COMM professors have new books published

Professors Debbie van Tuyll and David W. Bulla of the Augusta University Department of Communication have both just had academic books published.

Professor van Tuyll is one of three editors of *Politics, Culture, and the Irish American Press, 1784-1963*, from Syracuse University Press. Bulla is the editor of *Why Slavery Endures: Its Past, Present, and Future* from Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Both van Tuyll and Bulla have chapters in the Irish American press book. Dr. van Tuyll opens the book with a chapter titled “Seditionists and Revolutionaries: Planting the Radical Roots of the Irish American Press during the ‘Reign of Witches.’” Bulla has the second chapter in the book, and it is titled “William Duane: Globe-Trotting Seditionist of the Eighteenth Century.” Another chapter from van Tuyll is titled “John Mitchel: Transnational Journalist,” and she is co-author of the “Afterword,” along with editors Marcel Broersma and Mark O’Brien. The book evolved out of the Transnational Journalism Conference, of which van Tuyll is a co-founder with conferences having been held in Augusta; Dublin, Ireland; Montreal, Canada; and Groningen, the Netherlands.

“The value of this project is that we worked with an international team to put the book together,” van Tuyll said. “That means we have Irish, English and American perspectives on a topic that touches all three countries. It feel like we’ve been doing what we were writing about.

In the book on slavery, Bulla has written the introduction and a chapter on the relationship between President Abraham Lincoln and journalist Frederick Douglass. This book also was spun off from a conference titled Slavery Past, Present, and Future. Bulla is on that conference’s steering committee. The conference has been held in the following cities: Berlin, Germany; Innsbruck, Austria; Oxford, England; and Prague, the Czech Republic.

“I have been primarily a researcher of the Civil War press,” Bulla said, “but I wanted to branch out a little, and the slavery conference attracted my attention six years ago when I started to work on Douglass as a writer and journalist. It is a truly international and interdisciplinary conference started by Karen Bravo, the law dean at Indiana University, and it has been a joy to work with these scholars from around the world.”

Both books are global in nature, as the authors are from countries around the world. In the Irish American press book, authors are from England, Ireland, the Netherlands, and the United States. In the slavery book, authors are from Denmark, England, the Netherlands, Portugal, United Arab Emirates, and the United States.

Dr. van Tuyll also recently was on a C-SPAN3 telecast titled “Western Press During the Civil War.” This was from a panel at the 2020 Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War, and Freedom Expression, which is sponsored by the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Hubert van Tuyll, an AU history professor, also spoke on the telecast.
Debbie van Tuyll and Mary Lamonica of New Mexico State University have a contract for books on the Civil War Western and Midwestern press. Dr. van Tuyll appeared on C-SPAN3 on Jan. 30. Earlier in January, Dr. Bulla had also been on a C-SPAN3 telecast from the same research conference. His work concerned press coverage of Ulysses S. Grant’s world tour after his presidency.

“Virtually no scholarship exists on the Trans-Mississippi press in the Civil War war. We’ve literally written the book on the topic,” van Tuyll said. “We know a bit more about the Midwestern press, but it’s been dwarfed by research on the metropolitan press in the North. Showing the more typical journalism of the period is our maid objective with this book.”

Here is the link to the C-SPAN3 telecast with both van Tuylls: https://www.c-span.org/video/?507232-3/western-press-civil-war.