A message from the president

Thanks to our Michael Jordan

The Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan. “The Daily Show” and Jon Stewart. The

Name most any major
institute, 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

The Asian American Journalists Association has appointed Mei-Ling Hopgood to serve as representative to 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 assignment in London last fall.

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. Learn more about Albarado.

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.

Before becoming dean at AU in 2012, 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 News-Lab, 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.

Accrediting Committee to review 25 schools

The Accrediting Committee 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.starwood-meeting.com/events/start.action?id=1601073690&key=109F4122

The accreditation deliberations and business meetings, will be held at the Westin Hotel, 909 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

An author and freelance journalist, Hopgood has several years experience in newspapers, including the St. Louis Post Dispatch and the Detroit Free Press.

Hopgood will represent AAJA at the Council’s May 6 and 7 meeting in Chicago. Learn more about Hopgood.

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 Committee 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 reservations and registrations, 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

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>University/Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>9-12</td>
<td>University of Missouri</td>
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<td>Southeast Missouri State University</td>
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<td>University of Southern California</td>
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<td>November</td>
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<td>Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville</td>
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<td>Middle Tennessee State University</td>
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<td>January</td>
<td>22-25</td>
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<td>*St. Bonaventure University</td>
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<td>University of South Carolina</td>
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<td>University of Colorado</td>
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<td>February</td>
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<td>19-22</td>
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**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.