



**ICIG Paper Call
2009**

By Dr. John Chapin,
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The Internships and Careers Interest Group (ICIG) seeks research paper submissions from both faculty and students for the 2009 AEJMC national convention in Boston. Papers may be on any topic related to internships and careers in communications.

At least one author of any accepted paper must be available to present the paper at the Boston convention. Student submissions must be identified as such. For multiple-authored papers, all authors must be students to qualify as a student paper.

Authors must remove any and all identifying information from their papers – the identifying material is entered in the on-line database only. Any paper submitted with the author's identifying material visible on any page will be disqualified.

Any recognized research method and citation style may be used, and all text and supporting materials should not exceed 30 double-spaced pages. Papers that have been previously presented or published, that are currently being considered for publication, or that have been submitted to another AEJMC division are not eligible.

All papers must be submitted through the AEJMC on-line process and submitted by deadline. Please see the 2009 AEJMC Uniform Call for Papers for submission instructions. All submissions must adhere to all AEJMC submission guidelines to receive full consideration. Hard copy papers or papers submitted electronically to the research chair will not be accepted. For questions, contact the ICIG research chair: John Chapin at jrc11@psu.edu

ICIG Session Schedule for Boston

Tuesday, August 4

1 p.m.-5 p.m. Internship Bootcamp

Wednesday, August 5

10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Connecting with Industry - co sponsored with SPIG

1:30p.m.-3 p.m. How to Help Students Find Their Voices - co sponsoring RTVJ session

Thursday, August 6

11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Building Cross Cultural and International Internship Programs

4 p.m.-6 p.m. Offsite media tour TBD

Friday, August 7

1:45 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Measuring Outcomes of Internship Programs - co sponsored with RTVJ

5:15 p.m.-6:45 p.m. ICIG Refereed Research

7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Members Meeting

Saturday, August 8

10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. What I Learned during My Summer Vacation . . . International Internship

Doing Your Due Diligence: Strategies for Keeping Interns Safe

By Nancy M. Somerick, Ph.D.

In a traditional classroom, students would not be put at risk to earn academic credit. The same expectations should be in place for nontraditional courses such as internships. This article presents some strategies that could help protect the intern's safety in a real-world situation.

1. Establish the philosophy that the intern should not be put at risk physically, emotionally, ethically or legally.
2. Include this philosophy in writing in an agreement that is to be signed by the intern, the intern's supervisor who is employed by an organization and by the director of the internship academic program.
3. Create a plan that can be put into effect immediately if the intern is asked to take an action that is contrary to this agreement. For example, because concerns and crises may not happen during normal business hours, the director of the internship academic program should be available to answer questions or to provide advice to the intern at any time. If the director of the internship academic program needs to consult with an appropriate authority to obtain guidance on a critical issue, a list of contacts who can provide that appropriate input should be available to the director of the internship academic program and those contacts should be available at any time as well.
4. Pretest the plan and revise it if necessary to be sure that it works.
5. Have an attorney check the agreement and the plan. Concerning safety, much can be done before the internship begins. For example, the director of the internship academic program should check to see what the intern is being asked to do during the internship, the location of the internship and the schedule that the intern is expected to follow consistently during the academic term. These and other relevant items should be agreed to in writing by the director of the internship academic program, the student and the organization's internship supervisor before the director of the internship academic program gives the student permission to register for academic credit for the internship. For example, even if a student insists, the director of the internship academic program cannot approve an internship placement for a stu-

dent in a supervisor's home during an unstructured schedule for what could turn out to be a questionable online business. Also, for a first-time placement at an organization that is unfamiliar to the director of the internship academic program, the director of the internship academic program should check the credentials of the organization and interview the person who wishes to be an internship supervisor to learn about the person's academic background and professional experience. If something does not look right, the director of the internship academic program should check further before any placement is approved. As directors of internship academic programs should know, the practice of due diligence is essential in helping keep interns safe.

Nancy M. Somerick, Ph.D. is a Professor and Director of the Internship Program at the School of Communication at The University of Akron.

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Do you have information that you would like us to include in a future issue of the ICIIG Newsletter? We are looking for articles, book reviews, tips and advice about internship and careers. If you are interested in contributing, please contact Kim McDonough, ICIIG Newsletter Editor.

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