2023 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION CONGRESS
Making the Case for Diversity
Thursday, September 21, 2023

Welcome from the University
Dr. Ryan Fisher
Interim Dean, College of Communication and Fine Arts

Greetings from the Department
Dr. David Arant
Chair, Department of Journalism and Strategic Media

Presentation of AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award
Dr. Deb Aikat
AEJMC President, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Introduction of Lecturer
Redding Jackson
President, UofM Society of Professional Journalists

The Lecture
Prof. Otis Sanford
Former Hardin Chair of Excellence

About Otis Sanford
Otis Sanford served 12 years as the Chair of Excellence in the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media, in addition to more than 40 years of experience in the journalism field.
About the AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award

The AEJMC Equity & Diversity Award recognizes Journalism and Mass Communication academic programs that are working toward, and have attained measurable success, in increasing equity and diversity within their units. Programs must display progress and innovation in racial, gender, and ethnic equity and diversity over the previous three-year period. Created in 2009, past winners include the University of Missouri and Syracuse University.

About FIO Congress

The Freedom of Information Congress was started in 1982 by two University of Memphis journalism students, Laverne Daley and Martha Muse. These exemplary students felt it was important to enlist public support for a free press. Traditionally, the UofM Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, with the support of the Department of Journalism and Strategic Media and the Hardin Chair of Excellence in Economic and Managerial Journalism, have brought a nationally known journalist to speak about the First Amendment and issues in journalism.

PAST SPEAKERS

1984 Bernard Kalb
1985 Steve Bell
1986 Bob Schieffer
1987 Helen Thomas
1988 Douglas Kiker
1989 Judy Woodruff
1990 Hodding Carter III
1991 Daliel Schorr
1992 Peter Arnett
1993 Nina Totenberg
1994 William Raspberry
1995 Bob Simon
1996 Carl Bernstein
1997 Bettina Gregory
1998 Barrie Dunsmore
1999 Jack Anderson
2000 Bob Love
2001 Michael Hill
2002 Robin Wright
2003 Rick Bragg
2004 Anderson Cooper
2005 Thomas French
2007 David Broder
2008 Betty Nguyen
2009 Media & Race panel
2010 Mara Leveritt & West Memphis 3 panel
2012 Brian Stelter
2013 Michael Koretzky
2014 Hampton Sides
2015 Jan Schaffer
2016 Frank LoMonte
2016 Mark Tatge
2017 Tonyaa Weathersbee
2018 Daily Memphian panel
2019 Mark Russell
2020 - 2021 COVID-19
2022 Laura Faith-Kebede