



January 2018
e-newsletter

Letter from the president

Let's talk about some hopeful free-speech news today and CMA's hand in making it hopeful.

As you might remember, in December Texas State University joined the First Amendment Hall of Infamy when the university president spoke out against a controversial opinion piece in the student newspaper and the student body president threatened to cut off funding because he found the opinion to be offensive. In short order, the CMA board sent a letter to both the university and student body president to protest. For good measure, [we made the letter public](#).

As often happens, the university president wrote back to assure CMA that no censorship would take place. This was good—but it's not the hopeful part. For hope to occur, we need some indication things might get better.

And they just might.

After outcry from a wide range of free-speech advocates—CMA, of course, but also the Student Press Law Center, the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education and the National Coalition Against Censorship—the Texas state legislature decided to take action.

State legislators announced earlier this month that they would convene a hearing at the university to (in the governmental parlance that good journalists love to hate): “Ascertain any restrictions on Freedom of



See, I said that this column contained hopeful news—not “hopes fulfilled” news. We have no way of knowing how this hearing, scheduled for Jan. 31, will go. The Texas legislators could decide that university students have *plenty* of free speech. Or *too much* free speech.

CMA will be there to help, either way. When legislators take public comments, CMA Past President Kate Lawrence McCarty will be there to state the case that it is only through a free and unfettered press that students can carry out a dialogue that benefits them and their peers—to learn to be decision-makers and civic leaders. For those of you who know Kate ... well, we can assume that she won't be shy with her First Amendment advocacy. This kind of front-line action is what CMA does best.

As I've become more involved in this organization, I've become increasingly aware of how often our members volunteer to help one another and one another's students. In just the past month, our new CMA committees have helped students better navigate the intricacies of media law, advocate for the rights of school photographers in public spaces, and explore strategies for navigating a declining yearbook market.

Speech rights that Texas students face in expressing their views on campus along with freedoms of the press, religion, and assembly. Recommend policy changes that protect First Amendment rights and enhance the free speech environment on campus.”

To translate and enumerate:

1. Threats to student free-speech manifested themselves in Texas.
2. CMA and other free-speech organizations protested vociferously.
3. Texas state officials are stepping forward to protect those students’ free-speech rights.

Or so we hope.

Our members have also been able to help advisers push back against administrative efforts to impose prior review.

Most of the time, this outreach happens behind the scenes. Sometimes, however, it happens in public view, and that’s good. CMA will be there to support the University Star’s adviser, Laura Krantz, and her Texas State students. We’ll fight the good fight. We might even turn things around in one of the most conservative states in the union.

And that, I believe, is hopeful.

-- Chris Evans

New York deadlines

Feb. 9 -- deadline for hotel registration

Feb. 16 -- early bird registration ends

March 1 -- online registration ends

3 p.m. March 8 -- deadline for Apple Awards



New York conference March 7-10

More info: <http://cmanycspring.com/>

CMA NYC18 as diverse as the host city

March. It’s the best time of the year for student media, because that’s when our nation’s finest future journalists gather in New York City for CMA’s Spring National College Media Convention.

For the earlybirds who cannot wait for the excitement to start, CMA lined up a collection of compelling pre-conference sessions, including the unprecedented opportunity to cover the Big East basketball tournament at Madison Square Garden.

Experienced vets know, and newcomers soon learn, that CMANYC18 offers an assortment of engaging sessions diverse as the city that hosts the event. This year’s programming runs the gambit from covering politically-charged speakers to how to deal with fake news on social media. If it’s relevant to student media, CMA’s going to help students and advisers learn fascinating and new things about it.

This year’s keynote speakers shouldn’t be missed. Former *USA TODAY* Editor-in-Chief and author of *That’s What She Said: What Men Need to Know (and Women Need to Tell Them)* Joanne Lipman will lead a moderated discussion with Emmy-award winning journalist Lynn Walsh and Addie Zinone about dealing with

sexual harassment in the workplace. In addition, CMA will shine a spotlight on one of the world's newest beats: covering video games. Nobody covers this community better than Kotaku, and the site's Editor-in-Chief Stephen Totilo will explain how he and his staff cover this growing field.

Not only will attendees hear from interesting people doing important work, they will have plenty of opportunities to show off their skills or compete against fellow students. One of the most popular competitions, the annual Photo Shoot Out, will return this year, giving photojournalists an opportunity to photograph a city that boasts unparalleled aesthetics. Photographers aren't the only ones who get to have fun. This year marks the start of the Iron Reporter, an interactive and immersive experience for individuals or small teams that provides an experience unlike any other offered at the convention.

Truth be told, there's so many good sessions, and so little space to promote them. Pay attention to #cmanyc18 in the weeks leading up to the convention for more information on the many amazing events, sessions and speakers the convention has to offer. Perhaps your institution will be lucky to take home an Apple Award, certainly the most dazzling of all student media trophies.

With a convention this good, who's got time for sightseeing? CMA cannot wait to see you at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square March 7-10.

-- Geoff Carr

Election deadline for President-Elect is Feb. 1

Following the adoption of [new bylaws](#) at our October convention, the CMA board position of past-president is to be replaced with a new board position of "president-elect." With this change, CMA members from now on will elect a president-elect, who will serve for two years and then automatically assume the role of president.

To transition into the new board composition, CMA will hold a special election in April 2018 for the position of president-elect. This new board member will take office later that year—as president-elect—and replace the past-president as a sitting board member. This specific new president-elect will serve a one-year term in his or her position and then, in 2019, be sworn in as president.

After this one-year transition period, CMA elections will begin to take place on the odd-year voting schedule as spelled out in the revised bylaws, which you can find at [this link](#). Members will elect a president-elect, a vice president of member training and a vice president of member support every two years.

At this time, we are accepting nominations for candidates for the president-elect position. Nominations will be accepted now through February 1 [at this link](#).

If you have questions about these changes, please do not hesitate to contact Mark Witherspoon, chairman of the CMA Elections Committee, at spoon@iowastatedaily.com.

CMA elects Hartwell, Landis life-time members

The CMA board bestowed lifetime memberships to Jay Hartwell of the University of Hawaii and Debra Landis of the University of Illinois-Springfield.

The two, who retired from their university jobs last year, both contributed to CMA for many years. Landis worked on the College Media Review for about 10 years, including the last three as editor. Hartwell was more behind the scenes, serving on

committees and helping out at CMA conferences.

Lifetime memberships are “reserved for those who really have contributed to CMA in valuable ways,” said Kelley Lash, immediate past president. “Some are easily recognized, but some are not so easily recognized.”

Landis served as student publication adviser for 23 years, both the news and business side. She retired last June.

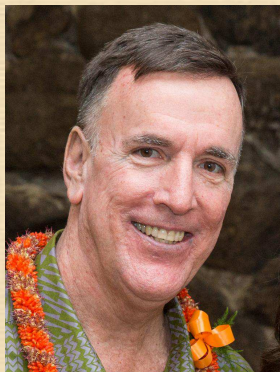
She started writing articles for CMR about 10 years ago, served as managing editor for three years and then as editor for three years.

Lash said Landis was editor during an important phase of CMR after it moved to predominantly online. “She really helped usher us into being online only,” Lash said. “She really embraced that and made it more vibrant. She brought a focus of having more regular content and that it would be shared to a bigger audience.”

Landis credits both Bill Neville and Bradley Wilson in helping her with giving the website and the annual review a fresher look. She also worked hard on getting new content up every two weeks. “It was a transition to move to online and we saw our analytics improved,” Landis said.

Hartwell, who was the student media adviser the University of Hawaii for 20 years, retired in October. He was instrumental on the bylaw committee this last year, Lash said. He will continue to serve on the committee for another two years, she said.

“He’s always been a great person...any time we need him to volunteer, he says yes and is very thorough with it,” Lash said.



Although they retired from their university jobs, neither are done with journalism.

Hartwell is involved in high school journalism contests and works with international journalism programs.

Landis, who just lost her husband Tim to coronary artery disease suddenly earlier this month, also is not done with journalism. She hopes to find a part-time teaching opportunity in the Springfield area.

Both Landis and Hartwell speak as high of our organization as the organization thinks of them.

“Like many members, I’m very grateful for all the organization has done for me and the students I have served for 20 years,” Hartwell said. “Just the listserve as a resource for support is invaluable. The conference to get training and ideas and for my students to see that they are part of a larger network of people working for journalism and through journalism.”

With the internet and CMA, he never felt isolated, even in Hawaii, he said. “We had that phenomenal collegiality.”

Landis agrees. “Joining CMA was one of the best things I ever did,” she said. “One of the best professional moves I ever did. I mean that from the bottom of my heart. It was just so valuable to me.”

-- Sacha DeVroomen Bellman

CMA member news

Meredith Taylor,

Trudi Gilfillian has joined Orange Media

our CMA executive director, has achieved the designation of Certified Association Executive, which is a credential from the American Society of Association Executives, the association for those who run associations. She joined 4,200 other executives across the country to earn this distinction.



To earn the certification, candidates need at least three years of experience working with nonprofits, 100 hours of continuing education, to pass a very stringent certification exam and to pledge the ASAE code of ethics. The material is tied to the best practices in association management, from meetings to sponsorship to governance to finance. She will continue to apply those best practices to the benefit of CMA.

Lisa Lyon Payne is the new *College Media Review* editor. She replaces Debra Landis, who edited and wrote for our review journal for 10 years. Payne is an associate professor at Virginia Wesleyan University. You can find CMR at <http://cmreview.org/>.

Network as the new Assistant Director of Journalism. Gilfillian was most recently the news adviser of Penn State's *The Daily Collegian*. Gilfillian will lead the journalism education and coaching of all of our media, and advise *The Barometer* newspaper and three magazines.

Pate McMichael is the new adviser for [Georgia College's *The Colonnade*](#), the student newspaper. McMichael is a senior lecturer, and also the author of "[Klandestine](#): How a Klan Lawyer and Checkbook Journalist Helped James Earl Ray Cover Up His Crime."

Lola Burnham, editorial adviser for *The Daily Eastern News* and interim director for Student Publications at Eastern Illinois University, presented two talks this semester on the media as represented in the Harry Potter books: "Poison Pen: Rita Skeeter, her Quick-Quotes Quill & Journalism Ethics in the Wizarding World" and "Harry Potter and the Cult of Celebrity." The presentations were part of a celebration of twenty years of Harry Potter at the university's Booth Library.

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