

# CIVIC *and* CITIZEN Journalism

AEJMC

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

www.has.vcu.edu/civic-journalism

## Interest group gets new name

*Change reflects growth of interest in participatory journalism*

If the “Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group” sounds vaguely familiar but not quite right, there’s a reason. At last year’s AEJMC convention, it was known just as the Civic Journalism Interest Group.

The name change was proposed by members of our group who gathered for our business meeting at the AEJMC convention in San Antonio last August. Later that month, we launched an online election in which 37 votes were cast by the Sept. 21 deadline. There were 26 “yes” votes (70.3%) and 11 “no” votes (29.7%). So, effective Oct. 1, we officially changed our name from the Civic Journalism Interest Group to the Civic *and Citizen* Journalism Interest Group.

The name change prompted considerable discussion - as befits

### Member Meeting Set

- **Who:** Members of Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group.
- **What:** Annual Members’ Meeting
- **When:** 8:30 to 10:15 p.m. Thursday Aug. 3.
- **Where:** San Francisco Marriott Laurel Room.

For more about member meeting, see story on **page 4**.

For officer and listserv details, see box on **page 4**.

Web site: [www.has.vcu.edu/civic-journalism](http://www.has.vcu.edu/civic-journalism)

a group dedicated to intellectual engagement in participatory

forums. Proponents argued that citizen journalism is an extension of civic journalism and that both are part of a seamless continuum.

Opponents of the name change cautioned that citizen journalism is not synonymous with civic or public journalism. Citizen journalism can be non-civic and non-public - focused on individual expression as its own end. Other opponents said “Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group” is a mouthful - and does not easily roll off the tongue.

While the election is over, we are always open to your comments and ideas.

Our group has a Web site [[www.has.vcu.edu/civic-journalism/](http://www.has.vcu.edu/civic-journalism/)] with contact information for all officers, back issues of all newsletters, and information on subscribing to our listserv. ✍

## Complete guide to CCJIG convention events

By Jeff South  
CCJIG Chair

The Civic and Citizen Journalism Interest Group is sponsoring or co-sponsoring nearly a dozen events - a veritable “CJ-palooza” at this year’s AEJMC convention in San Francisco. Here is a complete lineup of our interest group’s activities, including panelists.

**Thursday, Aug. 3**  
8:15-9:45 a.m.

Teaching panel: Collegiate Collaboration with Community-based Media Criticism and Citizen Journalism

Co-sponsor: Media Ethics Division

Moderating/presiding - Christopher A. Vaughn, Nascent Journalism Project, Santa Clara

Panelists:

- “Helping Citizens Be Involved: Usability Factors in Teaching Computer-Based Journalism Courses” - Tony DeMars, Sam Houston State

- “New America Media: Bringing Together Community Journalism Resources for National Impact” - Sandy Close,

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# Convention

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Pacific News Services, New American Media

- "Citizen Journalism in the Bay Area" - Dan Gillmor, California, Berkeley, and bayosphere.com

- "Grade the News: Holding Local Journalism Accountable" - John McManus, Grade the News, San Jose State

- "Project Censored: Student-based Media Accountability" - Peter Phillips, Project Censored, Sonoma State.

### Thursday, Aug. 3

1-3 p.m.

CCJIG - Scholar to Scholar Session

- "Sense of Community as a Driver for Citizen Journalism" - Clyde H. Bentley, Brian Hamman, Hans Ibold, Jeremy Littau and Hans Meyer, Missouri

- "Civic-Minded Crises: A Qualitative Content Analysis of Government Communications and News Coverage of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita" - Maria Fontenot, Kris Boyle and Amanda Gallagher, Texas Tech

- "Participatory Journalism Opportunities on Major Newspapers' Online Sites" - Jack Rosenberry, St. John Fisher.

### Thursday, Aug. 3

3:15-4:45 p.m.

CCJIG refereed paper research session: Analyzing the Past and Future of Civic and Citizen Journalism

Moderating/presiding: Jeff South, Virginia Commonwealth. Discussant: Sharon Iorio, Wichita State. Paper topics:

- "Freedom of Expression in the Information Society" - Nikhil Moro, Kennesaw State (top student paper)

- "The Next Generation 60 Years Later: How Civic Journalism is the Offspring of the Hutchins Commission of 1947" -

Judy Buller, Notre Dame de Namur (top research paper)

- "Surveying Citizen Journalism: Describing Emerging Phenomena that Posit a Renovation of the Public Sphere" - Lewis A. Friedland, Hernando Rojas, Christopher Long, Eulalia Puig Abril, Victoria Hildebrandt, Nak Ho Kim, Eunsun Lee, Seung-Hyun Lee and Young Jun Shin, Wisconsin

- "Citizen Journalism, Technological Convergence and Development: Transforming Villages Through Cable Audio" - Veena Raman, Pennsylvania State

- "The Newspaper With a Conscience": Discourse on Journalism's Responsibility to Society and Civic Life in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century" - Ronald Rodgers, Florida.

### Thursday, Aug. 3

5-6:30 pm

PF&R panel: Asian American Journalism - Redefining the Role of the Community Advocate

Co-sponsor: Minorities and Communication Division

Moderating/presiding: Paul Niwa, Emerson. Discussant: Paul Niwa, Emerson.

Panelists:

- Ted Feng, editor, *AsianWeek*, San Francisco, CA

- Sydnie Kohara, anchor, KPIX-TV, and guest host, KQED-FM's Pacific Times, San Francisco, CA

- Joy Chavez Mapaye, Alaska-Anchorage

- Alice Tait, Central Michigan

### Thursday, Aug. 3

8:30-10 p.m.

CCJIG business session: Members' meeting

Moderating/presiding: Jeffrey South, Virginia Commonwealth, Head; Andrea Breemer Frantz, Wilkes, Vice Head.

### Thursday, Aug. 3

10:15-11:45 p.m.

CCJIG business session: Executive Committee

Moderating/Presiding: Jeffrey South, Virginia Commonwealth, Head; Andrea Breemer Frantz, Wilkes, Vice Head.

### Friday, Aug. 4

8:15-9:45 a.m.

Teaching panel: All in the Fishbowl: Campus Newspaper Initiatives with Community Newspapers

Co-sponsor: Community Journalism Interest Group

Moderating/presiding: Jock Lauterer, North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Panelists:

- "Getting Off the Island: Redefining Student Community Identity Using Ingenuity and a Little Newsprint" - Andrea Breemer Frantz, Kristin Kile and Jamie Babbitt, Wilkes

- Kevin Schwartz, general manager, *Daily Tar Heel*, North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- Venise Wagner, San Francisco State

- Thom Lieb, Towson.

### Friday, Aug. 4

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

J-Lab Luncheon Session: Citizen Media: J-School Entrepreneurial Ventures

Co-sponsors: J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism, and the AEJMC Council of Affiliates

Moderating/presiding: Jan Schaffer, director, J-Lab

Panelists:

- MadisonCommons.org - Lew Friedland, Wisconsin-Madison

- Great Lakes Wiki - Dave Poulson, associate director, Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, Michigan State

- Rural News Network - Keith Graham, Montana

- TCDailyPlanet.org - Jeremy Iggers, Minneapolis/St. Paul.

### Friday, Aug. 4

1:30-3 p.m.

PF&R panel: Citizen Media:

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# Convention

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Promises and Pitfalls of Citizen-Created Content

Co-sponsor: Newspaper Division

Moderating/presiding: Jan Schaffer, director, J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism, Maryland.  
Discussant: Cecilia Friend, Utica.

Panelists:

- Jeremy Iggers, founder, The Daily Planet, and author, Good News, Bad News, Minneapolis

- Mark Trahan, editor, editorial page, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*

- Doug Fisher, project leader, HartsvilleToday.com, South Carolina

- Steve Outing, interactive media columnist, *Editor &*

*Publisher Online* founder, Enthusiast Group

- Jan Schaffer, director, J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism, Maryland.

**Friday, Aug. 4**

3:15-4:45 pm

PF&R panel: Will Civic Journalism Become a Subset of the Citizen Journalism Movement?

Co-sponsor: Community Journalism Interest Group

Moderating/presiding: Cole Campbell, Nevada, Reno

Panelists:

- Cheryl Gibbs, Miami, Ohio

- Sharon Iorio, Wichita State

- Jan Schaffer, director, J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism, Maryland

- Leonard Witt, Kennesaw State

**Saturday, Aug. 5**

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

Teaching panel: Blogs & Wikis: Creating a Convergent Global Village and Citizen Journalism: Global Initiatives, Local Reverberations

Co-sponsor: International Communication Division

Moderating/presiding: Janet Kolodzy, Emerson

Panelists:

- Rebecca MacKinnon, Nkzone and Global Voices weblog creator, Berkman Center for Internet & Society

- Mike Yamamoto, editor, technology Wikis, CNETNews.com

- Jan Schaffer, director, J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism, Maryland

- Jean Min, OhMyNews

- Barbara K. Iverson, Columbia, Chicago

- Clyde Bentley, Missouri

- Vin Crosbie, managing partner, Digital Deliverance, LLC. ✍

## Citizen media, j-schools go hand-in-hand

By Jan Schaffer, Director

**J-Lab: The Institute for Interactive Journalism**

Many citizen media projects start with a Web site and a handful of volunteer contributors.

However, MadisonCommons.org, which launched four months ago in the capital of Wisconsin, is pioneering a new kind of "citmedia" venture. Nurtured by a journalism school and populated by both student and citizen content, it is a harbinger of new possibilities for journalism education.

Proposals to create community news ventures as both a laboratory for students and a training ground for citizens were a pronounced trend in this year's New Voices ([www.j-newvoices.org](http://www.j-newvoices.org)) grant competition.

Of the 185 proposals that J-Lab received, journalism

schools submitted 46. Seven of the 10 projects selected to receive up to \$17,000 in seed funding came from journalism schools. And there was no one-size-fits-all about them.

MadisonCommons.org launched only after Professor Lew Friedland and a grad student first trained two dozen citizens in journalism basics and then supplemented their content with stories from students in Friedland's advanced reporting class at UW-Madison.

He recruited the citizens from Neighborhood Planning Councils, developed a simple curriculum and posted it online ([www.madisoncommons.org/workshops/toolkit.php](http://www.madisoncommons.org/workshops/toolkit.php)).

Friedland's students help populate the site with five assignments: They must create a civic map of a Madison neighborhood,

profile it, write a neighborhood issue story, link the story to broader civic concerns and profile a person or organization in the community. The site now covers 34 neighborhoods and 19 topics.

"The work has been very good and important for producing content for the site," Friedland said.

Stay tuned for how this year's j-school grantees will do. They include:

- Rural News Network. The University of Montana School of Journalism in Missoula will recruit and train residents of three rural Montana towns to report on news and information for rural Web sites.

- Great Lakes Wiki. Michigan State University's Knight Center for Environmental Journalism will create collaborative wiki

**See J-SCHOOLS, page 4**

## About CCJIG

### LISTSERV

The Civic Journalism Interest Group of AEJMC has an e-mail discussion list called CIVIC-J used to share ideas and news relating to civic journalism and the interest group. To subscribe to the list, send an e-mail message to:

listserv@lists.vcu.edu

In the body of the message, type:

SUBSCRIBE CIVIC-J "Your name"

END

You will immediately receive an e-mail inviting you to join the list. You will be added to the list when you reply to this e-mail (or click on a Web link in the e-mail) to confirm your e-mail address.

### OFFICERS

- Chair: Jeff South, Virginia Commonwealth University, jcsouth@vcu.edu
- Vice Chair: Andrea Frantz, Wilkes University andrea.frantz@wilkes.edu
- Membership Chair and Newsletter Editor: Jack Rosenberry, St. John Fisher jrosenberry@sjfc.edu
- Secretary: David O. Loomis, Indiana University of Pennsylvania doloomis@iup.edu
- PF&R Chair: Venise Wagner, San Francisco State vwagner@sfsu.edu
- Research Chair: Sandra Nichols, Towson University slnichols@towson.edu
- Teaching Chair: Tony DeMars, Sam Houston State University demars@shsu.edu 

## Member meeting has many benefits

By Andrea Breemer Frantz  
CCJIG Vice Head/Prog. Chair

I attended my first AEJMC conference just three years ago.


Many useful things came out of that first conference for me. I attended some outstanding sessions that made me think in new ways. I connected with professionals from other parts of the country who shared my interests about civic engagement and community journalism.

But probably the most important thing to come out of my first AEJMC conference happened when I walked into the Civic Journalism Interest Group Members' Meeting.

What I found there was a group of people deeply committed to addressing civic journalism as it pertained to the classroom, practice, and research. The conversation was lively, and those in attendance were interested in connecting with others to address important issues in the field.

While it's easy to only think of the interest groups and divisions when we fill out our membership renewals or receive the newsletters, active participation in the interest groups begins with the members' meetings at AEJMC. Not only is it an opportunity to meet folks whose names you might otherwise only know from listserv e-mails, but it is also a chance to shape the organization's direction.

CCJIG will hold its annual Members' Meeting on Thursday, Aug. 3, from 8:30-10 p.m. in the Laurel Room (fourth floor) at the conference hotel.

Whether you are new to AEJMC and want to learn more about CCJIG, or you're new to CCJIG and want to meet some new colleagues and offer input, or you're a seasoned veteran and just need a shot of adrenaline ... this meeting is for you. 

## J-Schools

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entries that describe the problems, cleanup strategies, contaminants, industries, health impacts and other issues related to the 43 toxic hot spots in the Great Lakes region.

- Monroe County Radio Project. West Virginia University in Morgantown will create a news operation at WHFI-FM, a radio station licensed to the Monroe County School Board and train students and adult volunteers to produce a daily newscast.

- Route 7 Report. The E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University in Athens, will train citizens in three rural villages in Southeastern Ohio to create a monthly newsletter and a Web site.

- MURL Building Blocks. Temple University's Multimedia Urban Reporting Lab (MURL) will partner students with public broadcaster WHYI-TV to push hyperlocal newscasts to a largely Hispanic Philadelphia area using experimental datacasting technology.

- Creating Community Conversations. Columbia College Chicago will recruit and train neighborhood journalists to cover five ZIP codes in central Chicago; reports will be published on chitowndailynews.org.

- Ethnic News Service. San Francisco State's Center for Integration and Improvement of Journalism will create a student-run Ethnic News Service to provide better public affairs coverage for the state's 700 ethnic media outlets.

The next deadline for New Voices funding is Feb. 12, 2007. 