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*“The Media Effect:
How the News
Influences Politics and
Government”*
by
Dr. Jim Willis

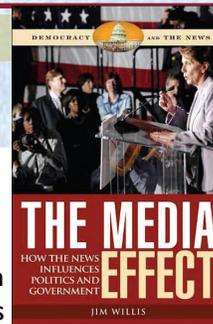
*“A Review of La
ricostruzione del centro
storico di Livorno nel
secondo dopoguerra
Atti del convegno”* by
Kieran Gaya

*In Tribute to a Great
Researcher and
Scholar:
Julie Ann Jantzi,
Ph.D.*

*“Is There a
Doctor in the House?”*
By **Carole Lambert,
Ph.D.**

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The Media Effect: How the News Influences Politics and Government by **Dr. Jim Willis**

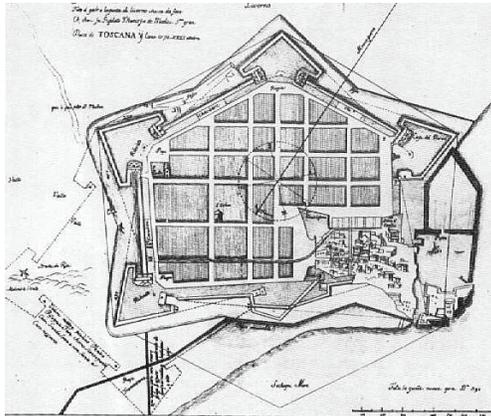


Dr. Jim Willis, Professor and Chair of Communication Studies in CLAS, explores the powerful influence of the media and its effects on the creation of public policy, as well as political campaigns and candidates running for office, and the average citizen’s understanding of government issues in *The Media Effect: How the News Influences Politics and Government* (Praeger Publishers, 2007). The premise of his book is to purport that in an age of postmodernism “news stories are not the reality themselves, only representations of reality,” yet, this still impacts government policy. These representations “have certain qualities about them including the following: (1) they are ideas conceived by their creators, (2) they are written in a structure or format designed to suit their purpose, (3) they are written in a vernacular that is appropriate for a large and diverse audience, and (4) they come closest to reality when they are accurate in fact and context.” How a journalist is “socialized” is also likely to impact his or her discretion. Willis provides a number of examples of how journalists seek to gain credibility, and a good journalist will take the time to insure both factual and contextual accuracy. This is best depicted by *The Washington Post* journalists, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, and their exposure of the Watergate cover-up by the Nixon Administration.

Dr. Willis enhances our awareness of both how journalists wield an enormous amount of power as the “gatekeepers” in determining what is and is not news, and the political ramifications of a visually technologically advanced society. The media has evolved considerably over time, from the earliest days of the American Founding in the form of newspapers and essays to our current day where news can be disseminated “real time.” Due to its easy accessibility at our every demand, we are inundated with print and visual representations of political action that can skew our opinions on issues, legislation, and politicians or candidates seeking office. Willis examines the impact of media in the modern age and how “the theatre of politics itself, rife with drama” is displayed all over the Internet, and portrayed in movies, 24 hour cable news, and MTV style journalism coverage to reach those who reject more traditional news mediums. One can look up on the Internet any candidate seeking the 2008 presidential nomination, and there will be an overabundance of information, positive or negative, about that candidate, and it is not uncommon for politicians to make use of nontraditional media, such as late night shows.

Another remarkable element of Willis’ book is the sometimes adversarial but necessary relationship or “dance” between reporters and politicians. Each uses a number of tactics to “manipulate the other into achieving its different goals.” Focusing on the federal government’s relationship with the media, Willis examines the presidents of the modern era (Wilson to G.W. Bush) and how they have handled interfacing with the press. Some have been more successful than others, but each administration has had to endure “extreme media scrutiny.” In order to focus more specifically on the impact of the news media, he devotes an entire chapter to the government’s ability to conduct war in the media age, beginning with WWII to the current war in Iraq. He reiterates the long standing truism “that it is difficult for American government to sustain a long war in the face of intense media scrutiny.” Presidential administrations need the media to convey and promote the rationale of war to the American public; however, the media can also be an obstacle to rallying support due to how it chooses to cover the war by using graphic stories or photos. This has been and will continue to be an ongoing struggle between these two institutions. Dr. Willis’ engaging coverage of such a relevant topic since we are currently in a time of war and in the midst of a presidential election year, is certain to provide a deeper understanding and insight into how we perceive the powerful media establishment.—Abbylin Sellers

A Review of La ricostruzione del centro storico di Livorno nel secondo dopoguerra Atti del convegno by Kieran Gaya Assistant Professor of Art History



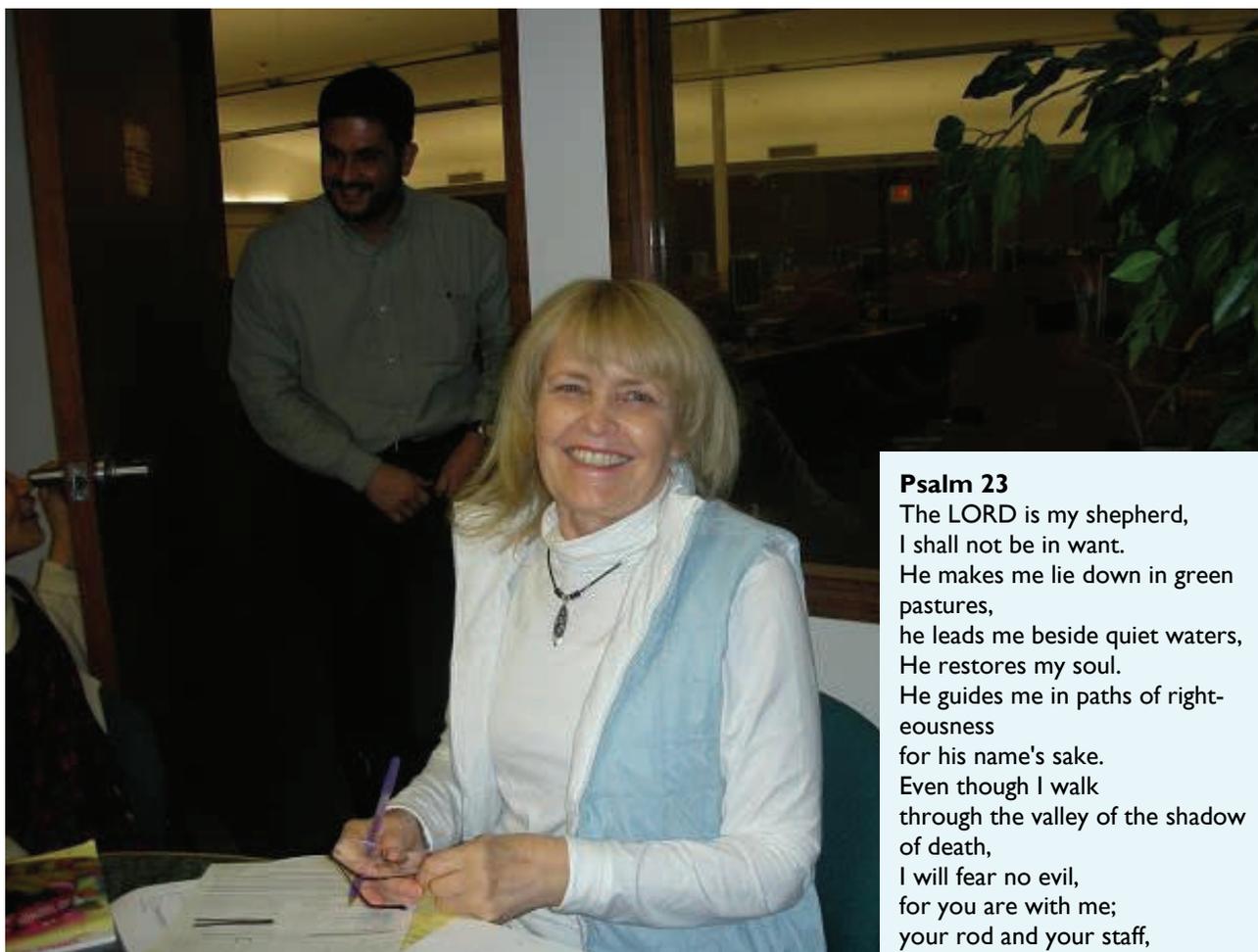
Kieran Gaya, Assistant Professor of Art History, has published in Italian a review of *La ricostruzione del centro storico di Livorno nel secondo dopoguerra Atti del convegno* (Livorno, 20-21 aprile 2001), edited by Alessandro Merlo (Firenze, Alinea, 2006). Professor Gaya highlights particular contributions made by the authors in this collection, especially noting those of Alessandro Sonetti and Riccardo Ciorli who dare to investigate urban architecture of the fascist period when such studies are often either ignored or simplified, due to a certain post World War II shame associated with that epoch. There was shame linked to the fascist government interventions, even though many of these tried to respect Livorno's Renaissance ideals, because of the "failed" policies of fascism

and the desire to omit that part of Italian history. Livorno in Tuscany was founded by the Medici family to serve as a free port for their own trade and commerce on the Mediterranean, Pisa having belonged to Siena. This entire scholarly collection of articles systematically traces the founding of Livorno before the War through its reconstruction after the War up to its present, including hypotheses about its future. Replete with maps and facts, as well as theories, this text will provide important data for students, historians, architects, and urban planners. Professor Gaya, in few words, notes its highlights and contributions to the ongoing academic inquiries into living spaces influenced by politics. His review is found in *Nuovi Studi Livornesi* (Vol. XIV, 2007, pp. 314-315).—Carole Lambert



In Tribute to a Great Researcher and Scholar: Julie Ann Jantzi, Ph.D. 1945-2008

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is
the death of his saints." Psalm 116:15



Psalm 46:1-2

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.

Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd,
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green
pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
He restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of right-
eousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow
of death,
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love will
follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of
the LORD



**“Be still and know
that I Am God.”
Psalm 46:10**

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Office of Research Mission Statement:

Our purpose is to assist faculty and doctoral students with their research and dissemination endeavors and to promote an academic climate that celebrates and strengthens the Azusa Pacific University community of Christian scholars and researchers.



Is There a Doctor in the House?

Quietly behind the scenes APU’s Doctor of Physical Therapy graduate students are doing much to ease the pain and increase the healing of the ill. Their research findings were shared with medical doctors at the prestigious American Academy of Orthopedic and Neurological Surgeons convention in Las Vegas last August. Armia Abdo and Enrique Mendoza communicated to the physicians the very positive effects of electrical stimulation and heat on the ulcers that refused to heal of diabetics while Lindsay Littleton and Erin Broadwell, in a small preliminary study, demonstrated that Actos can speed up the healing process of wounds suffered by Type II diabetics.

Contributing to the ongoing efforts of many to combat obesity, Luke Gentry, Vincent Kambe, and Tamara Billings both presented their research in Las Vegas and then published an article in *The Journal of Applied Research* (Vol. 7, No. 1, 2007) which shows that a careful combination of muscle strength training, isometric toning exercises, and mild dieting can reduce weight and inches. Stefanie Leyva and Monique Charbonnet provide evidence that Glucomannan taken by mouth before meals does decrease weight as well as lower cholesterol.



These and twenty other D.P.T. students received grants facilitated by the Office of Research to present their research to the orthopedic and neurological surgeons. Thanks to their competent and compassionate mentors, Michael Laymon, Jerrold Petrofsky, and Wendy Chung, they represented BAS and APU well as they contributed to the healing of patients in the future. They also gained confidence in themselves as both researchers and caring physical therapists—

Office of Sponsored Research & Grants Mission Statement:

Our purpose is to support Azusa Pacific University’s mission in the pursuit of academic excellence and the advancement of knowledge by striving to consistently meet or exceed expectations in services provided to faculty, project directors, the University community, and external funding sponsors, and by providing consistency in administrative systems and processes.