



# VISCOM

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## Questions?

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I had a column mostly written in my head and then as I sat down at my office computer a communication from the university entered my in-box: Gov. Tate Reeves has issued a directive to the employees of our state that we may not download or use TikTok of government issued equipment. When I couple that with Gov. De Santis' decision to block an AP African American studies course in Florida, and the number of alums



Michael Fagans, Division Head

communicating with me about Memphis and the anticipation of the releasing of police footage surrounding the death of Tyre Nichols, it becomes more problematic to stick with my initial idea.

How do we responsibly help our students and graduates navigate these difficult waters and potentially ethical decisions that they will have to make?

I spent part of yesterday helping a very talented photojournalist navigate the ethical situations she was facing covering the story as well as working with the relationships she had built over-time in her community. Other grads are 'on-call' in case their community responds when the footage is released because of recent violent incidents. I am thankful that we will have one panel this summer that will address some of these issues, and that we have many colleagues who research the impacts of these cases as well as train students to enter situations like these.

How do we bring our expertise out of the academic 'tower' and into our communities, our states, and our country(ies)?

*continued on page 2*

## Best of the Web/Best of Digital 2023 Competition

- Joe Gosen & Yuchen Liu

The "Best of the Web/Best of Digital" Competition, an annual web and app design contest co-sponsored by the [Communication Technology](#) and [Visual Communication](#) Divisions is open to faculty and/or students who work for or attend an institution accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (ACEJMC) or are current (paid) members of the AEJMC. University and college staff are not eligible.

Entries should advance education or research in journalism and/or mass communication. Entries unrelated to this field or of a commercial nature will not be accepted. The Individual/Team/Single categories consist of entries that have been designed and/or created by an individual, a small team, or a single class. The Multiple class/Institution categories consist of entries that have been designed and/or created by several classes collaborating on a single project or by a school or department collaborating on a single project.

Professionals and academics with a background in web and app design technology are responsible for judging the competition. Judging primarily focuses on the design, presentation, and technological components of the project. Please contact Joe or Yuchen if you are interested in volunteering to judge this year.

Spread the word among your colleagues and students. We particularly encourage submissions in the app categories.

For more information, please contact:

Joe Gosen ([gosenj@wwu.edu](mailto:gosenj@wwu.edu)) or Yuchen Liu ([y.liu13@csuohio.edu](mailto:y.liu13@csuohio.edu))

Visit the website at [aejmcbestofweb.wordpress.com](http://aejmcbestofweb.wordpress.com).

**Entry Fees:** There is no entry fee, so please spread the word among your colleagues and students.

**Categories:** All categories are divided into two groups – large schools (10K+ undergraduate student body) and small schools (under 10K undergraduate student body).

- Website: Individual/Team/Single – and – Multiple class/Institution
- App: Individual/Team/Single – and – Multiple class/Institution

**Deadline:** Friday, May 12, 2023 – Midnight (PST)

**Contest rules and guidelines:** [aejmcbestofweb.wordpress.com/rules/](http://aejmcbestofweb.wordpress.com/rules/)

**Submit Here:** [www.aejmcbestofweb.wordpress.com/submit](http://www.aejmcbestofweb.wordpress.com/submit).

### Fagans, continued from page 1

I know that we teach ethics. I know that we teach professionalism. I know that we teach skills. I know that we teach history. I know that we work to provide context.

I know that some of my colleagues down the hall teach crisis management. If only Memphis government leadership was talking with them about their decision-making process today.

This week I am reminded that my work with students does not end when they depart with their gown and diploma. I am thankful that they can and do reach out, and that makes me think over what and how I will teach in the classroom this semester and into the future.

News happens. It always will. How we respond, how we adapt our scholarship, change the focus of our creative work, and think about our participation in the academic and larger world off-campus is within

our control. Today weighs heavily on me. I know that I taught them as best as I could with the time that I had. I also know that they could call me again tonight or tomorrow if they need to.

Thank you for your service and work within our division and in our field. Now, more than ever, we need to help produce professional and ethical citizens.

The words of Tyre's mother,

RowVaughn Wells, echo in my thoughts and feelings this afternoon: 'He loved to watch the sunset. He loved photography. He was a beautiful soul.'

**'He loved to watch the sunset. He loved photography. He was a beautiful soul.'**



## CONTEST ALERT

## An Update from the Contest Chair

- Ross Taylor

### Deadline Soon for the Innovation in Teaching Competition

- Natalia Mielczarek

Here's your chance to share your expertise and take part in one of the favorite panels at the 2023 AEJMC annual conference: The Innovations in Teaching (formerly Teaching Marathon) panel. Once again, the Visual Communication and Magazine divisions are teaming up to host this panel at the national conference in Washington D.C..

If you have a teaching technique, innovation or exercise that can be shared in about 5 minutes, please fill out the form and return it to Natalia Mielczarek: [nmiel@vt.edu](mailto:nmiel@vt.edu) by March 1, 2023. Please put "Innovation in Teaching" in the subject line of your email to streamline the submission process.

Those selected to present at the 2023 AEJMC conference in Washington D.C. will be notified about a month after the submission deadline. You must be able to attend the conference in-person to participate.

Questions? Contact Natalia at [nmiel@vt.edu](mailto:nmiel@vt.edu)

We wanted to update everyone with some possible changes with the contests of our division that we are considering, all with the

support of AEJMC (We held our most recent Zoom call earlier this week with AEJMC). Our current contests are Best of Digital, Teaching (two types of awards) and Creative Research. Thanks for all who have contributed to prior discussions and we're open to hearing any thoughts from our members, as well. Feel free to contact myself, Michael or Shannon with any suggestions you may have (or if you want to get involved to help out!).

Here are a few key points to be aware of:

1. We're thinking about offering categories within the creative research, so we don't have such disparate entries in comparison (for example, design is much different than a feature-length film, it's hard to compare the two). We're looking at possible categories such as photography, film/video, and design (which could be several different ideations), although not limited to this if it continues to grow. We recognize that it's hard getting judges for these, and it may be a tough task in time for this year's conference. If we don't make changes for this year's conference, we hope to implement them soon after (which leads to point 2). Stay tuned for details and dates for this soon.
2. We're thinking of moving Best of Design and Creative Research into one larger end-of-year online contest. We've spoken to AEJMC, and they are in support of it. Additionally, AEJMC already has a web framework to host such a contest. If this gets approved by our division, the idea is to have this contest as a more robust reflection of the expertise of the division, allowing for greater growth/interest. If this happens, the winners within this contest would then present at the following AEJMC conference (to assist with their tenure and promotion). Stay tuned for a meeting in the coming months on this, and for more details as well in the coming months. It's a great chance to grow our division and have more opportunities for your teaching and creative work to be recognized. It's also a chance for you to have a service component to your tenure/promotion file, as we would love involvement.

By doing this, not only will we have more categories and more options for people to be recognized and get involved, but it will also (hopefully) open up a possible panel slot at the conference. Additionally, we're beginning to explore how this may factor into a much larger AEJMC online contest. This may help streamline and reduce redundancy in other divisional contests, while maintaining our ability to construct contests that reflect our division's interest and expertise. We're excited and invite your input!

## Southeast Colloquium Includes Visual Communication Division Research and Panels

- Keith Greenwood

The Visual Communication Division will have a strong presence at the upcoming Southeast Colloquium.

The Colloquium will feature four visual communication sessions on Friday and Saturday. A session Friday morning will be devoted to completed paper presentations. Three authors will present their research, with time for discussion.

A session Friday afternoon will focus on research in progress from seven authors. The session will use a high-density format where each of the authors will have a brief time to talk about their research. Then, instead of a general discussion of all the research, participants will have a chance to talk with individual authors, much like the format of a poster session. The format ensures participants will have an opportunity to discuss the research that most interests them more in depth with the authors.

Friday afternoon will also feature a panel discussion. "Strategic Visual Communication Opportunities for Application in Teaching, Research and Service" promises to identify opportunities for improving practice in teaching, research, and service, with individual panelists focusing on each area.

A second panel discussion is scheduled for Saturday morning. "Advocating for a Visual Communication Path in Journalism Programs" will consider why a visual journalism path would be essential for training future journalists in the contemporary media environment, how some schools have integrated visual communication training into their curricula, and how non-visual journalism educators perceive the importance of visual communication education.

Seven other divisions/interest groups will be represented at the colloquium: Broadcast and Mobile Journalism; Community Journalism; History; Law and Policy; LGBTQ; Magazine Media; and Newspaper & Online News. Research also will be presented in an "Open" division, and Saturday morning will conclude with a G.I.F.T. schedule focused on teaching ideas.

The Colloquium is March 2-4 at Middle Tennessee State University. The deadline for regular registration is February 15. After that the registration fee goes up. More information about registration, hotel and the overall schedule is on the Colloquium website at [www.mtsu.edu/secolloq23/](http://www.mtsu.edu/secolloq23/).



## 2023 Southeast Colloquium

### Visual Communication Division Schedule

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#### Friday

##### 11:15am - 12:15pm

- The Immigration Nation Documentary: An analysis of ICE's narrative aesthetics, Susan Cardillo, University of Hartford
- Short-form Documentary: Teaching the Parts, Sandra Roa, University of South Florida
- "Please No One Call Me": The Cumulative Impact of Covering Mass Shootings on Photojournalists, Lisa Krantz, University of Missouri

##### 3:15pm - 4:30pm

- The Simplification of Brand Logo Design and Typography from 2012 to 2022, Oakley Weddle, University of Memphis
- The visuals of a changing newsroom: Analyzing local coverage of the midterm election in Georgia, Andrea Hudson and Matt Binford, University of Georgia
- "Tears have never won anyone freedom:" Ukraine's use of Twitter memes as counter-narrative, Mark Poepsel, Bipin Banjara, Abdurrahman Celik, David Daiber, Kourtney Jamison, Andrew Malo, Waqas Muhammad, Chinedu Chukwuezugbo Obuekwe, Mary Eleojo Onuche, Valquiria Lorein Perea-Gongora, Bikash Pokharel, and Mikayla Wilhelm - Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
- Visualizing Diplomacy: A Content Analysis of Visuals from Official State Twitter Accounts, Audrey Firrone, University of Memphis
- Flips & Football: Collegiate Athletes and gender presentation within Name, Image and Likeness, Cara Hawkins-Jedlicka, Washington State University; Andrea E. Hall, Middle Tennessee State University
- Baby weight: how messaging surrounding breastfeeding and weight loss can be perceived by new mothers, Rachel Patterson, Pennsylvania State University
- Life Plotting: Disruptive Narratives Defiant Voices, Jaz Gray, Pepperdine University

##### 4:45pm - 5:45pm

- Strategic Visual Communication Opportunities for Application in Teaching, Research, and Service, Elizabeth Spencer - University of Kentucky, Erin B. Hester - University of Kentucky, Kristen Livingston - Pittsburg State University

#### Saturday

##### 8:30am - 9:30am

- Advocating for a visual communication path in journalism programs, Deborah Chung - University of Kentucky, Yung Soo Kim - University of Kentucky, Keith Greenwood - University of Missouri, Bill Cassidy - Northern Illinois University, Kacie Urch - University of Kentucky