# theSTANDARD

Summer 2011

An Electronic Publication of the AEJMC Commission on the Status of Minorities (CSM)

### A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR

Linda Florence Callahan, Ph.D.

eet me in St. Louis and mark your calendars for the Commission on the Status of Minorities' panel and business meeting. Both activities are scheduled for Thursday, August 11th. The panel will held Thursday from 3:15-4:45 p.m. and the CSM business meeting will be that same evening from 8:30-10.

The afternoon panel will examine mainstream media's coverage of the Islamic community 10 years after 9/11 and will tackle related issues such as the resistance to the establishment of mosques in cities throughout the country and why some still falsely accuse President Obama of secretly being a Muslim.

Polls show there is still a segment of the population who believes inaccurately that the President is Muslim despite his public statements to the contrary and despite



his long time membership in a Christian church.

The panelists are: James "Jim" O. Hacking III, an immigration attorney who converted from Catholicism to Islam; Fatemah Keshavarz, professor and chair, Asian and Near Eastern Languages & Literature at Washington University in St. Louis and also

has an electronic newsletter that works to dispel the Western media images of Muslims; Lawrence Pintak, dean, Edward R. Morrow School of Communication, Washington St., Faizan Syed, executive director, St. Louis, Chapter, Council on American Islamic Relations.

I will have the pleasure of serving as moderator of this panel. I am sure it will be thought-provoking. So, bring your questions because we anticipate a lively discussion with lot of audience

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#### **CSM OFFICERS**

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# **GUTIÉRREZ NAMED WINNER OF 2011 BARROW AWARD**

élix F. Gutiérrez,
Professor of Journalism,
Communication and
American Studies & Ethnicity
at the University of Southern
California, has been chosen
to receive the 2011 Lionel
C. Barrow Jr. Award for
Distinguished Achievement
in Diversity Research and
Education by the Association
for Education in Journalism and Mass
Communication (AEJMC).

The Barrow Award recognizes outstanding accomplishment and leadership in diversity efforts for underrepresented groups by race and ethnicity. It will be presented at the AEJMC convention in St. Louis on August 12, where Gutiérrez is also speaker at the 40th anniversary luncheon of the



association's Minorities and Communication division.

"Beginning in 1971, Lee Barrow was a role model, mentor and barrier breaker for me," says Gutiérrez. "I am very humbled and deeply honored to be receiving an award that bears his name." Barrow, the former dean of Howard University's School of Communication,

passed away in 2009.

Gutiérrez holds a journalism diversity appointment in the USC Annenberg School for Journalism & Communication and is a professor in the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Since 1967 much of his career in higher education and philanthropy has focused on teaching, researching, and advocating diversity and inclusion of all

people in all forms of media.

"For more than 40 years I've played a very small role in a very large movement to make classrooms, newsrooms and media coverage more diverse and inclusive of all Americans," he says. "As women and men of diverse colors, cultures and sexual orientations increase in number and visibility, it is more important than ever for media to accurately cover all in our society."

Gutiérrez has received more than 35 awards for advancing more accurate understanding of the nation's diversity. These include national awards from the Asian American Journalists Association, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Black College Communication Association, National Association of Hispanic Journalists,

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### A NOTE FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED

involvement.

I would like to offer special thanks to the committee for pulling together this panel of experts. The committee included Dwight E. Brooks, Middle Tennessee State: Anita Fleming-Rife, University of Northern Colorado; Kyle Huckins, Indiana Wesleyan; Felecia Jones Ross, Ohio State.

#### A Special Congratulation

I would like to offer very special congratulation to Felix Gutiérrez, professor, University of Southern California, for being named winner of the Lionel C. Barrow Jr. Award for Distinguished Achievement in Diversity Research and Education. The award was named in honor of Dr. Barrow who was a long-time member of AEJMC who provided leadership and guidance to the association for decades. He was the founding head of the Minorities and Communication Division. He worked tireless to recruit, train, and assist under

represented groups in obtaining position in communication.

This is the third year the CSM in conjunction with the Minorities and Communication Division has given the Barrow Award. Past winners have been Paula Poindexter, University of Texas at Austin and Robert M. Ruggles, Florida A& M University (professor emeritus).

Dr. Gutierrez will be presented the award during the AEJMC business meeting on August 12. Immediately following the business meeting, Gutierrez will be the featured speaker during the annual luncheon sponsored jointly by the Minorities and Communication Division and the Scholastic Journalism Division. Please be sure to register for the luncheon in advance.

#### A Special Note of Thanks

Finally, I would like to offer special gratitude to CSM Vice President Curtis Lawrence who has done double duty and

# See you at the CSM Business Meeting!

Thursday, August 11, 2011 Landmark 1 on the Conference Plaza 8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Business meeting is preceded by the CSM afternoon pannel session.

filled in as secretary for the past two years. I also owe a special thanks to Diana Rios and Brianna Diaz for their excellent work in producing the CSM newsletter for the past two years. I have enjoyed my years of service as CSM chair. Thank you for the confidence you have shown in me.

## **GUTIÉRREZ WINS 2011 BARROW AWARD CONTINUED**

National Association of Multicultural Media Executives, and National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association.

As a scholar, he has authored or coauthored five books and more than 50 scholarly articles or book chapters, most on racial or technological diversity in media. In 2004 his co-authored book, Racism, Sexism, and the Media: The Rise of Class Communication in Multicultural America, received the Society of Professional Journalists Sigma Delta Chi Award for Excellence in Research About Journalism.

Other co-authored books include: Spanish-language Radio in the Southwestern United States (1979), Telecommunications Policy Handbook (1981), Minorities and the Media: Diversity and the End of Mass Communication (1985), and Race, Multiculturalism and the Media: From Mass to Class Communication (1995).

In 2009, Gutiérrez curated a 24-panel traveling exhibit titled "Voices for Justice: 200 Years of Latino Newspapers in the United States," which traces the "forgotten

pages" of U.S. Latino newspapers from 1808 to the present. He is currently collaborating on a documentary film highlighting 200 years of news coverage by U.S. Latino newspapers and journalists.

As a teacher, he first taught a course on Chicanos and the media at Stanford University in 1970, and in the early 1980s co-founded, with fellow professor Clint Wilson, USC's course on minorities and the media. He currently teaches classes on people of color and the news media, Latino news media in the United States, sexual orientation issues in journalism, and journalism history.

In 1978, the California Chicano News Media Association appointed him its executive director, the first professional association for journalists of color to have such a position. Since then he has advocated for diversity to print and broadcast journalists, mass communication educators and administrators, and entertainment media professionals, in addition to being consulted by government agencies and media corporations.

Gutiérrez moved from higher education

to philanthropy from 1990 to 2002, serving as senior vice president of the Freedom Forum and the Newseum. In addition to administering grants, his responsibilities included researching diversity exhibits and developing foundation initiatives to advance the learning, teaching and practice of journalism. He also developed the foundation's Pacific Coast Center in Oakland and San Francisco from 1993 through 2000.

A native of East Los Angeles, he earned a B.A. in Social Studies from California State College Los Angeles, an M.S. from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, and an A.M. and Ph.D. in Communication from Stanford University. He is married to María Elena Gutiérrez,

Ed.D. They have three daughters: Elena, associate professor of gender and women's studies and Latin American and Latino studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago; Anita, a specialist with Easter Seals in Oakland, Calif.; and Alicia, an attorney in Washington, D.C.

## NABJ, UNITY AND ME: AN EDITORIAL

By Bonnie Newman Davis

y reaction was mixed when I learned that the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), an organization that I consider akin to family, had severed its ties last April with Unity: Journalists of Color, Inc.

Yet, I can't say that I was surprised. Several years ago, when I served on the NABJ Board and as a regional director, I was aware of a little discontent among some NABJ members regarding Unity's operating arm. Concerns mainly focused on the long-term impact of Unity conventions, which take place every four or five years. Would they yield more than warm and fuzzy feel-good sessions that were quickly forgotten once the conferences ended, many asked?

Others weren't so sure about the purpose of NABJ's partnership with the three remaining entities that formed Unity – the Native American Journalism Association, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the Asian American Journalism Association. Unity's response to such concerns, then and now, was that by joining forces, the four organizations formed a strong alliance not only to encourage the nation's newsrooms to present more accurate and fair news coverage of minority communities, but to also increase number of minorities in the industry.

Certainly many gains were made from the time Unity formed and held its first convention in 1994 that drew 6,000 journalists throughout the world. Back then, the industry appeared in awe of the rainbow of faces that swept through Atlanta that year, and eager newsroom recruiters beckoned anxious prospects. Similar reaction followed five years later in Seattle, although the cavernous convention center at times seemed to separate rather than unite the various groups.

Five years later in Washington, I attended Unity where I helped recruit journalism professors for openings at Virginia Commonwealth University where I teach. When I wasn't manning our table, I attended several programs and events, but can't honestly say they were sponsored by any Unity partner other than NABJ.

That's right. Despite the fact that this was a convention that was supposed to

herald diversity and inclusiveness, each organization continued to host separate activities and programs. Is it any wonder that I (and probably others, too) often left Unity conventions feeling like a subject in Beverly Daniel Tatum's book, "Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?" (Substitute "Black" for Asian, Hispanic, or Native American and you get a better picture.)

After my first Unity convention, where I eagerly greeted and chatted with colleagues in NAJA, NAHJ and AAJA, I rarely ventured from my comfortable cloak of NABJ friends. Tatum, by the way, believes such behavior is fine....for high school and college students, that is. Tatum says these students are in the process of establishing and affirming their racial identity. She adds that black young people must secure a racial identity free of negative stereotypes. The challenge to whites, she says, is to give up the privilege that their skin color affords and to work actively to combat injustice in society.

As adults we should know this, and as journalists and journalism educators, we also should work to combat societal injustices.

NABJ's official reason for leaving Unity was prompted by Unity's board of directors' unwillingness to grant NABJ a larger share of convention proceeds. As the largest organization among the Unity coalition, NABJ believed that, because it drew more members to the convention, it had a right to demand more dollars.

I believe NABJ's request was valid, particularly in light of the economic strains all journalism organizations have suffered in the past several years. However, I don't agree that severing ties with the nearly 20-year-old organization was the right move and here's why.

NABJ's decision came just days after the American Society of Newspaper Editors April 2011 report on newsroom diversity. The annual report notes that, while American newspapers showed a slight increase in newsroom employees last year, the percentage of minorities in newsrooms totaled 12.79 percent, a decline of .47 percentage points from a year ago. The report further notes that this is the third consecutive year that

## **Session to Attend**

Thurs. August 11, 2011 Landmark 6 on the Conference Plaza 3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

"Mainstream Media Coverage of the Islamic Community: 10 Years After 911"

#### Moderating/Presiding

Linda Florence Callahan North Carolina A&T State

#### **Panelists**

Lawrence Pintak Washington State University Author, The New Arab Journalist and Reflections in a Bloodshot Lens: America, Islam & the War of Ideas

Faizan Syed Executive Director St. Louis Chapter of the Council on American/Islamic Relations

Fatemeh Keshavarz Professor of Persian Language and Literature and Chair of the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages & Literatures Washington University, St. Louis, MO

James "Jim" O. Hacking III Immigration attourney who has served as a source/interviewee concerning stories about the media's portrayals of Muslims

the percentage of African-American, Asian, Latino, and Native American journalists has declined in U.S. newsrooms.

The number of professional journalists rose from an estimated 41,500 in 2009 to 41,600 in 2010, according to ASNE's most recent census of online and traditional newspapers. American daily newspapers lost 13,500 newsroom jobs from 2007 to 2010. In the most recent ASNE census, minority journalists declined from 5,500 to 5,300.

"At a time when the U.S. Census shows that minorities are 36 percent of the U.S. population, newsrooms are going in the

## NABJ, UNITY AND ME: AN EDITORIAL CONTINUED

opposite direction. This is an accuracy and credibility issue for our newsrooms," said Milton Coleman, ASNE president.

With ASNE's report in mind, let's go back to Tatum's book title. I've often recommended or referenced this book to my students when we discuss diversity or multiculturalism. I always enjoy these sessions because I usually leave my classroom having discovered something about one or two students.

I tell my students that we must learn to embrace our differences while working together because, despite all that we hear about the millennial generation and how this demographic is more open to diversity, it does not mean the racial barriers, biases and stereotypes "of the past" are dead.

Indeed, many of my students appear uncomfortable when we discuss issues of race and color. And, recently, it was interesting to observe one my most racially diverse group of students' arrival at a local television station. They either arrived separately or in groups of black students or groups of white students.

Again, even if Tatum believes it's OK, I believe that it's not OK that so many of

our young people still prefer to segregate themselves in the cafeteria.

And, sadly, too many of us in most journalism organizations continue to imitate the behavior of these young people every four to five years when we congregate in Atlanta, Seattle, Washington, Las Vegas or Chicago.

All for the sake of Unity.

Bonnie Newman Davis is an associate professor of journalism at Virginia Commonwealth University. She recently was named NABI's 2011 Journalism Educator of the Year.

## **2010 MEETING MINUTES**

Friday, Aug. 6, 2010 in Denver, Colorado Minutes submitted by Curtis Lawrence, CSM vice-chair

Attendees: Ralph A-Akiyfelfye, Masudull Biswas, Sharon Bramlett-Solomon, Venise Berry, Dwight E. Brooks, Linda Florence Callahan, Kenneth Campbell, Meta G. Carstarphen, Sandra L. Combs, George Daniels, E-K Daufin, Bonnie N.Davis, Paris Desnoes, Jerry Domatob, Michelle Ferrier, Anita Fleming-Rife, Yuki Fujioka, Guillermo Gibens, Petra Guerua, Kyle Huckens, James Kiwanuka-Tondo, Curtis Lawrence, Herbert Lowe, Felicia McGhee-Hilt, HaygOshagan, Ilia Rodriguez, Felecia Ross, Carolyn Stroman, Juliette Storr, Frances Ward-Johnson, Evonne H. Whitmore, Clint Wilson, Jennifer Woodard

1. The meeting was called to order by CSM Chair Linda Florence Callahan at  $7:30~\mathrm{p.m.}$ 

#### 2. Chair's Report

- Chair Callahan reported that this year's mini-plenary, "History Makers, Race, Politics and Media," was well attended. She commended the panelists former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, Carlotta Walls LaNier of the "Little Rock 9" and Ricardo Romero, program director, Al Frente. for a very engaging and informative exchange. Chair Callahan also commended Anita Fleming-Rife for her work in planning the mini-plenary. The chair also commended Dean Jannette L. Dates for stepping in as the moderator on short notice.
- Chair Callahan reported that the second Lionel Barrow Award was presented to Robert Ruggles, professor emeritus and Florida A&M.
- The chair reported that Masudul Biswas has volunteered to help design a web site for CSM. Chair Callahan reminded CSM members that in order for the website to be successful, members would need to take responsibility of providing content for the web site.
- 3. Topic suggestions & volunteers for the 2011 plenary
- Chair Callahan called for volunteers to plan the 2011 plenary.
   Volunteers were Dwight Brooks, Kyle Huckins and Felicia Ross.
- Kyle Huckins suggested "Breaking the Power of Whiteness; Introducing white students to minority culture," as a topic.

#### Commission on the Status of Minorities Annual Members' Meeting

- Anita Fleming-Rife suggested a topic involving the influx of Teach for America representatives in St. Louis.
- The committee plans to have vetted the theme and speakers during the fall semester.

#### 4. 2011 Barrow Award

- Chair Callahan called for volunteers to plan for the award. The
  planning committee will include Chair Linda Florence Callahan,
  MAC Chair Ilia Rodriguez, Curtis Lawrence, Jennifer Woodard,
  Petra Guerra, Anita Fleming-Rife and Sharon Bramlett-Solomon.
  The committee agreed to begin reviewing the call for nominations
  in October.
- 5. AEJMC President's Advisory Council/CSM Editorial Board
- Chair Callahan gave an overview of recent activity surrounding the AEJMC president's statement and questions concerning the advisory council. She also asked Dwight Brooks, a member of the PF&R Committee, to give an update of the situation and the proposed new guidelines for the advisory council.
- After discussion, it was determined that a committee would be formed to issue editorial statements on behalf of CSM. The committee will include Chair Callahan, Denise Berry, Anita Fleming-Rife, Clint Wilson, and Meta Carstarphen.
- The committee will also determine an appropriate name and work out the details on how the committee would function.

#### 6. Becker Report update

 Curtis Lawrence suggested that the committee review the results of the latest report. He suggested that it might serve as a topic for the newly formed editorial committee.

#### 7. Announcements

- George Daniels suggested that we do a better job of showcasing the Barrow Award at the 2011 conference. He suggested that the CSM plan activities in addition to the granting of the award at the AEJMC members' meeting.
- 8. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10 p.m.

# **FACULTY** notes

Geri Alumit Zeldes, an assistant professor in Michigan State University's School of Journalism, released her third documentary called "The Death of an Imam" in November 2010; the film probes news media coverage of the shooting death of Imam Luqman Abdullah in Detroit. In April, the Broadcast Education Association recognized it with the "Best of Competition Award" out of 46 entries in the Faculty Video category. The film also received the "Best of Festival Award" that came with a \$1,000 prize donated by the Charles and Lucille King Family Foundation and Avid software. The documentary was one of 15 works chosen from a pool of 913 entries (1.6% acceptance rate) from 143 colleges and universities to receive a Best of Festival Award. The documentary can be viewed at:

http://www.beafestival.org/video/ The\_Death\_of\_an\_Imam

At BEA, Zeldes and colleagues were also recognized with two paper awards:

- Bowe, B., Hoewe, J., & Zeldes, G. A. "A Pedagogical Approach to Developing Journalistic Best Practices Through Wikis." Poster presented during the Researchin-Progress session and received "Overall Excellence" Award.
- 2. Zeldes, G. A., Fico, F. & Diddi, A. "Reporter and Source Race and Gender during the 2008 Presidential Campaign across Broadcast, Cable and Public News Networks." Received 2nd place Best Paper in the Open Category in the Multicultural Studies Division.

Linda Florence Callahan, professor of Journalism & Mass Communication, at North Carolina A&T State University, received the Kay Phillips Distinguished Service Award for her "significant contributions to scholastic journalism in North Carolina." Callahan, who directs annually a regional journalism workshop of the North Carolina Scholastic Media Association, was the founding director of the High School Media Program at NC A&T State University. Dr. Kay Phillips, for whom the award is named, presented the award to Callahan during the NCSMA Awards' Ceremony at UNC Chapel Hill on June 16.

Rev. Dr. E-K. Daufin, Professor, Communications accomplished the following:

- Presented Research at the Midwest Popular Culture "Cultural Criticism of Media Representations of HBCU's: Stomp the Yard." Oct. 1 in Minneapolis, MN
- Montgomery Advertiser op/ed 12/16/10 p.
   3C: Alabama Voices: 'Just Saying' column unfair to overweight children
- As advisor of the ASU CAN NOW
   (Alabama State University Campus Action Network of the National Organization for Women) participated in ASU

   Beautification Day, conducted media activism on the following issues: preserve net neutrality, save media diversity and competition and keep PBS funded.
- Hosted the MAC co-sponsored Ida
   B. Wells lecture where Emmy Award winning photojournalist Roz Dorsey was the keynote.
- As ASU Faculty/Staff Alliance Co-VP for Faculty organized 60 faculty to ask administration to reopen the faculty email list to faculty and to publish to all faculty and staff how we may apply to have something posted to the new admin-only faculty/staff email list.

Kristin N. P. Marie Evans is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Connecticut. She was awarded by the American Public Health Association in November 2010 for research titled Using Emotional Communication to Address Conspiracy Beliefs in Health Education Messages. She also participated nresearch presented at the International Communication Association in June 2011.

Diana I. Rios, Associate Professor of Communication Sciences and Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, completed a successful appointment as Interim Director of the Institute of Puerto Rican and Latino Studies (IPRLS) at the University of Connecticut. She is now on sabbatical. She co-edited a book that was released in June of 2011 by Peter Lang Publishing entitled Soap Operas and Telenovelas in the Digital Age. In March of 2011, Rios lead a panel presentation at the Northeast Media Literacy Conference that discussed critical thinking strategies for processing depictions of ethnicity and gender in digitalized, multi-platform television programs. She also presented papers on telenovelas and sexuality at the Puerto Rican Studies Association, Hartford, Connecticut, in October of 2010; the international Latin American Studies Association, Toronto, Canada in October, 2010; and at the International Communication Association meeting, Boston, June of 2011.

Federico Subervi completed his research on emergency communications. The report from that study, titled An Achilles Heel in Emergency Communications: The Deplorable Policies and Practices Pertaining to Non-English Speaking Populations, was made possible with a grant from the McCormick Foundation. Building on the finding and recommendations of the study, he is promoting governmental and media policy changes, and is also seeking to expand that line of research with collaborators from other universities. This fall he will be on sabbatical leave. to develop his next book on Latino political communication, and will also travel as a Fulbright Specialist to Chile, where he will help colleagues at the Universidad de Santiago set up a Center for the Study of Journalism.