



PRESS RELEASE

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Danky to receive AJHA's Distinguished Service Award

The AJHA Awards Committee has announced that James P. Danky has won the rare honor of the organization's Distinguished Service to Journalism History Award.

"While it's always positive to have one's work recognized, to receive this honor from peers is very special," Danky said.

This award is reserved for those generally outside the field of academe who have made major contributions to the preservation of journalism history.

"The AJHA has given our Distinguished Service to Journalism History Award on only four occasions," said Dr. Thomas A. Mascaro, a professor at Bowling Green State and chair of the AJHA Awards committee. "Thus, it is obvious that any successful nominee must be someone who truly 'has made an extraordinary effort to further significantly our understanding of, our ability to explore, media history.' I believe Jim Danky is such an individual."

Danky, currently a faculty associate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, was responsible for the preservation of a massive newspaper collection, which he tended during a 40-year career at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, second in size only to the series at the Library of Congress.

One nominator noted Danky, "radically increase[ed] the scope of the Society's serial holdings in many new fields . . . [and] added more than 75,000 new titles during his tenure and in doing so helped to define many new areas for inquiry by historians."

Danky was particularly effective at preserving "alternative" publications, meaning that scholars now and into the future will have access to African American, Native American, Alaska natives, Hawaiian natives, Latin American, and Haitian American newspapers, among others.

"James Danky, through sheer dedication and resolve, expanded newspaper collections for the University of Wisconsin-Madison for overlooked subjects, and helped organize conferences and colloquia to expand intellectual discourse on these topics of journalism history," Mascaro said. "His long list of impressive professional services to the field of media history is truly outstanding."

Founded in 1981, the American Journalism Historians Association seeks to advance education and research in mass communication history. Members work to raise historical standards and ensure that all scholars and students recognize the vast importance of media history and apply this knowledge to the advancement of society. For more information on AJHA, visit <http://www.ajhaonline.org>.

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