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WELCOME FROM BAMJ HEAD

What's Next for BAMJ: Building a Meaningful Year Together

This year marks an especially meaningful moment for our division. Our **Hood–Dupont Award** has been renamed in memory of Lee Hood and Nancy Dupont, two educators whose dedication, mentorship and leadership shaped journalism practice and education. Honoring them in this way is deeply personal to us. Our **Bliss Award nominations** for distinguished broadcast educators are also open through March 15, and we look forward to submissions leading up to New Orleans.

Despite a challenging year on many fronts, BAMJ continued to move forward with purpose. In this issue, you'll see a **panel lineup**, presented by vice head Kris Vera-Phillips, on topics ranging from caring for storytellers to continuing to navigate emerging tech.

On the research front, we're excited to introduce a **Best Poster Award** for accepted poster submissions delivered in-person, with more details from research chair Stan Jastrzebski. We're also working on **research-focused efforts** to support our members at all levels, as membership chair Elia Powers shares.

If you're working on manuscripts at the intersection of AI and broadcast journalism, our flagship **Electronic News** journal has something special for you, as editor-in-chief Debora Wenger explains.

Lastly, [BAMJ is now on LinkedIn](#), so follow us to share updates, calls and community highlights! I'm proud of the momentum BAMJ has built and excited for what it has yet to deliver – all with the effort and dedication of our officers and members. Thank you for being part of BAMJ!

#AEJMC26 PANEL LINEUP

Crescent City Ready to Remix and Revive Media Scholarship and Practice

New Orleans music and flavors inspired the AEJMC Presidential Leadership team, who combined both into this year's conference theme: Jazz & Jambalaya: Nurturing Harmony and Health in Higher Education.

As the Crescent City remixes harmonies and spices, we see scholars, journalists, communicators and storytellers drawing from diverse voices and experiences. Their work leads us to examine journalism, media and mass communications in the U.S. and beyond.

We're excited to present four BAMJ conference panels that honors this theme:

Broadcasting in the Public Interest: Examining FCC Leadership and Regulatory Shifts in the U.S. Radio and Television Landscape: Since Brendan Carr became chair of the FCC, U.S. broadcasting has experienced sweeping regulatory and ownership changes, including mergers involving Paramount Global and Skydance Media, congressional defunding of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, investigations into NPR and PBS, and renewed scrutiny of broadcast ownership limits. This panel examines whether these developments serve or undermine the public interest – the standard for broadcast licensing – by weighing claims of modernization and competition against concerns about free speech, local journalism, and diversity in U.S. media.

Caring for the Storyteller: Balancing Ambition, Identity, and Self-Care in Classrooms and Newsrooms: Broadcast journalism's culture of ambition and purpose often collides with the mental, emotional and physical demands of newsroom life, pressures that can be especially acute for students and early-career journalists from underrepresented communities. This PF&R panel brings together professionals, educators and emerging journalists to share strategies for managing burnout, setting boundaries, and modeling sustainable, inclusive practices that support journalistic excellence and personal well-being.

The State of Weather Media Studies and Why It Matters: Weathercasters serve as trusted science communicators who counter misinformation and contribute to public understanding of weather and climate – an especially significant role given the history of New Orleans, the site of this year's conference – yet their work remains understudied in journalism research. This panel presents a framework for weather media studies by defining the field, reviewing existing scholarship, examining job satisfaction and precarity in the post-linear era, and outlining directions for future research.

Training Tomorrow's Journalists: AI Literacy, Accountability, and Ethical Practices in Broadcast Curricula: As newsrooms adopt AI tools for tasks like transcription, summarization and production, journalism educators are evaluating how technologies such as RunwayML, Adobe Premiere Beta and Google Gemini affect creativity, ethics and professional readiness in broadcast journalism programs. This panel explores research on student perceptions of AI, its influence on storytelling and learning outcomes, and how

educators can integrate AI literacy, human oversight, and ethical accountability into curricula to meet newsroom demands.

CALL FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

Hood-Dupont Service Award

In 2025, our division voted to rename its highest service honor as the Hood-Dupont Service Award in memory of two exemplary educators Lee Hood and Nancy Dupont. The renamed award continues the tradition of recognizing individuals who embody the spirit of service.

The Hood-Dupont Service Award will honor a broadcast or mobile journalist or journalism educator who has demonstrated extraordinary service to both the academy and the profession. The Award will be presented at AEJMC's annual conference in New Orleans.

Please review the submission guidelines below and email your nomination packet, combining all required elements into a single PDF attachment to drwenger@olemiss.edu by **5 p.m.**

Eastern on Sunday, March 15.

A successful nomination packet will include:

- a detailed, thorough letter of nomination
- a complete résumé or CV of the nominee
- up to three supporting letters from educators and/or professional colleagues

Examples of service may include, but are not limited to:

- leadership of a national organization dedicated to advancing journalism and journalism education
- publication of journalism-focused work (e.g., articles for industry-related websites, textbooks, documentaries, or training videos)
- development and administration of foundations or initiatives that assist journalism students or educators (e.g., scholarships, fellowships, training programs)
- leadership of educational initiatives within the nominee's industry (e.g., directing internship programs, apprenticeships, or newsroom training efforts)
- research designed to help students and early-career journalists advance their professional performance
- extraordinary service to BAMJ's mission

Edward L. Bliss Award

The deadline to nominate candidates for the Edward L. Bliss Award for Distinguished Broadcast Journalism Education is **11:59 p.m. Eastern on Sunday, March 15**. This award is presented annually by BAMJ, recognizing an electronic journalism educator who has made significant and lasting contributions to the field. View the full call [HERE](#).

SOUTHEAST COLLOQUIUM SCHEDULE

Southeast Colloquium Panels and Paper Tackle Timely Topics

Crisis, Press Freedom and Solutions are the themes that cut across BAMJ's panels and research papers. Our division's showing at this year's Southeast Colloquium in Tampa starts with the research panel "Reporting Crisis Live: Embodiment, Emotion, and Real-Time Storytelling in Broadcast and Mobile Journalism" on Friday, March 13 at 2:30 p.m. with the following papers:

- *Deceptive Non-Disclosure in Video News Releases: How News Stations Disclose (or Don't) Independent Press Release Materials in Local Broadcast News*. Anastasia Micich, Minnesota [Extended Abstract]
- *Stormchasing and the Performance of Adrenaline-Fueled Disaster Reporting*. Kaitlyn Serafin, Brady Quinn, Victoria Heath, Grace Smith, Teodora Tavares, Grace Ficara, Ava Jochims, and Gregory Perreault, South Florida; Valérie Bélair-Gagnon, Minnesota Twin Cities [Extended Abstract]
- *Framing Crisis in Real Time: Emotional, Investigative, and Community Narratives in 2025 U.S. Aviation Disaster Coverage*. Pranaav Jadhav, Ph.D. student, Missouri

Many thanks to moderator Tony DeMars [Lamar] and discussant Mark Harmon [Kentucky].

On Saturday, March 14, we begin at 9:15 a.m. with a panel co-sponsored with Magazine Media called "Trying Times: Media Freedom in the United States." The panelists are Amy Kristin Sanders, Penn State; Daxton "Chip" Stewart, Texas Christian; Rachel Fugate, Shullman Fugate; and Angela Fu, Poynter Institute.

Following this panel at 10:30 a.m. is a NOND co-sponsored discussion called "Incorporating Solutions Journalism into Undergraduate and Graduate Reporting Courses." Panelists

include Wayne Garcia, South Florida; Kim Walsh-Childers, Florida; Jeremy Druker, Transition; Ralitsa Vassileva, Georgia; and Mark Harmon, Tennessee, Knoxville.

It was such a pleasure working with our division's reviewers. As always, you volunteered without hesitation and delivered in-depth, constructive reviews. Thank you so much. You make the life of any research chair so easy. I look forward to seeing you in Tampa soon.

RESEARCH UPDATE

Conference Research Submissions Opening Soon

Reliable sources indicate the rumors are true – AEJMC will have a new paper submission system for this year's competition! AEJMC Assistant Director Felicia Brown reports there will be new protocols for reviewing, scoring and author notifications, all of which DIG research chairs will be trained on soon (I'll update all of you as soon as possible).

Thanks to everyone who has reached out to serve as reviewers for this year's BAMJ contest. We have about a dozen people willing to be judges and could use a few more.

I've started to look at research publications of those who've emailed me to try to match up interests and expertise with paper topics, but if there are areas you're particularly interested in reading research about this time around, email stan.jastrzebski@gmail.com.

In the meantime, please use this [link](#) by **Monday, March 16** to signify which DIGs you'd like to review for (BAMJ and/or others). This will help route everyone to the right places.

Here's the full research call:

The Broadcast and Mobile Journalism Division invites faculty and students to submit original research (including research-in-progress submissions) on any aspect of broadcast and/or mobile news content and/or production. This may include many topics related to broadcast or mobile journalism, including television, radio, or audio (including podcasting), digital reporting, practices, mobile and app-based journalism, virtual reality/360 reporting, social media journalism, or the role of new and changing media in journalism.

Research papers for the 2026 AEJMC annual conference in New Orleans must be submitted no later than **11:59 p.m. Central on April 1.**

We welcome research articles that employ any methodology, including qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods. Some possible topics that may be relevant to BAMJ are:

- the impact of social media and/or broadcast news on politics, environmental issues, racial and social justice issues, crisis reporting, or other topics
- the impact of emerging technologies on democracy
- the role of broadcast, mobile journalism, and emerging technologies in representing marginalized communities and the changing media landscape
- AI-driven journalism and news production
- AI-based editing and writing tools in journalism, storytelling and news production
- AI-driven fact-checking and mis/disinformation in news production
- the role of mobile technologies in news production
- the impact of mobile technologies on traditional broadcast news
- global perspectives on broadcast and mobile journalism
- diversity in the newsroom
- audience effects in broadcast and mobile journalism
- video news produced directly for social media or online sites
- the role of the broadcast journalist in the evolving media landscape
- the role of organizations, ownership, and sociological structures on broadcast and mobile reporting practices

Authors of papers accepted for the conference will be encouraged to submit their manuscript for possible publication in *Electronic News*, BAMJ's official journal. Papers accepted for the conference are not guaranteed publication in the journal. Papers submitted to the BAMJ competition should be no longer than 25 pages of manuscript, excluding tables, figures, references and appendices, and should be submitted in one of the generally approved academic bibliographic styles (i.e. APA, Chicago, etc.). Papers should be in 12-point, Times New Roman font, double-spaced and with one-inch margins. Additionally, a separate page containing an abstract of no more than 75 words is required. Documents must be uploaded as Word, WordPerfect, or PDF files. PDF format is strongly encouraged.

Please be sure to submit a clean paper without author identifying information; otherwise, the paper will be disqualified. In addition to removing author identifying information from the paper and file properties, the uniform paper call has added suggestions for avoiding

identification though self-citation. If you plan to submit a paper that includes a self-citation, you should remove language that suggests the cited study is yours (e.g., “in a previous study, researchers...” rather than “in a previous study, I...”). “Simply put,” the guidance concludes, “cite your own work as if it were being cited by another author – not yourself.” If the broader scholarly community is unlikely to have access to your self-citation (e.g. it’s an unpublished pilot or a conference paper that was never made available in published proceedings), AEJMC suggests referencing a different work that can support the same argument or eliminating the citation altogether. To be clear, self-citation is not automatically disqualifying, but self-citation that obviously identifies the author through one of the ways mentioned above will be disqualifying. Please refer to AEJMC’s uniform paper call on how to upload clean papers, including guidance on self-citation.

You are encouraged to submit your paper at least a day or two before the deadline so that you can check to ensure your paper does not contain any identifying information in its properties, as can happen sometimes when documents are saved as PDFs. BAMJ accepts a total of one paper in which the author is the first author. You can submit a maximum of two papers in the division regardless of author order. For example, you can submit one paper in which you are the first author and one where you are the second author, but you cannot submit two papers in which you are the first author. If you have additional publications outside of these guidelines, please submit one of the papers to another division.

RESEARCH-IN-PROGRESS SUBMISSIONS

BAMJ will allow research-in-progress submissions, provided that the research is still ongoing at the time of the 2026 conference. This will allow researchers to receive and incorporate feedback from the conference into the final work product. Submissions should contain all sections of a full paper (e.g., a full-length intro, literature review and methods, while results can be shortened to reflect the “in progress” nature.) Research-in-progress submissions will not be eligible for the division’s “Best Paper” awards.

AWARDS

The division offers cash prizes for top faculty paper submissions, split evenly among coauthors; top student papers will receive free conference admission. A **Top S2S Poster Award** will be given to the best BAMJ poster presented in person at the AEJMC annual conference. There will also be an award for **best research-in-progress submission**. Student papers must be completely authored by students. Students with a faculty member as a co-author will be judged in the faculty division. Papers submitted for the student paper

competition must clearly contain “Student Paper Competition” on the title page to be considered for the student paper competition. Authors of all selected papers are expected to present their work in New Orleans. Cash awards for winning papers will be awarded only if the authors present their work at the conference. Questions about conference submissions should be directed to BAMJ research chair Stan Jastrzebski: sjtyq@missouri.edu.

Questions regarding submissions to the division’s journal, Electronic News, should be directed to the editor, Dr. Debora Wenger at drwenger@olemiss.edu. All papers must be uploaded through the AEJMC All Academic portal. Once you have created an account on the AEJMC All Academic site, you will be able to choose BAMJ prior to submitting your paper.

PF&R UPDATE

PF&R in Higher Ed and Media: Navigating the Current (and Constant) Political Actions

In the words of The Struts: “Oh these are strange days, in many strange ways, science fiction, I believe, has become reality.”

Recent attacks on academic freedom and freedom of the press have not only challenged the respective cornerstones of our academic and media professions, but tested the limits of political power and influence. In higher education, the current administration has used lawsuits and federal funding as a bargaining chip to push or satisfy a specific ideology, impacting important initiatives and research at universities across the United States (New York Times, NPR). In journalism, the recent dilemma with Don Lemon in Minnesota is a fresh example of how our First Amendment rights are being challenged.

Considering the danger of these political actions, it has been discussed by the PF&R chairs whether we should make a statement, but the AEJMC president has appointed an advocacy task force to develop guidance in this area, and it has been advised that division chairs avoid issuing official statements. However, it is on the PF&R committee’s agenda to provide a resolution to address these issues in the future. These are strange days, indeed, but we must continue and maintain the principles of higher education and journalism to ensure our rightful freedoms in both fields – and to prove all the eerily-relevant dystopian novels wrong.

Lastly, I am aware that many of you may not know who I am, which is especially significant since I am your PF&R chair. I would enjoy learning more about everyone and sharing my

experiences (for the willing, at least), and want to know how to best serve our BAMJ members. Email any suggestions, thoughts or icebreakers at carl.knauf@colorado.edu. I appreciate the chance to be part of this community and look forward to working with you all.

ELECTRONIC NEWS JOURNAL UPDATE

Special Issue Call: The Impact of AI on Broadcast and Mobile Journalism

As AI reshapes the media landscape, broadcast and mobile journalism stand at a pivotal moment of transformation. From AI-powered anchors and automated video editing to real-time script generation, personalization engines, and mobile-first field reporting tools, the integration of AI technologies is redefining newsroom workflows, content delivery, audience engagement, and ethics.

We invite scholars, practitioners and interdisciplinary researchers to submit original manuscripts for a special issue focused on the impact of AI on broadcast and mobile journalism. This issue aims to critically examine both the promises and perils of AI integration across traditional broadcast environments and mobile-first reporting models. Check out the full call [HERE](#).

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

BAMJ Research/Mentorship Interest Survey

BAMJ would like to gauge interest in initiatives that would help members find research collaborators and mentors/mentees. Please take [this survey](#) to share your feedback!

#AEJMC26 TRAVEL TIP

An Uber or Lyft from the airport to the hotel will likely cost at least \$40-50, but there's a MUCH cheaper option. I went to a conference at the Hyatt last year, and the city bus drops off right across the street (and, on the way back, picks up right in front of the hotel). The [RTA 202 Airport Express](#) departs from the airport's Ground Transportation Center (outside Baggage Claim door 2, Zone B4) and stops near the [Hyatt Regency New Orleans](#). The fare is \$1.25, and the city's buses and streetcars have a [convenient app](#) (Apple iOS) called Le Pass that you [can use](#) (Google/Android) to buy single fares or passes for 1, 3, or 7 days at a time.