ASJMC members have elected Craig Freeman, Oklahoma State University, as 2021-22 ASJMC vice president.

Freeman, director of Oklahoma State’s School of Media and Strategic Communications, ran against Johnny Sparks, Ball State University. Freeman will serve as president-elect in 2022-23 and president in 2023-24.

ASJMC’s 2021-22 president, Alan Stavitsky, University of Nevada, Reno, will be installed at the ASJMC Business Meeting Thursday, Aug. 5, 11 a.m. CDT/GMT-5, during AEJMC’s Aug. 4-7 Virtual Conference. Raul Reis, Emerson College, will move up to 2021-22 president-elect.

ASJMC members also elected one ASJMC representative to the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications. James Stewart, Nicholls State University, was elected to this slot and will serve for three years. The other candidate for the Council seat was Aaron Chimbel, St. Bonaventure University.

Continuing ASJMC representatives to the Council are Lucy Dalglish, University of Maryland; Greg Luft, Colorado State University; and Kathleen McElroy, University of Texas at Austin, whose terms end in 2022.

Rochelle Ford was elected to represent large programs on the ASJMC Executive Board. The other candidate was Kathy Fitzpatrick, University of South Florida.

Felicia McGhee, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, was elected to represent small programs on the ASJMC Executive Board. Jennifer Fleming, California State University, Long Beach, also ran for this slot.

These newly elected officers will become a part of ASJMC’s Executive Board Oct. 1 when the association begins its new fiscal year.
A Note from the President

Here’s to a new look as we gear up for a new academic year.

The ASJMC website redesign is here, bright, informative and ready to go: www.ASJMC.org

Our website is the outward-facing welcome to members and all who want to know more about us and what we do. The redesign has been in the works for a while, so many thanks to the team at AEJMC/ASJMC headquarters in South Carolina for getting this up and running. If the past year has taught us anything it is your digital presence matters a lot. It is your primary, and in some situations the only, mode of communication to internal and external constituents. ASJMC is robust and continues to evolve with information and opportunities that we want to share. We hope you like the new website and will use it to stay informed and connected.

The July heatwave is on, and I hope your summer is restful and productive. A year ago, there was a lot of uncertainty in the midst of the 100 year plus global pandemic. There are still unknowns, but with the vaccines and the push to get everyone across the country vaccinated, there is light as we focus on the coming academic year. We know most universities plan to return in the fall in-person, but at what levels varies by institution. As we all start to settle back into a rhythm for our lives and campuses, we have to remain aware of requirements on our campuses such as mandatory vaccinations, masks, flex work, as well as in-person, online and hybrid courses until more is known by the end of the year and into 2022.

Below is some information we hope you will find useful:
• ASJMC will welcome new Executive Board members Aug. 5 at the virtual AEJMC Conference. Their term will start Oct. 1.
• 2021 AEJMC Virtual Conference – Aug. 4-7.

ASJMC wants to keep our programs at the center of our activities. So, the Call for Leadership webinars will return in the fall to share information and best practices for leadership and our programs. We are also staying connected to AEJMC activities and professional development opportunities for everyone to support and participate.

ASJMC will partner again with AEJMC to welcome the 2021-22 Institute for Diverse Leadership (IDL) Fellows at the Aug. 4-7 AEJMC Conference (see p. 4). We wish them the best as they start their leadership preparation journey.

The past year included ebbs and flows, but we managed to move through the water with an active and engaged Executive Board, partnership with AEJMC and other affiliates. AEJMC/ASJMC leaders decided to suspend the executive director search and reconvene at a later time (see p. 3). Amanda Caldwell will continue to serve as interim executive director and Felicia Brown as assistant director.

Your ASJMC leadership team is here to keep you connected and ready to lead wherever you are – locally, nationally and globally. Have a great summer, and we look forward to seeing you virtually in August at AEJMC.

— Gracie Lawson-Borders, Howard University 2020-21 ASJMC President
Jennifer McGill Honored with 2021 Sass Award

By Al Stavitsky, ASJMC president-elect
University of Nevada, Reno

ASJMC will honor former AEJMC and ASJMC Executive Director Jennifer H. McGill with the 2021 Gerald M. Sass Distinguished Service Award at the upcoming AEJMC conference. The award will be presented during the ASJMC Award Panel and Business Session at 11 a.m. CDT/GMT-5 on Thursday, Aug. 5.

The Sass Award recognizes outstanding service to journalism. McGill is being honored for her 37 years of service to the associations and her steadfast commitment to journalism and mass communication education. She became executive director on an interim basis in 1985, expecting to serve for only one year, and wound up serving in the leadership role until her retirement earlier this year.

McGill will speak at the award session about her favorite association experiences and the changes she has seen at AEJMC and ASJMC through the years.

The Sass award was established in 1946 by the American Society of Journalism School Administrators (ASJSA) as the Citation of Merit Award to recognize outstanding service.

Originally presented to media organizations, the award was shifted in 1978 to honor individuals. When ASJSA merged with ASJMC in 1984, the award was renamed the Distinguished Service Award.

In 1996 it was renamed the Gerald M. Sass Distinguished Service Award to honor the longtime Gannett Co. and Freedom Forum executive who was a tireless champion of JMC education.

Update on Search for AEJMC/ASJMC Executive Director

The Boards of Directors of AEJMC and ASJMC have decided to pause the executive director search.

The AEJMC/ASJMC executive director search was launched in early February and applications were under consideration. During the spring, the search committee interviewed several candidates and heard presentations from a small set of finalists.

The associations’ officers’ main goal is to find the best fit for both associations and their members, even if that means extending the timeline to resume the search in fall/winter. They are committed to a smooth transition. The boards will meet at the annual conference this August to discuss resuming the executive director search and next steps. In the meantime, please know that AEJMC/ASJMC leadership and staff are committed to you – the members we serve on a daily basis.

Amanda Caldwell, who took on the role of interim executive director effective March 16, remains in that role and continues to serve as conference manager. You may contact her anytime: amanda@aejmc.org. Felicia Brown will continue to serve as the assistant director, among her other roles including desktop publisher and Council of Divisions’ liaison. You may contact her anytime: felicia@aejmc.org. Please feel free to contact any member of the AEJMC office staff anytime: https://www.aejmc.org/home/about/contact-aejmc/
2021-22 IDL Fellows to Begin Year of Study

Fellows selected last year for the Institute for Diverse Leadership in Journalism and Communication (IDL) will begin their year-long program of study with an afternoon session scheduled for Aug. 5 during AEJMC’s Virtual Conference.

The Institute’s work was put on pause in March of 2020 due to COVID.

The Institute is co-sponsored by AEJMC and ASJMC. Its purpose is to increase racial, gender and ethnic diversity in administrative and other senior-level positions in journalism and communication education. Fellows participate in institute activities while continuing to work at their home campuses and are paired with mentors who share their administrative experiences.

Incoming IDL fellows include:
- Mia Long Anderson, Azusa Pacific University – Mentor: Bey-Ling Sha, California State University, Fullerton
- David Brown, Temple University – Mentor: Charles Whitaker, Northwestern University
- Tamara Zellars Buck, Southeast Missouri State University – Mentor: David Marshall, Morgan State University
- Moonhee Cho, University of Tennessee Knoxville – Mentor: Rachele Kanigel, San Francisco State University
- Celeste González de Bustamante, University of Arizona – Mentor: Mari Castañeda, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- Mia Guo, Ball State University – Mentor: David Perlmutter, Texas Tech University
- Ammina Kothari, University of Rhode Island – Mentor: Sarah Bonewits Feldner, Marquette University
- Gerry Lanosga, Indiana University – Mentor: Charles Davis, University of Georgia
- Ingrid Sturgis, Howard University – Mentor: Shirley Staples Carter, University of South Carolina
- Bruno Takahashi, Michigan State University – Mentor: John L. Jackson, University of Pennsylvania

Join Us

Join us for ASJMC’s following sessions to be held during AEJMC’s Aug. 4-7 Virtual Conference:
- ASJMC Current Issues Panel – Wednesday, Aug. 4, 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. CDT/GMT-5
- ASJMC Business Meeting/Sass Award – Thursday, Aug. 5, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CDT/GMT-5
- ASJMC Survey Release – Friday, Aug. 6, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. CDT/GMT-5

ASJMC 2020-21 Executive Committee

President, Gracie Lawson-Borders, Howard University • President-elect, Alan Stavitsky, University of Nevada, Reno • Vice President, Raul Reis, Emerson College • Past President, James Stewart, Nicholls State University • Executive Committee Representatives, Jennifer Henderson, Trinity University; Temple Northup, San Diego State University; Mike Wirth, University of Tennessee • ACEJMC Representatives, Lucy Dalglish, University of Maryland; Greg Luft, Colorado State University; Kathleen McElroy, University of Texas at Austin; Judy Oskam, Texas State University • AEJMC President, Tim Vos, Michigan State University • AEJMC/ASJMC Interim Director, Amanda Caldwell