



# Graduate Studies News

MARCH 2012

## Vos and Craft to Collaborate with Worlds of Journalism Study by Alecia Swasy

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Professors Stephanie Craft and Tim Vos are collaborating with colleagues from 80 countries in the “Worlds of Journalism Study.”

The centerpiece of the project is a two-year survey of journalists to gauge their views on their roles, ethical concerns and economic pressures, among other topics.

It’s believed to be the biggest cross-cultural study of its kind.

“It’s the perfect opportunity for Missouri,” Vos said. “We have a long history of educating journalists from all around the world.”

The project grew out of a pilot study of journalists in 21 countries, ranging from Australia to Uganda, completed between 2007 and early 2010. Some of the findings from the earlier study weren’t really shocking; such as journalists around the world have little trust in political parties and politicians. Still, journalists in western countries are “generally more trustful than their colleagues in non-western countries,” the study found.

The journalists surveyed seemed to agree on the basic roles, regardless of their zip codes. They practice detachment, provide political information and serve as watchdogs of government.

One area that is bound to get increased scrutiny is the changing business model of U.S. media companies. Journalists are being asked to take on more tasks, such as multi-media reporting, not just turning in a print story for the morning edition. U.S. media companies have downsized staffs and scaled back coverage and circulation.



**Stephanie Craft**

But in other countries, economic conditions have fueled more start-up media companies. Craft, Vos and graduate students will have plenty of future research ideas when the study is finished.

“This is truly a comparative study,” Craft said.

“It will produce tons of data we can spin off into separate studies.”



**Tim Vos**

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## Attention PhD Students:

J-School faculty members Tim Vos and Stephanie Craft have recently joined the Worlds of Journalism Study as the primary investigators for the United States. You can find out more about the study here: <http://www.worldsofjournalism.org/> It’s the largest ongoing comparative journalism study in our field.

If you’re interested in studying the context of journalism production and/or comparative research in journalism, you’ll likely have opportunities to assist in the project. Feel free to be in contact with Dr. Vos or Dr. Craft if you have questions.

## Dinner with a Distinguished Visiting Scholar: Joseph Cappella

On January 27th, Berkley Hudson hosted the traditional Distinguished Visiting Scholar dinner at his home. Doctoral faculty and students were in attendance, as well as our guest, Joseph Cappella, from U Penn.



## News

A series **Anna Boiko-Weyrauch** produced last year called "Why Music Matters" was picked up by NPR's All Things Considered and the first story aired recently. The rest of the stories in the series will air throughout the year. You can listen to the installment [here](#). For the first story, the producers happened to have the lead singer of the Cranberries scheduled to visit NPR, so they surprised the young man Anna interviewed about the band's influence on his life.

MA student **Ashton Botts** performed the lead role in Columbia Entertainment Company's musical, "The Spitfire Grill," last month. The show ran each weekend in February at the CEC theatre.

**Joonghwa Lee** is happy to report that he has been offered a tenure-track job at Middle Tennessee State University. Congratulations, Joonghwa!

**Maria Len-Rios** is editing a special issue of the Howard Journal of Communications that focuses on communication and health disparities. Once available, more details will be forthcoming!

We are happy to report that **You Li** has also has accepted a tenure track job at Oakland University in Michigan!

**Jon Peters'** latest article, "[Updating the Privacy Protection Act for the Digital Era](#)," was recently published in the *Columbia Journalism Review*.

**Chelsea Reynolds** has been accepted into the PhD program at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. Additionally, she has been awarded two fellowships to fund her research while there.

# Presentations

Lea Hellmueller, Tim Vos, and Mark Poepsel. "Shifting Journalistic Capital? Transparency and Objectivity in the 21st Century." Paper to be presented at the International Communication Association (ICA) conference, May 2012, Phoenix, AZ.

You Li and Lea Hellmueller. "Harm or Harmonious? The Dynamics Between the Economic and Cultural Capital in Journalistic Field." Extended abstract to be presented at the International Conference, June 2012, Santiago, Chile.

Kim Sheehan and Joonghwa Lee. "Advertising and Moral Heuristics: An Exploration of the Term 'Cruelty Free'." Paper to be presented at the American Academy of Advertising 2012 Annual Conference, March 2012, Myrtle Beach, SC.

Edson Tandoc, Lea Hellmueller, and Tim Vos. "Mind the Gap: Between Journalistic Role Conception and Role Enactment." Paper to be presented at the International Communication Association (ICA) conference, May 2012, Phoenix, AZ.

Tim Vos and You Li. "The Ad Agency and Ad Content in the 1840s." Paper to be presented at the Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference, March 2012, New York, NY.

# Publications

Frisby, C. M., & Aubrey, J. S. (2012). Race and Genre in the Use of Sexual Objectification in Female Artists' Music Videos. *Howard Journal of Communications*, 23(1), 66-87.

## MA Student Spotlight: Jodi Friedman by Alecia Swasy

Meet Jodi McFarland Friedman, one of our online master's students. Jodi is currently in Thesis Seminar, and looking to complete her master's degree program within the next year.

**Q: Tell us a bit about yourself.**

A: I toggled between Maryland and Michigan in my elementary years before settling in a small town in Michigan. I attended Hope College in Holland, Michigan, with a double-major in communication and Spanish. I landed my first full-time reporting job at the Saginaw News, in Saginaw, Michigan.. I now am the managing producer for both The Saginaw News and The Bay City Times, overseeing news content as well as entertainment and sports as part of the digital-first Mlive Media Group.

**Q: Why did you choose Mizzou for an online master's degree?**

A: I knew I wanted to resume my media studies, but the logistics of juggling a master's degree program, my three children and my full-time job seemed to preclude it. Once I saw what the University of Missouri had to offer, I didn't look at any other programs. I was honored to be

accepted into the nation's first journalism school.

**Q: What's your emphasis of study?**

A: Newsroom management. A great deal of what I have learned and am learning is applicable in my daily professional life.

**Q: Tell me about your research interests?**

A: I am using qualitative research — interviews — to understand the frequent online commenter to see what motivates and satisfies their goals for online participation. I want to better understand the way the frequent commenters view their role in journalism, their rights online and their responsibilities there as well.

**Q: What do you want to do after you receive your degree?**



A: I expect to continue to use my degree professionally. I hope to be an adjunct instructor at a college. I see a real need to share that knowledge and experiences to help journalists-in-training get the best toolkit and the right attitudes for the new media landscape.

**Q: Anything else interesting you want to mention?**

A: I love travel, having visited five of the seven continents. With three children 7 and younger, my husband and I have kept our trips closer to home in recent years. I love studying my family history and eventually would like to publish it.

## The Missouri School of Journalism

Earl English Graduate Studies Center

Missouri School of Journalism

179 Gannett Hall

Columbia, MO 65211-1200

Phone: 573-882-4852

Fax: 573-884-5302



## SUBMIT AN ARTICLE, ANNOUNCEMENT, OR ITEM OF INTEREST

Deadline for submission for the April newsletter is **Monday, March 26**. Late submissions will be included on a space- available basis, or in a following month.

Esther Thorson, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies

[Thorstone@missouri.edu](mailto:Thorstone@missouri.edu)

Martha Pickens, Academic Advisor & Fiscal  
Manager

[Pickensm@missouri.edu](mailto:Pickensm@missouri.edu)

Sarah Smith-Frigerio, Senior Academic Advisor

[Smithfrigerios@missouri.edu](mailto:Smithfrigerios@missouri.edu)

Ginny Cowell, Administrative Assistant

[Cowellvj@missouri.edu](mailto:Cowellvj@missouri.edu)

Alecia Swasy, Reporter/Writer

[as7n7@mail.missouri.edu](mailto:as7n7@mail.missouri.edu)