VIEWPOINTS

The official newsletter of the visual communication division of AEJMC

Visit the website at aejmc.net/viscom

FROM THE VISCOM DIVISION HEAD

Get ready for Chicago

The countdown to the 100th anniversary convention in Chicago has begun. Your officers are excited about our convention lineup, August 8-12. I hope you'll be joining us for the long weekend.

We'll have a great program includes a pre-conference workshop teaching video editing for both Adobe Premiere and Final Cut (pre-signup required), teaching panels that explore topics like tablet-based storytelling, global perspectives of the Arab Spring and many more. You can see the full schedule of VisCom convention programming on page 5.

We'll have some fabulous research presentations including our Top Papers, Creative Projects, Best of the Web and much more (to learn more about the competition and see past winners, go to **aejmc.net/viscom/winning_projects.html**). The division is also organizing a lunchtime discussion on Friday, August 10, hosted at Chicago's historic Tribune Tower (pre-signup required). Three visual journalists will join us to discuss ways the Tribune is exploring the latest ideas of storytelling in infographics, interactive narratives and still photography.

Perhaps the best part will be getting together will other colleagues as passionate about visual journalism as you are. I hope you will also join us for our member meeting, Saturday from 7-8:30PM. We will discuss the past year, talk about division goals, discuss our membership/finances, unveil our new website, review the latest issues of VisCom Quarterly, revel in our collective achievements and elect new officers.

Having served three years as a division officer. I hope that all of you will contemplate new ways to get involved and consider serving the division as an officer over the coming year. The incoming division head is the capable and talented Bruce Thorson (**bthorson2@unl.edu**) and I urge you to contact him and get involved.

Finally, and most importantly, I urge you to join us in recruiting new members. If you know faculty or graduate students who are passionate about visual journalism — in any of its many forms — encourage them to register with the division. VisCom is a group that will encourage discussion, furthers learning and is the perfect place to publish research. If you or your prospective members have questions please have them contact Membership Chair Yung Soo Kim (**kim.s.eye@uky.edu**).

I cannot wait to see you in Chicago. ■

Jeremy Gilbert is head of the Visual Communication Division and an assistant professor at the Medill School at Northwestern University. jgilbert@northwestern.edu

WHAT'S INSIDE

FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Changing our channels

After a year editing this newsletter, I've observed some things about how we communicate as a division. Beyond this newsletter, the Visual Communication division has at its disposal a webpage (**aejmc.net/viscom**), Facebook page (search "**AEJMC Visual Communication Division**" on Facebook), and listserv (email **AEJMC-viscom@ listserv.miami.edu**). If there's a VisComm Twitter account, Pinterest page, or numbers station out there, I don't know about it, but that's still a respectable collection.

These aren't dead channels, either. I've seen every one of them used at least a few times in the past year. However, something else has happened a few times in that year as well. Say a division member contacts me between issues with information for the newsletter. "Sure," I say, "the next issue comes out in X months."

"No good," replies the member. "The deadline is before then." In this case, I direct them to the website, where Webmaster Keith Greenwood can help them out, or to the listserv and/or Facebook, where they can post it themselves. Sometimes they do, but other times the request seems to vanish, likely with the member wondering "What good is this newsletter anyway?"

Good question.

It's terrific that we have and use this variety of media, but I've also noticed that what happens in one channel doesn't always show up in the others. That means the Facebook followers might get information that the listserv users don't, or the newsletter readers get updates that the Web people might not. And that's less terrific.

Consider that Facebook page. The page added nine new members since last year's conference, for a grand total of 84. A scan turns up 20 posts since then, from nine

original posters. Of these, four were requests (calls, reviewers, surveys), two were links to our webpage, 10 were other links, one was a photo and three were missing content. Five comments and five "likes" had been left on these various posts.

Those nine of 84 users make up about 10%. Does a different 10% use the listserv? The webpage? Does the low number of comments indicate low usage? If so, would those request posts be better served by another channel, or by overlapping?

More simply, are we using our division's channels in a way that gets us what we want? When I'm contacted by a member who wants something to go out NOW, but the newsletter doesn't go out until THEN, I'm not doing much good. Telling them to do it themselves feels a little weak as well.

A proposal, then. I suggest the newsletter editor position broaden modestly to address this fracturing of messages across channels. When time sensitive information is received, he/she should post it to the Facebook page. When queries arrive, he/she should shepherd these to the listserv (with the original querist cited, naturally).

I don't think it would require a massive increase in duties for this officer to function as a communications clearinghouse for our division; it's not exactly a tsunami of information we're dealing with. With just a few timely links and reposting, we can get information out more widely AND more consistently, and that serves our members. For my remaining tenure in this spot, I plan to do just that. ■

Bob Britten is co-editor of the Visual Communication Division newsletter and an assistant professor at the P.I. Reed School of Journalism at West Virginia University. bob.britten@mail.wvu.edu

2011-2012 OFFICERS

Division Head
Jeremy Gilbert, Northwestern University

Vice-Head & Program Chair
Bruce Thorson, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Second Vice-Head
Byung S. Lee, Elon University

Research Chair
Robert Peaslee, Texas Tech University

PF&R Chair
Denise McGill, University of South Carolina

Teaching Chair
Mary Bock, Kutztown University

Best of the Web Chair
Kim Komenich, San Jose State University

Creative Projects Co-Chairs
Michael Cheers, San Jose State University
Craig Herndon, Howard University

Logo Chair
Brian Cannon, Hawaii Pacific University

Membership Chair
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Graduate Student Liaisons
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Matt Haught, University of South Carolina
Victoria Bemker LaPoe, Louisiana State University
Liz Lance, University of Missouri

Visual Communication Quarterly Editor
Berkley Hudson, University of Missouri

Newsletter Co-Editors
Bob Britten, West Virginia University
Myles Ludwig, Lynn University

Co-Webmasters
Keith Greenwood, University of Missouri
Quint Randle, Brigham Young University

Visual research to see at AEJMC

Hi everyone,

I must begin by once again offering a thundering round of thanks to all of you have served as reviewers, moderators, and discussants for this year's paper competition and presentations. I am once again humbled by the collegiality and professionalism of our division members.

For this column, I'd like to give you a sneak peek at our research sessions for AEJMC Chicago 2012.

At 10am on Thursday, August 9, please join us for an important research session entitled, "Exploring Bias and Ethics in the Visual Field, featuring papers discussing media bias, ethics, and negativity as expressed (or not) in the visual frame.

Our Top Papers panel, scheduled for Friday, August 10, 1:30-3pm, offers an exciting mix of subjects and approaches, and is sure to be a highlight of the Division's schedule. A hearty round of congratulations to those contributors whose papers have been honored this year!

Start your Saturday with the cool kids, all of whom will be attending the 8:15 Vis-Comm Division panel on "Digital Images and Networked Communication," a timely session including such diverse topics as the Egyptian revolution relationship to social media, Facebook profile pictures, candidate imagery in political blogs, and the "iconic" situation room image, taken at the White House on the night of Osama Bin Laden's death.

By the Numbers

There were **42** papers submitted to the division

21 of those submissions were accepted

The division's final acceptance rate was **50%**

Be sure to return from your early lunch on Saturday in time to browse the Division's Scholar-to-Scholar papers, on display from 12:15-1:30pm. Here you'll find papers devoted to steel mill photography, East African photojournalism, luxury brand

advertising imagery, multimedia news resources, and other important content. Those of you who have presented your papers as S2S presentations now how vital it is to have feedback, so please stop by and provide some for your colleauges.

Saturday winds down with a session entitled, "Visual Rhetoric and Framing: New Considerations," including papers dealing with the documentary Inside Job, the commemoration of 9/11 in 2011, and Hoover's FBI, among others.

Alongside the research sessions are several co-sponsored sessions, teaching panels, and the creative projects session, so be sure to check the program for all these other VisComm goings on. See you in Chicago, and thanks again to all of you! ∎

Robert Moses Peaslee is research chair for the Visual Communication Division and an Assistant Professor in the College of Mass Communications at Texas Tech University. robert.peaslee@ttu.edu

Brochure available online!
Our division recruiting brochure is now available on the website at:
http://aejmc.net/viscom/contents/index_con/viscombrochure.pdf
Please feel free to download it, print it and hand it to a colleague or graduate student in your department who may have an interest in joining.
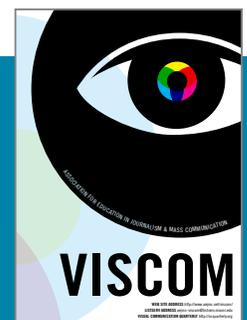
VISCOM

VisComm goes to Dhaka

For the 2011-2012 year, the visual communication's graduate liaison position is held by not one but four different graduate students. Each will contribute a column to an issue of the division newsletter. This issue's liaison is doctoral student Liz Lance.

My first introduction to Dhaka was by way of Kathmandu in winter 2009. I was living there on a U.S. Student Fulbright Fellowship working on a photo project on beauty and body image in young Nepali women. I had fallen in with a dynamic group of Nepali photographers, some professional and some hobbyists, and we traveled together to Bangladesh for the fifth biannual Chobi Mela International Festival of Photography. Every conceivable venue in the city, from art galleries to courtyards in the old part of the city, was filled with photography. The organizers had also created an outdoor exhibit from temporary walls, so that every Dhaka-ite, from rickshaw wallahs to bankers, could participate in the visual showcase in different corners of the city. The city was alive with visual expression.

I returned to Dhaka in early June, where I am now living for two months studying Bengali, and I have found the respect for visual storytelling and enthusiasm for photography of all kinds to be part of the urban fabric here, not simply an anomaly to occur every two years during a festival. Art galleries abound, from Drik Gallery

Above: The inaugural procession of Chobi Mela V in Dhaka, January 2009. Below: In the sculpture garden at the Fine Arts Building at Dhaka University, June 2012. (Photos by Liz Lance)

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

VisComm Programming at AEJMC

Wednesday, August 8
- 9AM-4:30PM: Final Cut Pro or Adobe Premiere: Which One to Use and How to Teach It?, pre-registration required, cost $50.

Thursday, August 9
- 10-11:30AM: Research: Exploring Bias and Ethics in the Visual Field
- 11:45AM-1:15PM: Teaching: The Male Gaze Revisited (with Cultural and Critical Studies)
- 3:15PM-4:45PM: Teaching: Teaching Marathon (with Magazine)
- 5-6:30PM - Teaching: Curated Journey: iPad and Tablet Narrative (with Magazine)

Friday, August 10
- 8:15-9:45AM: PF&R: Las Vegas Religion: Exploring Sacred and Secular Media in Sin City (with Religion and Media Interest Group)
- 11:45AM-1:15PM: Teaching: Off-site Luncheon Session: Visual Journalism: Photography, Print Informational Graphics and Digital Design - pre-registration required, cost $30 (at the historic *Chicago Tribune*)
- 1:30-3PM: Research: 2012 Visual Communication Division Top Papers
- 3:15-4:45PM: PF&R: Global Perspectives on Coverage of CNN, BBC, and Aljazeera/Documenting the Arab Spring (with Electronic News)

Saturday, August 11
- 8:15-9:45AM: Research: Digital Images and Networked Communication
- 12:15-1:30PM: Research: Scholar-to-Scholar
- 1:45-3:15PM: Teaching: The Best of the Web (with Communication Technology)
- 3:30-5PM: Research: Visual Rhetoric and Framing: New Considerations
- 5:15-6:45PM: Research: Creative Projects
- 7-8:30PM: Business: Members' Meeting

Sunday, August 12
- 8:15-9:45AM: Teaching: Teaching with Technology: Learning Concepts in the Face of Challenging Software (with Communication Technology)
- 10-11:30AM: Research: Analysis of Visuality Using Q Methodology

Dhaka
from page 4

(which organizes Chobi Mela) to smaller affairs like the startup Dhaka Art Center that programs lectures, exhibits, and documentary film. One can easily wander through the Fine Arts building at Dhaka University and be welcomed in by the students in the printmaking department or those chiseling blocks of wood in the sculpture garden. Pathshala, the premier school of documentary photography in South Asia, has expanded its scope to multimedia training for all journalists that is firmly rooted in the visual tradition. In short, Dhaka is a visual communicator's

dream city come true.

On that note, I'd like to draw your attention to the open call for submissions for Chobi Mela VII, to be held in January 2013. Please share this call far and wide, with your students, colleagues, and other visual storytellers on your contact list. The deadline for submission is July 31, 2012. The guidelines are featured on the Chobi Mela website (**chobimela.org**), and though the late January timing of the festival isn't the greatest for those of us on a semester schedule, it would be more than worth the trip to attend. The Chobi Mela hosts are gracious and welcoming and offer the finest collection of discussion, exhibition, teaching, and friendship of any photogra-

phy festival I've ever attended (N = 1).

In the meantime, I'll look forward to seeing you all in Chicago in August! Please be in touch with me this summer if there's anything related to photography in Bangladesh you're interested in (**lizlance@ gmail.com**). Cheers! ■

Liz Lance is a graduate liaison for the Visual Communications Division of AEJMC and a doctoral student at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. She received a U.S. State Department Critical Language Scholarship to study Bengali in Dhaka this summer.
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Shooting savvy: What student photographers should know

What do our visual journalism students need to know before we send them out on the streets? Panelists discuss the issue—and we should, too.

Jonathan Foster, a student at Rochester Institute of Technology, was arrested on October 28, 2011, while covering Occupy Rochester for his school magazine. The charges were dropped in January after intervention from the National Press Photographers Association and multiple trips to the courthouse.

Visual Communication professors and advisors have a lot to learn from Foster's case.

The topic came up in March at the 31st Northern Short Course in Photojournalism, held this year in Fairfax, Va. In recent years the NSC committee has added an academic track to their already-impressive lineup.

The panel "Law and Educators" was led by our own Loret Steinberg of RIT, with fellow panelists Mickey H. Osterreicher, counsel for the NPPA, and Chris Usher, an independent photojournalist in Washington, D.C.

We would do well to continue the discussion at the AEJMC convention in Chicago.

The panelists agreed that all visual students need a frank conversation about what to do if they get arrested while covering a story. There is an alarming increase in arrests of journalists, citizen journalists and anyone holding a camera in the United States.

Steinberg teaches a course "Ethics of Photojournalism." She says we need to do a better job preparing our students for the current climate of animosity toward the media. She says it is a part of the "stewardship of our profession."

Guidelines for Students:
■ Remember "photography is not a crime," but trespassing is. Stay above the law.

■ Know the difference between editorial vs. advocacy photography. If a student is taking photos for the school newspaper, she/he can't turn around and then participate in the Occupy movement (This seems obvious, but I find this line is often blurred for my students in this day and age.).

■ Dress professionally. Look like a journalist, not an activist.

■ Identify yourself as a photojournalist. Wear credentials so they're visible.

Tips from Steinberg:
■ Have emergency phone numbers ready. Steinberg suggests students write her number and an attorney's number on their arms inside their sleeves.

■ If students don't have credentials, make business cards with their name and title "Photojournalist."

■ Steinberg hands out ACLU bust cards to her students. It's a downloadable file about suspects' rights. She also hands out "Photography Is Not a Crime" lens cloths

Foster was standing in a public street wearing press credentials and a shirt emblazoned with "reporter" over his winter coat when he was arrested. His case proves that doing everything right doesn't mean you won't get arrested.

Several other journalists on the scene documented his arrest. In the courtroom, evidence of his compliance with the officers helped his case immensely. Other facts in his favor were his clean criminal record, presidential scholarship, 3.43 GPA and clips from the school magazine going back to 2009.

FURTHER READING

Osterreicher, M. "Judge Dismisses All Charges Against R.I.T. Photojournalist." NPPA Advocacy Committee Blog, 12 Jan., 2012.

Osterreicher, M. "Photography and the Law" column, *JPG Magazine* (jpg.com).

Miller, C. "These Photographer Rights Lens Cloths Will Help Raise Money for My Legal Fees." Photography is Not a Crime Blog, pixiq.com, 20 Feb., 2012.

"Know Your Rights: What to Do if You're Stopped by Police, Immigration Agents or the FBI." aclu.org, June 2010.

Special issues for teachers:
■ Review cases and debrief at school after students cover an event.

■ When a student gets arrested, he/she usually faces sanctions from the university.

■ Advisors and professors should be prepared to advocate for the student. Plan to attend hearings to verify that he/ is not a threat to your school.

■ Help your administration know how photojournalism works. Usually our students are upholding principles esteemed by the university.

■ Universities have increasing restrictions for photography on campus. Help students negotiate this territory when warranted. ■

Denise McGill is PF&R chair for the Visual Communication Division, Secretary of the National Press Photographers Association, and an Assistant Professor of Visual Communications at the University of South Carolina. MCGILLD@mailbox.sc.edu

2013 AEJMC Logo Competition Winners

The results are in for the Washington, DC (August 2013) AEJMC student logo contest for the August 2013 national conference. There were 53 total entries; four entries were disqualified.

The remaining 49 entries were put into a PDF slideshow, with each entry on its own slide that included an assigned entry number but did not include the student's name or school. The logo entries' slideshow was then sent to the five judges who were faculty members at two universities that did not have logos entered in this year's logo contest. For the first round of judging, the judges each selected top five logos and ranked them 1-5. First place votes received 5 points, fifth place votes received 1 point, etc.

Entries receiving the most points advanced to the final round of voting by the judges. The logo receiving the most points in the final round was awarded First Place, second highest was second place, and third highest took third.

Thank you to all of the schools that sent in entries and to the judges for this year's logo contest! ■

Brian Cannon is chair of the annual AEJMC logo competition and an assistant professor of communication at Hawai'i Pacific University. bcannon@hpu.edu

WInning entries

First Place:
Tom Ruane
Penn State University
Faculty Sponsor:
Ron Smith

Second Place:
Dana Edwards
University of Florida
Faculty Sponsor: Amy Zerba

Third Place:
Christian Jessen Christiansen
Hawaii Pacific University
Faculty Sponsor: Brian Cannon

Virtual Elvis

As a kid, I remember seeing obscure graffiti declaring Bird Lives! Many years passed before I understood who "Bird" was, Charlie "Yardbird" Parker, and the monumental influence of his saxamatic thrills on music from bebop to hip-hop. The idea that Bird could live seemed pretty farfetched then, but not so much now that Digital Domain, the company of high-tech wizards who composited effects in "Gran Torino," "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," and "Real Steel," has also shined the light on the eerie presence of Tupac Shakur duetizing with Jay-Z, redefining mortality in the process.

I talked with Julie Miller, the Director of Marketing at Digital Domain, and she confirmed they were indeed working on the resurrection of the King himself, Elvis Presley. Virtual Elvis, if you please. Miller said she couldn't allow us a "peek behind the curtain" to reveal much about the technology of the "magic trick," but assured me the company was "focused on getting it just right," before a svelte, pre-bloat (I hope) Elvis was ready to re-rock.

Is this morally right or not? Well, maybe "morally" isn't quite le bon mot, but it certainly is a question of the "tech rights." As Ted Harbard, NBC chairman, said of Dish Network's AutoHop which lets viewers bypass ads, "just because technology gives you the ability to do something, doesn't mean you should." It's the should part that brings up the morality issue, or the virtual morality issue.

OK: wide gulf between an animated holographic-esque rapper and a cardboard figure of Popeye with a hole in the head for your smiling face. But are we ready for the Reality Star (a pretty convoluted idea of celebrity) to become the Virtual Star, when the admirably curvilinear and pneumatic

The deceased rapper Tupac Shakur makes a technological resurrection 15 years after death for Snoop Dogg and Dr. Dre's 2012 Coachella show. (Photo by Getty Images)

Kardashians become another light trick? Maybe that's a good thing; it would certainly curtail the paparazzi (a pneumonic of invented dialogue from Fellini's "8 ½") who swarm and buzz at their every blink – but are we ready for a Virtual Barack, a Virtual Mitt? That's a leap beyond the "surrogates" who proffer virtual discourse on Sunday morning talk shows

Virtual reality therapy is helping many of the distressed veterans of our recent wars and is a valuable tool in other therapeutic situations. But I also remember when LSD promised a trip to another realm of consciousness, a realm that turned out to be a crevasse in our own minds. Baudrillard warned against the encroaching preference for the simulacrum, the kind of thing Woody Allen made corporeal in "Zelig" and Tom Hanks made Gumpian. We used to chuckle at those who purported to see

the Madonna in a grilled cheese sandwich, but how long will it be before the material girl is replaced by her virtual self? Will there be some rules and regulations attached to behavior of virtual selves, some federal Imageland Security Agency, some necessary time span between clinical death and virtuality? Intellectual property issues? Can you have your cake and eat it?

A time is coming when the truth of the visual sensorium can only be authenticated by the tactile. Can we still believe our own eyes? Who is the dream and who is the dreamer? ∎

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