Welcome! Around this time of the year “best of photography” lists remind us of the importance of visuals in journalism, and this year their role as evidence and in “fake news” makes our work even more relevant.

For this post-Thanksgiving double issue of the AEJMC Vis Com newsletter, I’d like to give a big “thank you” to our Vis Com colleagues who helped with the 2017 Chicago meeting, and who are helping plan the 2018 Washington, DC conference. At our business meeting in Chicago, we voted to move the newsletter functions to our website, but it turns out that we have so many upcoming opportunities that I’ve asked our officers to take a moment to introduce them—and themselves—to you.

Closer to home, I’m thankful for the colleagues and community right here in Las Vegas. The October shooting took place barely two miles from my campus, and our faculty, staff, and students were involved in covering and responding to this challenging event. Their work influenced what you saw directly or indirectly in the media.

Finally, a round of thanks to an often-unappreciated group of professionals that make our lives much easier: Our librarians. Like many of you, we’re fortunate at UNLV to have content-area specialists who are as excited as we are about research and teaching. One example: Our journalism librarian Suzie Skarl has volunteered to update our division’s resources guide. Her live draft is currently posted at http://guides.library.unlv.edu/visualcommunication I hope you find it useful. (Suggestions? Email her at Susie.skarl@unlv.edu.)

The deadline for the AEJMC 2019 Toronto Logo Design Contest is March 31, 2018 (contact contest chair Russell Williams at Russell.Williams@zu.ac.ae for more info—he’ll post details soon as well). Next on my own AEJMC task list is finishing our move to a Google listserv. You’ll receive emails on the old and new lists about this soon. I’m looking forward to seeing you next August in DC. Email me or any of our officers if you have questions—or thanks!

The Visual Communication division has successfully negotiated with several other divisions to share some sessions at next year’s AEJMC annual conference in Washington, DC August 6-9. These will include a pre-conference session, “Working with Drones,” co-sponsored with Cultural and Critical Studies, and sessions shared with the Magazine Media, Communication Technology and Electronic News divisions, as well as with the Community College Journalism Association.

Topics will include Politics of Voice and Visibility, the Relevance of Teaching Code, Visual News and Photojournalism, and Constructive Photojournalism. There will also be the usual sessions for Best of Digital, Creative Research, Peer-to-Peer, Teaching Marathon, Poster Session and paper competitions. Several sessions, including the off-site luncheon and a session on interactive projects, will take advantage of the many news operations in Washington D.C. by featuring professionals from organizations such as Vox and the Washington Post. Next year’s conference will offer diverse opportunities for academic pursuits as well as to meet and hear from professionals working in varied visual fields. We hope to see you there!
Hello Vis Com Colleagues,

If you all are like me, you are winding down your Fall term and preparing for the tasks ahead. As the second vice-head of our division I want to remind you of the upcoming Southeast Colloquium deadline and give a preview of our of Vis Com luncheon in Washington, D.C.

The 43rd Annual AEJMC Southeast Colloquium will be held March 8-10, 2018 at The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. **The deadline to submit research papers and proposals has been extended to Friday, December 15, 2017.** This is a great opportunity for scholars to submit their developing research and gain useful feedback. A new addition to this year’s colloquium is that we will accept abstract proposals. Please review the Colloquium for details: [https://cis.ua.edu/aejmcsec18/](https://cis.ua.edu/aejmcsec18/)

**Volunteers Needed**

We will need at least 10 of our members to read and offer feedback on no more than two papers and/or abstracts. You may email me to participate in our division service opportunity. I appreciate each of you. Thank you in advance.

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**Washington D.C. Luncheon**

We are planning next year’s Vis Com conference luncheon and want to make it a special occasion for our members. We appreciate the leadership from last year’s luncheon and we want to make this year an even greater occasion. We need your input selecting speakers. For our meeting we are reaching out to the following people:

- MaryAnn Golon (Wash Post)
- Michael Williamson (Wash Post)
- Dudley Brooks (Wash Post)
- Keith Jenkins (NPR)
- Michael Wichita (AARP)
- Mary Calvert (freelance)
- Nikki Kahn (freelance)
- Andrew Scott (USA Today)

If you have additional suggestions, please forward the details to me. We plan to finalize our speaker(s) by January.

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The *Visual Communication Quarterly* has had a terrific year in 2017. We started the year by congratulating one of the first artists Burrough invited to publish in the portfolio section, Joseph DeLappe, on his 2017 Guggenheim Award. While we are genuinely happy for our friends, these awards are great for our peers and networks as they elevate the status of the journal.

We printed a special “100 Years of DADA” sub-issue in vol. 24 no. 2 this summer, which was sent with a hand-printed run of 400 door-tag DADA-style manifestos, prompting all those interested in making visual interventions to invert the “Do Not Disturb” sign to disrupt the usual signage one might find in hallways or corridors.

Associate Editor Erik Palmer completed his call for the special issue, “Really Social Photojournalism,” near the end of the summer.

It is nearing the end of the production schedule as I write, and will be printed before 2018. I’m sure Dr. Palmer has plans for making the release of the Really Social Photojournalism special issue, well…really social.

With the special issue and sub-issue this year, we have some articles that have been waiting to be printed. However, we remain open to ideas for themed issues. If you would like to propose a special issue, email me. We also created an “InSight” area of the journal for areas of an educators’ practice relating to teaching and learning that the community can share as a published work. Abigail Selzer King’s “Drawing Talk, Drawing Ideas” (vol. 24 no. 3) is a great example of how one can use the InSight to share and publish work from the classroom with the Visual Communication community.
As the Visual Communication Division’s research chair for 2017-18, I am pleased to report the successful submission of our paper call to the AEJMC office in November. This year’s call is very similar to our prior calls, but members will hopefully also note increasing emphasis on ensuring truly blind submissions for the paper competition. As you prepare your papers for the April 1 submission deadline, please plan ahead to ensure proper compliance with AEJMC’s requirements regarding clean document metadata and proper self-citation.

After the first of the year, I will also begin recruiting reviewers for papers submitted to the Visual Communication division. If you might be available to assist with this important service to the division, please feel free to alert me by email. I also look forward to reaching out further in our scholarly community in the months to come.

Thank you to everyone who has submitted proposals for the teaching marathon. The teaching chair of the magazine division and I have received so many innovative teaching ideas from you. We are currently vetting and organizing them and will get back to those who submitted soon. I want to emphasize my appreciation for the thoughtfulness and high quality of your proposals. I’m excited to learn from you this summer in what will be an engaging and useful panel.

The pre-conference workshop is beginning to take shape, as well. This year’s topic is unique and timely. We’ll be learning about teaching with drones (quad copters). The workshop will be co-sponsored with the Cultural and Critical Studies division.

Finally, we are excited to announce the call for our first annual AEJMC Vis Com teaching award. At the 2017 business meeting, Vis Com division members voted to support excellence in visual communication teaching by founding the Excellence in Visual Education award. The 2018 award, consisting of a plaque and a $100 honorarium, is underwritten by former Vis Com Head Dr. Birgit Wassmuth. This award supports teaching excellence as well as helps applicants prepare for promotion and tenure. (For details, refer to our guidelines here: http://aejmcviscom.org/resources/).

Each year’s award winner will be featured at that year’s teaching marathon panel and have their syllabus placed on our website as a model for other educators.

**AEJMC Vis Com Teaching Award**

Application date: Jan 15, 2018

Application requirements:

- Applicant must be a member of AEJMC Vis Com Division in year she or he is applying.

- Cover letter (max two pages) highlighting accomplishments contained in the package and agreeing to present at the AEJMC conference teaching panel, if a winner.

- CV emphasizing visual communication accomplishments.

- A one-page letter from a colleague supporting the application.

- One syllabus highlighting excellence in or innovative practices in visual communication. (The winner’s syllabus will be posted on the VISC website.)

- Examples of student work from an assignment in the syllabus.

Judging:

A judging committee consisting of the VISC’s teaching chair, head, and vice-head will review and rank the applications and contact the applicants approximately one month after the application date.
For grad students, keep the Southeast Colloquium in mind. The deadline is very soon, but it is very much worth your while—For the networking, the feedback and simply the chance to test out what you’re working on and see how it sticks. Additionally, keep an eye out for a paper call soon for the ICA Prague Young Scholars Preconference: Visual Expression of Voice. Otherwise, I hope to see everyone in D.C. in August, where I’ll be on the job market (hint hint, search committees)! If you’ll be job-hunting as well, polish up your CV, send off those manuscripts you’ve been procrastinating on and get your website put together!

We have a number of online resources to connect you with news on upcoming conferences, job opportunities, publishing announcements, visual commentary, and more. They are, as follows:

Our Facebook group (https://www.facebook.com/groups/aejmcvis/). Launched in 2009 and currently supporting 418 members. In the 71 days since I’ve been in this role, we’ve gained five new members (an overall, one percent increase) and our engagement has increased 131 percent with 30 posts, comments, and reactions in the past 28 days. Facebook considers 184 members of our group as "active." (Meaning they check the page when new content is posted and/or engage with our content in their feeds, etc.)

Our Twitter page (https://twitter.com/aejmcviscom) was launched in 2013 and has accrued 245 followers. During the past 71 days, our Tweets earned 6.5K impressions with 39 link clicks, 23 retweets, 36 “likes,” and four replies.

Our website (http://aejmcviscom.org/), was launched in August 2013 (according to ICANN) and gets the most traffic from the following search engine keywords, according to Alexa: 1) viscom newsletter (8.55 percent), 2) viscom (4.52 percent), 3) advertising graphics (1.96 percent), 4) viscom (0.78 percent), and 5) visual communication quarterly (0.24 percent).

I’m also working on a proposal to continue to increase, encourage and recognize quality design of posters in scholar-to-scholar sessions. Posters are a great chance to showcase excellent data visualization and design, yet we don’t see this as much as I think we should. So how can we, the visual communication division, support a poster process that encourages and emphasizes effective design? If you have ideas or interest, please reach out!

We also have a journal website (http://www.vcquarterly.org/), Instagram account (@VCQuarterly), Facebook account (https://www.facebook.com/vcquarterly) and Twitter account (https://twitter.com/VisCommQ) for our peer-reviewed, academic journal, Visual Communication Quarterly, which has been published since 2004.

If you haven't already, please "like," "follow," and/or "join" these accounts so we can grow our community, its reach, and its benefits to members. If you’d like to post using any of these channels to share resources or promote information for the good of the group, you can do so in most cases directly or, if you’d prefer, you can send items to me and I can post them on your behalf. Please do try to include images with any posts, as these markedly boost engagement. You can do this by including photos or videos, links (which on Facebook) often populates media from the linked site), or by creating a text graphic à la Matt Haught.

I’ll be continuing to manage our social media presences through March 2018 and then will hand the baton off to our social media co-chair, Pinar Istek, doctoral student at the University of Texas at Austin, who will manage the accounts through September 2018.
Alberto Cairo conducts pre-conference “Data Visualization” event for Vis Com at AEJMC Chicago.

Top Scholar-to-Scholar Refereed Presentation: "Chaos, Quest and Restitution Narratives of Depression on Tumblr" by Ali Hussain (right in photo), Michigan State. (Judge Jennifer Midberry on left.)
Refereed Paper Research Session: Creative Research in Visual Communication
Moderating/Presiding: Bonnie Layton, Indiana (middle in photo)

First Places (Tie):
Faces of Flint and Hubert, His Story
Geri Alumit Zeldes, Michigan State (left)

Second Place:
America First, Everyone Else Last: The (Un)Intended Consequences of the 2017 Global Gag Rule

Third Place:
The Luckiest Unlucky Person: When a Half-Mile Away from a Gun Range is Too Close
Charles “Stretch” Ledford, Illinois (right)
Winners of the 2017 “Best of Digital” Competition co-sponsored by Vis Com and CTEC

Website From Single Class/Institution
First Place: "Bordering110.com" by Celeste González de Bustamante (second from right in photo) and Mike McKisson, Univ of Arizona
Second Place: "http://www.hearmyvoiceonline.com" Janice Marie Collins (second from left), Christine La and Anisa McClinton, Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Third Place: http://water quality.com/, Adam J. Kuban and Bryan W. Wiaranowski, Ball State
Honorable Mention:
http://khmerscholar.com Chetra Chap, Ohio (right)
http://www.loumagazine.com The Lou Staff, Seth Gitner and Melissa Chessner, Syracuse

App From an Individual/Team/Single Class
First Place: Jovrnalism App Robert Hernandez, Southern California
Second Place: Ithaca College Traditions Challenge App Adam Peruta, Syracuse University (left)

Category - App From Multiple Class/Institution
First Place: Cronkite News VR App Retha Hill, Arizona State