

2003 – International Symposium on Online Journalism

Opening Session

Panelists:

Rosental Calmon Alves, Professor and Knight Chair in Journalism,
University of Texas at Austin

Ellen Wartella, Dean, College of Communication, University of Texas
at Austin

ELLEN WARTELLA: ... I feel very privileged to be in a place like the College of Communication - such a strong school of journalism that's interested in all of the changes going on in journalism. And I love to try to take on people who want to scapegoat the media. Because I think if there is one factor in our lives, it's that we don't have a really good handle of the multi-faceted ways in which the media are implicated in all of our lives. And we don't have a very good assessment, in particular, on the hanging nature of how these communication technologies will implicate media even further in the social, cultural, and psychological lives of Americans and others around the world.

I've talked far too long. I'm really here just to say welcome and to thank you all for coming the distances that you've come. I'm sure you'll have a very exciting and interesting day and I also want to thank Rosental for pulling all of this together along with his staff. So, welcome on behalf of the University of Texas College of Communication.

ROSENTAL CALMON ALVES: Thank you very much Ellen. Ellen has been very supportive and that's why I called her my (inaudible). I'm very glad that we have this 4th International Symposium on Online Journalism.

It's the first time we are doing this internationally and I'm very glad that we do that. Online journalism is, in fact, a global event. Actually I have never seen - we have never seen in the history of communication a new medium that has spread all over the world with such speed. This series of symposia that we have been doing here are creating a record of the emergence of this new genre of journalism. And we already have an archive that is online and other resources for research and for study of online journalism, and this symposium is going to be added to this online archive that we have. We're going to update this archive with this symposium that we're going to have today and we'll start giving this dimension of the international adoption of online journalism.

I want to thank you, very, very much, everybody for being here, especially all the panelists that so generously interrupt their busy lives to get their presentations and

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come here to beautiful Austin, Texas. I also want to thank all of you students, faculty members, and journalists for coming here. My very special thank you to Amy Schmitz Weiss, my very efficient research assistant who actually put together the website with all the archives and she is probably not here because she is finding a way to get our internet connection to work here in this building. Unfortunately we do have a problem with that. I want to thank Connie Jaregui who is our administrative assistant, and Dean Graber who is our project manager, John Lerma and everybody from the Knight Center for the Americas who are helping to put together this event.

So it's time to rock and roll. Thank you very, very much to all of you.

In a couple minutes we will start the first panel.