

# CTEC

Winter 2005/06

Communication Technology  
Division Newsletter

## A New Name... *But "policy" still integral*

SRIRAM "SRI" KALYANARAMAN  
Division Head



Greetings, and welcome to the first newsletter of the Communication Technology Division! Most of our members are aware that the dialogue (initiated when Sally McMillan was head) regarding the role of the division in AEJMC led to a chain of events unfolding, and eventually resulted in dropping "Policy" from "Communication Technology and Policy" under David Thompson's tenure as head. As David hastened to assure those division members whose program of research includes policy issues,

the name change does not mean that we have consigned policy to the backburner—rather, it serves to emphasize that all scholarly issues pertaining to communication technology—including policy—will continue to be welcomed and celebrated by the division.

One related development that I wanted to bring to our members' attention is that the Law Division is now considering adding "Policy," so that they may become the "Law and Policy" division, consistent with their division's official journal (Communication Law and Policy). Our membership has always welcomed this move as it will offer a clear guideline for those scholars who conduct research on policy issues not

*see New Name, page 7*

## Diverse panels on the horizon for San Francisco

DANIELA V. DIMITROVA  
Vice Head and Program Chair



Greetings members of the Communication Technology division! In preparation for the 2006 AEJMC convention in San Francisco, our Division Head Sri Kalyanaraman and I attended the Midwinter AEJMC conference in December 2005 in Savannah, Georgia. The division had received many good panel proposals and our job was to select the proposals that seemed most relevant to our division members and that attracted co-sponsors from other divisions. We also wanted to have a good balance between research, teaching and PF&R sessions.

The so-called "chip auction" that takes place at the Midwinter conference allows each division to choose the most attractive time slots and partner with other divisions in order to maximize their "programming dollars." You

can visit the following link for more information on the process at [www.aejmc.org/officers/chipinfo.html](http://www.aejmc.org/officers/chipinfo.html).

Our division's policy has been to co-sponsor as many sessions as possible in order to increase our presence at the AEJMC convention. Following this policy, our programming ideas were combined with those of other divisions, including the Communication Theory and Methodology and Visual Communication divisions.

With Sri's help, I was able to program a number of interesting sessions for San Francisco at the COD planning meeting in Savannah. We are pleased with the time slots and variety of sessions. We have a set of diverse panels planned, including panels on blogging, podcasting, impermanence of online information, and interactivity. More details with the specifics of each panel will come in the next newsletter. Thanks to everyone who contributed panel ideas last fall!

Overall, the chip auction was a success and

On the inside	
<b>Paper Call for San Francisco</b>	<b>page 2</b>
<b>PF&amp;R - What does it mean?</b>	<b>page 3</b>
<b>Midwinter conference biggest to date</b>	<b>page 3</b>
<b>Journalists and Blogging</b>	<b>page 5</b>
<b>Membership in CTEC</b>	<b>page 6</b>
<b>Listserv enhances dialogue</b>	<b>page 7</b>

yielded the following results: a joint poster session with the Communication Theory and Methodology and International divisions; two co-sponsored panels with Communication Theory and Methodology; two co-sponsored panels with the Visual Communication division, including the Best of the Web competition; one joint panel with RTVJ; one joint panel with MME; one joint panel with the History division; and two joint panels with the Graduate Education Interest Group, including the Jung Sook Lee session for top student research papers. Finally, we were able to program four refereed research sessions as well.

All indications are that the Communication Technology division will have an exciting and vibrant program in San Francisco. Look forward to another great convention for the division in August 2006! •

*Daniela V. Dimitrova is an assistant professor at Iowa State University and can be reached at [danielad@iastate.edu](mailto:danielad@iastate.edu).*

# How to submit for the Annual Conference

MARK TREMAYNE

Research & Paper Competition Chair



Greetings to all members and, especially, to all new members! The deadline for submitting your Communication Technology division AEJMC paper is near. It

is April 1 as usual. As you may know, our division has a new name: Communication Technology. Because some may be wondering how this affects the appropriateness of the division for certain research topics, I have done some investigating and have some guidance. The table to the right is based on an informal content analysis of research papers for our division presented at the last two summer conferences. I stress the “informal.” I was the only coder and when multiple categories were relevant I chose the



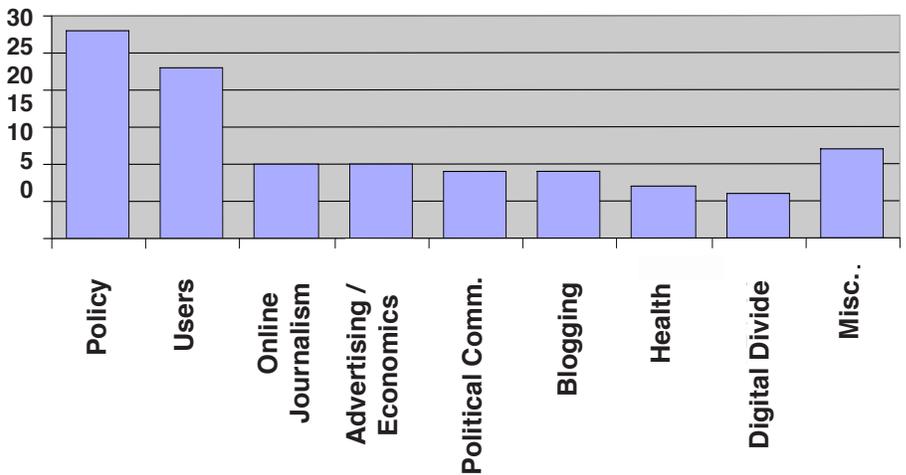
one that seemed the most appropriate.

As you can see, the largest single category is “policy.” This is, and should continue to be, a strong and active area of research for our division. But there have been an increasing number of papers over the years that are “communication” and “policy” oriented, but without a central “technology” component. Some papers of this type would be more appropriate for the Law division, Media Management and Economics division or, in a few cases, the Radio-Television Journalism division.

To clarify the central role that technology should play in papers for this division, “policy” was dropped from the division name after hearing from our members and debate amongst officers. But it should be stressed that policy oriented papers that have new technologies as their focus are still appropriate for the division. You can also get an idea from the figure which types of work are done by other members of our division and AEJMC. •

*Mark Tremayne is an assistant professor at the University of Texas at Austin and can be reached at Tremayne@mail.utexas.edu.*

## Communication Technology & Policy Convention Papers, 2004 & 2005



## Communication Technology Division 2006 Paper Call

*Paper submissions only accepted online*

- **Student Papers:** Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled during the 2005-2006 academic year may enter the Jung-Sook Lee student paper competition. The Jung-Sook Lee Award recognizes the best student paper, which makes “a substantial contribution in substance or method on a topic related to communication technology and policy.” The award honors the division’s 1997-98 research chair, Jung-Sook Lee of the University of Southwest Louisiana, who died soon after the Baltimore convention in 1998. Authors of the top three student papers will receive a cash award and be recognized at the San Francisco convention. In addition, the author of the best student paper will have his or her conference registration fee paid by the division. Students who want their paper considered for the Jung-Sook Lee Award must type “Jung-Sook Lee Competition” in the upper-right corner of both the abstract page and the first text page. Papers co-authored with faculty will not be considered for this award.
- **Open Competition:** All other papers submitted to the division will be reviewed in an open competition. Please limit papers to no more than 25 pages (double-spaced) in length, excluding tables and references. Authors of the three top-scoring faculty or faculty/student papers will be recognized in the convention program and at the members’ meeting in San Francisco.
- **Online Submission:** Our division will continue with the online only submission process. The division will NOT accept hardcopy, fax, or e-mail submissions. All research papers should be prepared in Word or RTF format. Also, all submitters should go to Word’s properties bar (under File) and remove any identifying information from the file. You can also check our division website, accessible through the main site at AEJMC.org. The submission site can be accessed at the following address: <http://aejmc-ctec.confmaster.net/>

# PF&R

## What does that mean?

MARIA FONTENOT  
PF&R Committee Chair



The letters PF&R stand for 'professional freedom and responsibility,' but what does 'professional freedom and responsibility' mean? When one becomes a member of AEJMC, the term PF&R is often heard, but you may not truly understand what people are talking about. This article will attempt to offer an overview and explanation of what PF&R is and what it means to the Communication Technology division.

According to AEJMC, PF&R has five missions related to our roles and jobs as mass communication educators and researchers: free expression, ethics, media criticism and accountability, racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness, and public service.

Freedom of expression is the heartbeat of a democratic society. Today, we have more access and means to express our ideas. The Internet has opened up numerous channels, through which we can exercise our First Amendment rights. However, with new frontiers expanding and growing, comes government intervention, or at least attempted government regulation. For nearly a decade, Congress has tried to find some way to regulate content on the Internet. Luckily, with the exception of the Children's Internet Protection Act, which addresses concerns about access to the Internet in schools and libraries, the Supreme Court has repeatedly struck down content regulation on the Internet. Technology should be freeing, not impeding.

With such technological advances in mass communication, ethical issues such as privacy and accuracy, continue to evolve. For example, many of us have heard of shameful practices such as digitalizing photos to create falsehoods or exaggerations – clear violations of the code of ethics for professional groups as the Society of Professional Journalists, the American

Advertising Federation, the Public Relations Society of America, and the Radio and Television News Directors Association. As educators and scholars in mass communications, we encourage and promote ethical practices and uses of communication technology.

The areas of media criticism and accountability and racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness have been especially explosive issues since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. I focused on these two disasters and used them as teaching moments in my journalism classes, as I'm sure many of us did. Some of the images and stories from these hurricanes were disturbing as were the practices of some journalists covering the

stories, particularly focusing on Hurricane Katrina. As a journalist and a native of Louisiana, I was particularly disappointed and dissatisfied by some of the written and visual misnomers. As my journalism students held discussions among themselves and with me, I would like to think I offered them solutions to some of the problems presented in the disaster coverage; not just criticism. We can all learn and benefit from positive and negative examples.

Finally, as mass communication educators we have a mandate to serve the public, in addition to our teaching and research duties. It is important to create a dialog between educators and practitioners and foster a relationship. We want to serve better our students and the industries into which we send them.

The classroom environment is a brilliant forum to undertake the challenges of PF&R. These challenges create exciting, heated, creative, and interesting dialogue among educators, students, and practitioners. It is has been my experience that discussions on issues related to PR&R have been the most dynamic and enjoyable. They also foster student participation, which in my opinion, is a magnificent result. •

*Maria Fontenot is an assistant professor at Texas Tech University and can be reached at maria.fontenot@ttu.edu.*

*The classroom environment is a brilliant forum to undertake the challenges of PF&R.*

## Midwinter conference to be biggest to date

JAMES D. IVORY  
Midwinter Coordinator



Even since our division began to spearhead a revival of the AEJMC Midwinter Conference a few years back, each year's event has been marked by steady growth and increasing participation from AEJMC members. This year's conference, to be held February 24-26 at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, is certainly a landmark point in this pattern of resurgence. No less than 113 papers, three panels, and two plenary sessions grace the slate of events scheduled in Bowling Green, a dramatic increase from the already staggering record total of 81 papers and four panels featured at the 2005 convention at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, Georgia.

This year, participating divisions and interest groups include CTEC, Communication Theory and Methodology, Cultural and Critical Studies, Entertainment Studies, Graduate Education, International Communication, Mass Communication and Society, Media Management and Economics, and Visual Communication. In addition to refereed paper sessions and panels, featured events include a tour of the local WBGU television station, plenary sessions focusing on community journalism and media convergence, and a keynote speech from noted international journalist Nadia Bilbassy Charters.

The CTEC Division took the lead in organizing submissions and programming of presentations, though host representative and Media Management and Economics Division member Louisa Ha, with support from many among the faculty and administration at BGSU, took a key leadership role in securing host facilities, arranging travel and accommodation options, securing high-profile guest speakers, arranging plenary sessions and other conference events, and ensuring affordable rates and accessible

**see Conference, page 4**

## Conference: Ready for another great Midwinter conference

transportation for participants.

Although our division has historically tended to play a lead role in programming this conference, the work of Louisa and others at BGSU suggests that the exponential growth of the conference will continue to be accompanied by an increasingly shared organizational contribution across divisions and participating institutions.

Also indicative of the conference's increasingly expansive scope is the paper presentation makeup: Although CTEC (under its erstwhile Communication Technology and Policy handle) has often been the division to receive the most submissions and sponsor the most presentations at previous Midwinter events, the division's 17 submissions and 14 scheduled presentations rank fourth and third among division totals in these respective categories.

This comes as pleasing evidence that

the Midwinter Conference has come into its own as an event with broad appeal and support across the AEJMC's membership and organization. In fact, it may be time to get together with other divisions and formally reconsider the organizational structure of the conference in an effort to better reflect its broad appeal and participation while maintaining its eclectic and inviting atmosphere.

Although CTEC can take pride in having taken an integral role in the burgeoning success of the Midwinter Conference, we may also be able to look forward to a future that includes CTEC stepping back from its traditional lead role and distributing continually more leadership across participating divisions. Although some inter-division discussion is in order regarding the precise nature of the Midwinter event's future, I see us taking a very exciting step in the conference's expansion and maturity.

Sriram "Sri" Kalyanaraman, our tire-

less division head, and I will be making the trip to the Midwinter conference along with a number of presenters and host representatives. If I don't see you there this year, I hope you'll plan on coming next year! Speaking of which: It's never too early to begin working on a host for the 2007 AEJMC Midwinter Conference. If you think your institution may be a good venue, please contact me or Sri (sri@unc.edu) to explore the possibility further.

Congratulations to all of the Midwinter presenters and other participants, and a special debt of gratitude is owed to the division representatives and volunteer judges who generously helped to make this conference happen.

It looks like we'll have another great Midwinter! •

---

*James D. Ivory is an assistant professor at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and can be reached at [jivory@vt.edu](mailto:jivory@vt.edu).*

### CTEC presentations at the 2006 AEJMC Midwinter Conference

**Differences in Use of Interactive Capability by Evangelistic and Non-Evangelistic Denominations' Web Sites: A Content Analysis.**

Jennifer Baker, Laura Sumrall, and Amanda Sturgill, Baylor University

**Natural Language Analysis by Computer: Genres of Discourse.** James Benjamin, University of Toledo.

**All Speeches are Created Equal, So Junk Mails? Judicial Review on Regulation of Unsolicited Commercial Speech.** Xiaowei Chen, Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge.

**Exploring Cultures and Characteristics of Mobile Internet Use of the U.S. College Students.** Jinbong Choi, Bemidji State University.

**Pegging the Local TV News Podcast Potential: Case Studies of Early Adopters of Downloadable Video and Audio.** George L. Daniels and Robert "Bobby" Puppione, University of Alabama.

**Quadraphonic Radio: A Radio Station's Perspective.** Max V. Grubb and Michael Olszewski, Kent State University.

**Attention and Recall of Web Site Banner Advertising.** Aubin Hagelstein, Jennifer Shalamanov, Megan Shook, and Amanda Sturgill, Baylor University.

**Multivariate Analysis of Mobile Phone User Behavior.** Chang Hyun Jin, University of Florida.

**The Digital Transformation of Music Marketing: Searching for a New Business Model.** Myles Ludwig, Lynn University.

**iPod so iPirate? An Analysis of College Students' Use of the iPod as a Tool of Communication.** Lisa Marshall, Bowling Green State University.

**Sports Blogs and Women's Basketball: Providing Fans the Coverage Missing in the Professional Sports Media.** Liz Matson, Northeastern University.

**Journalists or Activists? How Political and Business Bloggers use their Sources.** Marcus Messner and Marcia L. Watson, University of Miami.

**Computer-Mediated Communication and Virtual Advising.** Steve Mitchell, Lorain County Community College.

**Filesharing Wars: The Disconnect Between the Internet Generation's Teen Music Customers and the Recording Industry Association of America.** Lisa Richman, Bowling Green State University.

*Detailed program information is available at [www.bgsu.edu/departments/tcom/faculty/ha/aejmc.htm](http://www.bgsu.edu/departments/tcom/faculty/ha/aejmc.htm).*

# Can journalists be bloggers?

*Issues of tradition, mores and ethics raise challenges*

BONNIE BRESSERS  
Teaching Standards Committee Chair



The proliferation of Web logs written and produced by journalists under the brand name of the employers — coupled with Web logs written by journalists during their off-hours — raises myriad ethical and legal issues for prospective journalists and the people who teach them.

Earlier this year, Matt Donegan, a reporter with the Dover (Del.) Post, was fired after his boss learned of Donegan's off-the-job blog, where he posted comments about his black neighbors celebrating on the eve of Martin Luther King Day. Donegan has claimed that his First Amendment rights were violated, adding that anyone who can't separate the work environment from his personal blog is "a moron."

Rachel Mosteller, a reporter with The Herald-Sun in Durham, N.C., anonymously chronicled a typical newsroom and its inhabitants on her blog Sarcastic Journalist until her bosses discovered it and fired her. And St. Louis Post-Dispatch writer Daniel P. Finney resigned following the discovery of his blog, in which he often discussed topics of articles before they appeared in the newspaper.

Clearly, the journalist-blogger who posts tales of the recent family vacation is not engaging in behavior that will compromise the newsgathering operation or the credibility of the employer. But according to the Society for Human Resource Management, 3 percent of the 279 human resources professionals queried had disciplined employees for blogging-related activities, a figure that presumably could increase as more people blog.

While the legal protections vary from state-to-state, the First Amendment is no recourse for journalist-bloggers working for private employers. In March 2005, Annalee Newitz of the Electronic Frontier Foundation told The Associated Press that employees don't

realize the First Amendment doesn't protect their jobs because it restricts only government interference with speech. Private employers can fire employees at will in most states, provided they are not discriminating or retaliating for protected activities, such as union organizing.

For journalists, then, the thorny issues relate more to the journalistic traditions, mores and ethics that have governed newsgathering and reporting opportunities since long before the advent of the Internet.

Part of the anxiety of newspaper management is that personal blogging will encroach on the workday and siphon off the journalist's time and creativity. Further, they say, journalist-bloggers distinguish themselves from the millions of American adult bloggers by trading on their bylines and the reputation of the news organization — even during off hours. Others are comfortable with their reporters appearing on "talking head" news shows but not participating in blogging, possibly because the online forum has a longer shelf life than a television or radio broadcast. But perhaps the greatest source of anxiety for newspaper management is the idea that journalist-bloggers will lose their veil of objectivity and adversely affect the credibility and reputation of the news organization by discussing personal opinions on public issues.

Blog proponents argue that blogging can fuel creativity and expose the blogger to a wide horizon of ideas and sources. Some news organizations encourage their reporters to participate in blogging to help retain and solidify their roles as expert sources of information within the community, and to provide the reader with an additional dimension to the news. What's important at the end of the day, they say, is fairness and balance in news coverage — not whether a journalist lives up to the impossible standard of being devoid of opinion.

That, experts say, may be the single biggest issue confronting news organizations in the online arena — to what extent does the online journalist share opinions in this new, global public space?

"I wonder if reporters can appear as experts, while still maintaining their objectivity?" an online journalist posted on a listserv about online news a few years ago. "For example, can't they interact with the public

online the same way they interact with the public when they go to a news conference or when they're interviewing people for a story? Like, they can say 'Well, that bill was passed in 1978, therefore that would be illegal' but they can't say 'Yeah, I interviewed that candidate a while back, and he seemed like a real shady guy.'"

In an essay for CyberJournalist.net, Eric Meyer, a journalism professor at the University of Illinois, defended the Hartford Courant's decision to order a staff member to stop publishing a blog, because it could potentially damage the newspaper's reputation. The answer, Meyer argues, lies in understanding that old answers apply to new media. "The fact that Weblogging is a relatively new technology," he says, "does not make it immune from long-established practices" that typically forbid employees from damaging the news organization's reputation and credibility, injecting themselves into the public debate or leveraging their employment with the news organization into outside ventures. •

*Bonnie Bressers is an assistant professor at Kansas State University and can be reached at [bressers@k-state.edu](mailto:bressers@k-state.edu)*

## The Five Most Popular Blogs

1. **Boing Boing**  
([www.boingboing.net](http://www.boingboing.net))
2. **Engadget**  
([www.engadget.com](http://www.engadget.com))
3. **PostSecret**  
(<http://postsecret.blogspot.com>)
4. **Daily Kos**  
([www.dailykos.com](http://www.dailykos.com))
5. **The Huffington Post**  
([www.huffingtonpost.com](http://www.huffingtonpost.com))

*According to [Tedchnorati.com](http://Tedchnorati.com) as of February 15, 2006, based on number of links.*

# CTEC MEMBERSHIP

# *Come and join us*

ITAI HIMELBOIM  
Membership Chair



Research on communication and technology is one of the fastest growing fields in Journalism and Mass Communication. The Communication Technology division (CTEC) invites

you to take active part in our community, and stay up-to-date with the most recent and cutting-edge research in the field.

## Help us expand our division:

Existing members please do not forget to renew your membership at [www.aejmc.org/about/memform06.html](http://www.aejmc.org/about/memform06.html).

Help us spread the word about the advantages of being a CTEC member.

Contact your peers, colleagues and students who are interested in the Internet, the World Wide Web, videogames, and any other new technology-related areas, introduce them to

the CTEC division and to our activities, and encourage them to join us.

## Join us and take part in our activities

- The annual AEJMC conference: join us for research sessions, pre-convention workshops, seminars, and panel discussions. Meet and brainstorm with people who are doing research similar to yours. Learn about "research in progress." Gain tips on teaching courses in the communication technology area.

- Faculty and student research competitions: The Jung-Sook Lee Student Paper Competition (see page 2).

- Midwinter research conference cosponsored with other AEJMC divisions (see pages 3,4).

- The CTEC website ([www.aejmc.net/ctp/](http://www.aejmc.net/ctp/)): gain access to online newsletters and newflashes, stay up-to-date on division activities, upcoming events and calls for papers.

- A listserv ([ctpaejmc@listserv.unc.edu](mailto:ctpaejmc@listserv.unc.edu)): This is a great opportunity to discuss the most interesting issues in our field with top experts from around the world (see page 7).

## Join and help us:

- Foster cutting-edge research on technology development, technology and telecommunications policies, application, and integration with existing media and communication systems.

- Improve college-level instructions in the uses and implications of new communication technologies.

- Assist college professors and high school journalism teachers in learning to use emerging communication technologies and to integrate those technologies into their classes.

- Work with professionals to explore the uses and implications of new technologies in areas such as the newsroom, public relations firms and advertising agencies.

There are many reasons to join CTEC! If you have questions, please contact me. •

---

*Itai Himelboim is a Ph.D. student at the University of Minnesota and can be reached at [hime0006@umn.edu](mailto:hime0006@umn.edu).*

## CTEC Officers for 2005-2006

### Division Head

Sriram "Sri" Kalyanaraman  
University of North Carolina  
(919) 843-5858  
[sri@unc.edu](mailto:sri@unc.edu)

### Vice Head and Program Chair

Daniela V. Dimitrova  
Iowa State University  
(515) 294-4435  
[danielad@iastate.edu](mailto:danielad@iastate.edu)

### Research & Paper Competition Chair

Mark Tremayne  
University of Texas  
(512) 471-7865  
[tremayne@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:tremayne@mail.utexas.edu)

### PF&R Chair

Maria Fontenot  
Texas Tech University  
(806) 742-6500, ext. 257  
[maria.fontenot@ttu.edu](mailto:maria.fontenot@ttu.edu)

### Mid-Winter Coordinator

James D. Ivory  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
(540) 231-6507  
[jivory@vt.edu](mailto:jivory@vt.edu)

### Teaching Standards Committee Chair

Bonnie Bressers  
Kansas State University  
(785) 532-3956  
[bressers@ksu.edu](mailto:bressers@ksu.edu)

### Membership Chair

Itai Himelboim  
University of Minnesota  
(612) 626-0221  
[hime0006@umn.edu](mailto:hime0006@umn.edu)

### Newsletter Editor

Marcus Messner  
University of Miami  
(305) 984-2133  
[m.messner@umiami.edu](mailto:m.messner@umiami.edu)

### Webmaster

Monica Postelnicu  
University of Florida  
(352) 871-3927  
[pmonica@ufl.edu](mailto:pmonica@ufl.edu)

### Listserv Manager

Rebecca Reynolds  
Syracuse University  
(315) 395-4741  
[rbreynol@syr.edu](mailto:rbreynol@syr.edu)

# Listserv enhances dialogue in the division

REBECCA REYNOLDS  
Listserv Manager



Greetings, I'm a 2nd-year doctoral fellow at the Newhouse School at Syracuse University, and the new listserv manager for CTEC. I'm relatively new to AEJMC and CTEC, and have been doing research

for about four years in online political communication and kids' use of technology for learning. I'm excited to be part of the division.

I've been a lurker to the CTEC listserv for sometime now, and I've noticed somewhat of a drop in messages lately. As the listserv manager, therefore, I'm coming out from behind my lurking now to stoke the CTEC listserv fires!

I wanted to take a moment to remind everyone of the purpose and benefits of our listserv, and how members can feel free to use it. We hope to see expanded dialogue online among our members as our division continues to grow.

**Community of scholars:** Our CTEC community is a valuable resource. We know the benefits of social networking and the strength of weak ties. We all stand to gain from more networked communication with group members. So don't hesitate to post! As a grad student, I greatly encourage my fellow student colleagues to participate as well.

**Advancement of knowledge:** Have a gap in

your research literature? Think of some new research questions our field should address? Looking for collaborators? Need ideas for course materials? Post your questions and ideas out there. Use the power of the network to advance your work, and advance the field.

## **Discussion of timely current events related to CTEC:**

- The Children and Media Research Advancement Act, currently in Congress: Where does it stand and what does it mean for funding towards research on kids' technology use?
- What do you think of the U.S. government's subpoena of Google user search histories and IP addresses?
- The Video iPod: Will it change TV viewing?
- What of Google's filter policies in China?

We all come across news topics relevant to our work on a daily basis. Don't hesitate to post your opinions and ideas.

## **Conference-related discussions:**

Whether pre-, during, or post-conference, send along word of meetings, events, and networking opportunities related to the conference, and thoughts you have about making our events better.

## **Observations of students' use of technology:**

How are undergrads using technology differently from us? What new research questions might be generated from this?

## **Cross-listings of other conferences, journal special issues, interdisciplinary publishing opportunities, etc:**

You probably receive these often on other listservs or via referrals from colleagues. Share relevant opportunities with CTEC members. You get the drift. We do work in technology; let's use it to our benefit!

## **Here's a guide to the logistics:**

Signing up - visit the following URL to sign up: [www.aejmc.net/ctp/contact.htm](http://www.aejmc.net/ctp/contact.htm)

How to post - simply send an email to the following address and your message will be sent to all subscribers:

[ctp-aejmc@listserv.unc.edu](mailto:ctp-aejmc@listserv.unc.edu)

Edit your account - edit your email address or switch to/from digest mode by visiting the following URL. Log in with the email address you signed up with. If you forgot your password the system will send it to you. Go to <http://mail.unc.edu/lists/>

Spread the word about CTEC and our listserv! Let others in our field know about this discussion venue by sending them this link: <http://www.aejmc.net/ctp/contact.htm>

I'm looking forward to hearing from CTEC members online. Please contact me with any questions regarding the listserv. •

---

*Rebecca Reynolds is a Ph.D. student at Syracuse University and can be reached at [rbreynol@syr.edu](mailto:rbreynol@syr.edu).*

## **New Name: CTEC has played no small role in AEJMC changes**

necessarily related to technology.

To recapitulate a couple of important issues that were voted upon by attendees at the last CTEC members' meeting in San Antonio, there was near unanimous approval for having a division social (preferably, after the members' meeting) at the San Francisco convention. The last time we had a formal social was at the 2001 Washington, D.C. conference, and many members felt that we should try to make this a regular event. Bill Israel has kindly offered to look into potential watering holes in San Francisco, and we will keep members informed once something is finalized. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to contact either Bill ([bisrael@journ.umass.edu](mailto:bisrael@journ.umass.edu)) or me ([sri@unc.edu](mailto:sri@unc.edu)).

Another topic of discussion was whether to increase the cost of division membership by a nominal amount. After some debate, there was unanimous agreement to increase the cost of membership by \$3 to \$10. The cost of membership for graduate students remains unchanged.

I also have some updates from the Mid-

winter conference at Savannah in December. Finally, AEJMC has agreed to adopt a uniform electronic submission system for future conferences. This decision was heartily welcomed by almost all the divisions and interest groups. Communication Technology members can be especially proud of this development as we were the first division to implement the ConfMaster online submission system for the 2004 Toronto convention. In fact, our continued success with the system, as also our successful mentoring of the Newspaper Division (who chose to employ the ConfMaster system for the San Antonio convention), has played no small role in AEJMC deciding to switch to an all-electronic format for the 2007 Washington, D.C. convention. At present, the association is in the process of negotiating with different vendors before making a final choice.

Some members have complained to me about a few recent postings on the listserv that pertained to job announcements. For the benefit of newer members, I would like to remind everybody that

division members voted during Sally's reign as head to desist posting job announcements on the listserv. On a related note, I have also received some e-mails asking how we can be more regular in disseminating news of interest to the division membership. Suggestions have ranged from starting a division blog to creating a wiki. If you have any further thoughts or suggestions on this issue, please e-mail me or Daniela Dimitrova ([danielad@iastate.edu](mailto:danielad@iastate.edu)).

Finally, Dan Riffe, Editor of *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*, approached me (and other division heads) after the Savannah Midwinter and expressed concern that a majority of AEJMC members seemed unaware of some recent changes in editorial policy. Considering JMCQ's position as AEJMC's flagship journal, I thought it was important that CTEC members are aware of these changes. Accordingly, Dan's message appears on page 8 of this newsletter. •

---

*Sriram "Sri" Kalyanaraman is an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and can be reached at [sri@unc.edu](mailto:sri@unc.edu).*

# Changes in Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly

DANIEL RIFFE  
Editor of JMCQ

Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly is published by AEJMC, and while it attracts scholarship and draws readership from outside the association, its origin within the ninety-three-year-old association helps explain what Quarterly has become. The association is made up of 3,400 members, seventeen divisions, and ten interest groups. Within those divisions and interest groups are scholars at different stages of their research careers, actively pursuing a broad and varied range of scholarly topics, employing diverse methods and working within a number of paradigms.

Not surprisingly, the many studies submitted to and published in Quarterly reflect that diversity and range of activities: historical, legal, qualitative, and social science inquiries that examine the many forms and processes of journalism and mass communication, and that may vary across individual, organizational, institutional, or societal levels of analysis.

Indeed, by some standards the success of a publication serving the field is its ability to present the best work representing all of those many interests and approaches. Distinctive individual pieces collectively reflect the field.

At the same time, Quarterly can serve a role of presenting scholarship that cuts across specialties, makes connections, and encourages interdisciplinarity, and that addresses broad issues, themes, and theories in the field. In each issue, in fact, we invite scholars to employ "a variety of methods and theoretical perspectives," to "challenge the boundaries of communication research," and to guide readers "to new questions, new evidence, and new conclusions."

The importance of this mission statement has been reaffirmed and emphasized by the discussions that followed the release of the recommendations of the Task Force on the Status and Future of AEJMC Publications. To this end, the

editors of Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly are committed to publishing such theory-building work, whether it takes the form of an inductive process of creating theoretical propositions from existing scholarship, or develops through a deductive approach; whether it represents theory-building within a "narrow" area (risk communication, media economics, agenda setting, etc.) or cuts across such areas; and whether it emerges from a social science or critical paradigm.

Similarly, we remain committed to our goal of publishing manuscripts that examine the relationship of our research methods to our theories or that provide historical perspective on the field. The Spring 2003 issue challenged readers and contributors to make Quarterly "the venue for submissions examining both basic and sophisticated methodological questions."

In order to serve the diversity of scholarly methods and approaches in our field, Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly has recently added additional pages per volume to permit more flexibility in manuscript length and to expand the book review section. Quarterly has expanded the traditional 5,000-word manuscript guideline to 6,000 words for manuscripts not employing tabular material. At the same time, we have adopted a process used by several leading journals: manuscript reviewers will be asked to offer an assessment of a manuscript's length-to-contribution "ratio." If reviewers recommend shortening or lengthening a piece, that recommendation will inform the editor's decision and any revision process.

The Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly editors hope the increased word limit for non-quantitative manuscripts will encourage the submission of more theory-building and methodology-oriented manuscripts that cut across the boundaries of communication research. As in the past, Quarterly will continue its process of rigorously reviewing all manuscripts and will continue to welcome studies addressing important topics of journalism and mass communication from the diverse interests and approaches that mark our field.

## A new name deserves a new look

*Submit articles  
for spring newsletter*

MARCUS MESSNER  
Newsletter Editor



As you might have noticed while flipping through the previous pages, we took the opportunity to combine the new name of our division with a new

look for our newsletter. Dustin Supa, a fellow Ph.D. student at the University of Miami with a specialization in visual communication, spent hours designing the new layout for this newsletter. And he is not even a member of CTEC ..., yet.

Now, the new design has to be filled with many articles by you - the members of our division. Articles can be about any topic relating to our field and our division and should run between 700 and 1400 words. Authors should provide their contact information and if they want can also send a mugshot to run with the article. Photos from division events, such as the Midwinter Conference or the division meeting at the Annual Conference are always welcome.

Besides articles, I will also be glad to publish announcements, event previews and personal notes. Let other members know what research you are working on or about the new position you just took. This will enhance the communication in our division.

The deadline for article submissions for our spring newsletter is April 10, 2006. I will be happy to discuss ideas and suggestions with you. Please send your submission as an e-mail attachment to me.

I look forward to reading many articles! •

*Marcus Messner is a Ph.D. student at the University of Miami and can be reached at [m.messner@umiami.edu](mailto:m.messner@umiami.edu).*