Inspired educator honored: 24 years of laudatory teaching

By BARBARA STRAUSS REED

I have known Gerald Grow for double-digit years and met him at the ASME-sponsored, week-long visits to NY magazine offices. A member of the Magazine Division of AEJMC literally for decades, Gerald Grow has been one very important reason to attend our meetings, sometimes twice a year with regional as well as national conferences and conventions -- to spend time with him. Then too, many of us frequently continue our conversations with him, begun at conventions, via email.

Gerald teaches others to learn what is true and what may not be seen, how to say the truth in a manner of expression so that others can comprehend what is meant and important. His students learn grammar, writing and reporting skills, which are applicable in a variety of media and media platforms.

His Newsroom 101.com has had more than 50,000 visitors finish exercises in grammar, usage, spelling and Associated Press style. The site, which is free, specifically targets journalists and journalism students, who have completed literally millions of items.

This kind of impact suggests how worthwhile he is as a professional teacher, as do the books, articles and papers he has produced, always single-authored.

One of the things I love about ideas is that you can give them away and still have them.
Gerald Grow has returned from annual national meetings, which have stimulated original ideas and which he joyfully passes on for others to develop into research.

He once said: “One of the things I love about ideas is that you can give them away and still have them.” As colleagues, we listen to him too. We know we will learn serious and valuable concepts, applicable to our own research and teaching.

Prof. Grow is a creative, inspiring academic, indeed a Harvard graduate, who knows how to communicate with a variety of people. He has developed, then taught, several concepts and produced them for other academics, to assist both teachers and students in the sometimes-painful and always-difficult learning process. Moreover, for many summers, he has attended tours with me and other faculty from around the country of New York magazine offices, volunteered his website to house synopses of the visits, and contributed mightily to discussions with staffs from many national magazines. He has a good sense of humor that carries him through the day-long interactions with individuals from various walks of life, socio-economic status, education levels, etc. He usually is the first to begin speaking with people many of us find difficult.

Gerald listens well to colleagues, engages them in dialog, and spurs them to think creatively. He assists faculty members who need to understand what they are doing both in and out of their classrooms, and how to improve their work. I believe he is enormously helpful to many of us, and I am certain he is an extremely good teacher. Almost yearly, he has prepared a list of possible topics, sometimes involving new skills, for the Magazine Division’s elected heads or selected committee chairs to ponder. He is warm in his demeanor, adroit in selecting problems of real worth to colleagues, and presents new skills sets on panels.

His reputation as a knowledgeable professor, both in teaching and research—as well as service—have earned him the admiration of journalism educators, whether on Elliot Parker’s Discussion for Journalism Educators, and other online journalism and writing discussion groups, or those who have encountered his website and his presence at meetings. He is lively, self-assertive, and most important, intelligent.

Gerald is retiring this summer of 2009, after teaching college journalism for 24 years and this is his last AEJMC, he has said. Despite his not being an elected leader of the Division, he has touched so many of us over the years that the Outstanding Educator Award has his name on it this year. He truly deserves it.

continued from PAGE 1, Reed’s comments

Awardee gives credit to the WOMAN who became Miller County School Superintendent

EDITOR’S NOTE: Comments in Acceptance

Based on conversations with Elva White Grow Clark, the first county school superintendent in Miller County, thought to be the first in Georgia.

Gerald Grow -- January 15, 1996

What did I accomplish as county school superintendent? Nothing much that anyone would think was special. Except that for a woman to get elected in the first place might be something some people would consider special.

Back in those days, men ran everything in public life. Every elected official was a man. Every political race was between men. It's true, there was a woman somewhere in city government at the time, but she had been appointed, not elected. This was the late 1940s.

One day, one of the elementary principals came to me--I knew him, as I knew nearly everybody else in the county, he was a friend of ours, and I had taught his children in school. He said that the race for county school superintendent was coming up, and some of them had been thinking it was time to elect a new superintendent, and if I were to run, he thought I could win.

It had never occurred to me to run, and

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I told him so. But I went home and thought about it and talked to my husband about it. --I had my husband, and my children, and my job, and my friends. And I was happy the way I was. -- But I got to thinking about it.

The man who was superintendent at the time--I liked him, I knew him as I knew nearly everybody else in the county. I had taught with his wife; she was a friend of mine. I don't want to say anything bad about him--but the more I thought about it, the more I realized that his heart was really in state politics--he lived and breathed whatever Herman Talmadge was doing in Atlanta. Maybe someday he wanted to run for the legislature--I don't know. But he just didn't seem to want to be something as small as a superintendent in a little school system in a little county in South Georgia. And I wasn't sure I wanted to be something that big.

But my brother and my father had been county school superintendents, in Atkinson county, where I grew up, and they had enjoyed their work. So I decided I would give it a try. If I was defeated, I wouldn't let it bother me; people have a right to vote as they please, and people might not want a woman in that office.

Now I had taught many of the people in the county. And if I hadn't taught them, I had taught their children. And all those years I had also helped my husband in our grocery story. People knew who I was. They knew the kind of person I was. And I knew who they were; I made a point of being able to call the name of every person who ever walked into the grocery story or sat in my classroom. My campaign, mostly, was just going out to knock on doors and let people know I was running, and to ask them to consider voting for me. I didn't try to persuade people.

They knew the kind of person I was, they knew I wasn't going to change if I got elected, and they could decide for themselves how to vote.

I had a little help where I least expected it. Years before, teaching high school, I had caught a boy cheating on an exam. I quietly slipped him a note telling him to turn in his exam now and come see me about it Monday. I knew he was really a good boy at heart. When he came in, by himself, looking worried and guilty, I didn't say anything about the cheating; he'd had all weekend to think about it. I'd made a different exam for him to take, and I gave it to him right there. And he passed it. And from then on he did fine. I never said one word to him about cheating, but I believe he learned his lesson.

I saw him, for the first time in a long time, on election day, at the court house where the polling place was. He called out to me and said, "Miss Elva! Today I've brought 25 people to town to vote for you!"

I wasn't at all sure about whether I could get elected county school superintendent, or whether it was the right thing to do even if I did win. One day early in the campaign, I was driving out the Brinson Road. Like all the roads, it was dirt--that day, mostly mud and mud puddles. A school bus came toward me, carrying a few white children, on the way to school. Ahead of it, I saw three little black girls walking along the muddy road. They had to walk to school, you see, while the white children rode in buses.

As the bus came near, the black children jumped out of the way. They jumped across the little muddy ditch and clung on to the wire fence that ran along a field. Just as the bus passed, it hit a puddle. A big sheet of muddy water shot up and arched out and over and right toward the little black children cling-

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continues on next page
The FRUIT does not Fall very far from the TREE

ing to the fence. It made me simply furious.

The water just barely missed them. I said, out loud, right then, "God, if you help me win this race, we won't have that going on in this county again. I'll see that these black children get a ride to school!"

Well, I did win the election. People told me I was the first woman ever elected to public office in Miller County, and the first woman to be a county school superintendent in the state of Georgia. I’m not sure whether that’s true or not; it doesn’t really matter. I got 1400-and-something votes. The previous superintendent got about 800. Now, that said something--though I don’t want it to sound like bragging.

One of the first things I did as superintendent was to start working on getting a bus for those little black children. You see, in order to get anything done, you have to make a group of men think it was their idea. So I promoted it till they got the idea, and they went out and found transportation for those children.

Another thing I did right away was take the maintenance men out to the schoolhouses and show them exactly what to fix up. I started by making the doors look really good. I wanted everyone to realize that important things happen inside those buildings, and that the people working there care about what they do. Maintenance was something the men in town understood, and those repairs earned me some respect.

After I had been superintendent for a while, the position came open for principal of the high school. I went to the school board and told them I thought the man who used to be the superintendent, the one I had beaten so badly--I had known him twenty years--I thought he would make an excellent principal for the high school. And they appointed him. And he did make an excellent principal. He discovered that he loved this kind of work. He loved the children, and the teachers, and they loved him, and he just did an excellent job. Toward the end of my term, he came up to the office one day and I asked him to walk out on the courthouse steps with me, where nobody could hear us. I told him I wanted him to hear directly from me that I was not going to run for re-election, but with the improvement he had shown during his time as principal, I thought he would make an excellent superintendent, if he wanted to run again.

He was so shocked and so surprised. He said, “I am very thankful to you for telling me this. But you know, I think I am happier where I am.” And he continued as principal. And he was an excellent one.

The respected Prof. Gerald Grow is congratulated by Dr. Dane Claussen, outgoing head of the AEIMC Magazine Division, for his lifetime of outstanding teaching and mentoring.

EXCERPT from THE MASTER TEACHER

I feel much of that excitement when I think of our year together which lies just ahead of us. I hope that we can share some very pleasant learning, experiences, for, after all, there is much that I can learn from you, and I trust that there will be some things which you may learn from me. Frankly, I am not a strong believer in the value of too much factual material in teaching, but I do believe that I can tell whether you are learning by your actions and by the thoughts which you express.

Welcome Letter to her High School English Class
Elva W. Grow (Mrs. W.A.), 1953, Colquitt, Ga.

More on the interview with Elva Grow can be found at the following Websites:
www.longleaf.net/elva/superintendent.html
www.longleaf.net/elva/
expectancy? Sheesh, they seem to be folding faster than a sheepish poker player. As I tell my students, I may be naïve, optimistic, or stupid (or all three), but I refuse to believe in the imminent doom of the magazine industry. In fact, this academic year, I find myself even more excited about magazines—teaching about them, learning from them, flipping through them. Why?

**THESE 7 ½ REASONS:**

### #1

In a panel on web-only magazines headed by Jacquie Marino of Kent State, Samir Husni of Mississippi passionately served the role of antagonist, issuing his trademark mantra about how and why printed magazines are indeed different from other magazine-style media.

To make his point, he held up a copy of *Sneaker Freaker* magazine (See marketing from recent magazine Website).

When he did, most of the audience laughed.

Me?

Little jolt of excitement. (I swear it’s not because I worked at Athlete’s Foot in high school, and probably own more than a dozen pairs of sneakers myself.) I was excited because it reinforced the notion that magazines are all about passions, and even if we do have challenges when it comes to the business of running them, specific and creative ideas with passionate audiences have a shot at succeeding. (Bonus confession: I went to the newsstand after the panel and was bummed I couldn’t find a copy of *SF*.)

### #2

Earlier this year, I saw an issue of a new magazine called *SoBeFit Magazine*—a health and fitness mag based in Miami. I fell for it as soon as I saw it—high-energy, great design, smart ideas, and a brand that can resonate and connect with its audience. Despite all the news of magazines failing, it’s inspiring to know that people are willing to invest in magazines and magazine brands—and then make good on that investment with a kick-butt product. I’m having the EIC/founder/publisher talk to my classes this fall (she serves in all three roles), and I’m excited to hear her tell my students why there is a future in magazine publishing—and how they can make it their future.

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#3

If you missed Boston, then you missed the packed-room Magazine Marathon panel organized by Carol Schwalbe of Arizona State. Twelve profs who teach magazine-style courses gave 5-minute teaching tips. The crowd seemed to love the format, the panelists all had wonderful ideas, and—no doubt—hundreds of students right now are benefiting from the ideas exchanged that day. Though many of our students may be pessimistic about the future of media, I tend to think that those learning our lessons about creativity and storytelling will be able to use those techniques and strategies no matter what media they’re interested in.

#4

We’ve started putting in motion several of our goals for 2009-10. One, we’ve added an AEJMC Magazine Division fan page as a way to expand our social networking options (thank you, Lori Blachford of Drake, our new social networking officer). While we’ll still use our very popular listserv, we may find that some discussion may be easier to have face-to-face on Facebook. Please check it out and join in on the discussions. We also hope to continue working on the goals achieved by past head Dane Claussen of Point Park by continuing to improve the division’s research presence. To that end, we’re happy to have Elizabeth Hendrickson of Tennessee serve as assistant editor of the Journal of Magazine and New Media Research to help editor Carol Schwalbe. And we thank David Sumner, who is stepping down as editor, for all his hard work and his service to the division and journal.

#5

When the fall issue of our campus’s student magazine hit the newsstands, our editors were faced with a tough post-printing conflict. A student who told a sensitive story to a writer was upset when she saw the story in public. Though she consented to have her name used, she certainly couldn’t anticipate how she’d feel once it was in a medium that you couldn’t just delete from a server. Though I hate these kinds of conflicts, I also think the lessons that students learn about decision-making, conflict resolution, diplomacy, ethics, and sensitivity when they’re dealing in a too-late-now medium are valuable ones they can use in any medium.

#6

Over the last year, we’ve certainly seen a fair share of cover controversies and issues—ads on ESPN The Magazine, extremely altered images, the value of Esquire’s e-ink and mix-and-match covers. No matter what side of each argument you’re on, I think some of these issues are showing that magazines are trying to push things in different directions—sometimes they may be innovative; sometimes they may be destructive. But the fact that they’re experimenting, I hope, means that we’re evolving and adapting, not suffering and dying.

#7

There’s always the promise of smart stories, striking art, and cool covers . . . .

#7½

I know many of you like Twitter about as much as the New Yorker likes how-to pieces (great line by David Abrahamson of Northwestern at the Magazine Marathon panel: “I hope Twitter goes the way of the CB radio”). I started using Twitter this summer, and while it’s far from perfect, I’ve found it has some value both as a user and as a professor.

@ProfSpiker. And, hey, if nothing else, it’s great training for our future coverline writers. (79 characters)

See more on next page.
THIS IS IT! WHY MAGAZINES THRIVE!

Samir, called “Mr. Magazine,” passionately served the role of antagonist, issuing his trademark mantra about how and why printed magazines are indeed different . . .

TED SPIKER
If our readers are rabbits, and they like to hop, then feed them like rabbits!

We in the magazine field have to adapt; we have to change: whether a magazine or online, each product must be necessary and sufficient.

We are in the business of creating content; that whole business of thinking good is good enough is not enough!

Samir Husni

I have mixed feelings about Facebook, and share some of the reservations of colleagues. But Facebook overall has its advantages and they outweigh the disadvantages. It’s a way for me to connect to students in a less serious way, and for my wife and me to keep up with a dozen nieces and nephews (who rarely write or call, but do update their Facebook pages). I think the division Facebook page is a good idea and my thanks to Lori and her students. It’s just one more way for all of us to stay in touch.

Professor David Sumner
A Past Magazine Division Chair
WHAT is a magazine today?

At the AEJMC convention in Boston, the Magazine Division panel, “Slate, Salon and Beyond: The New Promise of Web-only Magazines,” considered the question.

Samir Husni, director of the University of Mississippi’s Magazine Innovation Center (tagline: “amplifying the future of print”), insisted magazines must be “ink on paper.”

No one else on the panel agreed. But no one offered another definition either.

“What is an online magazine? I won’t really try to answer it,” said Jeanne Carstensen, then the managing editor of Salon. (She was laid off in August, along with five other editorial employees.) “I myself am less concerned with the forms. I feel like what really matters is the sensibility, is the analytic approach, is the commitment to truth, and it doesn’t really matter how one does this.”

I moderated the panel, which I also pitched in 2008, after the Washington Post Company launched The Slate Group, a publisher of Web-only titles following the successful Slate model.

A reader of both Slate and Salon since their launches in the mid-1990s, I’ve watched Slate soar as Salon struggled. The “original” online-only magazine has had a hard time getting readers to pay for content, and advertising revenue is decreasing. CEO Richard Gingras recently told me it was a mistake to think of Salon as a magazine because the word “suggests a periodicity that to me does not relate to who Salon is in a news environment that is increasingly real-time.” A redesign is in the works, though Gingras insists the editorial mission of the publication will not change.

Regardless of the changes to come, Salon’s age makes it, as panelist Carstensen pointed out, “the old, new media.”

A creaky description, yes. But also one that commands respect. The site has survived, and it still does good work.

Carstensen reminded the attendees of Salon’s commitment to investigative journalism—it broke the second wave of Abu Ghrabib photographs, for instance. New forms of narrative are being developed, she said. Some are writing 350-word fiction for mobile phones. Journalists could adapt their work to that format. Some narratives jump media platforms, such as Salon’s coverage of the “birthers,” people who refuse to believe that President Barack Obama was born in the United States. Salon editor Joan Walsh has continued that story on Twitter and television. It is a narrative that isn’t completed by the writer but molded and perpetuated.

Carstensen was joined on the panel by digital media strategist Don Nicholas, former Nerve.com editor Michael Martin, “Mr. Magazine” Husni and John Fennell, associate professor of magazine journalism at the University of Missouri.

Martin, now the Web editor of Time Out New York, said magazines on the Web need to have the same goal as their print counterparts: “to develop a quality relationship with the reader.” But on the Web, the role of editor will change drastically.

“An editor will be a bit of a writer, a bit of an editor, a bit of a search engine optimization expert, a bit of a traffic analyst, and a bit of a publicist,” he said.

While definitions may not be important when it comes to survival online, making money is essential. Nicholas, managing partner for the Mequoda Group, insisted that most Web sites – regardless of whether they call themselves magazines – need a strong digital presence and more. He said most successful publications have four characteristics: They’re content-driven, Google-friendly, email-centric and profit-minded. Many successful publications on the Web do not give up their print magazines, and sell other products, such as books.

“Print’s not dead, folks, it’s just part of a larger equation,” he said.

But does the equation contain the word “magazine”? That’s the conversation I’d like to continue. Send your thoughts to me at jmarino7@kent.edu. Or, register them on the division’s new Facebook page. Become a fan at http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/pages/AEJMC-Magazine-Division/120635031447?ref=ts.
Friends say: Earl Conn always had a kind word for everyone

Some of you may have known Earl Conn who used to attend every AEJMC convention, though I realize most of you did not. He was chair of the Ball State Dept. of Journalism from 1986 to 1997 and founding dean of the College of Communications from 1997 to 2003.

He died in mid-September from heart complications at 83. He hired me, trained me, mentored me, and had more influence on my academic career than any other colleague. I’d like to share with you this message I shared with my Ball State colleagues:

The first time I talked to Earl was in Jan. 1990 when he called me in Knoxville, Tenn. at the University of Tennessee to do a telephone interview about the Ball State faculty job.

About a week later, he called me back and invited me to come up for an interview with the faculty and administration. I always felt he preferred me for the job even though there were a couple of other applicants. I had turned down two earlier job offers from small colleges because the salaries were too low and they were in places where I didn’t want to live. He gave me an offer $7,000 above either of those offers and higher than I had asked for.

Earl was a Quaker and always acted like a Christian. In the 19 years I knew him, he never said or did anything I thought unloving or unkind, not even a word of profanity. He was especially patient and unruffled by any crisis that arose. He remained calm in every situation. In some ways, I owe much or most of my career success (whatever that has been) to him. He encouraged me to focus my academic research on magazines and the magazine industry, which I was reluctant to do at first. I heard him say several times that the biggest mistake he made as a scholar was being too much of a “generalist” and not having a research specialization. He told me it takes a research specialty to gain national recognition and attention.

He had no favorites and no enemies. During the years he was chairman, he always had a kind and encouraging word for every faculty member. Dick Ware (photojournalism coordinator, now deceased) and I nominated him for the university’s “Outstanding Administrative Service” award in the mid 1990s, which he won.

I always wanted to do my best, just to please him.

R.I.P.

David E. Sumner
THE HONORED RESEARCHERS: Left to right; Prof. Dane Claussen, discussant and outgoing Head of the AEJMC Magazine Division, Point Park; Cory Armstrong, Second Place Faculty Paper, Florida; Sheila Webb, Top Faculty Paper, Western Washington; Katherine Eaves, Top Student Paper, Oklahoma; and Lyn Lepre, Research Chair and moderator, Marist.

TOP DIVISION PAPERS; SEEKING NEW MODELS

WEBB (See photo on the left.):
The Creation of Community in Reiman Magazines

ARMSTRONG:
Parenting Magazines and Obesity:
How Well Do They Trim the Fat?

EAVES:
Unrealistic Expectations:
Representations of Celebrity Motherhood

SHEILA WEBB
Minutes of Magazine Division Business Meeting  
August 7, 2009, AEJMC Convention, Boston

Dane Claussen called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
Welcome & Head’s Report – Dane Claussen:
*Division went through a five-year review with chairs of standing committees. The “pleasant and productive” discussion included compliments of division newsletter, number of officers involved in division for 6-10 years.
*Annual report submitted.
*Goals discussed:
   Increase coverage of business to business coverage.
   Improved quality of research, although lower submissions than previous years (See Research Chair report); several articles in the newsletter addressed this issue.
*Treasury in good shape. Slightly more than $9000 before expenses of the convention.
*Compliments to Ted Spiker and the other officers.

Approval of minutes from 2008 meeting:
*Dr. Sheila Webb noted one change.
*With that correction, Sammye Johnson moved acceptance with correction, Lyn Lepre seconded. Minutes approved.

Research Committee Report – Lyn Lepre:
*24 submissions, 42 percent accepted; each had three judges.
*Top Faculty paper went to Sheila Webb; second prize (faculty) went to Cory Armstrong; top student paper Katherine Eaves (presented Friday at 5:15 p.m.).

Vice Head/Program Chair Report – Ted Spiker:
*Good attendance at all panels thus far.
*Thanks the following panel organizers:
   Jackie Marino – Web-only magazines
   Carol Schwalbe – Magazine Marathon and student entrepreneurs:
   Lori Blachford – Alternative Press.
   Larry Stains – Student Magazine Advisors Roundtable.

Lee Jolliffe – Teaching on the Fly.

Student Magazine Contest Awards
Carol Holstead:

*Universities winning awards included the following: Arizona State; Ball State; Boston; Drake, Florida; Kansas, Kent State; Loyola, Missouri; Missouri; North Carolina; Northwestern; Ryerson; Texas, Austin; Texas, Pan-American; Trinity and Western Washington

*Salutes Co-Chair Pam Nettleton.

Resolutions – Ted Spiker:
*Proposed by Scott Fosdick, Resolution requests that the Magazine Division urges AEJMC to regularly schedule the convention in/near New York City.
 --Moved by Lyn Lepre; seconded by Sammye Johnson.

Discussion follows: Conference currently booked four years ahead (Denver, St. Louis, Chicago, Washington, DC); last time in New York City 1952.

--Unanimous approval.

New Business
*Southeast Regional Colloquium, University of Mississippi, Oxford – Sheila Webb: three papers submitted, 2 accepted, shared a panel with Newspaper. Next Southeast Colloquium to be held at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Webb encourages all to submit papers.

*Journal of Magazine and New Media Research – Ted Spiker (for David Sumner): Submissions up, would like to appoint an assistant editor to help with workload (with division approval)

Election of New officers – Ted Spiker
*Slate of officers: Head Ted Spiker, Florida; Vice Head Lyn Lepre, Marist; Research Chair (incoming vice head) Rachel Davis Mersey, Northwestern; Teaching Chair Jill Van Wyke, Drake; PF&R Chair Jacqueline Marino, Kent State; Secretary Erin Coyle, Louisiana State; Southeast Colloquium Chair Sheila Webb, Western Washington; Newsletter Editor Bev Merrick; Magazine Contest Co-chairs Carol Holstead, Kansas, and Pam Nettleton, Minnesota-Twin Cities; Grad Student Liaison Carolyn Eddy, North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Membership Chair Viki Goff, Wisconsin at Green Bay; Journal Editor David Sumner, Ball State; Journal Assistant Editor (TBA); Journal Managing Editor/Webmaster Carol Schwalbe, Arizona State; Immediate Past Head Dane Claussen, Point Park. Carol Holstead moves to accept officers; Bev Merrick seconds. Unanimous approval.

Goals for 2009-2010 – Ted Spiker
*Continue to improve program, encouraged all to submit panel ideas
*Continue discussion between conventions, increase social networking through facebook, twittering

*Increase research to convention and journal
--cash awards for top papers
Thanks -- Ted Spiker:
*To Dane Claussen
*Recognition of past officers: Research Chair Lyn Lepre, PF&R Chair Viki Goff; Teaching Chair Rachel Davis Mersey; Contest Co-Chairs Carol Holstead and Pam Nettleton; Grad Student Liaisons Erin Coyle and Carolyn Eddy; Membership Chair Nancy Hamilton; Journal Editor David Sumner; Journal Managing Editor and Webmaster Carol Schwalbe; Secretary Kathleen Endres.

Magazine Educator of the Year – Gerald Grow, Florida A&M
*Introduced by Barbara Straus Reed, who outlined many of his contributions, including 24 years at Florida A&M, newroom101.com, magazine division involvement, inspiration to his colleagues locally and nationally

*Gerald accepts award, thanking the division members for the honor and their continuing support, ideas during his career, acknowledges his mother and her example in education. “Retirement is a transition, not an end.”

By Kathleen “Kitty” Endres, Secretary
FROM YOUR EDITOR

If you have anything you’d like to include the Winter Newsletter, please forward to me, Bev Merrick, at <msgeditor@gmail.com>, 308-440-3038 (cell) or 308-457-2641 (message phone). I hope to include a special section on Bonnier Corp., a fast-going magazine company, run by new faces and old names we all know.

Deadline for the newsletter: Dec. 15; before you take off for winter vacation. Other news is welcome, including professional activities, teaching tips, news about you or your program, calls for papers about you or your program, calls for papers.

THE RESEARCH JOURNAL

Editor David Sumner reports that full text articles in the Spring 2009 issue of the Journal of Magazine and New Media Research are now accessible to subscribing institutions of the “Communication and Mass Media Complete” library of EBSCO Publishing.

The full text articles can be found in online journal subscriptions.

You can search by article title, by author, or any of the other fields normally available through EBSCO.

The AEJMC Magazine Division signed a publishing contract with EBSCO in February, and Dr. Sumner made a preliminary announcement at this time.

There has been an unexpected delay due to a change in personnel at the company.

All future issues of the journal will be indexed and published and eventually all previous articles and issues in Vol. 1-10 will be published through EBSCO. The fall issue of the Journal, Vol. 11, No. 1, has been published. He will send you an announcement when it is available.

He announced that Elizabeth Hendrickson, assistant professor at the University of Tennessee, is the new assistant editor of the journal and has already started helping with the editing.

She earned a Ph.D. from the University of Missouri and was an entertainment editor at Ladies’ Home Journal, Glamour and First for Women before obtaining her graduate degrees.

THE BIG 80: 40 PANELISTS, 15 OFFICERS, 13 MODERATORS/DISCUSANTS, 12 MARATHON TEACHERS

Barriers to Delivering Health Information to the Public (PF&R)
Moderating/Presiding: Jennifer Paliloia, Ball State
Discussant: Dane Claussen, Point Park

Celebrities in Entertainment Process
(with Entertainment Studies Interest Group, PF&R)
Moderating/Presiding: Jacqueline Marino, Discussant, Kent State
Don Nicholas, managing partner, Mequoda Group, LLS
Michael Martin, Nerve.com, Time Out New York
Jeanne Cartensen, managing editor, Salon.com

How to Design an Infographic
(with Visual Communication Division, Teaching Panel)
Moderating/Presiding: Jennifer Paolillo, Ball State
Jeremy Gilbert, Northwestern
Javier Zarrazina, graphics director, The Boston Globe

Health and Getting High: A Look at Magazine Coverage of Disease and Drugs
Moderating/Presiding: Rachel Davis Mersey, Northwestern
Paula Rausch and Debbie Treise, Florida
Ronald Shorr, North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System
Kim Walsh-Childers and Heath Edwards, Florida
Stephen Siff, Miami
Discussant: Carolyn Lepre, Marist, Refereed Research Session

Magazine Marathon: A Dozen Quick Teaching Tips
Moderating/Presiding: Carol B. Schwab, Arizona State, See Page 14

Exploring the Mechanisms Underlying Agenda Setting
(with Mass Media and Society Division, Research Panel)
Moderating: Francesca Dillman Carpenter, North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Ingrid Bachmann, Texas at Austin
Joanne Miller, University of Minnesota
Lee Jolliffe, Drake University
Jason Juhashing Yu, Southern Illinois at Edwardsville

Challenges to Ethical Reporting During a Media “Frenzy”
(with Media Ethics Division, PF&R)
Moderating/Presiding: Jack Breslin, Iona
Kim Walsh-Childers, Florida
Sandra Borden, Western Michigan
Henry Rubin, Quincy
Stephanie Craft, Missouri

Alternative Press: Thriving or Simply Surviving?
(with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,transgender Interest Group, PF&R)
Moderating/Presiding: Dean Mundy, North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Sammye Johnson, Trinity
Lori Blachford, Drake
James Lopata, editor-in-chief, Boston, Spirit Magazine
Sue O’Connell, publisher, Bay Windows Magazine
David Zimmerman, publisher, Boston Spirit Magazine

Student Magazine Advisors Off-Site Roundtable
Moderating/Presiding: Larry Stains, Temple University

Student Entrepreneurs Teaching Panel
(with Visual Communication Division)
Moderating/Presiding: Carol B. Schwab, Arizona State
Dan Gillmor, director, Knight Center for Digital Media Entrepreneurship, Arizona
Tom Kennedy, former managing editor, Washingtonpost.Newsweek Interactive
Eric Newton, vice president, Journalism Program, Knight Foundation

Celebrities in Entertainment Process
(with Entertainment Studies Interest Group, PF&R)
Moderating/Presiding: Anthony J. Ferri, Nevada-Las Vegas
Stephen Bates, Daniel C. Stout and Amanda Laken, Nevada-Las Vegas
Jonathan Imber, Wellesley

Slate, Salon and Beyond: The New Promise of Web-Only Magazines
(with Visual Communication Division, PF&R)
Moderating/Presiding: Jacqueline Marino, Discussant, Kent State
Don Nicholas, managing partner, Mequoda Group, LLS
Michael Martin, Nerve.com, Time Out New York
Jeanne Cartensen, managing editor, Salon.com
John Fennell, Missouri

Refereed Research Session, Top Papers
(followed by members’ meeting and honoring Gerald Grow, Teacher of the Year)
Moderating/Presiding: Lyn Lepre
Lee Jolliffe, Drake
Lillie Fears, Arkansas State
Sandra Davidson, Missouri
Discussant: Dane Claussen, Point Park

How to Design an Infographic
(with Visual Communication Division, Teaching Panel)
Moderating/Presiding: Jennifer Paolillo, Ball State
Jeremy Gilbert, Northwestern
Javier Zarrazina, graphics director, The Boston Globe

Barriers to Delivering Health Information to the Public (PF&R)
(with Science Communication Interest Group & Media Mgt/Economics Div.)
Moderating/Presiding: Amanda Hinnant, Missouri
Tania Hannan, deputy editor, Health, Body+Soul Magazine
Cynthia-Lou Coleman, Portland State
Gary Schweitzer, Minnesota State; editor, HealthNewsReview.org
Judy Norsigian, executive director, Our Bodies, Ourselves
Karen Weinraub, associate director, communications, Wyss Institute
Letter-to-the-Editor

This question is for anyone--please reply directly to Shawn Presley.

I’m writing from Kenyon College in Ohio. I’m helping organize a conference for magazine editors who work in education. The conference is sponsored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and takes place in Boston in March 2010.

I’m looking for someone who conducts research on how people read magazines. I’ve seen talks and studies that say people don’t like to read reverse type. It also seems like there are statistics on how many readers will take on a feature story and how many only skim the headlines. Do you know of anyone who works in this area? I’m hoping to find someone to present at the conference.

Shawn Presley <presleys@kenyon.edu>
Director, Public Affairs, Kenyon College

Letter-to-the-Editor

I wanted to re-introduce myself and offer up two possible opportunities for a few of your students.

My name is Rich Truesdell and I currently contribute to more than a dozen automotive and travel publications around the world. Many of you might remember me from the launch, almost three years ago of my flip-flash Web-based magazine, Automotive Traveler. While the magazine version stalled after four issues and is currently on “hiatus” I have over the last two years beefed-up its companion Website <automotivetraveler.com>. It’s an eclectic mix of mostly automotive and travel blogs currently reaching 50,000-plus unique monthly readers, which on the Web is a significant number. Over the last year, we’ve gone from an Alexa ranking of 5,000,000-plus to a very respectable 139,000 (Google of course is #1).

This summer I was appointed as editor of a new monthly print magazine, Chevy Enthusiast, to be published by Amos Automotive, publisher of Cars and Parts (published continuously since 1953) and five additional monthly automotive titles. (Amos Automotive is a division of Amos Press, based in the publishing Mecca of Sidney, Ohio.) With Chevy Enthusiast especially, I am looking for “virtual” interns who would like to get credit for working on a “real” print title but for <automotivetraveler.com>. I am also looking for others who have already developed an affinity for working in the social networking arena as well as blogs and would like to have their efforts seen by a wider audience.

If you have students that would be interested in either of these opportunities, feel free to contact me here, or have students themselves contact me direct at <automotivetraveler.com>.

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CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Be sure to send an article to the Journal of Magazine and New Media Research. We are willing to consider articles that have been presented at the AEJMC convention or other mid-year regional meetings. Editor David Sumner prefers articles that are no longer than 25 pages total (with notes and appendices). He asks that tables be included within the narrative and not as appendices (using the Word table function).

Use either APA or Chicago Manual style of endnote citations. Please also include a separate cover page with author name, contact information, and a 100-word abstract; do not include the author’s name or any identifying information within the article itself.

The addition of the non-refereed “Essays and Reviews” department takes submissions of up to 750 words. A submission may include reviews of books, reports on conferences or special events, or essays related to magazines or magazine education.

Please volunteer to serve on the Editorial Advisory Board and review papers for the journal. Your names will be published on the journal’s Web page in the near future. You may submit papers if you also serve on the advisory board.
Don’t Sweat It

For Women’s Health

by ALYSSA LOY

It was on a perfect first date when it happened. Alex and I had just finished dinner at a local Italian restaurant, where we talked nonstop. Neither one of us wanted the evening to end, so he suggested we continue our conversation on a walk in a nearby park. Most women would jump at the opportunity for a late-night stroll in the park with a great guy. Not me. This idea was horrifying; I could feel myself starting to sweat as my heart pounded and my mind raced. The park would be dark and romantic. What if Alex tried to hold my hand?

This response might sound strange, but it’s a typical reaction for me since I hate people to touch my hands. And it’s not limited just to dating. I hate shaking hands and often go out of my way to avoid this social convention. I’ve also been known to deliberately shy away from high fives. And the mere idea of a manicure—which would obviously require someone to touch my hands—almost makes me break out in hives.

Do these behaviors make me a freak of nature? Probably, but I usually don’t think twice about them because I have hyperhidrosis, a medical condition that causes overactive sweat glands. Millions of women like myself suffer silently from this embarrassing condition that causes certain areas of our bodies, such as the hands, to literally drip with sweat.

But women who suffer from hyperhidrosis may often sweat four or five times more than what is normal, even when they are cold or perfectly calm. The condition is related to the sympathetic nervous system, which is the part of our bodies that triggers sweat. Women with hyperhidrosis have nervous systems that kick into overdrive, causing their sweat glands to produce excessive amounts of sweat.

Yet many remain unaware of what causes excessive sweat, which means that more than half of the women who suffer from hyperhidrosis will never be diagnosed or seek treatment.

The main type of hyperhidrosis is called primary focal hyperhidrosis. This type of excessive sweating is not a side effect of a medication or the result of another medical condition, as is the case with secondary generalized hyperhidrosis. Primary hyperhidrosis is a condition in its own right that can interfere with everyday activities. It causes women to sweat excessively on specific body areas where the majority of sweat glands are located. These focal areas typically include the hands, feet, underarms, head or face.

How do I know if I have it?

The best way to learn whether or not you have hyperhidrosis is to see a doctor. Many patients have found that their general physicians know a lot about hyperhidrosis and are thus a great place to start. But dermatologists generally tend to be more familiar with this condition than other doctors simply because they specialize in skin related problems. Search your local yellow pages for dermatologists or check www.sweathelp.org to find a doctor who treats hyperhidrosis in your area.

Although dermatologists are a great resource for diagnosis and finding the help you need, you probably can diagnose yourself simply by doing a little self reflection. Rest assured: if sweating is

Why it won: A clear, thoughtful, inspiring and engaging explanation of a sensitive topic that’s under-reported, especially for the target magazine’s audience. The firsthand perspective from the writer complements the article, rather than overshadows it—as can be the case for many articles written by an author who has experience with the subject matter.

SERVICE AND INFORMATION CATEGORY
JUDGED BY JOHN ROCKHOLD
MANAGING EDITOR OF MOTHER EARTH NEWS

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continued from PAGE 15, mentor

only a problem for you when the temperature is hot or when you’re exercising, then you probably do not suffer from this condition.

However, if you find yourself sweating profusely throughout the day, then you may have hyperhidrosis. Ask yourself a few questions. Do you sweat excessively from one or two centralized areas, such as the hands and feet? Does sweating get in the way of your everyday activities? Do you avoid certain situations because you are afraid that people will discover how much you sweat? Do you sweat profusely even in low stress situations and cool environments? Does anyone else in your family sweat excessively (70 percent of people who seek treatment have a close relative with hyperhidrosis)?

If you answered yes to these questions, you probably suffer from hyperhidrosis. But there is one other sign to look for.

The onset of hyperhidrosis sweating is often characterized by a tingling sensation in the affected area. Twenty-one-year-old Rahel Koshy from Houston, Texas has suffered from hyperhidrosis for 12 years and says, “It feels like my pores are opening when the sweating starts.” If you suffer from hyperhidrosis, you may notice that you can feel your sweating coming on.

How can I become sweat free?

After confirming with your doctor that you do in fact have hyperhidrosis, the next step is to decide how big of a problem it is in your life. If you realize your hyperhidrosis has a large effect on your self-esteem or is a constant burden, you should check out treatment options, which have proven to be effective for many women.

You may also suffer from psychological problems if you have spent many years feeling ashamed of your hyperhidrosis. If this is the case, you should seek help from a psychologist in addition to discussing treatment options with your hyperhidrosis doctor.

Remember that no two cases of hyperhidrosis are the same; the treatment that works best for a family member might not be effective for you. Your doctor can work with you to discover the best treatment for dealing with your individual hyperhidrosis.

ANTIPERSPIRANTS

You should try antiperspirants first because they are the least invasive of the treatment options. It’s easy and usually painless to use an antiperspirant, a topical treatment that can be applied to the underarms, hands and feet to reduce sweating. You can decide among several over-the-counter antiperspirants at your local drugstore, or you can get a prescription from your doctor for something stronger.

The most effective ingredient in antiperspirants is aluminum chloride hexahydrate, a metallic salt that can even be found in popular brands such as Secret. Typically, you should look for a level of aluminum chloride of 10 percent to 15 percent in order to treat excessive sweating in the underarms and a level of 30 percent to treat the hands and feet.

Antiperspirants may be more effective for you if you use them both in the morning and at night. Dr. Adelaide Hebert, a professor in the departments of dermatology and pediatrics at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston and a frequent contributor to www.sweatelp.org, says, “Topical antiperspirants should only be applied to completely dry skin. If the skin is at all wet, it can lead to skin irritation.”

IONTOPHORESIS

If antiperspirants don’t work, you may want to try iontophoresis. This treatment is most effective in hyperhidrosis of the hands and feet. Your affected area is immersed in a tray that uses water and a mild electric current to block sweat output through the skin’s surface. Patients typically begin this treatment by soaking the affected area for 20 to 40 minutes every other day for five to 10 days.

Dr. Hebert says, “I am a believer in iontophoresis for the treatment of hyperhidrosis of the hands and feet.” With side effects that only include dry or cracked skin, iontophoresis is the best choice for combating your hyperhidrosis in a way that doesn’t involve surgery, severe side effects or hefty price tags. The American Academy of Dermatology confirms that iontophoresis has a success rate of 83 percent in treating hyperhidrosis.

BOTOX

Four years ago, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved BOTOX injections for the treatment of hyperhidrosis in the underarms. BOTOX is also considered to be safe and effective in the treatment of hyperhidrosis in the hands and feet.

However, it’s only a temporary solution that may require you to get additional injections every seven to 16 months. The procedure involves using a fine needle to inject BOTOX near the sweat glands of the affected area. According to Koshy, these injections can be both painful and expensive. “But my hands no longer drip,” she says.

MEDICATIONS

Some doctors prescribe oral medications as a way to treat hyperhidrosis. Certain medications may reduce your sweating by preventing the stimulation of your sweat glands. The downside is that using these medications may cause serious side effects, including blurred vision and heart palpitations. As a result, most doctors don’t recommend them for long term use, making medications an unlikely treatment option.

SURGERY

The most invasive and extreme treatment of hyperhidrosis is that of surgery, which you should only consider if all other treatments have been ineffective. There are two kinds of surgeries. If you have excessive underarm sweating, you can choose to have a local surgery that may include cutting or scraping out your sweat glands or removing them by liposuction.

The other surgical option is Endoscopic Thoracic Sympathectomy (ETS). ETS is a major surgery used to treat excessive sweating in the hands and underarms. This procedure requires the temporary collapse of a lung and works to interfere with the transmission of nerve signals to sweat glands.

ETS has been highly debated among doctors because it can have major side effects, including compensatory sweating – ex-

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cessive sweating in other areas of the body that may be worse than your original hyperhidrosis problem.

Koshy seriously considered the surgery for awhile, but opted against it after learning about the side effects. “The ETS surgeons I found tried to make it look like this is the answer to all your problems, but it’s not,” she says. “The surgery can have serious side effects, such as personality change.” Before undergoing ETS, you should consult with several surgeons and research the side effects to decide if the surgery is worth the possible consequences.

ALTERNATIVE THERAPIES

If you try several treatment options with little to no results, you may want to consider alternative treatment options. Some women have seen results from therapies such as acupuncture, hypnosis and herbal substances. Since there has been very little research conducted on the effectiveness of these treatments, be sure to talk to your doctor before trying anything.

Depending on the seriousness of your struggle, you may also find that you don’t want to bother with treatments. Although my hyperhidrosis can be very frustrating at times, I haven’t sought treatment for it in years after unsuccessful results with antiperspirants. I finally decided that, for me, hyperhidrosis is not a big enough issue to warrant the more extreme treatments.

But every woman must make this decision for herself. Whatever you decide, you may find comfort in knowing that there are non-invasive and inexpensive options for alleviating some of the stress that accompanies hyperhidrosis.

What can I do right now to make my hyperhidrosis less of a burden?

Even if you find a doctor today, it will probably take some time and patience to find the best treatment option for you. Here are some things to keep in mind that may help to alleviate your sweating and your embarrassment right now:

(1) Tell people. For years I was scared that people might discover I have hyperhidrosis. But then I realized that, no matter how scary, it’s easier to be up front with people than to hide in shame. This technique can help you take control of your hyperhidrosis, rather than letting it control you. So the next time you start to worry about a date, friend, or business partner finding out, try calmly explaining your condition to the person. If you don’t make a big deal about it, chances are that others won’t either.

(2) Realize that you care about your hyperhidrosis more than anyone else does. Koshy says, “I finally realized that I make a bigger deal of my excessive sweating than anyone else does.” It’s true. You will probably find that most people really don’t care about how much you sweat and won’t even give it a second thought. This knowledge might help you stress less. And less stress often means less sweat.

(3) Carry a washcloth in your purse. This is particularly helpful if you have hyperhidrosis of the hands or face. When you are alone, feel free to wipe either area with the towel. I have even learned how to casually reach into my purse on the pretense of grabbing something, only to wipe my hands on my washcloth. It’s effective and discreet.

(4) Wear dark, absorbent clothing. Sometimes you can anticipate stressful situations. On those days, stick to dark clothing so you don’t have to constantly worry about outing yourself to the world. Also, it might be weird, but I have learned that dark pants serve as a good substitute towel for my hands when I can’t get to my washcloth.

(5) Calm your nerves. If you have hyperhidrosis, your sweating will likely kick into high gear in stressful situations. The more nervous you become, the more uncontrollable your sweating. In these situations, the best thing you can do is to take deep breaths and work on calming yourself. If you can manage your stress and nerves, you will be more likely to make

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Comments from ALYSSA LOY, Author

“...
the sweating slow down. Practicing yoga or meditation may also help you relax during stressful times.

Don’t let excessive sweating control your life. Talk to your doctor about how you can work to overcome your hyperhidrosis, both physically and emotionally. You may even learn to embrace your condition like I have by realizing that it makes you unique.

It was this acceptance that eventually helped me calm my nerves on that first date with Alex. I even found the courage to tell him about my hyperhidrosis when he took my hand. And I guess he didn’t care because, after hearing my story, he held my hand tighter on the rest of our stroll through the park. Now that’s a perfect first date.

**More Information on Hyperhidrosis**

The best way to learn more about hyperhidrosis and take control of your sweating is to talk with your doctor. Until then, these websites may be able to provide you with the support you need.

**International Hyperhidrosis Society** [www.sweathelp.org] – The only non-profit organization that seeks to help those with hyperhidrosis. Subscribe to “Sweat Solutions” newsletter, find a doctor near you who treats hyperhidrosis or just learn more about the condition.

**Hyperhidrosis** [http://www.hyperhidrosis.org] – Focuses on hyperhidrosis of the hands, feet, underarms and face. Check out the information on treatment options and nighttime sweating.


**SAMMYE JOHNSON says:**

Alyssa submitted this article for the service assignment in my COMM 3340 Magazine Writing class. During the editorial critique session where we discuss all the articles (they have no bylines), several students said they wanted a copy of “Don’t Sweat It” to send to friends and relatives.

That’s when I knew it was going to be a winner. Alyssa’s article was personal, yet professional in its discussion of a little known medical condition.

Alyssa graduated in May 2009 with a major in communication. She intends to have a career in the magazine industry, in either New York or Washington, DC.
IT WAS THE LITTLE THINGS.
The smell of dining hall food.
The sound of Led Zeppelin wafting out of someone’s dorm room.
The stack of course packets and spiral notebooks, neatly arranged on the bookshelf.
The murky sense of déjà vu.
I was a freshman, just a few weeks into my first quarter of college, but I couldn’t shake the feeling that I’d been here before. I’d been through all this once, and now I was back.

Plenty of kids at an institution like Northwestern University come from non-traditional homes. I have friends raised by single mothers, single fathers, gay parents, grandmothers, aunts, uncles, foster parents, and adopted parents. Each person is a product of how they were raised, and one assumes that if they made it to Northwestern – which is generally considered a pretty good landing place for an 18-year-old with a dream – then whoever raised them must have done something right. The same goes for my mother.

My story – or rather, my mother’s and my story – begins in 1986. In the fall of her junior year of high school, my mom was a happy, 16-year-old cheerleader. She had lettered in four sports in high school – cross country, flag twirling, softball and cheerleading – hung out with the popular crowd (as well as the “artsy-fartsy” kids), dressed like a punk rocker, and was generally having a really good time. She had been dating the quarterback of a rival school’s football team and was at what she considered to be the height of her high school popularity. What she didn’t realize was that she was about to join the ranks of the millions of teenage girls who got pregnant in the 1980’s.

“I was the captain of the cheerleading squad that got pregnant my junior year,” she told me. If one story from high school stands out as a defining moment, then surely this must be it.

In the fall of her junior year, my mother ran cross country and successfully made it onto the wrestling cheerleading squad, which was a big deal at West High. But something had felt off at tryouts. “I couldn’t get my ass off the ground,” she said. “I could barely do any of my jumps.”

She suspected that she might be pregnant – after all, it was not unusual or particularly taboo for high schoolers to be having sex in the 1980’s – and her suspicions were confirmed with a take-home pregnancy test the same day.

“Pretty much everybody was having sex. AIDS was a known thing, but... it didn’t overwhelm peoples’ sex lives like it does now. Mostly you wore a condom to not get pregnant,” my mom said. “[The mid-eighties were] probably the last big spirited, ‘sexual revolution’ kind of time.”

It may have been a revolutionary time, but getting pregnant was not something to be even remotely proud of. “Usually that kind of thing happened to very trashy girls,” my mom said.

As a popular cheerleader, “I had not previously been seen as a very trashy girl.” She received a surprisingly calm response from her parents, who she said were “disappointed” in her but “supportive all the same.”

She was pretty sure of who the father was – a guy she worked with at the local Bonanza restaurant over the summer, whom she hadn’t exactly been dating. Getting married was never a viable option; as a departure from previous generations, she didn’t even consider it.

The next step was to tell her friends.

“Did you see ‘Juno’ the movie?” she asked me, referring to the 2007 movie about a young high school girl
Brittany’s article won the competition for “First Person, Consumer Magazine Article.” Her adviser is Professor David Abrahamson at Northwestern University.

who gets pregnant after her first time having sex. “Okay, so the next day, she was walking through the hallways [of her high school] and she was the only one that knows that she’s pregnant…It was just like that,” she said. “You don’t know who to tell and who not to tell.”

My mother was not alone. In 1987, the year I was born, there were 384,340 pregnancies in women 15 to 17 years old in America. Over 160,000 of these pregnancies ended in abortion, and another 50,000 ended in miscarriage. This left 172,591 babies born to mothers between the ages of 15 and 17 in the year 1987 alone. This means that somewhere in the world, there are at least 172,590 people my age that were born into a similar situation as me. I wonder what our reunion would look like. I’m 21 years old and about six months away from graduating from a four-year university.

Out of 172,591 people, I wonder how many dropped out of high school, how many made it to college, how many ended up in the military, how many have been able to leave home and begin their own lives. I wonder how many of my peers now have kids of their own. In the 1990 book “The Children of Teenage Mothers: Patterns of Early Childbearing in Two Generations,” the three authors postulate that approximately 75 percent of pregnant teens had mothers who were also pregnant as an adolescent.

This was the pattern my mother was following, and that her mother was following, and her mother before her. I am the first of four generations in my family to make it to my 20th birthday without having had a child.

People assume I am the anomaly, the odd one out, and this is probably true. Children of teenage mothers are at an institutional and societal disadvantage. Their mothers tend to be less educated, have less money, and are more likely to require public assistance. For this reason, teen mothers are seen as a burden on society, draining away resources that should be going to pay for community soccer teams for the children of deserving, married, 30-something parents who weren’t dumb enough to forget the condom in the back of the Buick. And today as always, the suck on public funds isn’t the only thing that the community is concerned with.

Around 1930, my great grandparents gave birth to their first child, Joan. My great grandma Ida had just graduated from high school in 1928 and my great grandpa Art was studying to be a veterinarian. As soon as Joan was born, he was forced to quit that dream to get a job, which was the expected response to such a situation. They eventually had seven children. It wasn’t until around 1972, while going through some old family documents, that their children realized that their parents hadn’t been married at the time of Joan’s birth. They had always wondered why their parents didn’t celebrate their anniversary, nor did they really make any mention of it.

“They never celebrated their wedding anniversary out of shame,” my grandpa told me. “It just never came up.” Shame is an understatement. To have gotten pregnant and have the child out of wedlock in 1930 was a reason to leave town and not come back.

Thirty-nine years later, in 1969, my grandparents found themselves in a similarly trying position. They were high school sweethearts and made waves in their small Nebraska community when they got pregnant at 17. They were kicked out of every extracurricular activity in their high school of 150 kids, and my grandmother wasn’t allowed to attend school again until after she had given birth.

A teen pregnancy – or, more accurately, a pregnancy out of wedlock – was a community problem because it reflected on the whole town. But there was a catch-22: While a pregnancy was taboo, so was contraception. “If a woman had bought a condom, she would have been considered a slut,” my grandma said. “If [a man] had gone to the local drugstore to buy a condom, he probably would have gotten a call to the parents from the drugstore,” my grandpa added. In this way, small towns probably haven’t changed much. Everyone knows everyone else, and more often than not you are related in some way, or at least you attend the same church. Still, some things have changed.

“People didn’t move away from their home town like they do now. In fact, a lot of our friends said we were really lucky to have gotten out, and that’s the term they used, that we ‘got out,’” my grandma said.

One of the main differences between my grandparents, my mother and I are the circumstances in which we grew up. If a pattern were to be found, it would probably reflect that each generation grew up in a more urban environment. Really, though, the biggest difference has to be educational opportunities.

Young marriage wasn’t exactly unheard of, but my grandparents were still in the minority in the early 1970’s. “Girls got married the summer after high school,” my grandma said. “If they went to college, then they waited until the summer after college. It was rare for girls to assume they would have a career.” At that time, women could choose between four careers: housewife, secretary, nurse or teacher.

This is one of the main differences my grandparents see between the time that they spent in high school and the time my mother was in high school – a difference of less than 20 years. “Her educational opportunities – better libraries, better school systems...she was in a more urban area,” my grandpa said. (Compared to Nebraska, even Iowa City is “urban.”)
“I think we told her from the time she was a little kid that she was going to college,” my grandpa said. “Our expectations were a lot different than our parents. In our minds, of course she was going to college, just because that’s what you did. And when we were growing up, that wasn’t necessarily so.”

“If you go to college and you have an education, then you have choices,” my grandma added. “If you don’t go to college, then you can just react to life instead of controlling your own destiny.

This is the same message, in rough form, which my mother passed on to me. I never considered the possibility of not going to college. It was the obvious and inevitable next step after high school. But I doubt my 172,590 peers with mothers the same age as my own felt the same way, and I think this has a lot more to do with the attitude of the community in which they’re raised toward education than the age of my mother.

My grandparents got married seven weeks before their first child – my mother – was born. “Most girls didn’t keep a baby if they weren’t married,” my grandmother said. “Most girls gave the baby up for adoption.”

They hadn’t originally planned on getting married; they didn’t think they could afford it. “But our folks said if you want to get married, go ahead and get married and we’ll help you,” my grandmother said. My grandpa wanted to go to college, so their parents set them up in an apartment and helped with groceries, clothes and other incidentals as much as they could.

Little did they know that less than 20 years later, they’d be repaying this favor back to the daughter that had driven them to marriage in the first place.

Eventually my mom did tell her friends that she was pregnant, and it only took a few days for word to get around to the whole school, including the administration. She was called into the guidance counselor’s office and asked about it, and she confirmed the fact. “[The guidance counselor] was kind of flustered,” she said. “A girl hadn’t been pregnant at West High since 1970-something. It just didn’t happen.” He asked her what she planned on doing. “I’m just going to show up to school tomorrow,” she told him, and that was that.

Except that it wasn’t. A few days later, she was called into the vice principal’s office. “Now, apparently, they’re concerned that I’m going to continue going to high school,” she recalls. “They thought it would be a good idea for me to go to the ‘alternative’ high school, because that’s what girls ‘in my position do.’”

The air quotes had a hint of sarcasm, but the administration was quite serious. “I was flabbergasted,” my mother said. “It had never even occurred to me. I told him I didn’t think that would work. I’m going to go to school, I’m going to live my life. There was never even a question in my mind that I [would] go to school.”

The big day eventually arrived, and it proceeded as these things often do: messily. There was a time when they couldn’t find my heart beat. My umbilical cord was wrapped around my neck and there was a very tense moment between the time I was born and the moment I took my first breath. But I was out, and born, and they took my mom away for the procedural post-birth bath.

“That’s when I started crying. I just cried and cried and cried in the bath,” she said. “It’s like, oh shit, okay, here we go. When you’re pregnant, it’s still just you. Then the baby is born, and there’s this whole other person. Still, there was no time to freak out.

“I had a lot of shit to do, and it felt like there were a lot of people looking at me.” She finished her junior year at Iowa, and then the family involved, coaching the sophomore basketball cheerleading squad. And she continued doing exactly what she said she would. She showed up to class every day and continued to make decent grades.

“Fourth period English was the worst. It was after lunch, the sun came in the window, and I fell asleep every class. I was so tired. I got an A, though.” She suspects the grade may have been a bit inflated.

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Like her parents, my mother was pressured to quit her extracurricular activities. “The athletics director – this woman has issue with the fact that I’m a cheerleader,” my mom said. “I told them, if that’s what you’re worried about, rest easy. The skirt doesn’t fit anymore anyway.” She stayed
moved down to North Carolina. Word quickly spread that she was the teenage mother of an infant, and she immersed herself more in the hardcore punk culture. “It was an easy way to distance myself from the rest of the student body. I just dressed like a loner and they left me alone,” she said. She made friends, but that could no longer be her priority. “It just didn’t matter to me what everybody thought about it.”

My mom graduated from high school in 1988 and moved herself and me back to Iowa City so she could go to college. “It was another ‘oh my god, here we go’ moment,” she said, recalling watching her mother driving away, leaving her truly alone with her baby for the first time. I was 13 months old. “It was scary. I didn’t know exactly how I was going to buy groceries. I had an apartment, a car, and a class schedule.”

We lived in university “family housing,” Hawkeye Court, which basically meant graduate students and their families. To be an undergraduate mother was the anomaly. It is in Hawkeye Court that my memories begin. I remember textbooks and study parties (and other parties). I remember my fourth birthday, sitting in front of a giant Cookie Monster cake, with all of my mother’s 20-something friends around, handing me gift boxes full of Barbie’s. I remember the second-hand furniture that is the hallmark of the college apartment, and the plastic cup full of ketchup packets we took from McDonald’s so we could save the $2.50 on a bottle of ketchup from the grocery store. I started college at 1½ years old. At 21, I have yet to finish.

In the summer of 2007, I attended the first wedding of a friend my own age. Her name was Melissa, and she was getting married to her high school sweetheart the summer before her senior year of college. I loved Melissa and was happy to attend her wedding, but I couldn’t help from joining in the whispering conversations of my friends. We couldn’t believe that Melissa would choose to get married so young. What about her career? She wanted to be a lawyer, after all. How was she going to do that while attached to another person?

Melissa got pregnant less than a month after getting married and gave birth to a beautiful baby girl last spring, just a few weeks after graduating from Northwestern. The last time I talked to her, she was still working double shifts at the grocery store and her husband was finishing college. She continues to hold on to her dream of being a lawyer, but she was perfectly comfortable with the idea of putting the dream off for a few years to raise her child. Family comes first.

In the summer of 2008, I attended another wedding, this time of my friend Kiira. She was marrying her long-distance college sweetheart, and again, our friends had been whispering. Kiira said that she heard a lot more of this “veiled unhappiness” at Northwestern that at Washington State, where she transferred after getting engaged in order to be in the same state as her fiancé. “People said, ‘Oh, how are you going to get a job?’” Kiira said. To her, the Northwestern community was so career-oriented that no one understood her belief that she could have both. She could be married and have a career, and the two are not mutually exclusive.

Though getting accidentally pregnant and purposefully married are two very different things, they represent similar ideas in our society. Starting a family is viewed differently depending on the community one lives in.

In the November 3, 2008 issue of the New Yorker, Margaret Talbot wrote a piece titled “Red Sex, Blue Sex” that looked at why such a high number of evangelical Christian teenagers become pregnant. She wrote, “Social liberals in the country’s ‘blue states’ tend to support sex education and are not particularly troubled by the idea that many teen-agers have sex before marriage, but would regard a teen-age daughter’s pregnancy as devastating news. And the social conservatives in ‘red states’ generally advocate abstinence-only education and denounce sex before marriage, but are relatively unruffled if a teenager becomes pregnant, as long as she doesn’t choose to have an abortion.”

There is no real sweeping statement to be made about teenage pregnancy and marriage that would be accurate in every situation. Sometimes the children follow in the footsteps of their parents. Sometimes – in my case, for example – they don’t. Young marriage and teen pregnancy are generally frowned upon, both by my parents’ and grandparents’ generations and by my own.

It’s pointed out that younger couples are more likely to get divorced, and young mothers are more likely to not be able to offer their children the same opportunities that older married couples might be able to offer. And generally, these things are true. But if nothing else, my family is a case study in the exception to the rule.

My grandparents, despite getting married at 17 because of an unplanned pregnancy, are still together almost 40 years later, and I’m hard-pressed to find two people in the world who love each other more. My mother, despite getting knocked up at 16 and facing every obstacle possible for a young mother, managed to finish college (it took her six years) and raise me well enough to make sure I got to college.

I sit in classrooms with people who have come from privilege, or from the middle class, who don’t know what it’s like to be on welfare and to eat ramen noodles for a majority of meals (well, at least not until they reached college). I don’t consider myself any better or any more worthy of being here than anyone else, but I understand that I am different. Each generation is supposed to do better than their parents. In some ways I have: I’m still not pregnant. But if there is anyone in the world I’d like to grow up to be more like, it’s my mother.

“Mom, do you have any regrets? Would you have done anything differently in high school or college?” I
asked. She paused for a few moments, considering.  
“No. I had a great time. I mean, no offense, I wouldn’t plan to be 16 and pregnant. But I don’t regret it because it made me who I am and it made you who you are, and, you know, you’re pretty cool.”

“Thanks, Mom.”

One of the side effects of being the child of a college student is that you go everywhere together. My mom was never really a drinker, but she loved pinball – a hobby that I have never fully been able to explain to anyone – and Mountain Dew, a beverage preference that she carries to this day.

There was a bar in Iowa City called the Deadwood that had pinball machines in back and Mountain Dew on tap, as well as steaming cups of hot chocolate for the young children of avid pinballers. Or maybe that was just for me. In any case, some of my earliest memories are sitting in the booths of the Deadwood, watching my mom play pinball, smoke cigarettes and talk to friends.

She wore long-sleeved tie-dye t-shirts and overalls that had to have been three sizes too big. Her hair was long and had yet to show signs of darkening from her natural blond color, and she wore large eyeglasses that covered not only her eyes but half her face as well. The bartenders knew both my mother and me by name and drink order.

She would do homework in the front booth, and when she needed a break, she headed over to the pinball machines in back. My mom was the Iowa Women’s Pinball Champion the one time the tournament was held, sometime in the 1990’s. She’s modest though; she says she wouldn’t have won if her friend Erin, who was a much better pinballer, hadn’t been living in Kansas at the time.

On a cold night in November 2008, 20 years after my mother first reported as a college student to the University of Iowa, I stepped into the Deadwood. Patrons smoking cigarettes lingered outside, glancing longingly at the warm indoors but forced to remain in the cold because of city ordinances requiring smoke-free restaurants and bars all throughout the city.

I walked in the front door and was carded by a friendly looking woman that I imagine my mom would have been good friends with. After receiving her age-appropriate approval, I instinctively walked to the back of the bar and found what I was looking for – a row of shiny pinball machines. I ordered a Mountain Dew and $3 worth of quarters, and slipped into the past.

All I was missing was the tie-dye shirt, the overalls and the cigarette.

Like mother, like daughter.❤️ +❤️

Teaching on the Fly

Next Issue: Learn Lee Jolliffe’s Primer for Student Travel Articles
Back By Popular Demand . . .

In the Winter Issue, Lee Jolliffe’s Travel Article Will Kick Off a Star-Studded Cast of Teachers in

A MAGAZINE MARATHON

envisioned at the AEJMC Boston Convention by Carol B. Schwalbe, Arizona State

with invited teaching tips by
David Abrahamson, Northwestern
John Fennell, Missouri
Carol Fletcher, Hofstra
Kathy Roverts Forde, South Carolina
Carol Holstead, Kansas
Sammye Johnson, Trinity
Rachael Davis Mersey, Northwestern
Sam Riley, Virginia Tech
Ted Spiker, Florida
Jill Van Wyke, Drake
Sheila Webb, Western Washington

1. Consumer Magazine Article: Places (14 entries)
Judge: Scott Stuckey, managing editor of National Geographic Traveler
First Place: “A Gateway to Our Past and a Lesson for Our Future”
   by Mary Vitale, Northwestern University
   David Abrahamson, adviser
Second Place: “Hostel Horror Stories”
   by Kevin Sirois, Boston University
   Caryl Rivers, adviser
Third Place: “Trading Franks for Doug’s: Reinventing a Chicago Classic”
   by Aynsley Karps, Northwestern University
   David Abrahamson, adviser
Honorable Mention: “Letter from George West: My First Time”
   by Nicholas Jackson, Northwestern University
   David Abrahamson, adviser

2. Consumer Magazine Article: People (36 entries)
Judge: Richard B. Stolley
   senior editorial adviser at Time Inc.
   and founding editor of People
First Place: “Deconstructing Barry”
   by Ashley Walters, Ryerson University
   Lynn Cunningham, adviser
Second Place: “The Wellington Wild Child”
   by Stephanie Dunn, University of Florida
   Ted Spiker, adviser
Third Place: “In the Sex Trade”
   by Corrie Osborn, Boston University
   Caryl Rivers adviser
Honorable Mention: “Living in the Past”
   by Natalie Moravek, Boston University
   Caryl Rivers, adviser
Honorable Mention: “The Secret Life of Anjali Patel”
   by Vinika Porwal, Northwestern University
   David Abrahamson, adviser

3. Consumer Magazine Article: Investigation and Analysis (31 entries)
Judge: Ken Collier, editor of Reader’s Digest’s Family Handyman
First Place: “One Powerful Union Tactic”
   by Carolyn Morris, Ryerson University
   Tim Falconer, adviser
Second Place: “Maria-in-the-Woods”
   by Matthew Radler, Northwestern University
   David Abrahamson, adviser
Third Place: “Hot Topic”
   by Eve Tobolka, Ryerson University.
   Lynn Cunningham, adviser
Honorable Mention: “Payday Loans”
   by Rose Raymond, University of Missouri
   Jennifer Rowe, adviser

4. Consumer Magazine Article: Service and Information (27 entries)
Judge: John Rockhold, managing editor of Mother Earth News

2009 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Student Magazine Contest

Magazine Matter | FALL 2009
First Place:
“Don’t Sweat It”  
by Alyssa Loy, Trinity University.  
Sammye Johnson, adviser

Second Place:
“A Gift From the Heart: Leaving an Ethical Road Map”  
by Marilyn Hawkes, Arizona State University  
Carol Schwalbe, adviser

Third Place:
“Your Morning After Survival Guide”  
by Tara Richards, Drake University  
Lori Blachford, adviser

Honorable Mention:
“Credit Counts”  
by Sara Shahriari, University of Missouri  
Jennifer Rowe, adviser

Honorable Mention:
“Exhale Stress, Inhale Success”  
by Ariel Tilson, University of Kansas  
Carol Holstead, adviser

5. Consumer Magazine Article: Feature (33 entries)  
Judge: Mike Sager, writer for Esquire  
and author of Scary Monsters and Super Freaks  
and Revenge of the Donut Boys
First Place:  
“No Refuge”  
by James Kindle, Arizona State University  
Carol Schwalbe, adviser

Second Place:  
“The Long Goodbye”  
by Greg Hudson, Ryerson University  
Lynn Cunningham, adviser

Third Place:  
“Pissed Off”  
by Greg Harris, Ryerson University  
Tim Falconer, adviser

Honorable Mention:  
“Linked”  
by Christiana Lilly, University of Florida  
Ted Spiker, adviser

6. Consumer Magazine Article: First Person (28 entries)  
Judge: Alison Gwinn, executive editor  
O the Oprah magazine
First Place:  
“Like Mother, Like Daughter”  
by Brittany Petersen, Northwestern University  
David Abrahamson, adviser

Second Place:  
“Once We Were Boat People”  
by Maggie Li, Northwestern University  
David Abrahamson, adviser

Third Place:  
“Senegalese Sisterhood”  
by Amy Copperman, Boston University  
Caryl Rivers, adviser

7. Specialized Business Press Article (7 entries)  
Judge: Sally Roberts, senior editor  
at Crain’s Business Insurance
First Place:  
“Maquiladoras’ Uphill Battle”  
by W. J. Hennigan, Arizona State University  
Carol Schwalbe, adviser

Second Place:  
“Where David Waits”  
by James Kindle, Arizona State University  
Carol Schwalbe, adviser

Third Place:  
“Fowl Play”  
by Celeste Sepessy, Arizona State University  
Carol Schwalbe, adviser

8. Online Magazine (10 entries)  
Judge: Nick Fauchald, editor-in-chief  
of tastingtable.com, an online food magazine  
and a former editor at Food & Wine
First Place:  
VoxMagazine.com, University of Missouri  
Jennifer Hueting, Rose Raymond,  
Lindsey Douthit, editors  
Jennifer Rowe, adviser

Second Place:  
Drake Magazine, Drake University  
Matt McGuire, editor  
Lori Blachford, adviser

Third Place:  
The Burr, Kent State University  
John Hitch, editor, Kelly Pikerel, web editor,  
Steven Hauser, webmaster  
Ann Schierhorn, adviser

Honorable Mention:  
Ball Bearings Online, Ball State University  
Mary Spillman, adviser

9. Single Issue of an Ongoing Print Magazine:  
Design (15 entries)  
Judge: Bob Gray, design consultant for aarp.org  
and former design editor at National Geographic
2009 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Student Magazine Contest

First Place:
Think, Drake University
   Annie Fuhrman, art director
   Jill Van Wyke, adviser

Second Place:
Drake Magazine, Drake University
   Margaret VanEchaute, art director
   Jill Van Wyke, adviser

Third Place:
Vox, University of Missouri
   Kristin Kellogg, art director
   Taryn Wood, assistant art director
   Jennifer Rowe, adviser

Honorable Mention:
The Planet, Western Washington University
   Emily Linroth, editor; Ryan Scott, lead designer
   William Dietrich, adviser

Honorable Mention:
HealthE: Environments, Elements, Experiences
Arizona State University
   Joshua Schoonover, editor
   Carol Schwalbe, adviser.

10. Single Issue of an Ongoing Print Magazine:
Editorial (14 entries)
Judge: Ashley Deahl, acting editor in chief
and managing editor of Phoenix Magazine

First Place: Ryerson Review of Journalism, Ryerson
   Marit Mitchell, editor
   Tim Falconer, adviser

Second Place: Think, Drake University
   Emma Barker, editor
   Jill Van Wyke, adviser

Third Place: Drake Magazine, Drake University
   Tara Richards, editor
   Lori Blachford, adviser

Honorable Mention:
HealthE: Environments, Elements, Experiences
Arizona State University
   Joshua Schoonover, editor
   Carol Schwalbe, adviser

11. Single Issue of an Ongoing Print Magazine:
General Excellence (17 entries)

Judges: Will Palmer, managing editor; Mary
   Turner, deputy editor; and Ryan Krogh,
   associate editor of Outside

First Place:
Think, Drake University
   Emma Barker, editor
   Jill Van Wyke, adviser

Second Place:
Burnt Orange, University of Texas at Austin
   Samantha Hyde, editor
   Dave Garlock, adviser

Third Place:
The Planet, Western Washington University
   Emily Linroth, editor
   William Dietrich, adviser

Honorable Mention:
O+B (Orange and Blue), University of Florida
   Melissa Jacobs and Lindsey Franco, editors
   Ted Spiker, adviser

Honorable Mention:
Panorama, University of Texas–Pan American
   Alexis Carranza and Jennifer Terrazas, editors
   Donna Pazdera, adviser

12. Start-up Magazine Project: Team (13 entries)
Judge: Roger Tremblay, executive search consultant
specializing in marketing communications
for Allen Austin Global Executive Search /
Advanced Leadership Communication in Dallas

First Place
Empty Nest, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
   Bill Cloud, adviser

Second Place:
Symmetry, Loyola College in Maryland
   Kevin Atticks, adviser

Third Place:
Hype, University of Florida
   Ted Spiker, adviser

Honorable Mention:
Blackboard Jungle, Boston University
   Caryl Rivers, adviser

13. Start-up Magazine Project: Individual (13 entries)
Judge: Gina Hamadey, travel editor
Every Day With Rachel Ray

First place:
Budget Photography
   Susan Melgren, University of Kansas
   Kara Lynch and Carol Holstead, advisers

Second place:
Vintage, Dani Hurst, University of Kansas,
   Kara Lynch and Carol Holstead, advisers

Third place:
Owner, Callie Daniel, University of Mississippi
   Samir Husni and Garreth Blackwell, advisers

Honorable Mention:
Smart Hearts, Jane Turner, University of Kansas,
   Kara Lynch and Carol Holstead, advisers

Honorable Mention:
Skin, Sarah Bluvas, University of Kansas
   Kara Lynch and Carol Holstead, advisers
EDITORS of *The Christian Science Monitor* discussed its shift from daily print to Web-first journalism in a special event taking place during the AEJMC convention in Boston. Many from the Magazine Division joined the discussion, being invited by the officers of the Newspaper Division. The meeting was in the Monitor building, just across the street from the convention hotel, and it brought back memories of the tour made by AEJMC participants at the previous Boston convention a score of years ago. Special Student/Educator Rate, $16.75 for 3 months (1-800-456-2220).
for professors,
a leisurely walk
through summer
in the nearby sights of
The Boston Commons

make way for
ducklings
Down from Fenway Park, where a number of convention goers listened to Paul McCartney put on a special performance, others enjoyed walks through the personal gardens cultivated by the Fenway Garden Society. Canada geese chucked grass and sailed in the nearby waterway. If you would like any of these pictures, please contact the editor of Magazine Matter.
FAR ABOVE: On the streets and in the surrounding bay at Boston, convention-goers joined tourists on the Amphibious “Duck Tours.”

LEFT: Flowers everywhere in nearby Fenway Park, as attendees walked to Boston University.

RED LOBSTER HATS: Lobsters are the treats for diners, as well as those who take home memorabilia to family; here, your editor with her mother, Vola Lamon-tagne.

HOWARD GOTLIEB ARCHIVAL RESEARCH CENTER: The Bettie Davis and other collections provide a place to carry out magazine research.