Chairman’s Corner: Honored to Serve as Commission Moves Forward Strongly on Racial Accountability, Access, Empowerment
By the Rev. Kyle Huckins, Ph.D., CSM Chairman

As I prepare to gather with my colleagues in AEJMC for our 100th conference in my hometown of Chicago, I am excited by the progress I've been able to preside over and advance as chairman of the Commission on the Status of Minorities these last two years and witness in my seven years in leadership here.

The commission has found funding and conducted the first-ever survey of diversity in magazine employment. I have carried the ball on this with the aid of the Magazine Division. This completes the picture of professional media hiring in the USA, which in every other medium has been dismal. I find it intriguing – and distressing – no one calls out others more on diversity than media and higher education, yet both industries are remarkably & similarly backward in hiring the historically under-represented. The word for this is “hypocrisy.”

Coming alongside the next generation of diversity-aware and minority students, professors and administrators has been an emphasis of mine, and I’m proud to announce Dr. LaShonda Eaddy is tapped for incoming newsletter & communications director as a brand-new Ph.D. from Georgia-Athens on the tenure track at SMU who did well in last year’s session on recruiting and retaining a multicultural graduate body and faculty.

Osita Iroegbu, ABD, Virginia Commonwealth, is commission graduate student coordinator and Barrow CTM Scholarship recipient.

Junior & Senior Scholars Receive Commission-Sponsored Awards

Loren Ghiglione, former dean of Northwestern’s Medill School, is winner of the 2017 Barrow Award. Both in the profession and academia, Ghiglione for 45 years has been a constant force for diversifying staffs and content. He’s helped African-Americans, Latinos, Natives and others get into position to write stories, teach classes and do research. He will appear in CSM’s Thursday 1:30 p.m. session in Chicago on the current state of diversity in media employment, too.

“Wow!” was Ghiglione’s reaction when informed of the honor. “I'm overwhelmed.”

The Medill prof, retiring after this academic year, has worked since the early 1970s in every venue where he’s been employed to advance qualified candidates from historically under-represented groups. That’s stretched from African-Americans in newspapers to Native American faculty at Northwestern.

CSM’s graduate studies coordinator, Osita Iroegbu, is the recipient of the Barrow CTM Scholarship. Her outstanding research efforts toward improving the lives of the marginalized and clear plans for work won over the committee formed to decide on the recipient of the award. The Virginia Commonwealth University student is ABD as of this spring and seems well on her way to receiving her doctoral degree.

Iroegbu has been helping the commission with its social media in working alongside the chairman and has spread the word of CSM’s efforts and role to her fellow graduate students. Dues for them are just $5, half the usual $10.

The commission co-sponsors the two awards with the Minorities and Communication Division.
Chairman’s Corner (continued)

I’ve tried to make the commission active across AEJMC so we can speak into as many forums for equal opportunity as possible. Co-sponsoring a session with the Commission on the Status of Women and the Council of Affiliates, getting my voice heard on the organization-wide board on presidential statements and journalism-group open letters, and embracing and making reality Marquita Smith’s idea for a diversity-experts database are some of these efforts.

Getting our own commission Web domain and site we can update easily (www.csmdiversity.org) has been another project that has paid off, with visitors into the thousands and facile response to news. Our revamped Facebook site has a new look and 160 percent increase in likes, and our brand-new Twitter (@diversityfight) has 230 followers.

Membership is up greatly, 49 percent since summer 2015 even as AEJMC as a whole loses size. My hope is the positive momentum of the last two years will continue as the capable Dr. Smith becomes chair on Oct. 1. See our join & donate page here and online. Dues are but $10 a year for faculty, $5 for graduate students. I would not ask you to do something I have not, so know I have both been a paid member and donor to our commission.

My blessings not only to Marquita but also incoming Vice Chairwoman Cathy Jackson of Norfolk State, our wonderful Newsletter Editor and Communications Director Nathaniel Frederick of Winthrop University, now incoming secretary, and his assistant, Jami Bunton. Ms. Bunton is concluding her time with us and will be much missed for her dedication and fine professionalism.

To close, let me say my years on the leadership team of the Commission on the Status of Minorities have been richly rewarding. Curtis Mitchell of Columbia College invited me to become involved, and I’m in his debt. I consider my work at CSM to be part of my joyful labor in Christ’s Kingdom, where many of you know I serve as pastor to a congregation all African-American but for me. The Holy Ghost has led me to minister to and with wonderful Native Americans, Latinos and those of other races and colors, too.

The great apostle Paul stated in Acts 17:26 that “God has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth.” Creation scientists have shown a single man and woman could have brought about all the incredible and blessed range of peoples we see today. I believe that is exactly what happened.

Let us not embrace the idea that we cannot live together because we look, sound or feel somewhat different. No civil rights movement based on separation ever succeeded. The Father, Son and Spirit are one in community, unity in diversity. So we can be if we ask for help in loving one another of him who said, “Without me, you can do nothing” (John 15:5), but “all things are possible to those who believe” (Mark 9:23).

Blessings and prayers to you, beloved.

Two Commissions & Council of Affiliates Co-sponsor Panel on Women’s Success in the Academy

CSM joins the Council of Affiliates and the Commission on the Status of Women in sponsoring “It’s Always Something: Success vs. Likeability for Women,” 3:15-4:45 p.m. Thursday, August 10 panel at the AEJMC convention in Chicago.

In this panel, a distinguished group of women in academia discuss challenges faced as junior faculty members, tenured professors, department chairs and deans as they maneuver through the world of higher education. They provide advice on how to succeed in academia while maintaining authenticity and voice, whether one has leadership aspirations or simply wants to learn how to speak out about important issues in a school without getting penalized.

Panelists are:
• Loraine Branham, Syracuse University
• Shannon Campbell, Metropolitan State
• Tracy Everbach, North Texas University
• Melita Marie Garza, Texas Christian University
• Radhika Parameswaran, Indiana University
• Marquita Smith, John Brown University, and vice chairwoman of CSM

Laura Casteñada of University of Southern California will moderate.

CSW approached CSM about co-sponsoring. “This is a good step forward, that groups in AEJMC are seeking out our commission to work with,” CSM Chairman Kyle Huckins said. “This is a great subject, too, because about two-thirds of minority graduate students and faculty are female.

“If they don’t succeed, the proportion of black, Latino and other academicians of color will fall from its already-low perch.”

CSW’s usual stand-alone session is 1:30-3 p.m. Thursday, business meeting is slated for 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, and it will join the Minorities and Communication Division for a social at 9 p.m. Friday.
CSM Members Elected to AEJMC-wide Offices

The Commission on the Status of Minorities urged ranks to vote in the AEJMC election, and it worked, as two of its members won organization-wide offices.

Cristina Azocar of San Francisco State took the race for accrediting council representative. She came back from a close defeat in running for that post last year. Now, she will play an important role in deciding on those standards & practices now esteemed more highly than ever.

"Thank you for your support!” she said.

Mia Moody-Ramirez of Baylor University won a seat on the Committee on Professional Freedom and Responsibility. She worked in professional journalism in newspaper reporting for several years and has done many studies on the representation of race in news.

Both these ladies have strong experience in the areas where they will work and will put forth well the interests of the historically underrepresented, said Commission Chairman Kyle Huckins.

Commission’s Chicago Session Highlights Scarcity of Color in Profession

The Commission on the Status of Minorities’ main session in the Second City, at 1:30-3 p.m. Thursday, August 10, is "A Career Ladder Missing Rungs: The Lack of Diversity in Professional Media," and will feature panelists representing each of the major media types.

"In connection with CSM’s survey of diversity in the magazine industry, we want to bring the advocacy spotlight to all media, because every one is greatly deficient in its share of historically underrepresented races employed,” says Commission Chairman Kyle Huckins.

Taking all media together, only 18 percent of employees and 13 percent of managers are racial minorities. Radio is the least diverse and television most so, but no industry has more than a quarter of workers who are of color. The nation’s population is approximately 40 percent minority.

Panelists will be:

- Michael Arndt, editor in chief of Crain’s Chicago Business, a respected, well-known specialty magazine long atop Windy City commerce reporting
- Loren Ghiglione, Ph.D., former dean of Northwestern University’s Medill School and 2017 Barrow Award winner, who spent more than two decades in newspapers and another pair in higher education, all dedicated to diversifying hiring.
- Dr. Federico Subervi, board member of the Latino Public Radio Consortium, which is trying to bring representation for Hispanics into the public broadcasting mainstream.
- Jam Sardar, WLNS-TV, is regional head of the Asian-American Journalists Association. He’s news director of a station in Michigan’s capital city, Lansing.
- Marquita Smith, Ph.D., journalism department chairwoman at John Brown University, long tackled the digital side of print in her work as a reporter and editor for the daily Virginian-Pilot of Norfolk.

Moderating and presiding over the panel discussion is the Rev. Kyle Huckins, Ph.D., chairman of the commission and a longtime journalism professor whose professional media efforts have included every major medium (newspapers, magazines, radio, television, Internet) and netted him nearly two dozen honors.

“I look forward to seeing this illustrious panel,” Huckins says. “We should have a robust dialogue, and we invite everyone to come and pose questions.”

Interestingly, higher education is only slightly more diverse than are professional media. Twenty percent of professors are of color (half of those being of Asian descent), and a matching 13 percent of administrators. Those numbers have stayed relatively static during this millennium.
Commission Business Meeting, Social w/MAC Set for Friday Night

The annual CSM business meeting will be 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, August 11, and followed by a social with colleagues from the Minorities and Communication Division.

After commission officers are rotated for the new term, reports of activities are given and finances are considered, CSM & MAC members will meet in the Chicago Marriott Downtown’s lobby to head over to the Billy Goat Tavern, just two blocks south and under the Magnificent Mile. The official address is 430 N. Michigan Ave., Lower Level, with a sign on a stairwell on Michigan’s west side taking visitors there.

"The business meeting will be a great chance to get involved with the Commission on the Status of Minorities, and going to the Billy Goat will be a fun way to see a Second City landmark and have a late dinner or brew," says CSM head Kyle Huckins, who grew up in Chicago.

The commission encourages graduate students, faculty members and administrators to come to both events. CSM has been very active in its agenda recently and has secured very good and helpful session slots, done surveys & lobbying of the media profession, fulfilled its diversity advocacy mandate in new ways through the Internet and social media, and held panels examining how to attract and retain a multicultural professoriate and grad student body as well as why the profession has such a lack of historically underrepresented groups in its employee ranks.

The Billy Goat is very inexpensive and has good-quality hamburgers, chips and related food as well as cola and a good selection of spirits at its bar. The tavern has a working-class, low-key demeanor going well with talking with friends over a drink and burger.

Don’t forget that MAC will host a reservation-only social Thursday night, too. The 8:30 p.m. event must be paid beforehand, so look for it as you register for the conference. Let’s support our colleagues on the development side of the struggle. See you in the great city of Chicago!

Carolyn Brown, an award-winning broadcast journalist, producer and director with more than 20 years of experience in the industry and more than a decade of experience teaching broadcast journalism in the academy, joins the faculty of the UNT Frank W. and Sue Mayborn faculty this fall semester. Documentary filmmaking is one of her passions. She "can help prepare our students for a wide range of jobs from field reporter to executive producer," said Thorne Anderson, an associate professor in photojournalism and search committee chair. She can help connect our students with jobs and internships across the nation.”

She has worked for a variety of news media outlets ranging from Fox News and CBS in New York to KRON-Bay TV and KNTV News in the San Francisco area. "The Salinas Project," her documentary, has been distributed by American Public Television to PBS TV stations nationwide and the World Channel. She is the producer and director for "Las Mujeres: Latina Lives, American Dreams," which is expected to be released in 2018. She is bilingual and speaks Spanish.

As an assistant professor at American University, she helped overhaul the broadcast curriculum and designed the production studio. Carolyn has helped generate grants to fund her documentary work and her work has been screened at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. She has done broadcast interviews about her work with NPR, the "CBS Evening News" and "CNN en Espanol." Her work has been published in Electronic News and online as part of The Investigative Reporting Workshop's "PBS Frontline Investigation: Lost in Detention."

She earned her M.A. in liberal studies from Northern Arizona University and her B.A. with majors in political science and art history from Colgate University. She also studied at the Swedish Film Institute in Stockholm.

For the latest on our fight for rights, go to CSMdiversity.org, @diversityfight on Twitter, and Facebook.com/aejmc.csm
July 17, 2017 - During the NAHJ annual convention in Anaheim, California, five of the nation's journalists, academics and documentarians were inducted into the National Association of Hispanic Journalists' Hall of Fame: Eraldo "Dino" Chiecci, current multimedia professor at University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP); trailblazer of diversity Federico Subervi, Ph.D.; journalist and documentary producer Andrés Cediel; NBC Bay Area reporter Jodi Hernandez; and Pulitzer Prize winner Nancy Rivera Brooks will be inducted into the 2017 Hall of Fame class. This year's gala honoring these individuals will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017, at the House of Blues Anaheim during the Excellence in Journalism Conference. (See more at: http://www.nahj.org/2017/07/12/2017-hall-fame/)

Dorothy Bland, dean of the Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism and director of the Frank W. Mayborn Graduate Institute at the University of North Texas, has been re-elected to serve a second three-year term on the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications as a representative for the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication. She also serves on the ASJMC Executive Committee.

Under her leadership, Mayborn earned the 2016 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Equity & Diversity Award. At the 2017 AEJMC Conference in Chicago, she moderates a panel, "Beyond the Diversity Plan: Strategies to Diversify Faculty, Students and Curriculum" on August 11. See the ACEJMC conference program.

Meredith Clark, Ph.D., has accepted a tenure-track position as an assistant professor in the Department of Media Studies at the University of Virginia, effective fall 2017. Her research focuses on the intersections of race, media and power. She earned her doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2014; her research on Black Twitter was awarded Dissertation of the Year from AEJMC’s Mass Communication & Society Division in 2015.

Panelists will include:

- Christopher Callahan, dean and professor, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication; vice provost, Arizona State (2017 winner of AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award); CEO, Arizona PBS

- George L. Daniels, asst. dean, Alabama College of Communication and Information Sciences, 2015 winner of AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award

- Sara Champlin, asst. professor, North Texas’ Frank W. and Sue Mayborn School of Journalism, 2016 winner of AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award.
Fight for Diversity: 2016-17 Report
Commission on the Status of Minorities

CSM lobbies for multiculturalism in media, academia & AEJMC

AEJMC’s Commission on the Status of Minorities (CSM or CSMN) has significantly increased its lobbying for historically underrepresented groups as a watchdog on industry (i.e., survey of diversity in magazine employment), expanding commission Web and social-media presence to call attention to issues of multiculturalism, pushing AEJMC organization-wide to protect and advance the interests of minorities plus elevate the profile of minority-group members, and much more. (See the list below.)

We at the commission need your support to continue and keep expanding our efforts. Please renew your annual membership with AEJMC & CSM today ($10 for faculty, $5 for graduate students), and consider a specific donation to CSM; your gift of $25, $50, $100 or any amount will greatly assist the commission in its work.

To give to CSM, write a check to AEJMC, “CSM donation” in the subject line & send to:

AEJMC
234 Outlet Pointe Blvd.
Columbia, SC 29210-5667

Click to www.aejmc.org, then click on "Join/Renew Membership" (https://aejmc2.wufoo.com/forms/201617-aejmc-membership-form/) to add a year to your service in the organization as well as to pay the CSM dues. You also may give to the commission via credit card. Be sure to use the giving form’s write-in area to put “CSM donation” and select any amount.

Here are some of CSM’s achievements in the past 12 months:

– Funding new media to bring attention to challenges and successes in multiculturalism (see our new Twitter with 230 members, revamped Facebook with 130 likes, and new website at csmdiversity.org)
– Gaining approval, funding & conducting first-ever survey on magazine minority hiring and interns
– Posting increase in commission membership second year in a row, even as AEJMC overall decreases
– Expanding CSM’s new diversity-experts database for use by students, faculty, administrators and media, including links to videos, research and emails
– Successfully lobbying AEJMC for funding for diversity initiatives and to select speakers from the historically underrepresented
– Getting CSM events scheduled earlier in the 2017 conference to heighten the profile for multiculturalism and the commission organization-wide
– Reaching out to professional media to encourage hiring and promotion of racial minorities
– Seeking out HBCU and HSI officials and more greatly including them
– Holding sessions on employing diverse professional & academic workforces
– Encouraging graduate students’ participation by naming the first-ever graduate student coordinator and cutting grads’ dues
– Speaking into presidential and organization-wide letters on a wide variety of journalism & mass communication topics
– Helping stop AEJMC initiatives curtailing diversity monitoring
– Increasing commission conference presence through co-sponsoring panels
– Publishing two newsletters annually for the first time in several years

Make sure the diversity fight continues – join and follow CSM today!