

RMIG Panel takes Shape by Debra Mason, Vice-Chair

AEJMC program chairs gathered in Dallas recently to lay the groundwork for the panel content of AEJMC's August 2002 meeting in Miami. RMIG Head Kyle Huckins and Program Chair/Vice-Chair Debra Mason were in Dallas making sure RMIG programming was pertinent to RMIG members, timely and fulfilled the larger missions of AEJMC.

For those who aren't familiar, time slots are assigned at an event known as a chip auction. There, interest groups and divisions take turns selecting the times for their programs. By forming alliances with other divisions and interest groups, RMIG is able to expand the number of sessions it has a voice in.

In addition, all divisions and interest groups are expected to provide programming in three broad areas: research, teaching and PF&R. PR&F encompasses five key areas: free expression; media criticism and accountability; ethics; racial, gender and cultural inclusiveness; and public service.

The following schedule for the 2002 meeting has now been set. Details of panels and their participants will appear in future RMIG newsletters. If you have suggestions for panelists, please contact Debra Mason at rnastuff@aol.com or 614-891-9001. This schedule includes AEJMC-wide events as well. All events take place at the Fontainebleau Hilton in Miami Beach.

Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2002

10-11:30 a.m.

Teaching the First Amendment Across the Journalism Curriculum (Co-sponsored with Law Division)

The panel would provide professors

continued on page 2

RMIG: MOVING ON, MOVING UP by Dr. Kyle Huckins, Chair

The Religion and Media Interest Group is "in touch and on the move," as we used to say in broadcast news. Coming off a successful convention in the nation's capital, we in the group are looking forward to a great follow-up in Miami Beach next summer. There also are plans for boosting RMIG activities outside the annual convention. Our membership is heavily involved with the first scholarly publication specifically devoted to religion and media, too. Can divisional status be far behind?

Well, let's not get ahead of ourselves. Still, RMIG is becoming more and more of a presence in AEJMC, as we work in tandem with divisions and other interest groups on shared goals. A great example is the recent 2002 convention chip auction in Dallas, attended by Program Chair Debra Mason and me. We were able to get each RMIG session co-sponsored, teaming up with several groups, many for the first time. Debra did a fine job writing up panel proposals that reflected priorities set by the interest group, then following through and negotiating dates and times for them.

Those were the major factors behind RMIG's good showing at the 2001 convention. Co-sponsoring sessions with major divisions such as Communication

Theory and Methodology, Mass Communication and Society, and Media Ethics boosted not only attendance but also the quality of panels themselves, as each group added its high-quality personnel to the excellent representation from RMIG. The reception for the *Journal of Media and Religion* also raised the interest group's profile within AEJMC as a whole.

That journal is a great work of Daniel Stout and Judith Buddenbaum, and is the talk of many a scholarly roundtable. Lawrence Erlbaum has been very open to the input and leadership of Religion and Media Interest Group members, who are well-represented on JMR's editorial board. Still, Daniel and Judith have not made this an RMIG-only work, as the first issue (due out in March 2002) features thoughtful articles from James Carey and other authors giving perspectives on the integration of religion and communication channels.

All of us in RMIG need to give a bit of thought to that as we look toward the Miami Beach convention in 2002. I'm planning to submit a research paper to the interest group's competition – how about you? This organization has a

continued on page 2

New Journal seeks Reviewers

Anyone interested in reviewing a book for upcoming issues of the *Journal of Media and Religion* should contact Debra Mason, executive director of the Religion Newswriters Association. Mason, who is the book review editor, is seeking reviewers willing to write 500-750 words about books of interest to scholars who study religion and media. "We're looking for people who can write knowledgeably about a

book's topic and make a deadline," said Mason. Reviewers get to keep the book they review. The first issue of the journal is due in mailboxes by Spring 2002. The journal is published by Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc. Potential reviewers should send an e-mail to Mason at rnastuff@aol.com. Please state your research expertise or preferences as well.

Moving on Moving Up*Continued from page 1*

growing membership, lots of exciting work underway, and top minds. There's no reason RMIG can't have at least 30 submissions this year, which would nearly double last year's intake. Submitting your paper helps you, by getting out your research; RMIG, through boosting its research activity; and journalism research generally, in the contributions to knowledge and understanding that we in the group so greatly value.

We in the Religion and Media Interest Group believe that our membership can make positive contributions to the profession, scholarship, and society at large. Therefore, we are working on ways to expand our public-service commitment. I'm coordinating with educators in Texas toward that end. Perhaps there's an activity you're involved in that RMIG could assist with that would help all parties. Let me know your thoughts by utilizing the contact information at the end of this piece.

On behalf of RMIG, thank you for all you've done for the group over the past year. Let's work together to make 2002 the interest group's best year yet. Blessings upon you.

Write Dr. Kyle Huckins, Christian Institute of the West, P.O. Box 9693, Amarillo, TX 79105; e-mail khuckins@aboutchristiancollege.org; call 806-373-7490; fax 806-373-3833.

RMIG Panel takes Shape*Continued from page 1*

with ways to introduce the First Amendment into their own courses within their sequences. The panel will include discussion of some of the First Amendment freedoms of religion, assembly and petition that often are overshadowed in the focus on Freedom of Speech.

1:30-3 p.m. Islam and the Inverted Pyramid (Co-sponsored with the Council of Affiliates) Religion is a complicated topic, yet one that is vital for a complete telling of world events. This panel discusses how Islam has been covered in the press and includes spokesmen for a leading Arab-American organization, and a scholar on coverage of Islam and journalists. This panel will include useful information for faculty teaching journalism students about how to be sensitive to a diversity of faiths.

3:15-5 p.m. The World Watched: U.S. Comparative International Cover-

age of the Sept. 11, 2001, American Tragedy (Co-sponsored with the Community College Journalism Association) Description: Using the media framing and agenda-setting framework, this panel will compare and analyze how the news media in the United States, the Middle East, Latin America, Europe, Asia and Africa covered the tragic events of Sept. 11 and its aftermath. What media frames were used by selected countries in the different regions? How similar or different was the coverage?

6:45 p.m. AEJMC Keynote 8-10 p.m. AEJMC Opening Reception

Thursday, Aug. 7, 2002

10 a.m. AEJMC-wide plenary
1:30-3 p.m. Scholar-to-Scholar poster session, including up to 7 juried RMIG posters

3:15-4:45 p.m. Disney, Bart Simpson and the Bible! Religion in Entertainment (Co-sponsored with Entertainment Studies Interest Group) From Bart Simpson to Disney, God is every-

where in the entertainment industry. Journalists, scholars and entertainment media professionals share in a discussion about the role of religion in entertainment.

5 p.m. RMIG juried research papers 8:30-9:45 p.m. RMIG Business Meeting

Friday, Aug. 8, 2002

8:15-9:45 a.m. Rethinking Journalism History: The "R" Factor (Co-sponsored with History Division) From early religious publications to the faith of Colonial printers, scholars say religion played an important role in the development of the Mass media. This panel explores some of those connections.

10-11:30 a.m. AEJMC Business Meeting
11:45-1:15 p.m. RMIG Luncheon & Research Mentoring Newer scholars will have the opportunity to review research proposals with seasoned scholars who study religion and media. Also a discussion of venues for research in religion and media.

3:15-4:45 p.m. RMIG juried research papers
5-6:30 p.m. RMIG executive committee meeting

The Awards Committee of the American Journalism Historians Association seeks Nominations

The Awards Committee of the American Journalism Historians Association seeks nominations for the AJHA book award to recognize the best in journalism history or mass media history published during calendar year 2001. Qualifying books must have

been granted a first-time copyright in 2001. Entrants should submit five copies of their books to the book award coordinator by March 1, 2002.

Send materials to Earnest L. Perry, Jr., AJHA Book Award Coordinator, Texas Christian University, TCU

Box 298060, Fort Worth TX 76129.

E-mail: e.perry@tcu.edu

The award will be given at AJHA's 2002 annual convention to be held in October 2002 in Nashville, Tenn.

Scenes from the Washington Convention...

Interest in religion and media has grown considerably in recent years. This was evident at the August convention in Washington D.C., where RMIG members presented research papers, led panel discussions, and hosted receptions



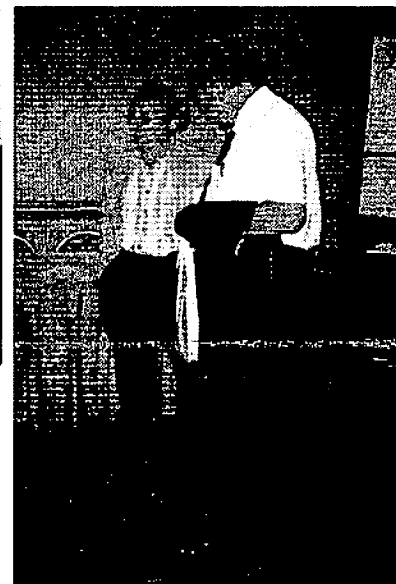
Guy Golan, doctoral student at the University of Florida, discusses his research on "religion and the third-person effect." Guy received this year's Top Paper Award.



RMIG hosted a reception for the *Journal of Media and Religion*. Judith Buddenbaum, Co-Editor (Colorado State), Kyle Huckins, Member of the Editorial Board (Christian Institute of the West), Linda Bathgate, Acquisitions Editor (Lawrence Erlbaum Publishers), and Daniel Stout, Co-Editor (BYU) display a brochure for the new journal.



Kyle Huckins (Christian Institute of the West) moderates a panel discussion on teaching and course development related to religion and media. Seated (L-R) are Linda Henson, Paula Matabane, and Ed Lambeth.



Mark Silk, author of the book, "Unsecular Media" and Ed Lambeth of the University of Missouri converse at an RMIG research paper session.

Minutes from the Business Meeting of the Religion and Media Interest Group

Grant Hyatt Washington, D.C. Aug. 06, 2001. Chair Daniel Stout of Brigham Young University called the meeting to order.

Membership Report: Stout reported that membership was at 100. The interest group is completing its fourth year.

Top Paper Award: Research Chair Debra Mason of the Religion Newswriters Association presented the Top Paper Award to Guy Golan, a graduate student at Florida. His paper concerns religiosity and third-person effects.

Research Paper Report: Research Chair Debra Mason reported that 14 papers were submitted this year. Of those nine were accepted.

Program Chair Report: Program Chair Kyle Huckins of the Christian Institute of the West reported that

the interest group co-sponsored four program sessions: Two with Media Ethics, one with Communication Theory and Methodology and one with Mass Media and Society.

Teaching Report: Daniel Stout noted that AEJMC, in reviewing the interest group's teaching offerings noted that RMIG had met its goal by including panels on teaching, a list serve and a special newsletter on teaching.

Other Reports: Stout noted that RMIG participated in the Mid-Winter conference at Fordham University, with a presentation on the new *Journal of Media and Religion*. Stout reported on issues from the Council of Division meeting. One issue was that of the online publication of research materials.

Submit articles, reviews, and other items for the next *Religion and Media Bulletin* to:

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Doctoral Fellowships in Media, Religion, and Culture

The University of Colorado's School of Journalism and Mass Communication is pleased to announce a Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship in Media, Religion, and Culture.

Grants are available in the amount of \$12,000 for a one-year fellowship for the academic years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004. Grants are designed to coincide with the year of dissertation proposal-writing or the first year after the approval of the dissertation proposal for students engaged in research projects involving media, religion and culture.

Fellowship grants are made possible through the generosity of the Lilly Endowment, Inc. The application deadlines are March 31, 2002 and March 31, 2003. Fellows will be selected from various universities and disciplines on the basis of their fellowship proposals.

Fellows will be brought together for "master seminars" at which leading scholars in media, religion, and culture will interact with fellows, their advisors, and the research team at the

University of Colorado's School of Journalism and Mass Communication, headed by Stewart M. Hoover and Lynn Schofield Clark.

Funds from the fellowship program may be used to cover research and other expenses as desired by the recipient. This is an exclusive grant, however; no other grants may be accepted in the same year as the Dissertation Fellowship for Media, Religion, and Culture, with the exception of teaching or research assistantships from the degree-granting university.

For more information and application materials, go to <http://www.Colorado.edu/Journalism/MEDIALYF>

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