Welcome to Denver! Your officers have planned an exciting lineup of activities for the convention August 3 through 7 that includes a per-convention workshop, a mini-plenary, the usual research, creative activity, teaching and PF&R panels, and a special treat—a hike into Colorado’s Chautauqua Meadow and Ranger Cottage. Be sure to check the convention program grid located at: http://www.aejmcdenver.org/?page_id=2215 or, if you want to see ONLY the VisCom sessions, go to our Web site and click on “VisCom at at Glance.” Go to: http://aejmc.net/viscom/

We look forward to seeing you, hearing about your scholarly activity and exploring the Denver area together. If you are new to the division, please attend the Members Meeting on Thursday, 6:45 pm to 8:15 pm in room 186 of the Sheraton. If you would like to be a little more involved with the division by serving as an officer in the coming year, please let the incoming Head, Jennifer George-Palilonis (JAGEORGE2@bsu.edu) know and I’m confident she can find a place for you. The division is as strong as its members and officers and for Denver, we are strong indeed!

Jim Kelly is the Visual Communication Division Head and an associate professor in the School of Journalism at Indiana University, Bloomington. kellyjd@indiana.edu

Join the VisCom listserv by sending a message with SUBSCRIBE in the message line to AEJMC-VISCOM @LISTSERV.MIAMI.EDU
This is a visual generation, right? We only have to look at Facebook to see how everyone communicates with pictures. Whether it's in a cathedral in Lisbon, on a street corner in Manhattan or at a Little League game in Boise, people are making photographs. All the time.

Even before cell phone cameras, we were being bombarded by photographs with little time to look, to do much more than identify the objects in the frame. How often do we notice the ideas that pop into our heads as we look, let alone consider how the picture makes sense, makes us feel something, or leads us to different decisions, personal or political?

For the past few years I've been following—and becoming increasingly involved with—a resource for visual educators that helps me understand these issues, teach in new ways, stay on top of a wide range of images with impact, and engage in a dialogue that doesn’t take place anywhere else.

The forum and the place is BagNewsNotes.com. From its own description, “In an ever more visual society, BagNews seeks to better understand the levels of meaning, the underlying story lines and the various agendas reflected in the more prominent news pictures of the day. Because socially critical pictures have a near-impossible time breaking through the news filter, we also publish, and provide a careful look at original photojournalism and concerned photography.”

Michael Shaw, BagNews publisher, is a clinical psychologist. In 2001 he started drawing political cartoons on lunch bags with the intention of engaging high school kids in the news. In 2004 he developed a website with in-depth discussions of news photographs. BagNews has become part of the visual studies and photojournalism curriculum at many universities and colleges and this summer launched a new website and format with new features and opportunities for engagement. Here are some of them:

**Notes: reading the pictures** is the original BagNews feature. Every day there's commentary on a photograph or two. Shaw most often begins the discussion but additional editors are now adding their thoughts. Depending on the image or Shaw's comments, the discussion can turn thoughtful or funny. Frequently critical of media, Notes helps connect the dots, linking images to larger social/political/human issues.

BagNews is a daily feature that links to other areas of the site. In the June 27th entry, for example, photographer Alan Chin wrote about Peter Van Agtmael's Afghanistan photographs found in a new section, Originals. These commentaries offer a chance to “listen in” on one professional's thoughts about other work and photographic practice.

**Originals:** original photojournalism offers generous edits of images by some of the most interesting photojournalists working today. With a good mix of very well known, emerging, and sometimes-overlooked photojournalists telling
some of the most compelling stories of our time, the Originals archive is an incredible resource for teaching and student exploration. It introduces us to work that often doesn’t make it to print. Importantly, Originals reassures us that there are meaningful stories that we can understand only by seeing.

Visual Week in Review is a video gallery with sound narration, Shaw’s often witty and always perceptive commentary on a week of significant images. By playing these images in sequence, BagNewsNotes helps us see and understand how images build on each other in experience and memory.

BagNewsSalon is an occasional but valuable feature, ninety minutes of live text discussion among a small group of image-makers, editors and scholars with moderated comments from audience members around the world. It offers a rare opportunity to watch and participate in a lively critique of the ways media presents and re-presents, the ways photographers work, and how one image affects our reading of others.

It’s a real plus that Michael Shaw is, at the same time, a psychologist and a critical viewer of photographs. Conversations with him sometimes remind me of the time I showed my work to a psychologist. She cautioned me, “well, I don’t know a lot about photography, but…” and then described exactly what I had been trying to show and evoke with the images. She might not have known much about making photographs, but the psychologist knew how to see and respond. Shaw’s critique of photographs begins much in the same territory, as he offers a searching perspective and asks important questions.

Photographers, educators, critics, and viewers all understand photographs in different ways and there aren’t enough opportunities for all of them to get together and learn from each other. That’s the value of the BagNews Salon, which has become something truly synergistic. Salon questions are often the ones you’d wish you could have asked but might never have thought of asking. Chris Hondros, for example, just back from Haiti, was able to talk firsthand about his photographs, how they were made, and whether or not the mainstream media edit of his work reflected what he had seen. When non-photographers deconstruct the message in an image, photographers can speak to the restrictions of working, how seeing and thinking on the spot results in an image that defines events and moments.

Live salon discussions continue to evolve. All of them are available in the archive and they’re worth study. A selection of salons in the past:

- **Haiti Aftermath: A look back at the first week**
- **Looking Since the Storm: BAGnewsSALON With Mario Tama**
- **Obama: The First 100 Days**
- **Special BAGnewsSALON Inauguration Edition: Looking at Michelle O**
- **9/11: Looking Back From Now**
- **Visual Week in Review – late April/early May edition, 2008** (a live salon discussion & precursor to the now weekly visual review)
- **Campaign 04 vs 08: Are We Seeing The End Of Identity Politics?**

Upcoming: The next live salon takes place on Sunday July 18th at 2pm eastern time. BagNewsNotes will be collaborating with OPEN-I, the Open Photojournalism Education Network (http://open-i.ning.com/) in its first ever international salon. The topic: The Gulf Oil Disaster. The questions will relate to defining or iconicographic images, the range and depth of visual coverage, problems of access and depiction of the unseen and, finally, the problem of aesthetic beauty in light of environmental catastrophe.

A video edit will be available at both BagNewsNotes and OPEN-I for later viewing.

Watch for upcoming student salon discussions – live – beginning this fall: Students have expressed their appreciation for the kinds of discussions that take place in the live salon environment, so plans are beginning for student-only events (teachers and others can participate as viewers). The format is still being constructed, but if you’re interested in your students or school participation, let me know.

Highlights and awards: The site has received important recognition over the years, including:

- **Webby Awards finalist for Best Political Blog (along with Huffington Post and Columbia Journalism Review)** — 2006.
- **Winner — 2006 Koufax Award — Best Post.**
- **Winner — First Gilliard Grant of Merit for Excellence in Journalism and News Blogging — Netroots Nation 2008.**
- **Credentialled blogger — 2008 Democratic National Convention.**

Loret Guivecki Steinberg is a VisCom member and associate professor at Rochester Institute of Technology.

For papers submitted to the Visual Communication Division to its annual conference in Denver, the papers judged to be the top three will be accepted for publication for the Visual Communication Quarterly without additional review. However, authors will need to make any changes suggested by the reviewers or explain why they think such changes are not necessary. A paper should be sent to the editor as per the instructions at http://vcquarterly.org/submit.html with a note identifying it as an award winner. Any questions or concerns should be sent to Dr. Paul Martin Lester at lester@fullerton.edu.
FROM THE VISCOM DIVISION CREATIVE PROJECTS CHAIR, MICHAEL CHEERS

2010 Creative Projects
Thursday, 8/5 @ 5 pm

2010 First Place Creative Project
Top Secret Rosies: Female Computers of WWII
by LeAnn Erickson, Temple University

Second Place
Picture Pairings: the Subconscious Influence of Robert Frank (and Others)
by John Freeman, University of Florida

Third Place
Waterline: An Interactive Installation
by Bette J. Kauffman, The University of Louisiana at Monroe


5th: Dennis Chamberlin, Iowa State University, Voices.

6th: Jennifer George-Palilonis, Ball State University, Extreme Bunker Hill: How Seven Days in the Cold, Rain and Mud Changed a Community.
2010 Best of Web Winners
Wednesday, 8/4 @ 8:15 am

FROM THE VISCOM BEST OF WEB 2010 CO-CHAIR, PHIL LOUBERE

Individual Innovation

First Place:

**Media Law Class** — Ben Wasike, U of Texas Brownsville

Second Place:

**Automatic ActionScript Production** — Byung Lee, Elon U.

Team Innovation

First Place (tie):

**Streets of Dreams** — Leslie-Jean Thornton, Bill Silcock, Steve Doig and students from the Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communication, Arizona State University

**The ASU News 21 Project: Latino America** — Jason Manning, Rick Rodriguez, Andrew Long and Caige Nichols, the Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communication, Arizona State University

**The New Voters** — Leslie Walker and 12 Carnegie-Knight journalism fellows at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism, The University of Maryland

**May Day Show** — Amanda Martinez and Alba Mora-Roca, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism

**Media, Power, & Culture** — Gary Hanson and Ben Hollis, Kent State University

**Powering a Nation** — Laura Ruel and journalism students from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Second Place:

**Living Galapagos** — Patrick Davison and Carolina Photojournalism and Multimedia students from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Third Place (tie):

**May Day Show** — Amanda Martinez and Alba Mora-Roca, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism

**The New Voters** — Leslie Walker and 12 Carnegie-Knight journalism fellows at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism, The University of Maryland

Honorable Mention:

**Five Teenagers** — Mario Furloni, Kate McLean, Richard Parks and Tasneem Raja, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism

**BARTHood** — Jeremy Rue, Andrea Brambila, Rhyen Coombs, Marnette Federis, Kiran Goldman and Elizabeth Shemaria, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism

Individual Journalism

First Place:

**Honduras and the Hidden Hunger** — Tracy Boyer, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Team Journalism

First Place:

**Living Galapagos** — Patrick Davison and Carolina Photojournalism and Multimedia students from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Second Place:

**The Young and the Wireless** — Steve Davis, Bruce Strong, Ken Harper, Brian Dawson and students from S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University

Third Place (tie):

**May Day Show** — Amanda Martinez and Alba Mora-Roca, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism

**The New Voters** — Leslie Walker and 12 Carnegie-Knight journalism fellows at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism, The University of Maryland

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A logo designed by Christine Cirillo, a student at Cal-State Fullerton, has been chosen as the winner of the 2011 AEJMC Student Logo Competition. Cirillo’s entry depicts a silhouetted St. Louis Arch and skyline and was submitted by faculty adviser Xtine Burrough, an assistant professor in communications. Cirillo will receive a $100 prize and see her logo used on promotional materials for the 2011 convention.

Second place went to Jamie Daez, from Hawaii Pacific University, where the faculty sponsor and instructor was Brian Cannon, chair of Multimedia.

Rachel Senn, from Butler University, was awarded third place. Advertising instructor Donna Gray coordinated entries.

A total of 49 entries were submitted by seven schools. The 10-person judging panel viewed the entries online as a slideshow.

Those casting votes represented a cross-section of academia and the professional world: Rob Heller, Tennessee; Jerry Swope, St. Michael’s College, Ray Wong, Middle Tennessee State; Elaine Wagner, Florida; Ted Spiker, Florida; Les Anderson, Wichita State; Jim Kelley, Indiana; Amy Zerba, cnn.com; Steve Nelson, Florida Times-Union; Denise Reagan, Florida Times-Union.

John Freeman is the AEJMC 2011 Logo Chair and an associate professor in the Department of Journalism at the University of Florida. jfreeman@jou.ufl.edu
**AEJMC VisCom Sessions, Denver 2010**

**TUESDAY**
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Cost: $75 (Pay with conference registration)
Moderating/Presiding: Larry Dailey, University of Nevada-Reno
Panelists: Larry Dailey, University of Nevada-Reno; Jennifer George-Palilonis, Ball State University; Ryan Sparrow, Ball State University

**WEDNESDAY**
8:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
PF&R Panel Session: Navigating the new world of copyright
Moderating/Presiding: Jack Zibulik, Arkansas State University

10 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
Refereed Paper Research Session: Top Research Paper Panel
Moderating/Presiding: Shahira Fahmy, University of Arizona

11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Teaching Panel Session: Breaking the mold: Innovative ideas for the future of journalism
Moderating/Presiding: Larry Dailey, University of Nevada-Reno

3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
Mini-plenary Teaching Panel Session: The new convergence: Innovations in industry and academic collaborations
Moderating/Presiding: Kathleen M. Ryan, Miami University

**THURSDAY**
8:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
PF&R Panel Session: Visual ethics across and within platforms: convergence or chaos?
Moderating/Presiding: Jack Zibulik, Arkansas State University

11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Teaching Panel Session: Strategies for capstone success
Moderating/Presiding: Shahira Fahmy, University of Arizona

3:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.
PF&R Panel Session: Decency Act fosters indecency? Free expression in the Twitter Age
Moderating/Presiding: Larry Dailey, University of Nevada-Reno

5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Refereed Paper Research Session: Creative Projects
Moderating/Presiding: Michael Cheers, San Jose State University

**FRIDAY**
8:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
Teaching Panel Session: Best of the Web
Moderating/Presiding: Phil Loubrec, Middle Tennessee State University

12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Refereed Paper Research Session: Scholar to Scholar session
Moderating/Presiding: Shahira Fahmy, University of Arizona

2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Outing: Chautauqua Meadow and Ranger Cottage Hike
Organizer: Jeremy Gilbert, Northwestern University
Cost: $35 (covers snacks & transportation to and from trailhead; pay with conference registration)
Note: Space is limited to 24 hikers; place your reservation by emailing Jeremy Gilbert at jgilbert@northwestern.edu

**SATURDAY**
8:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.
PF&R Panel Session: Visual ethics in public relations
Moderating/Presiding: Melissa Johnson, North Carolina State University

10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Refereed Paper Research Session: Top Research Paper Panel
Moderating/Presiding: Shahira Fahmy, University of Arizona

11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
Refereed Paper Research Session: Top Research Paper Panel
Moderating/Presiding: Shahira Fahmy, University of Arizona

1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Teaching Panel Session: Thinking outside the silos: Teaching creativity and innovation for strategic communication
Moderating/Presiding: Margo Berman, Florida International University
Photography by Keith Graham
VisCom member, an associate professor in Photojournalism, Design and Multimedia Director, Photojournalism/Multimedia Program School of Journalism at The University of Montana