

## Media Deserts: Mapping the geography of the new news ecology

by Dr. Michelle Ferrier

Michelle Ferrier developed and ran an online community for a daily newspaper in Florida during the economic downturn from 2008 – and survived four rounds of layoffs before she returned to higher education after earning a Ph.D. She watched as her newspaper struggled to keep its business afloat by shedding bureau-affiliated reporters and staff. Then layoffs began decimating the main newspaper staff. Since 2008, more than 120 newspapers folded in the United States and tens of thousands of reporters were laid off. Ferrier's newspaper was not alone in its attempt to halt the downturn in advertising revenues and rise to the challenges of new technologies.

Ferrier also adapted and became an entrepreneur, starting a hyperlocal news site when she moved to North Carolina as a faculty member in a journalism program. She wrote that she watched as other fledgling entrepreneurs either moved into the spaces left vacant by legacy media or cannibalized communities within a newspaper's service area.

Then she began to wonder what happened to communities and their residents as legacy media struggled to stay afloat. Were hyperlocal news online news entities "filling in the gaps" left by legacy media, emerging in new areas that had been underserved, or going head-to-head with other local media? Were "new media" expanding capacity and access to new audiences or replicating the existing media structures?

And most importantly, would these technological disruptions and new ways of doing journalism work allow us to imagine new ways to deliver news and information to underserved and underrepresented audiences?

The Media Deserts Project was born to examine this shifting media landscape and identify areas that lack access to fresh news and information.

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Smith and John Brown U. students explore Selma

### Fifty years later, Selma remains a symbolic place for college students

by Marquita Smith

Sixteen years ago, I left my reporting position in Lexington, Ky., and arrived in Montgomery for my first editing assignment. As an assistant city editor at the *Montgomery Advertiser*, I oversaw production of a special anniversary section on the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Although I was in an editing role, I was able to hear direct accounts from Rosa Parks and many of the organizers of the movement. I relived a small bit of Civil Rights history. And I wanted a similar experience for my John Brown University students.

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## Vice Chair's Corner

by Kyle Huckins



### Don't let the 'haters' drive your agenda

The globe today is torn by violence physical and verbal, existential and all too real. Whether it's ISIS or Ferguson, Afghanistan or Ukraine, Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Hill or Ottawa's Parliament Hill, nemeses are rubbing salt in old wounds and making them bleed afresh.

"These are the beginning of sorrows," Jesus said of such times. Unfortunately, he added there will be more where these came from.

Still, every one of us has choices to make in these momentous times. We do not have to join the "haters," as our society likes to dub them. Each individual is responsible for the decisions he or she makes to hate, love, bless or curse.

The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., that great hero of individual worth and dignity, summarized the situation eloquently in the last remarks he delivered publicly. In his "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech in tumultuous 1968, he recounted the tale of the Good Samaritan. In the original text, two leaders pass by a fellow Jew who has been robbed and beaten, but the victim's ancestral enemy, a Samaritan, takes care of the Hebrew in exemplary fashion.

"The first question that the priest asked, the first question that the Levite asked was, 'If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me?'" King tells the crowd.

"But then the Good Samaritan came by, and he reversed the question: 'If I do not stop to help this man, what will happen to him?'"

That's the key: Whose interests do we care most about - those of ourselves or others?

Now, I think we all know we're supposed to answer with the latter, not the former. But as you read this either alone in your house at your computer or in your easy chair with the newsletter shielding you, think through your true response.

Just because we believe we have a spiritual faith does not mean we automatically are on the right side of this, either, as Muslim vs. Christian is only one such conflict. Students sometimes are pitted against professors and administrators take on faculty, too.

As the planet lurches one way, then another in hurtling toward chaos, we seem to be going back to allegiances of color, country, creed and tongue. However, if we check our self-interest at the door, we will all be better for it.

I believe we do best when we unite for good causes across society's common boundaries, whether racial, class, age or another division. People tend to keep to their own kind when pressure comes, but our duty, particularly as educators, is to reach out.

I am yet trying to be more selfless, more caring, more contrite in this difficult hour. I hope that you will join me and together we will seek for all to gain in our workplaces in higher education as well as our troubled land.

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## Media deserts, (continued from page 1)

The Project also provides a more nuanced picture of the ebb and flow of media. We use geographic information systems to map penetration of existing media, such as daily newspapers, weekly newspapers, and hyperlocal online news sites. Our map, combined with content analysis and digital ethnographic work, provides a zip code-level audit of a community's access to news and information.

This project's aim is to make visible the inequalities in access to news and information. Traditional quantitative research on newspaper circulation has shown that low-income and low-education communities are most underserved. But we can now add online hyperlocal news site reach to our visualizations to see if these communities have access through other media. The visualizations help point out deficiencies and allow us to compare communities around other socioeconomic, demographic and psychographic factors.

Ferrier noted that their goal is to move from awareness to action. We work directly with community stakeholders to engage in conversations around a community's media needs. From those conversations, we help community stakeholders imagine new media innovations and entrepreneurship opportunities that may help ameliorate the media desert conditions. Our map will help monitor the system over time and focus attention and resources where they are most needed.

For more information on the Media Deserts Project, please visit: [www.mediadeserts.wordpress.com](http://www.mediadeserts.wordpress.com).

## CSM Events at AEJMC 2014 in Montreal, Canada

Aug. 8, 2015

### “Past Reflections: How San Francisco’s Historical Diversity III Defines Its Present for African Americans”

(Research panel session) 5:15-6:45 p.m.

This panel will explore the historical diversity of San Francisco’s news media, and whether the racial make-up of today’s employment numbers in that industry is impacting the city’s shrinking African American population rates. Despite an illustrious history of diversity in the print media and a similar parallel in the broadcast industry, not all people of color have boded well in San Francisco’s contemporary media. Although there is an abundance of on-air personalities reflecting the city’s largest non-white populations, African Americans are largely missing. A city now hailed for diversity is losing its Black population in droves. Perhaps the media and its lack of inclusivity might be part of the problem.

*Moderator:* Sharon Stringer, Lock Haven

*Panelists:* Cathy M. Jackson, Norfolk State; Sharon Bramlett-Solomon, Arizona State; Christina Azocar, San Francisco State; Marquita Smith, John Brown; Martin Reynolds, Bay Area News Group

### CSM chair releases book tackling faith, race, today’s issues

By Kyle Huckins

Just released by Wipf and Stock, *Getting From Here to Eternity: A Spirit-filled View of the News* is a compilation of more than two years of newspaper columns on religion written by the Rev. Kyle Huckins, Ph.D., vice chairman of AEJMC’s Commission on the Status of Minorities. The items address virtually all major issues regarding faith across the nation and, to a more limited extent, the world from 2012-2014, including gay rights, separation of church and state, the rise of non-Christian religions, and more. There also are articles about Christian living, theology, and worldview.

All columns are written from the perspective of an evangelical Christian journalist with a quarter-century in the news business, who also is one of the few Caucasians ordained in an African-American denomination. His column has won awards from the Religion Newswriters Association (the world’s largest group of faith-focused journalists) and Indiana Society of Professional Journalists.

Huckins has written a college curricula for the book, designed to be used in journalism/media classes, as well as theology courses. A church Bible study is also available. All are free with an order of eight or more copies from the book’s website, [www.gettingfromheretoeternity.com](http://www.gettingfromheretoeternity.com).

Here’s what major Christian figures are saying about Huckins and his work in the book: “There need to be more people like Kyle Huckins who do both news and theology,” wrote the Rev. Bobby Schuller, speaker for “The Hour of Power” and pastor of Shepherd’s Grove (the former Crystal Cathedral), in the book’s foreword. “He can stake out a position, but do so in love.”

The Church of God in Christ, the author’s credentialing denomination, is enthusiastic about the volume’s dealing with race, religion and reconciliation. “It is an honor to have included in this journalistically sound work both views from and stories about our church, the largest Pentecostal denomination in the U.S.,” said Robert Coleman, executive director of public relations for COGIC and the managing editor of its *The Whole Truth* magazine.

The message of the book is that spirituality matters today more than ever, in spite of what the culture tells the faithful. Benefits include the work’s conversational quality, short items (all 1-4 pages long), up-to-date material, diversity of subject matter, and ability to lead readers into salvation, sanctification and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Unique qualities are its addressing contemporary issues from a Pentecostal perspective while still resonating with any born-again believer, inclusion of theological as well as political, moral and relational issues, and particular attention to matters concerning minorities, especially African-Americans.

Huckins is a journalism professor at Azusa Pacific University in Greater Los Angeles, as well as a columnist for Central Indiana Newspaper Group, feature writer for *The Whole Truth* magazine, and an ordained elder in the Church of God in Christ. He’s been a professional newsman since 1989, winning 15 awards for his work in small, medium, and large

### AEJMC diversity initiative seeks volunteers for oral history project

The AEJMC Trailblazers of Diversity in Journalism/Mass Communication Education project have scheduled, filmed, edited, and indexed interviews with nine individuals who were influential in furthering the cause of diversity in journalism education. We are working to make these interviews accessible to the public via a system that will transmit this information to those interested in using such resources for research and teaching.

Here is an unprocessed interview, which eventually will have a more useful interface: [http://youtu.be/0093xWr\\_QZg](http://youtu.be/0093xWr_QZg) In addition to these first ten interviews, we have two more for the near future and have issued invitations to 23 others. This collection of information will serve as a great resource to those interested in learning more about the history of diversity in journalism education and those that paved the way for it to be a topic of conversation. To see some interviews that have been done, go to: [www.aejmc.org/home/?s=felix](http://www.aejmc.org/home/?s=felix)

Organizers, who have no funding for travel to complete interviews, need help from volunteers living in areas where targeted subjects live. Please step forward and let them know if you can do one in your area. A growing list of interview subjects, instructions on how to do the interview, essential consent forms, and more relevant information are avail-

able at: [home/2013/10/diversity-oral-history/](http://home/2013/10/diversity-oral-history/)

In addition, organizers will hold a workshop before the AEJ conference in San Francisco, to teach some of the finer points. They extend an invitation to all who want to become involved in this fascinating project.

For any further questions or suggestions of people that might enhance the collection of information being gathered, please contact committee head, Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez at [mrivas@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:mrivas@austin.utexas.edu), or Trent Boulter, coordinator of the project at [AEJMCdiversitytrailblazers@gmail.com](mailto:AEJMCdiversitytrailblazers@gmail.com).

Interviewees include:

Lawrence Kaggwa, Howard – Rochelle

Barbara Hines, Howard – Rochelle

Ray Chavez, formerly Univ. of Oklahoma, now independent

Federico Subervi, Kent State, OH

Paula Poindexter, Texas at Austin

Felix Gutiérrez, Southern Cal

Lawrence Kaggwa, Howard -- Rochelle

Clint Wilson, Howard--Maggie R., interviewed 8-13

Jerry Sass, Gannett/Freedom Forum, DC— To be interviewed in Tucson by Frank Sotomayor

**The Trailblazers committee is seeking interviewers with access to camera equipment (external mics a must) in Washington, D.C.**

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## CSM chair pens book

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media markets. He has taught journalism at the college level for 15 years and specializes in religion and media in his scholarly research, for which he's been honored three times. Huckins was ordained in 2003 and has addressed congregations of more than a dozen different denominations, including all major African-American ones. He earned a doctorate in journalism and did significant graduate study in religion.

Plaudits for the book also come from academia. "Huckins writes as both a journalist and a believer, a combination that allows his readers insight into two worlds often in collision," said Michael Smith, Ph.D., professor of communication and the arts at Palm Beach Atlantic University and author of *The Jesus Newspaper*. *Getting From Here to Eternity* is a solid read from a thinker with a heartbeat for all that is noble."

## Selma revisited

(continued from page 1)

That opportunity came in March; I returned to the Capital City with 17 JBU students and my colleague History Professor Trisha Posey. We spent hours walking around downtown—breathing and engaging with the rich history. Besides giving communication students the chance to cover such an historical event, we retraced some of my professional history. In that newspaper role, I edited stories foreshadowing the opening of the Rosa Parks Museum, discussed eminent domain issues trying to preserve the old Montgomery Greyhound Station, now the Freedom Riders Museum, and introduced the notion of creating a state archives.

Then, *The Montgomery Advertiser* was located just a block away from the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Civil Rights Memorial. Every day, I walked past monuments and historical signs, not in awe or inspired. Perhaps, it was the 50-hour work weeks, or my rocky transition from then-Knight Ridder to Gannett, which was a less-friendly environment for employees. Whatever the reason, I neither fully appreciated the history that surrounded me daily, or the opportunity I had to contribute and shape the future. I shared those accounts and personal convictions with students. I reminded them that those mundane city council stories and interviews with original participants now serve as historical artifacts.

The trip was transformative for the communication, multicultural and honors students who traveled to understand the effort that refueled a social movement. They learned the role the media played in documenting and shaping history. We walked alongside tens of thousands of people who came to Selma to commemorate the 50th anniversary of a turning point in the American Civil Rights movement. As we inched along, I could not help but be proud as I noticed two students who took pictures from atop the high wall bordering the Edmund Pettus Bridge. We waved. And, then I wondered how in the hell they managed to perch up there. But I quickly remembered. Aaah, tenacity. That's what I teach. Right?

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Activists who supported the movement met and talked to the students. One of the most powerful connections, students said was meeting some of the original marchers from 1965. Together they walked arm-in-arm over the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The symbolic bridge is where hundreds of peaceful protesters were brutally beaten on "Bloody Sunday" as they marched to protest discriminatory tactics — such as poll taxes and random literacy tests — used by white officials. Students, decades from now, will remember that they were there.

Students had the opportunity to make culture. "Bloody Sunday" is no longer just history. Everyone; white, yellow, brown and black are now a part of the movement. They now, should recognize their responsibility to continuously engage with the news. To follow the legislation on voting rights, To understand their Christian role in creating social justice for all. To be change agents on campus, in their communities, and in their congregations. With each step closer to the top of the bridge, I gained hope in this next generation of journalists.

## Minutes

### Commission on the Status of Minorities Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication (AEJMC) Friday, August 8, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

Minutes from the 2013 business meeting were approved. Linda Callahan moved the motion and Frances Ward-Johnson seconded it.

**Chair's Report:** CSM Chair Sharon Stringer shared with the meeting that International Communication Division is trying to become a separate commission as the AEJMC plans for more international events.

The Commission chair also acknowledged the roles of executive committee members of the commission for the year 2013 – 2014.

There were 77 CSM members as of July 2014.

**Acknowledgement of Barrow Award Recipient 2014:** CSM Chair Sharon Stringer acknowledged 2014 Barrow award recipient Dr. Marilyn Kern-Foxworth, Marketing and Media Consultant of Kern-Foxworth International.

**Financial Report:** CSM contributed 250 dollars to the Barrow Award. It also contributed 200 dollars for Communication Theory and Methodology scholarship.

The commission began 2013 – 2014 with a fund of \$1,354.67. The commission earned \$620 and spent \$935.77 in this year. The division balance as of July 25, 2014 was \$1,038.90.

Financial report was approved. Federico Subervi and Cathy Jackson moved the motion and Yuki Fujioka seconded the move.

**Officer Election:** Secretary's position was filled. Marquita Smith at John Brown University was nominated for the secretary's position and the meeting approved the nomination unanimously.

#### Announcements and Recommendations:

CSM members were reminded of participating in national news audience engagement day on October 7, 2014. The ideas for news audience engagement day are available on the AEJMC's Pinterest board.

AEJMC regional conference will be held in Santiago, Chile on October 13 – 15, 2015. Again, CSM members were encouraged to participate in this conference.

The meeting suggested that the ad for the Barrow award should include the information about past winners.

Sharon Stringer emphasized that CSM members should be on AEJMC journals' editorial boards to promote research on diversity issues and minority scholars.

Federico Subervi urged the CSM members to be a part of strategic committees. One of them is the nomination committee. The meeting participants agreed to the point that to be qualified for these strategic tasks, a potential candidate needs to serve on CSM, MAC and other AEJMC standing committees first to gain knowledge on the association's procedures. In this connection, Yuki Fujioka added a point that it is important to mentor potential member of CSM or MAC so that they get ready for the leadership position.

The meeting also discussed the possibility of mentoring by Barrow Award winners. Frances Ward-Johnson agreed to send emails to the Barrow Award winners with the proposal of playing the mentor's role for potential MAC/CSM members.

Vice Chairman Kyle Huckins said he was, with the approval of the chair, going to form an outreach and study committee to assess minority issues in media depiction, employment and academia, with the intent of encouraging CSM's dialogue with and incorporation of relevant groups and individuals in the commission's work as well as informing CSM's work in coming years.

#### Volunteers for Committees:

Lee Barrow Doctoral Minority Student Scholarship Award Committee: *Marquita Smith, John Brown University.*

Lionel C. Barrow Jr. Award for Distinguished Achievement in Diversity Research and Education: *Linda Florence Callahan, North Carolina A & T*

Tankard Book Award Reviewer: *Cathy Jackson, Norfolk State*

Panel Committee for 2015 conference: *Cathy Jackson, Norfolk State and Wanda Brockington, Norfolk State*

**An idea for CSM Panel 2015:** Felicia Ross proposed a panel idea with the Barrow Award recipients on diversity in leadership. Then Federico Subervi offered a title for that suggested panel, "Building bridges in AEJMC Leadership in Academia."

## Howard Alumni and Friends Gather to Honor Dr. Lawrence Kaggwa

by Jennifer C. Thomas

Dressed in off-white and donning a straw fedora, Dr. Lawrence Kaggwa was especially relaxed. This was the day dozens of his former students, or as he refers them, “sons and daughters,” would come to share their gratitude, and the retiring Howard University journalism professor did not want to be late.

By the time the celebration formally started, a small crowd had already gathered in the Armour J. Blackburn University Center’s Hilltop Lounge and Terrace, and the 35-year veteran of the School of Communications was already busy glad-handing.

Some were signing personal messages on the poster-size photo of Kaggwa. Surrounding it were artifacts of his legacy: a 1986 front page of The Community News newspaper, which was birthed by Kaggwa to cover news and issues in the area surrounding Howard. For many students in his Fundamentals of Journalism and Reporting and Writing courses, it was required writing, and an initiation of sorts into their major. On the other side of the display— the District Chronicles weekly, which has been going strong since 2001, providing students opportunities in publishing, writing and editing.

“Professors who challenge students are rarely acknowledged for excellence in teaching,” says Carol Dudley, Director of Career Development, SOC alumna, and one of the three organizers of the event. “Journalism graduates not only respect Dr. K for the level of difficulty in his teaching but also for his passion for them to write with accuracy and to practice excellence without excuse.”

The Ugandan native is known as a tough professor with tough standards and a tender heart for those under his tutelage. He received his undergraduate degree in journalism from Rutgers, and went on to obtain a master’s from UCLA and doctorate at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. His journalism experience took him from Omaha, Nebraska and Hartford, Connecticut to Los Angeles. He helped create Norfolk State University’s journalism program, and came to Howard in 1980. Since then, hundreds of graduates hold a bevy of positions within a Who’s Who-list of companies.

More than one hundred former students, colleagues, and well-wishers attended the May 16 alumni-sponsored event, including one of his former Norfolk State students, a May 2015 Howard graduate, and two current Bison whose parents were apprentices of Kaggwa.

“When I think of Howard University, I think of Dr. Kaggwa,” says Shirley Carswell, former deputy managing editor at Washington Post, adjunct professor and event organizer. “The two just go together in my mind, so the thought of Howard without him is almost unimaginable for me and for many of my fellow alum. We all instinctively felt a need to come together to tell him how much we appreciate him, though words seem inadequate, given the mark he’s made on our lives...”

Dozens of those who could not show support in person, sent in sentiments which were displayed in a journal and on a slideshow.

Andrea Morehead Allen, news anchor, WTHR TV 13 NBC, Indianapolis., is among those who “survived” Kaggwa’s class and often despite his urgings, matriculated towards a career in broadcast journalism. ESPN anchor Stan Verrett, CNN correspondent Stephanie Elam, CBS News correspondent Michelle Miller and others paid homage in a video tribute, bringing laughter and some tears.

“You have dedicated your life to schooling us,” Miller smiled from the CBS Evening News set. “You should take a victory lap around the country and the world and visit every single one of us, because we are your legacy; and a life of service and a life of giving to others is a life well lived.”

Former Journalism Department Chair, Phil Dixon, Washington Post reporter Keith Alexander and others spoke from the podium, sharing “Kaggwa-isms” and quips. Public Relations executive Elaine Myada thanked her mentor for his support during and after her pregnancy while she was a student. That baby, Jana, is now in college.

“It was amazing how many people came from so many places to honor Dr. Kaggwa,” says adjunct professor Ron Harris, former reporter for the Los Angeles Times and St. Louis Post-Dispatch. “One of the people told me that Kaggwa’s reach goes far beyond the people he taught. He was telling me how he was teaching someone something the other day about journalism, and he was using the things that Kaggwa taught him. That meant Kaggwa was teaching people he never met.”

The celebration was capped with the announcement of the “Dr. Lawrence Kaggwa Student Scholarship Fund,” established by the School of Communications, “in honor of the professor’s commitment to teaching and service to his sons and daughters.”

After the announcement, the crowd stood to its feet as the man of the hour gave remarks on the industry, education, and commitment to his two major causes-- the District Chronicles, and continued support of students. It is this dedication that he hopes will keep him at the university, despite his formal retirement. Kaggwa is requesting an office which will enable him to keep a parental eye on the District Chronicles.

Having an enduring place at “The Mecca” suits his “children” just fine. A few of “Kaggwa’s Kids” donned freshly-made t-shirts with the moniker. On the back, the phrase which brought an approving nod by their beloved professor, “We don’t die. We multiply. And make deadline.”

## Memory becomes history for some Windy City Native Americans

by Loren Ghiglione

"Native Americans Tell Their Stories," a special topics oral history course, was offered for the first time this winter quarter at Medill, Northwestern University's journalism school. The course sought to capture the tragedies and triumphs of the largely invisible American Indians who live in Chicago.

Though only 18 percent of American Indians live on reservations, it is their lives that are mostly preserved in inaccurate movies, museum exhibits, and oral history projects. However, in the "Native Americans Tell Their Stories" seminar, 11 undergraduates conducted video interviews (or audio, if the subject declined video) and wrote 2,500-word profiles of 11 urban American Indians. The oldest, in their 80s, moved to Chicago during the relocation era of the 1950s-1970s when the federal government encouraged 100,000 Native Americans to leave reservations for training and jobs in cities.

The creation of the course followed the May 2014 publication of Northwestern's John Evans Study Committee report. The report criticized Evans, a Northwestern University founder, who also served as governor of the Colorado Territory and its ex-officio superintendent of Indian affairs at the time of the Sand Creek Massacre. Seven hundred US cavalry massacred nearly 200 peaceful Cheyenne and Arapaho at Sand Creek. The report concluded that the University ignored Evans' "significant moral failures before and after Sand Creek," an oversight that needed to be corrected.

Northwestern's provost appointed a Native American Outreach and Inclusion Task Force to strengthen the university's relationship with Native American communities. I served on the Task Force. In November 2014 the Task Force made more than 50 recommendations, calling for Northwestern's recruitment of Native faculty, students and staff and the establishment of a National Native American Oral History project, beginning in Chicago.

As the non-Native initiator of the project, I felt it especially important to have American Indians speak to the students throughout the 10-week "Native Americans Tell Their Stories" course. The provost provided \$2,178 in travel funds, which allowed me to bring to campus: Mark N. Trahan (Shoshone-Bannock), the Atwood Chair of Journalism at the University of Alaska; independent journalist Karen Lincoln Michel (Ho-Chunk) from Louisiana; Bryan Pollard (Cherokee), executive editor of the *Cherokee Phoenix* and winner of the 2014 Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) Medill Milestone Award, from Oklahoma; and Chuck Trimble (Oglala Lakota Oyate), co-author of *The American Indian Oral History Manual*, from Nebraska. The *Manual* was one of the course's two required texts.

"Native Americans Tell Their Stories" needed to be two courses in one, a course about oral history interviewing and profile writing, and a course about Native American history. Louis T. Delgado (Oneida), founder and member emeritus of Native Americans in Philanthropy, spoke on the history of Native Americans in Chicago. Andrew Johnson (Cherokee), executive director of the American Indian Center of Chicago, provided a tour of the Center, which dates from 1953. Pamala M. Silas (Menominee), executive director of NAJA, talked about NAJA's history. Dorene Wiese (Ojibwe), president of the American Indian Association of Illinois, discussed key Native American issues in Chicago.

Freelancer Rita Pyrrillis (Cheyenne River Sioux) and Margaret Holt (Tuscarora), standards editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, were "mystery guests." The students were told nothing about them, not even their names, in advance of class. The students were expected to extract full life stories from Holt and Pyrrillis, who at the end of the interviews critiqued the questions the students asked and how they asked the questions.

According to an email from Pyrrillis, the students asked astute questions and were generally sensitive when probing personal matters. The only suggestion she wrote she could give is that they should practice to be more engaging and conversational to obtain "juicier interviews." She also noted that it's hard to establish intimacy with a source in a classroom setting, so she would give the students a break on that point.

The students faced numerous challenges with their oral histories. Older interviewees, because of poor health, were hard to schedule. Students needed to remember to bring extra SD cards and batteries because interviews ran as long as five hours. Lastly, some American Indians lived in distant suburbs, 1 ½ hours or more from campus, which created transportation problems.

## CSM project culls data on issues facing non-white universities

The Outreach and Study Program of the Commission on the Status of Minorities is rolling toward its goal of getting insights on top issues facing historically underrepresented groups in media and academia.

Kyle Huckins formed this panel with the approval of CSM Chairwoman Sharon Stringer to prepare for his upcoming term as chair, as well as reach out to news professionals and educators about what our commission should seek to accomplish in 2015-17. He noted that tapping the commission's rich membership for program volunteers seemed a good way to spread news of CSM and its mission, plus help the chairman and the remaining commission leaders hit the ground running this fall.

Commission member Dwight Brooks is looking at minority-related issues in AEJMC. Pam Johnson is focusing on flashpoints for historically underrepresented groups in academe generally, and Maria Williams-Hawkins and CSM Secretary Marquita Smith are examining minority employment in the news business.

Huckins is probing news coverage of the historically underrepresented and calling HBCU journalism & mass communication program chairs to get their thoughts on these issues. After interviewing this group of about 30, he wrote that he'll tap chairs of Hispanic-serving institutions for their insights.

HBCUs are an often-overlooked piece of the higher-education puzzle for many Americans. Nearly a third of a million students populate the nation's 100 historically black colleges and universities, which are evenly split between public and private spheres. Defined by the U.S. Department of Education as having started prior to 1964 and serving primarily African-American students, they have played a vital role in black intellectual life for over a century.

Huckins wrote that he has had several intriguing conversations with HBCU chairs, such as Wanda Lloyd, head of the Savannah State program and a longtime leader in the Gannett chain. She sees promotion of minorities as a prime issue in the news profession. Her research indicates fewer African-Americans and other non-whites are moving up the journalism ladder, and she is working hard to correct that, just as she did in top leadership of newspapers in Montgomery, Alabama, and Greenville, South Carolina.

### Kudos and Laurels

E-K. Daufin added the following publications to her Vita,

Conference Paper: E-K Daufin, "Work in Progress: Development and Testing of a Weight and Race Interpersonal and Media Situations Measure for Higher/Over Weight African American Women." PCA/ACA National Conference, New Orleans, Systematic Sizeism, Fat Studies April 2, 2015.

E-K. Daufin, (2015), Black women in fat activism, in *The Politics of Size: Perspectives from the Fat Acceptance Movement Volume 1*, Ragen Chastain, ed., Praeger: Santa Barbara, California, 163-186.

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