



January 2026

LEADTIME

The official newsletter of the Newspaper & Online News Division.

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MICHAEL CLAY CAREY

NOND DIVISION HEAD

The 2026 AEJMC conference in New Orleans may still feel a long way off, but—as this issue of LeadTime demonstrates—a lot of important preparation has already begun. I want to take this space to recognize and thank a few of the many people who have been central to that work.

NOND Vice Head Patrick Walters (*Washington and Lee*) has been hard at work programming this year's conference.

As you'll see in his column this month, we have a fascinating set of panels and other programming opportunities in New Orleans.

I'm grateful for Patrick's diligence and leadership, and I also want to thank all the NOND members who submitted panel proposals for this year's conference.

Speaking of submissions, I'm sure many of you are ready to put your best research forward by submitting it to NOND's research call (*or, if you're more like me, perhaps you'll be frantically polishing that work at 11 p.m. on April 1* ...



Michael Clay Carey

whatever gets it done, right?. Division Research Co-Chairs **Amber Hinsley** (*Texas State*) and **David Wolfgang** (*Colorado State*) have done exceptional work in preparing our division's research competition, including the development of a special call for research that considers the ways artificial intelligence (AI) impacts our work.

I've always appreciated the diverse research interests represented in our division, and I hope you will continue to

See '**CONTRIBUTIONS**'
on PAGE 3

Members urged to continue submitting news



Todd R. Vogts

TODD R. VOGTS
NOND NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Sometimes the chimes from my computer alerting me to new emails become annoying.

Recently, though, I was happy to hear those noises because it meant people were sending in their announcements for this issue of LeadTime.

Granted, I would have loved to receive more, but I had to remind myself that it takes individuals time to adopt new tools and processes for doing things.

That's the whole point of diffusion of innovations theory, right?

That being said, I want to reiterate my call for your news and announcements for NOND Notes.

I'm looking for all sorts of updates and news to share.

Maybe you published a new book or had an article accepted in a journal, submit it.

Did you recently receive tenure or a promotion? Let the division know.

Or, if you got a new job or are moving into a new position, share the exciting news.

It would be great to receive information about job openings, too.

Along those same lines, if you have a call for paper or panel proposals or are looking for research collaborations, submit them.

As I wrote before, this would be a great way to get the information in front of people who are keen on contributing.

Perhaps you or a colleague is retiring. NOND would love to celebrate with you, so please submit it.

Maybe you just want to give someone a shout-out.

Whether it is a colleague, peer, student, or anyone else, shower them with accolades by submitting a note that brags on their accomplishments.

The point is, I want it all so this newsletter can be a true

resource and connection point for the NOND membership. No matter the type of news, consider submitting it.

To make sharing your updates easier, a simple Google Form has been created. You can access it here: [NOND Notes](#).

Submissions will be published as soon as they are received.

Keep in mind, though, LeadTime comes out about quarterly, so if your information is time-sensitive, keep the 2025-2026 publication schedule in mind.

If using the Google Form doesn't interest you, though, you can always email me at todd.vogts@gmail.com.

No matter how you submit, I do ask that a photo or image of some sort be included, since visuals help to make the newsletter more enjoyable.

In an ideal world, there will be so much submitted content that there won't be room for anything from me.

2025-26 NOND Officers

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Todd R. Vogts (*Sterling*)

News Research Journal Editorial Staff:

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Assoc. Editor: Kirstie Hettinga (*Cal Lutheran*)

LEADTIME DEADLINES

March 2026

Submission: March 6

Distribution: March 13

July 2026

Submission: July 3

Distribution: July 11

NOND panels will tackle news deserts, use of AI in multimedia reporting, other pressing topics

PATRICK WALTERS

NOND VICE HEAD

The Newspaper and Online News Division is organizing a diverse array of panels for this year's conference, ones that seek to foster discussion on diverse topics ranging from how to tackle the problem of news deserts to the challenges of reporting on non-human species.

In partnership with the **Community Journalism Interest Group**, we are co-sponsoring a panel that is looking at different perspectives on how to address the crises of news deserts. *Teri Finneman of Kansas* and *Aaron Atkins of Weber State* are organizing a discussion of different approaches for helping communities that have little or no access to quality information.

Another panel, co-sponsored with **Media Ethics**, will explore how jour-

nalism represents the perspectives of non-humans. The session, "Covering Life Beyond Humans: Challenges in News Reporting," will bring together journalists and researchers to discuss how these challenges can be dealt with in reporting on environmental issues such as climate change.

The division is also partnering with the **Participatory Journalism Interest Group** on a panel that will focus on journalism's role in the democratic process amid increasing attacks on the press.

Journalists, researchers and others will discuss ways news organizations can better engage their communities and whether they should change the way they should cover government.

There will also be several panels focused on teaching. The division is partnering with the **International Communication Division** on a panel titled "Teaching Multimedia Reporting in Age

of AI," which will address ways that educators may need to adjust the ways they teach multimedia skills amid the rise of AI technologies.

In partnership with the **Scholastic Journalism Division**, NOND will also be sponsoring its "Teaching News Terrifically in the 21st Century" panel, which showcases the winning ideas in our annual teaching ideas competition.

Mitch McKenney of Kent State is also organizing our "Champions of Editing" session, which is being co-sponsored with Scholastic. The session will bring in a guest speaker to discuss ongoing trends, challenges and issues in the world of editing.



Patrick Walters

'CONTRIBUTIONS' *continued from PAGE 1*

support the division by submitting your research for possible presentation.

Close readers of NOND's paper call will also notice a new opportunity: the News Research Journal Top Paper Competition. News Research Journal (NRJ) **Editor Kris Boyle (BYU)** and **Associate Editor Kirstie Hettinga (California Lutheran)** have championed this project, which presents another way to highlight and support some of the excellent work our division members do.

I'm grateful for Kris and Kirstie's leadership at NRJ, and for the continued support the journal receives from its editorial board and the scholars who submit their research.

Our 2026 AEJMC preconference workshop will once again focus on helping people prepare for success on the academic job market. **Michelle Rossi (Loyola New Orleans)** has done fantastic work organizing this year's preconference, which will be held on her university's

campus.

NOND has sponsored a job readiness panel for several years. Space prohibits recognizing all the people who have made the workshop successful over the years, but I would like to thank **Chris Etheridge (Kansas)** for organizing the 2025 preconference workshop and for his invaluable guidance as we look forward to this year's preconference.

NOND received an outstanding number of submissions for the 2026 AEJMC Southeast Colloquium, hosted by the University of Tampa in March.

Our division's **Southeast Colloquium Chair Shuning Lu (Maryland)** has done an impressive job of managing our submissions and planning NOND's colloquium programming, and I'm grateful for her work, and for all of you who developed research or programming for the colloquium.

Many other people contribute to our division in leadership capacities, in-

cluding **Teaching Chair Brian Delaney (Auburn)**, **PF&R Chair Brown James (Lyon)**, **LeadTime Editor Todd R. Vogts (Sterling)**, **Social Media Chair Vy Luong (Missouri)**, **Web Editor Jessica Walsh (Nebraska)**, **Membership Chair Jasmine Wang (Louisville)**, and **Secretary Mandy Zhang (Rhode Island)**.

I appreciate their enthusiasm and their commitment to building up our scholarly community.

I'd also like to thank the outstanding AEJMC staff for everything they do to make the association what it is.

I've very much enjoyed working with all these people. But there are dozens more whose actions—big and small, seen and unseen—also matter a lot.

I'm thankful for the many ways your leadership, your passion, your energy, your mentorship, and your friendship lift others up.

Special call & competitions

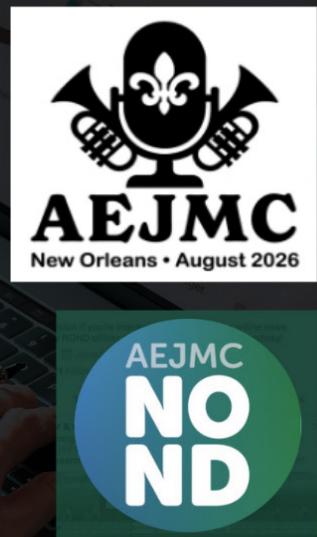
AI in the news, newsroom & classroom--special call

News Research Journal top paper

Top faculty research paper

MacDougall student paper

Submissions due April 1, 2026



Special call: AI & news

- Research manuscript centered on AI in the news, newsroom, or journalism classroom
- Paper can explore AI in any of the above topics individually or together
- Choose 'NOND Special Call' when submitting
- Monetary awards for top two papers

NRJ top paper competition

- Chosen from among NOND manuscripts for open paper and student paper competitions
- \$1000 award and expedited review for *News Research Journal* publication
- Manuscript cannot be under review elsewhere

Top faculty paper competition

- Selected from among NOND manuscripts for open paper competition
- Eligible papers are faculty or faculty-student
- Monetary awards for top three papers

MacDougall student paper competition

- Selected from among NOND manuscripts for student paper competition
- Eligible papers are authored only by student(s)
- Monetary award for top paper

Paper submission site

- <https://aejmc.secure-platform.com/site>
- Due 11:59 p.m. April 1, 2026
- Follow all guidelines for full papers and research-in-progress submissions
- RIPS are not eligible for special call or competition awards

Annual conference site

- <https://www.aejmc.org/aejmc-events/conference>
- Aug. 5-8, 2026
- New Orleans Marriott

Questions?

- Dr. Amber Hinsley or Dr. David Wolfgang, NOND Research Co-Chairs
- ahinsley@txstate.edu
- david.wolfgang@colostate.edu

NOND 2026 PAPER CALL

The Newspaper and Online News Division has a new special paper call and a new competition for 2026 conference submissions. NOND welcomes all theoretical orientations and methodologies that investigate newspapers and online news, broadly defined, including (*but not limited to*):

- Audience analytics and perceptions
- Business models for news, entrepreneurship, economic issues for news organizations
- Digital divides, news deserts, news access issues
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion issues in news coverage
- Digital, mobile, streaming, social media news
- Disinformation/misinformation in news, news literacy
- Global journalism, foreign news
- News bias, news credibility, partisan perceptions of news
- News coverage
- Participatory journalism, citizen journalism
- User-generated content on news sites and social media

All papers must follow the AEJMC uniform paper competition guidelines. Papers cannot be already published or accepted for an academic journal or book, nor can they have been previously presented at another conference or submitted simultaneously to another AEJMC division.

Paper Formatting (Full Paper): Full papers should be no more than 30 pages (double spaced) in length, including title page, abstract, tables, figures, references, and notes. Authors are required to submit a title page with an abstract of their paper that is no more than 150 words, includes 3-5 keywords, and indicates which NOND call to which they are submitting (special call, open competition, or student competition). NRJ Top Paper submissions can be sent to any of these calls and must note on the title page that they wish to be considered for the NRJ Top Paper award). Papers should follow the current publication manual of APA or Chicago citation style, have 1-inch margins, and use 12 point Times New Roman. Submit a clean paper without author-identifying information, such as name, university affiliation, job title, etc. Inclusion of identifying information will result in automatic disqualification of the paper. Please refer to AEJMC's uniform paper call on how to upload clean papers. NOND highly recommends submitting papers as a PDF file.

Paper Formatting (Research-in-Progress): NOND will accept research-in-progress submissions for the 2026 conference. The RIP format is suitable for authors who are sufficiently along in the research process to address the content elements described below but have not had sufficient time to prepare a full paper. Authors should clearly report in the Method and Findings sections how far along the data collection and analysis phases are, respectively, and explain what steps remain and the anticipated value/contribution of these steps so that reviewers can assess the foundations on which conclusions are based. The RIPs must be at least 1,000 words long but no more than 1,500 words (excluding title page, references, tables and figures). When submitting in this format, authors must use the RIP submission portal and include "Research in Progress" on the title page along with a 75-word abstract. RIPs must also include a reference list. Please ensure all identifying author information has been removed. RIPs are not eligible for NOND paper competitions or awards.

SPECIAL PAPER CALL FOR 2026: NOND seeks full papers with research that centers on "AI in the news, newsroom, and journalism classroom." Manuscripts can explore any of these topics individually or together and may use a variety of methodologies and theoretical frameworks. All submissions must follow the formatting guidelines for full papers, and they must designate "NOND Special Paper Call" on the title page. Authors must use the NOND Special Call submission portal. RIPs are not accepted for this special paper call. The top paper will receive a \$200 award, and the second place paper will receive a \$100 award.

OPEN PAPER COMPETITION: NOND grants Top Faculty Research Paper Awards for excellence in research to recognize the best faculty paper submitted to the division. Manuscripts should be submitted to the open paper competition

See '**PAPER CALL'**
on PAGE 6

'PAPER CALL' *continued from PAGE 1*

if they are faculty- and student-faculty-authored papers submitted as FULL manuscripts. RIPS are NOT eligible for open paper competition. NOND recognizes the top three papers with a monetary award. The first-place prize is sponsored by the division's journal, News Research Journal. Papers should be submitted via the NOND open paper competition portal.

STUDENT PAPER COMPETITION: Graduate and undergraduate students are invited to submit original research regarding any topic related to newspaper and online news. Student papers submitted in this category are eligible for the MacDougall Student Paper Award. For a paper to be considered for a student paper award, ALL coauthors must be students. Papers in which students are co-authors with faculty should NOT be submitted to this category. Authors should include "MacDougall Student Paper Award" on the title page and submit the manuscript via the NOND student paper portal. The manuscript must follow the NOND full paper format guidelines. MacDougall winners will receive a monetary award and a certificate of recognition during the conference. RIPS are NOT eligible for the student paper competition.

NEWS RESEARCH JOURNAL TOP PAPER COMPETITION: All full manuscripts, including faculty-authored papers, student-authored papers, and faculty-student-authored papers, are eligible for consideration for the News Research Journal Top Paper award. Authors should include "News Research Journal Top Paper Award" on the title page to indicate their desire to be considered for this award, and they can be submitted via the NOND Open Paper, Student Paper, or Special Call portal. The winner will be chosen in consultation with the editors of the News Research Journal. The winner will be awarded \$1,000 and expedited review for publication in NRJ. Research-in-progress submissions are NOT eligible for the NRJ paper competition. Entries to the NRJ paper competition may NOT be under review simultaneously with a division other than NOND, simultaneously with the AEJMC conference and any other conference, or simultaneously with the AEJMC conference and any potential any potential publication, including refereed journals, book chapters, etc. The Newspaper and Online News Division reserves the right to not award the NRJ Top Paper Award if there not enough qualified submissions. All award winners are strongly encouraged to submit their manuscripts to the Newspaper and Online News Division's journal, News Research Journal.

All submissions undergo an anonymized review process by a panel of independent reviewers. Papers are accepted on the understanding that they have not been previously published or presented elsewhere and that they have been submitted only to the Newspaper & Online News Division for evaluation. Per the AEJMC Standing Committee of Research guidelines, self-citation is appropriate so long as the narrative surrounding the self-citation does not reveal authorship. The submission must be uploaded to the server no later than 11:59 p.m. (*Central Daylight Time*) Tuesday, April 1, 2026. For any questions, contact NOND research co-chairs Dr. Amber Hinsley (ahinsley@txstate.edu) or Dr. David Wolfgang (David.Wolfgang@colostate.edu).



NOND co-sponsoring 2026 TNT competition, entries due April 8

BRIAN DELANEY

NOND TEACHING CHAIR

Once again the Newspaper and Online News Division (NOND) and Scholastic Division are partnering to sponsor the “Teaching News Terrifically (TNT) in the 21st Century” competition.

Authors of winning submissions will be invited to participate in a panel at the 2026 AEJMC Conference from Aug. 5-8 in New Orleans.

The deadline to submit to the TNT competition is April 8 (*one week after the paper competition deadline*).

The teaching committee encourages instructors to submit teaching ideas that demonstrate new and effective ways to teach student journalists any of the essential skills needed to succeed in contemporary journalism.

Ideas will be judged for their originality, innovation, ease of application, completeness and writing.

In addition, judges will consider whether the ideas are transferable to more than one course and/or across programs of varying sizes.

All ideas should be original (not previously published elsewhere) and class-

room-tested (*current semester included*).

Full-time, part-time and graduate student instructors who are members of either division are eligible to submit to the competition.

Entries will be evaluated by a team of judges from both NOND and/or Scholastic divisions.

Winners will be notified in mid-May.

If you are interested in judging the competition, please email me directly (bcd0039@auburn.edu).

Interested applicants can review the submission form here:
<https://aub.ie/TNT2026>.

Step into next chapter at 2026 NOND Job Market Readiness Workshop

MICHELLE ROSSI

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS

As I entered the final year of my Ph.D., the job search suddenly became part of my daily life.

I was trying to finish a dissertation that felt all-consuming while also shaping teaching and research statements that reflected who I was becoming as a scholar.

I spent long evenings tailoring cover letters, selecting samples of my work that felt true to my voice, and building a list of universities where I could imagine the next chapter of my career.

I had incredible support from my esteemed University of Colorado - Boulder community, including my advisor, who truly guided me through the process.

Still, I wished there were a space where this information could be shared in a structured and welcoming way for others navigating the same transition.

That was the idea behind the job market readiness workshop that the Newspaper and Online News Division (NOND) initiated a few years ago.

Since then, the division has done a fantastic job supporting graduate students in the transition to the job market.

For the AEJMC 2026 conference in New Orleans, I am happy to share that I will oversee the NOND’s job market readiness preconference workshop, hosted offsite at Loyola University New Orleans.

We will spend an afternoon, from 1 to 5 p.m., with workshops on crafting cover letters, teaching statements, and research statements, along with interview tips, all guided by a mix of experienced professors.

Most importantly, we will gather together to support each other.

Coming from a COVID-era Ph.D., I know how much the sense of community was lost, and we need to actively work on reestablishing this support.

Loyola University New Orleans is located on St. Charles Avenue, a must-see in the city.

To get to the university, simply hop on a Streetcar and take in the view. Hop off in front of Loyola, enjoy the workshop, and then reserve time to explore uptown New Orleans.

We are neighbors with Tulane University and face Audubon Park.

The surrounding area is a vibrant college neighborhood with shops, restaurants, music venues, and bars.

It is a perfect way to appreciate all of the work you have done so far. I hope to see many of you at the workshop. Spread the word!

**Michelle Rossi**

LEADTIME

PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

**March
2026**

*Submission: March 6
Distribution: March 13*

**July
2026**

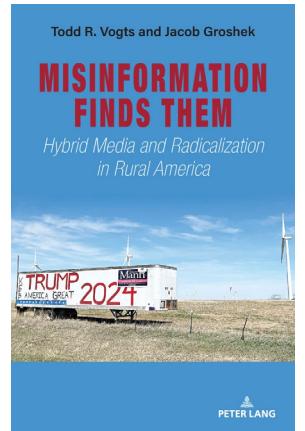
*Submission: July 3
Distribution: July 11*

Submit news and information to Newsletter Editor Todd Vogts
at todd.vogts@gmail.com.

NEW BOOK

Todd R. Vogts (*Sterling College*) and Jacob Groshek (*Kansas State University*) recently published their first book.

It is titled “Misinformation Finds Them: Hybrid Media and Radicalization in Rural America.” It is published by Peter Lang.



In this study, “Misinformation Finds Them” uncovers how the perceived threat of misinformation effects on other people is just as potent – if not more so – than the actual impact that hybrid media systems have on democracy and community in the heartland.

Here, it is not that rural Americans are particularly vulnerable to misinformation; they are highly active media consumers, but they generally rely on news to “find me” rather than actively critically engaging with a diverse set of sources.

This passive News Finds Me approach to media engagement, coupled with their belief that others are more susceptible to receiving and spreading misleading or false narratives, gives rise to distrust and polarization.

The Misinformation Finds Them (MFT) perception is particularly potent as algorithms and AI are increasingly embedded in news distribution systems that seek to maximize user engagement with personalized content.

The perceived threat of misinformation can exacerbate polarization, but the notion that misinformation radicalizes rural populations simply is not accurate, and rural Americans show no meaningful differences to their more urban counterparts in terms of knowledge and media use.

“Misinformation Finds Them” is available for free as a digital publication thanks to an open access grant. Printed copies are available for purchase.

The book can be found here: <https://doi.org/10.3726/b21945>

NONDer NOTES

JOB OPENING

California State University Fresno's Department of Media, Communications and Journalism is searching for an *Assistant Professor of Advertising/Public Relations OR Broadcast and Digital Journalism*.



The successful candidate will teach undergraduate courses in advertising and public relations OR broadcast and digital journalism, advise students, conduct scholarly research and creative works, and participate in service-related activities.

This position would be for the Fall 2026 semester, starting in August.

To ensure full consideration, applicants should submit all application materials by **February 25, 2026**. Review of applications will begin on **January 26, 2026**.

Here's a [link to the position](#) announcement.

JOURNAL PUBS

Brown James (*Lyon College*) recently accepted an offer of publication from *Southwestern Law Review* for an article titled “Framing the Court: Cable news’s coverage of the Dobbs decision and threats to the legitimacy of the Supreme Court”.

It will be in the *Review’s* Fall 2026 edition.



Carol Terracina-Hartman (*Murray State University*) recently published in the *Journal of Magazine Media*. The article is titled ““Evolution in Campus Media: How a pandemic and social justice movement prompted student journalists to rethink the campus magazine.”

The article appeared in the Fall 2024 edition.



Publish in the . . .

News Research Journal

*The official journal
of the NOND!*



News Research Journal (NRJ) is a refereed journal published quarterly that reaches thousands of journalism students, scholars, and media professionals in the United States and internationally.

Founded in 1979, NRJ answers questions about all aspects of US and foreign newspapers: their content, their staffs, their management (including advertising, circulation, and production) and economics, their technology, their design and layout, their relationships with their communities and democracy, their relationships with journalism educators, journalism ethics, and more. All research methodologies and all relevant theories are welcome.

Submit your manuscript today at <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/newspaperresearchj>

JOURNAL METRICS

First decision:

45 days*

Acceptance to publication:

30 days*

Acceptance rate:

28.7%

* average number of days