A message from the president

Thanks to our Michael Jordan


Name most any major institution, and you will instantly conjure one individual whose name will be forever associated with its success.

For the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications, that person is Susanne Shaw.

Susanne has been our organization’s Executive Director – and its spiritual guru, its drill sergeant, its fearless defender and its compassionate den mother – for three decades. She has steered it through the choppy waters of industry chaos, of shrinking academic budgets, of technological disruption.

Susanne has kept accreditation vital and meaningful. She has been vigilant on the importance of diversity. She has trained dozens of industry professionals and academics on meaningful assessment of university programs. She has put ACEJMC in a position of financial stability, functionality and respect.

We are at a high-water mark for the number of accredited programs, at 119, and global demand for ACEJMC accreditation and what it represents continues to grow – thanks in large part to Susanne.

Having done all that, Susanne has decided she is nearly ready to pass the ACEJMC torch. She has graciously and generously agreed to continue to serve at least into the next accrediting cycle, and to help ACEJMC through the transition to our next Executive Director. The process and timing of that is yet to be determined.

Fortunately, Dean Ann Brill of the University of Kansas’ William Allen White School of Journalism and Mass Communications – our home since 1986 – has agreed to continue to house ACEJMC.

On a personal level and on behalf of the Accrediting Council, I offer deep and heartfelt gratitude to Susanne for all she has done for education, for industry and -- most importantly -- for students. Over the coming months, we will celebrate her and her remarkable tenure. For now, please join me in thanking her.
NEW FACES ON THE ACCREDITING COUNCIL

Hopgood to represent Asian American Journalists

Mei-Ling Hopgood, a frequent freelance journalist, will represent the Asian American Journalists Association on the Accrediting Council.

Hopgood is an associate professor and the director of Global Initiatives and Evaluation at the Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University.

SPJ appoints Albarado to serve on the Council

Sonny Albarado, projects editor at the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette since 2007, will take over as Council representative for the Society of Professional Journalists. Albarado succeeds Steve Geimann, SPJ Council representative for 17 years. Geimann, who has been with Bloomberg News since 1999 and most recently financial news editor, accepted a transfer to London.

Albarado has been a member of SPJ since 1979, serving as president in 2012-13. He serves on SPJ’s national FOI Committee and on the Associated Press Media Editors’ First Amendment Committee.

Albarado was a member of the APME board from 2012 to 2015 but stepped down to accept the appointment as SPJ representative to ACEJMC.

Albarado will represent SPJ at the Council’s May 6 and 7 meeting in Chicago.

Agreed on FOI board changes

The Accrediting Council agreed to add the Freedom of Information Committee to its national board, according to an email from the SPJ national office.

The Accrediting Council will meet Saturday, March 19, and a half day on Sunday, March 20, at the Westin Hotel, 909 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

The Saturday meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in the Chicago Ballroom and end around 4 p.m. The time for Sunday’s meeting will be set when the Saturday meeting ends. Twenty-four site visit reports and one revisit report will be presented.

The hotel rate is $175 per night. Deadline for reservations is 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 18. Make reservations by calling 888 627-8385. You must ask for an Accrediting Council room to receive this rate. To make reservations online, click here or copy the following link into your browser: https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1601073690&key=109F4122

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Reservations will be set for March 19 and 20 at the Westin Hotel, 909 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

Rutenbeck appointed to lead Appeals Board

Jeffrey Rutenbeck, dean of the School of Communication at American University, will serve as chair of the Accrediting Council’s Appeals Committee. Other committee members are Deborah Potter and Debashis “Deb” Aikat.

Rutenbeck was the founding dean of the Division of Communication and Creative Media at Champlain College in Burlington, Vt., and a professor and administrator at the University of Denver.

Potter, a contributing correspondent to PBS Religion and Ethics Newsweekly, is founder and executive director of NewsLab, a non-profit resource for journalists based in Washington, D.C. The veteran journalist spent 16 years as a network correspondent at CNN and CBS News.

Aikat is an associate professor and media futurist in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Aikat’s research focuses on the impact of communication technologies and social aspects of interactive technologies.

Meeting updates

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Program updates

Dan Waechter took over Jan. 1 as interim chair of Ball State University’s Department of Journalism. Michael Holmes stepped down from the position and retired from Ball State at the end of 2015.

Sandra Lee is serving as interim head of the Department of Mass Communication at Grambling State University. Lee succeeds Edward Welch.

Lucian Dinu is now head of the Department of Communication at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Dinu succeeds T. Michael Maher, who retired and is a Fulbright Professor this semester at Primorska University in Koper, Slovenia.

Cathy Jackson is serving as interim chair of the Department of Mass Communications and Journalism at Norfolk State University. Jackson succeeds William Hart as chair.

Accrediting Council to meet May 6 and 7 in Chicago

The Accrediting Council will meet Friday, May 6, and for a half day Saturday, May 7, at the Westin Hotel, 909 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

On Friday, the Council will make accreditation decisions on 25 schools. On Saturday, the Council will conduct a business meeting. Details about the meeting room and start time, as well as information on hotel registrations and reservations, will be sent in March. The accreditation deliberations and business meeting are open but registration is requested.
2016-17 Site Visit Schedule

* Seeking initial accreditation

October
9-12 University of Missouri
Southeast Missouri State University

16-19 University of Southern California
University of Iowa
* University of North Florida

30-Nov. 2 University of Kansas
University of Mississippi
Grambling State University

November
13-16 Colorado State University
Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville
Middle Tennessee State University

January
22-25 Arizona State University
*St. Bonaventure University

29-Feb. 1 University of South Carolina
University of Colorado

February
5-8 St. Cloud State University
University of Nebraska

12-15 Drake University
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

19-22 Norfolk State University
Shippensburg University
Northwestern University

Letter to graduates promotes value of accreditation

The Accrediting Council has a letter template available for use by accredited schools to help promote the value of their accreditation. Accredited schools can send the letter to their graduates, encouraging the use of “Nationally Accredited” on resumes. The letter also explains to graduates how a degree from an ACEJMC-accredited program could be advantageous in the job market. For a copy of the letter template, contact Cindy Reinardy at creinardy@ku.edu.