the release of the iPhone, it was also media coverage that advanced over-hyped and impossible standards. None of this, however, is anything new.

History has shown time and time again, that even "advanced" technologies of the time such as, in this case, the much ballyhooed iPhone are usually only as deterministic as the people who create and subsequently use them, but each introduces new wrinkles to existing forms of communication.

That is, of course, before the next "new" innovation arrives that will presumably succeed in ways the previous one did not. These types of phenomenon—both new and old—are important points of departure point for research, teaching, and service activities in the Communication Technology (CTEC) division of AEJMC to begin.

To explore the ways in which new and emerging communication technologies influence human interaction and blend with existing media, consider joining CTEC

yourself. Membership just \$7 per year for students and \$10 per year for non-students and offers members many new and unique ways to meet and network with others in the field. This includes access to the CTEC listserv, which is full of lively discussions, debates, and opportunities to participate in research and share teaching strategies.

It is a simple way to become a part of the growing CTEC community. Just access the AEJMC membership form at http://www.aejmc.org/_about/get_forms.php, which will allow you to add CTEC to your already existing AEJMC membership.

Of course, current CTEC members are invited to spread the word about the many great reasons to become an active member of this increasingly popular and relevant division whose influence is now felt in nearly all areas of communication inquiry. Please feel free to contact me, perhaps using your iPhone, with any questions or comments.

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Phone cameras as reporting tools

Mobile telephones transform citizen journalism

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On the morning of the Virginia Tech massacre, students at the University of Missouri, Kansas City used their cell phones to text message each other about a tragedy that was unfolding in Blacksburg, Virginia, a city more than 1,000 miles away. One UMKC student said she used her cell to text message friend in a VT dorm to let her know what was happening during the police lock down at VT that day. Students at UMKC also text messaged each other about safety issues at their own university. Much of this information exchange occurred during class, in dorms and cafeterias all over campus.

There have been thought provoking articles and segments in the traditional and online media about how information passed on the morning of the massacre by students and student reporters at schools across the country was often more immediate, and in some cases more accurate, than it was on Virginia Tech's campus. This of course should not be surprising with so many cell phones in use and with rapidly improving cell phone image and audio technology. .

The morning after the Virginia Tech tragedy, I was interviewed by WDAF-TV News in Kansas City on the impact of cell phone technology, phone cameras and text messaging, increasingly used by students, student reporters and other citizen journalists. In short, almost anyone can be, or can try to be, or can pretend to be a reporter. I believe a particularly astute analysis on the use of phone technology by citizen or eyewitness journalists was reported two years ago by the [washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com) just one day after the London subway attacks.

Washington Post Reporter Yuki Noguchi wrote, "Some of the most intimate images of yesterday's bomb blasts in London came from cell phones equipped with cameras and video recorders, demonstrating how a technology originally marketed as entertainment has come to play a significant role in up-to-the-minute news. The availability of the cameras, combined with the ability to transmit pictures and text instantaneously, is enabling the world to view news with nearly

the immediacy of a victim or eyewitness..."

"...Camera phones, once a novelty, now outsell digital cameras by about 4 to 1, according to analyst data. As more sophisticated phones and higher-speed networks have become available, wireless companies have recently started offering video camcorders on their phones that can nearly instantly transmit moving pictures over e-mail or onto the Internet."

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/07/07/AR2005070701522.html>

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This raises
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critical issues.

The widespread, dramatic and also capable use of camera phones and text messaging by students and other citizen journalists was underscored the day of the VT massacre. Virginia Tech student Jamal Albarghouti used his cell phone to capture footage of the rampage during the second round of shootings. That footage has become a powerful teaching tool. I require students in my electronic journalism class to examine Jamal's footage online. Most agree, listening to the audio is even more chilling than watching the images. For one source

that carries that footage:

<http://www.cnn.com/CNN/Programs/anderson.cooper.360/blog/2007/04/tragedy-caught-on-camera.html>

Far less dramatic but significant applications of cell phone technology in student reporting can be taught in many different areas of journalism. Although, I teach my students in electronic journalism that cell phones, until technology improves, are still essentially reporting tools of the last resort. Video Cameras and digital audio recorders are getting smaller, cheaper and technologically are still the safest bets in most reporting situations.

However, one of my students, Mohammad Al-Kassim, was on his way to KKFI-FM Community Radio last month when he saw protesters and the anti-immigration group "The Minutemen" clash at a pro-immigration rally in midtown Kansas City. All he had was his cell phone. He used his camera phone to capture both video and audio. He text messaged the station to let them know what he was about to cover. He used his phone's wireless capability to email his recordings. He later posted the images on KKFI's news website and used the audio in radio segments for that station's news program. Although Mohammad normally uses a video camera and a digital recorder when he reports for KKFI or UMKC's student newspaper, he would have missed the opportunity to add significant information to Kansas City's news stream without his cell phone. Mohammad scooped Kansas City's leading newspaper and all commercial TV and radio stations that day.

There are of course a host of critical issues in the use of a cell phones as a reporting tool. The increased societal acceptance of camera phones and text messaging and the implications of their widespread use on issues like the right to privacy, ethical standards and accountability, need to be more fully researched and examined by journalism scholars. However, cell phones with constantly upgraded video and audio technology, if used prudently, promise to transform citizen journalism and the teaching of broadcast and online journalism.

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