A question that is commonly asked is how AEJMC and its faculty membership can serve graduate students. But, the reversal is just as important.

Graduate students tend to focus on completing coursework, and churning out conference papers and journal articles. While such priorities are well-placed, they often prevent many graduate students from recognizing the important role they play in the organizations to which they belong. Below are a few suggestions for gaining the most out of student membership:

Visit Web sites. The AEJMC Web site lists job postings, paper calls and a helpful research section. Division and interest group Web sites provide access to newsletters and post announcements that graduate students may not be aware of.

Support a group. Attend the Midwinter Conference or Southeast Colloquium. Each is sponsored by a few of AEJMC’s divisions and interest groups. Networking is made easier by the smaller size of the conference. Also, students can gain invaluable feedback that can be incorporated into submissions to the larger national conference.

Attend Business Meetings. Business meetings may not sound exciting, but they do show participants the innerworkings of divisions and interest groups, as well as the organization as a whole. Meetings can provide an opportunity for students to volunteer their services.

Volunteer. Divisions and interest groups are always looking for volunteers to fill a number of roles, whether as paper reviewers, newsletter contributors, or as officers. Academicians do more than conduct research. They also are expected to serve the interest of their respective fields. Graduate students can begin their service phase by volunteering for an organization that provides learning experiences.

AEJMC membership provides a number of opportunities for students. For example, students can find new ways to serve the organization as a whole. Meet and network with members of other divisions and interest groups, as well as other attendees. Members of divisions and interest groups can provide an opportunity for students to find a home in the organization.

Graduate students who join appropriate divisions and interest groups surround themselves with like-minded scholars, and find a home for their own research.

Join divisions and groups. Graduate students who join appropriate divisions and interest groups surround themselves with like-minded scholars, and find a home for their own research.

Graduate students tend to focus on completing coursework, and churning out conference papers and journal articles. While such priorities are well-placed, they often prevent many graduate students from recognizing the important role they play in the organizations to which they belong.

Below are a few suggestions for gaining the most out of student membership:

Visit Web sites. The AEJMC Web site lists job postings, paper calls and a helpful research section. Division and interest group Web sites provide access to newsletters and post announcements that graduate students may not be aware of.

Support a group. Attend the Midwinter Conference or Southeast Colloquium. Each is sponsored by a few of AEJMC’s divisions and interest groups. Networking is made easier by the smaller size of the conference. Also, students can gain invaluable feedback that can be incorporated into submissions to the larger national conference.

Attend Business Meetings. Business meetings may not sound exciting, but they do show participants the innerworkings of divisions and interest groups, as well as the organization as a whole. Meetings can provide an opportunity for students to volunteer their services.

Volunteer. Divisions and interest groups are always looking for volunteers to fill a number of roles, whether as paper reviewers, newsletter contributors, or as officers. Academicians do more than conduct research. They also are expected to serve the interest of their respective fields. Graduate students can begin their service phase by volunteering for an organization that provides learning experiences.

AEJMC membership provides a number of opportunities for students. For example, students can find new ways to serve the organization as a whole. Meet and network with members of other divisions and interest groups, as well as other attendees. Members of divisions and interest groups can provide an opportunity for students to find a home in the organization.

Graduate students who join appropriate divisions and interest groups surround themselves with like-minded scholars, and find a home for their own research.

Join divisions and groups. Graduate students who join appropriate divisions and interest groups surround themselves with like-minded scholars, and find a home for their own research.
For the Entertainment Studies Interest Group member, the image of the journalist in popular culture is a gold mine of research possibilities.

The Image of the Journalist in Popular Culture (IJPC), a project of the Norman Lear Center in the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Southern California, was created in 2000 to investigate and analyze, through research and publication, the conflicting images of the journalist in film, television, radio, fiction, cartoons and comics, commercials and other forms of mass media to demonstrate the impact of popular culture on the public’s perception of journalist.

In a short three years, the IJPC Web site has become the definitive worldwide source for anyone interested in the subject. The image of journalists in popular culture is a long-neglected field of research, rich with untapped material. To help researchers, the IJPC has created three major resource lists.

The IJPC Database, which in its current 2005 edition has 41,000 entries on journalists, public relations practitioners and media in films, television, fiction, radio, cartoons-comic books-comic strips, commercials, games, art and songs, was added to the Web site last month. The Microsoft Access Database is a treasure-trove of information that has taken more than 15 years to compile.

The IJPC Web site, the site — www.ijpc.org — features original papers and research, as well as seminal articles difficult to find elsewhere, including papers given at conferences and other academic events or published in hard-to-find journals and magazines. One example of original research is “Bob Sisters: The Image of the Female Journalist in Popular Culture.” It includes a lengthy introductory essay and a bibliography featuring more than 8,500 items from 1700 to 2004.

Another popular feature of the Web site is the IJPC Class Material sections, making it easy for any professor to establish an Image of the Journalist in Movies and Television class using tapes and materials available from the IJPC. These classes have proven to not only be very popular, but also to provide students with a unique perspective on journalism and the media.

The IJPC Collection of Research Materials. The collection includes more than 2,500 video tapes and discs; more than 5,000 hours of audiotapes and MP3 files; more than 8,500 novels, short stories, plays, and poems (the largest collection of novels and short stories featuring journalists ever assembled); scripts; research materials; articles; art works; and other artifacts. The materials are available for personal use only by IJPC Associates.

All IJPC Associates receive complete access to the IJPC Database and to all other research materials. Contact the IJPC Web site (www.ijpc.org) or saltzman@usc.edu for more information.

2004 ESIG Business Meeting Minutes

6:50 p.m. Meeting Called to Order

Welcome by Head Donnayla Pomprer, Re-certification. Budget Growth. Because of status as an interest group, the operating budget is smaller than that of divisions, but 2004 was the budget $850 (up from $20 in past years). All monies will be turned over for operating budget for 2004-2005.

6:55 p.m. Annual Report

Research Chair Philip Jeter (North Carolina A&T) received a proposal to accept 15 paper submissions. One paper was disqualified for unspecified reasons, leaving a total of 50 submissions. A total of 14 papers (28% acceptance rate) were accepted for presentation, making this year the most competitive. In 2001 and 2002, 15 of 29 papers were accepted.

Diversity (both ethnicity and gender) in the group’s membership, officers and judges increased. The increase in numbers and in paper judging volunteers resulted in a reduced number of papers reviewed by each judge.

Re-certification of the group as interest group is expected to go well.

7:00 p.m. ESIG Paper Winners

Announcement of, and presentation to, winners.

Top Student Paper.

Kevin Williams, University of Georgia, “(R)Evolution of the Television Superhero: Comparing the Portrayal of Superheroes in ‘Superfriends’ and Justice League.”

Top Faculty Paper.

Tom Robinson and Caitlin Anderson, Brigham Young, “Portrayal of Older Children on ‘Animated Programs’.”

7:05 p.m. Winter Break

Meeting Called to Order

2004 Minutes continued on page 4

John Chappin suggested that the group partner with other groups for a larger poster session in which the moderator and attendees would have a scheduled time to move in mass from poster to poster. Donnayla Pomprer made it clear that, if poster sessions are used as a solution, the group would need to actively dispel this myth that poster sessions are a second tier venue for presentation and make it more competitive.

It was suggested that the group sponsor panels similar to high-density panels. Ginger Carter mentioned that these kinds of panels are now a refined process that varies across divisions and groups. She suggested that, if this is an option for ESIG, the group also include a packet of the abstracts for the poster session as a good way of advertising the showcased research. She also suggested the possibility of combining speakers and research papers into the same theme-driven panel.

7:15 p.m. New Business

Report on membership and membership fees given by Meghan Sanders. In an effort to increase membership, an informational packet was created and sent via email to those participants on ESIG panels from the 2003 conference and those scholars who expressed interest in the group. The information was also distributed at the Midwest Conference in February, and the Membership Committee posted it to the informational tables throughout the hotel in Toronto. Membership stood at 102 prior to the conference. At the 2003 Business Meeting the membership voted to increase dues to $10 but for Fall, 2004 dues would remain $5. This money was saved to fund a large-scale social that could not be planned. Therefore, the new Executive Board will begin the 2004-2005 year with a healthy budget.

Kevin Williams noted that the student fee is not listed on the AEJMC membership application. Donnayla Pomprer, in addition to providing information concerning the use of 2004 funds, also noted ESIG’s participation (for the first time) in the Midwest Conference and the disproportionate nature of the ESIG listerv membership in comparison to the membership of the group. She encouraged members who were currently not on the listerv to contact Meghan Sanders to be added.

7:20 p.m. Research Activities

It was noted that current research chair Philip Jeter was unable to attend, but his hard work throughout the year was acknowledged.

Donnayla Pomprer suggested that it would be a good idea to have student involvement on the Research and PF&R Committees. It was suggested that a student and faculty member collaborate/co-edit a poster session.

Anne Cooper-Chen asked that all members send notification of publication for research papers originally presented via ESIG so that the announcements could be added to the newsletter and Web site.

7:25 p.m. Teaching Activities

Report given by Anne Cooper-Chen. ESIG sponsored a 2004 panel on comedy entertainment and teaching that was well attended. The panel consisted of two outside members. Each newsletter issue featured a guest column.

Donnayla Pomprer suggested that the group look at the span of the teaching activities rather than examining the activities in a yearly basis. She also suggested that ESIG sponsor a pre-conference workshop every other year.

7:30 p.m. PF&R Activities

Report given by Ron Leone. The PF&R committee is responsible for all things related to free speech and 1st Amendment issues. PF&R. columns were featured in every newsletter and a free news package outside of ESIG publication (‘Providence Journal’ published the one concerning Mel Gibson and Janet Jackson).

7:35 p.m. Communication Activities

Report given by Donnayla Pomprer (Heather Paige Preston), as well as for future planning. Members were encouraged to make contributions to the ESIG Web site. Kevin Williams volunteered to work on site.

Newsletters were more difficult to keep in 2004. Special acknowledgments were given to Heather Paige Preston for taking over on such short notice and for the work she has volunteered to continue.

Marie Hardin suggested that the newsletter either be added to the Web site or that the newsletter could be added to the Web site or that the newsletter could be added to the Web site or that the newsletter could be added to the Web site or that the newsletter could be added to the Web site or that the newsletter could be added to the Web site or that the newsletter could be added to the Web site or that the newsletter could be added to the Web site or that the newsletter could be added to the Web site or that the newsletter could be added to the Web site or that the newsletter could be added to the Web site or that the newsletter could be added to the Web site or that the newsletter could be added to the Web site or that the newsletter could be added to the Web site. Members encouraged the group to plan future sessions for the Biennial Conference workshop every other year.

7:40 p.m.}_ ESIG Name Change

Member Steve Collins suggested that the group change its name to include the term “sports” to make the group more well-known that has sports a home with ESIG. Only a name change announcement would be required, not that the group start from scratch as far as its status with AEJMC.

Ron Leone said that at reviews and respondents felt a little unqualified because sports was outside of their area of expertise, making it more difficult to make useful responses. A name change could be advantageous and disadvantageous at the same time.

It was recommended that the group focus on mediated entertainment, which includes sports and make it more competitive.

2004 Minutes continued on page 4

ESIG 2003-2004 Officers

Head

Marie Hardin

Penn State University

mch208@psu.edu

Tel. 814.865.1395

Vice Head

Ginger Carter

Georgia College & State University

ginger.carter@georgiasu.edu

Tel. 478.445.7393

Research Chair

John Chapman

Penn State University

jc11@psu.edu

Tel. 724.773.3557

PF&R Chair

Ron Leon

Stonehill College

donc@stonehill.edu

Tel. 401.333.9200

Teaching Standards Chair

Kimberly Wiltz Voss

Southern U. (Edwardsville)

kvoss@siue.edu

Tel. 618.650.2237

Graduate Student Liaison

Kevin Williams

University of Georgia

kevinw@uga.edu

Tel. 706.542.4417

Newsletter Editor

Heather Paige Preston

Appalachian State University

preston@apstate.edu

Tel. 828.262.2449

Webmaster

James Ivory

University of North Carolina (CH)

jivory@email.unc.edu

Tel. 919.933.3327

Secretary

Meghan Sanders

Penn State University

mesanders@rocketmail.com

Entertaining Ideas is published four times a year by the Entertainment Studies Interest Group of AEJMC. The newsletter is intended to provide readers with timely information concerning entertainment studies research, theory, and teaching. Article ideas or submissions may be sent to Entertaining Ideas, Editor Heather Paige Preston at prestonhp@apstate.edu.

Entertaining Ideas

By Jo Saltzman

IJPC Director

Journalist Image

Research at IJPC

Winter 2005

By Jo Saltzman

IJPC Director

Journalist Image

Research at IJPC

Winter 2005

By Jo Saltzman

IJPC Director