Only two months to our conference in DC!
As classes wind down and we make final plans for our August conference in Washington, DC, I’d like to update you on our VISC events and schedule. You’ll notice that this issue, with its links and bolded names, prioritizes functional over aesthetic design. I think that this a strong visual marker of all the people working behind the scenes to make our division’s events happen. Thank you, all!

If you haven’t sent in your conference registration yet, please do—and sign up for our pre-conference workshop exploring the latest on drones in journalism and our VISC luncheon. Details for both events are on the next page. If you forgot to sign up, you can contact AEJMC to add these events.

Here’s a quick update on our recent VISC activities:

2018 Research Paper Competition
Thank you to research chair Erik Palmer (palmere@sou.edu) and the volunteer research reviewers. We had 43 submissions and 21 acceptances, and the authors should have received their reviews. Research awards will be announced at the conference.

2018 Creative Projects Competition
Competition chair Joe Gosen (Joe.Gosen@wwu.edu) and the judges have announced their picks for creative projects:
First Place: “Last Moments,” a photo essay by Ross Taylor, Assistant Professor, University of Colorado Boulder.
Second Place: “Proud and Torn: A Visual Memoir of Hungarian History,” an interactive digital history website, by Betina Fabos, Associate Professor of Visual Communication and Interactive Digital Studies, University of Northern Iowa, with Dana Potter (design); Collin Cahill and Jacob Espenscheid (code); Isaac Campbell (animation); Leslie Waters and Kristina Poznan (historical advisors and editors).
Third Place: “The Club That No One Wants to Belong To: A Family Struggles & The Widow Bitch,” a documentary film by David Grewe, Assistant Professor of Visual Communication, California State University, Northridge.
These projects will be part of an awards panel at AEJMC 2018. Thanks to Joe and the judges: Joel Beeson, West Virginia University; Sherry Berghefer, Iowa State University; Kyser Lough, University of Texas at Austin; Jeremy Sarachan, St. John Fisher College; Geri Zeldes, Michigan State University.

Teaching Marathon Panel
Teaching chair Carolyn Yaschur (carolynyaschur@augustana.edu) writes, “Thank you to everyone who has submitted proposals for the teaching marathon. The teaching chair of the magazine division and I received so many innovative teaching ideas from you. 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!”

Results for the 2018 Best of Web and Best of Digital Competition, co-sponsored with CTAC and AEJMC 2019 Toronto Logo Design Contest should be available soon.
**The 2018 “Dr. Birgit Wassmuth Excellence in Education” Teaching Award**

This is the inaugural year for the Excellence in Education award, founded by Dr. Birgit Wassmuth of Kansas State University, a former head of our VISC division. Carolyn Yaschur did an excellent job guiding the judges in choosing the winners from an impressive set of applications.

Congratulations to the co-winners of the inaugural award:

**Catherine M. Staub**, Drake University, based on work submitted from her Magazine Publishing course.

**James Kelly**, Indiana University, based on work submitted from his Words & Pictures Depth Photojournalism course, part of a three-course collaboration sequence.

**VISC Pre-conference Workshop**

*Getting started with drones with Matt Waite* is scheduled for Sunday, August 5, 1-5pm in the conference hotel. Now that drones are becoming more common in media coverage, how can (and should) J-schools become involved? What are the basics and first steps, and how can we learn from early adopters? **Matt Waite**, director of the Drone Journalism Lab at the University of Nebraska, and Washington, DC-based experts will cover the ethics of drone journalism, emerging trends and best practices, and using drones in a breaking news environment. In addition, the workshop will cover how drones can address visual and critical topics in journalism and storytelling. For more information, contact **Carolyn Yaschur** (carolynyaschur@augustana.edu).

**VISC Luncheon**

Our luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, August 8 from 12:15-1:30pm at Del Frisco’s Double Eagle Steakhouse, near our conference hotel. Walk two minutes and join colleagues for a lunchtime presentation by **Andrew Scott**, Director of Photo & Video News Gathering at USA TODAY and **Ashley Perks**, creative director at The Hill. Newly-added to the roster: **Jahi Chikwendiu**, award winning photojournalist at The Washington Post. Chikwendiu has covered a wide range of stories that include D.C.’s broken school system, the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, AIDS and poverty in Kenya, genocide in Darfur, cluster bomb victims in South Lebanon and the 2011 formation of the world’s newest country, South Sudan. He spent the first three months of 2009 in Africa covering the Barack Obama inauguration from the Kenyan home village of the president’s father and other stories in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Kenya, and South Sudan. In 2014, he spent over a month in Missouri covering the issues surrounding the fatal shooting of black teenager Michael Brown. For more information, contact **Gabriel Tait** at GTait@astate.edu.

**VISC Business Meeting**

Please join us for the VISC business meeting scheduled for 7:00-8:30pm on Wed, Aug 8. This is not only a great time to see VISC colleagues, but also to participate in directing our division. We encourage nominations and self-nominations for the leadership positions. Please contact me at Julian.Kilker@unlv.edu or Vice-Head Phil Loubere (Phil.Loubere@mtsu.edu) about your interests. Phil is also busy compiling a list of discussion items for the meeting—please contact him with proposed agenda items. For example, VISC graduate student liaison Kyser Lough (kyserl@utexas.edu) writes, “I’m 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!”
VISC Schedule at AEJMC

Vice-Head Phil Loubere (Phil.Loubere@mtsu.edu) has done a superb job putting together our schedule. Here’s an early look at our VISC activities (check the online version for any changes).

Sunday Aug. 5
1-5pm: Pre-conference session: Getting Started with Drones with Matt Waite. Moderated by Carolyn Yaschur, Augustana College.

Monday Aug. 6
8:15-9:45am: Refereed research.
10:00-11:30am: Best of Digital. Co-chaired by Kevin Ripka, U. of Iowa.
1:30-3:00pm: Teaching Marathon.
5:00-6:30pm: Research panel - The politics of voice, visibility, and transparency. Moderated by Mary Bock, UT Austin.

Tuesday Aug. 7
8:15-9:45am: Refereed papers.
5-6:30pm: Scholar-to-scholar poster session.

Wednesday Aug. 8
12:15-1:30pm: Offsite luncheon at Del Frisco’s Double Eagle Steakhouse, featuring several prominent DC-based visual journalists. Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Gabriel Tait at GTait@astate.edu.
3:30-5:00pm: Creative Projects. Moderated by Joe Gosen, Western Washington U.
5:15-6:45pm: Research panel - Panel of Professionals, with Javier Zarracina, graphics editor at Vox, and Chiqui Estaban, graphics director at The Washington Post.
7:00-8:30pm: Business meeting.

Thursday Aug. 9
11:00-12:30: Teaching session - Teaching code—is it still relevant? Moderated by Phil Loubere, MTSU.

Do You “Like” VISC Social Media?

Pinar Istek (pinaristek@gmail.com), doctoral student at the University of Texas at Austin, has now taken the social media baton from co-chair T.J. Thomson.

Pinar notes that 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:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/aejmcvis/
https://twitter.com/aejmcviscom
http://aejmcviscom.org/

Our peer-reviewed, academic journal Visual Communication Quarterly has related accounts:

http://www.vcquarterly.org/
https://www.instagram.com/vcquarterly/
@VCQuarterly

If you haven't already, please “like,” “follow,” and “join” these accounts so we can grow our community, its reach, and its benefits to members. If you’d like to share resources or promote information for the group on any of these channels, you can do so in most cases directly or, if you’d prefer, you can send items to Pinar for posting on your behalf. Please do try to include images with any posts, as these markedly boost engagement.
VCQ Editor-in-Chief Position Opening

The Visual Communication Quarterly (VCQ) editorial search committee is now accepting applications and nominations for editor-in-chief of the official journal of the Visual Communication Division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The term of the editorship is three years, January 2019 to December 2021, and the new editor will work with the current editor to begin reviewing articles in fall 2018.

The editor works in close partnership with the editorial board members, the VISCD Division officers, and Taylor & Francis. The new editor should be committed to rigorous scholarship and creative work, have a strong academic record, and have the ability to coordinate and manage projects.

VISCD Division members interested in the position should provide evidence of experience and ability to edit and produce four issues annually. The editor's institution must agree to provide administrative support, which might include the assignment of a graduate research assistant. The editor will also receive a stipend from the publisher.

Any interested Visual Communication Division members should send a letter outlining their reasons for seeking the editorship and describing relevant experience, skills, and interests that make them an appropriate candidate. In addition, they should send a current CV and a letter from their institution assuring administrative support. Applicants must provide the name and contact information for at least three references. The VCQ editor search committee will review the proposals from candidates, and the applicants will be notified by August 1, 2018.

Send applications, to arrive no later than July 1, 2018, to search committee chair:

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