

The Bulletin

The newsletter for student journalists and advisers across Georgia



January 2016

Volume 86, Issue 1

Important Dates:

February 26

THE BIG DEADLINE

General Excellence

Newspaper, Newsmagazine,
News Website, Broadcast,
Literary Magazine (fall) and
individual entries

Georgia Champion Journalist,
Junior Champion Journalist and
GSPA Achievement Awards

March 4-6

SIPA Annual Convention
Downtown Marriott
University of South Carolina
Columbia, S.C.

March 28

Broadcast News Digital Workshop
Grady College
The University of Georgia
Athens, Ga.

April 14

GSPA Awards Ceremony
The Classic Center
Athens, Ga.

April 14-17

JEA/NSPA Convention
Los Angeles, California

July 5 - 10

Georgia Journalism Academy
The University of Georgia
Athens, Ga.

GSPA General Excellence

Awards Ceremony returns, ONE deadline for entries

ATHENS — After a record number of entries last year, GSPA is returning to one deadline for all newspaper, newsmagazine, news website and broadcast competitions.

The *postmark* entry deadline is Friday, Feb. 26 for General Excellence newspaper, news website, broadcast news, literary magazine (round one) and individual contests. Also, Feb. 26 will be the the deadline for Georgia Champion Journalist, Junior Champion Journalist and the GSPA Achievement Awards.

Awards for the above categories will be announced at the GSPA Awards Ceremony, held Thursday, April 14 at The Classic Center in Athens. Information about the awards ceremony will be available in February.

Individual and general excellence competitions for yearbooks and literary magazines will be held in the summer, and awards will be distributed at the fall conference. Information about literary magazine and yearbook individual entries will be published in the next issue of *The Bulletin*.

Please read all relevant information about your category before submitting your entry. Following is a list of "frequently asked questions." If there are questions that aren't addressed in this *Bulletin*, please contact the GSPA office at 706-542-5022 or joedennis@uga.edu.

Q: Are there any changes this year?

A: Yes. There is ONE deadline -- Feb. 26 -- for all GSPA "spring" contests.

Q. I'm a new adviser. What is this?

A: An important offering of GSPA

are annual contests and critiques. As the only state organization offering such services, we hope you'll consider entering the appropriate contests so your staff can get the feedback and recognition they deserve.

Q: What's the point of entering?

A: The feedback you and your students receive offers a professional opinion on what you are doing well, and where there is room for improvement. It's part of the educational experience of journalism. Plus, awards are always a great motivator for students, and a resume builder for both students and teachers.

Q: Why is there no information about yearbook General Excellence and literary magazine and yearbook individual entries?

A: The yearbook and literary magazine General Excellence, and individual entry, deadlines are June 30. Information and forms will be available in the March *Bulletin*.

Q: Who are the judges?

A: GSPA judges are professional journalists, former journalists, and journalism faculty and graduate students from the Grady College. Each judge receives guidelines from GSPA before evaluating student work. To ensure quality work, all judges are offered pay.

Q: What is the GSPA Awards Ceremony?

A: The Awards Ceremony is an annual spring luncheon banquet held for newspaper, newsmagazine, news web sites and broadcast staffs that have entered into the GSPA competitions.



General Excellence

Guidelines for newspaper, newsmagazine, website entries

Newspaper and newsmagazines are judged twice in the General Excellence critique service and competition each year. During the contest, one set of judges evaluates the entire publication, provides comments for the staff and assigns a score. Another set of judges rates portions of the publication such as the front page, editorials or sports, and awards "best of" recognition.

Staffs that follow a newsmagazine format should note that on their entry form. Newsmagazines, as defined by the National Scholastic Press Association, are publications that consistently use cover art devoted to one story and/or a dominant piece of artwork. Newsmagazines also tend to use longer, more feature-style writing. The same criteria is used for judging both newspapers and newsmagazines.

Individual students do not submit their work in the General Excellence category. Instead, they compete in a separate competition (see information on pages 6-9).

General Excellence

Judges for this category review **two** entire issues of an entered publication from the 2015-2016 school year. Typically, they review the most recent issue critically, and evaluate the other issue for consistency. An evaluation book is filled out for each school. Based on the judges evaluation, the publication will receive a general excellence rating: merit, achievement, excellent or superior.

Categories, based on school size and type of publication, are:

Newspapers

Schools are divided into small, medium and large schools (using the Georgia High School Association classification) and awards will be given within each division.

Newsmagazines

Newsmagazines are divided into two categories — small and large — using GHSA classification. Special

emphasis is given on feature reporting and design.

News Websites

News websites are broken into two categories — small and large — and have a separate evaluation guidebook emphasizing journalistic principles while also taking into account design, ease of navigation, interactivity and use of social media.

Newspaper/Newsmagazine "Best of" Awards

Judges also award prizes in the following special categories as part of the General Excellence judging:

Best News Coverage:

Articles report, but do not interpret, events that have news value and timeliness to the readers.

Best Features Coverage

Series of stories includes human interest, entertainment or information.

Best Editorial/Opinion Coverage

Editorial pages will be judged on reader interest, originality, appropriateness, clarity of purpose and effectiveness. Content should include staff editorials, columns, reader engagement and art.

Best Sports Coverage:

Effective and equal coverage of sports, related features and columns and impact on the student audience.

Best Photojournalism:

Use of photographs throughout an issue will be evaluated.

Best Advertising Design:

Creativity, content, design and overall use of space will be evaluated.

Best Front Page:

Front pages will be evaluated for content, design, photos, the use of graphic elements and the effective use of space.

Best Overall Design:

Publication that shows the most creative, consistent and reader-friendly design throughout issues.

HOW TO SUBMIT ENTRIES:

NOTE: GSPA Contests are provided as both a learning tool and a way to recognize the excellent work produced by Georgia students and their advisers throughout the school year. Guidelines are set to ensure efficiency in processing of entries.

- ☐ All entry materials must be postmarked by Feb. 26, 2015. No late entries will be accepted.
- ☐ Staffs competing in this contest must be 2015-2016 members of GSPA. If your staff is not a current member, please submit a membership form (available at www.gspa.uga.edu) and the membership fee.
- ☐ Complete a contest entry form (page 3).
- ☐ Complete a media information form (Page 5).
- ☐ Submit the \$40 contest entry fee (or \$35 critique only fee).
- ☐ Send three copies of your **two** best issues printed during the 2015-2016 school year and/or the URL link to your website.

There's no need to select entries for the special categories contests, such as "Best Editorial Page." Your paper will be judged automatically in the special categories.

Questions? Send an e-mail to: gspa@uga.edu

Official Entry Form**GSPA General Excellence Contest 2016**

Please attach this form to your contest entry materials. Use a copy of this form for each contest you intend to enter. Individual student entries require a separate form. **Type or print neatly.**

School Name: _____ Adviser's Name: _____

Publication Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____

School/Staff Room Phone: (_____) _____ School/Staff FAX: (_____) _____

Adviser or Staff E-mail Address: _____

Please indicate which contest(s) you are entering:
(NOTE POSTMARK DEADLINES -- NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper (February 26, 2016) | <input type="checkbox"/> Literary Magazine, Fall Issue (February 26, 2016) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsmagazine (February 26, 2016) | <input type="checkbox"/> Broadcast TV News Program (February 26, 2016) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> News Website (February 26, 2016) | |

Please indicate what materials you are sending with this entry form:

Contest Entry Materials and Fees:

- ☐ Media Information Form
- ☐ \$40 Contest Entry Fee
- ☐ \$35 Critique Only Fee

*member will not receive a rating certificate, have their rating published or be recognized at the Awards Ceremony

Materials to be Evaluated:

- ☐ Three copies of the two best newspapers or news magazines for the 2014-15 school year:
(Please list publication dates.)

_____, _____

☐ News Website URL: _____

☐ Two copies of a published Literary Magazine.

☐ Two DVD copies (or online url) of television news program.

Return this form, along with a media information form and contest materials to:

GSPA Contests, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, 120 Hooper Street, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018.

*GSPA is not responsible for entries lost in the mail.
Use of a certified mail delivery service is recommended.*

For office use only:

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Date rec.	Check#	Total Amt. Paid/Late fee	Processed?	Initials

General Excellence

Guidelines for broadcast news entries

Contest submissions in the broadcast news General Excellence categories are judged on their news value and their coverage of school activities. Judges consider the quality of broadcast writing and reporting as well as the depth and variety of coverage of student activities and interests.

Judges also consider the format of the broadcast, including appropriateness of the program to the material carried, evidence of recognition of the relative value of the different news items to the audience and a creative approach to format within the realms of good news reporting and production quality.

If your school is given five minutes or more a week or month for students to report school news, this is considered a student TV program for GSPA purposes (provided that students gather and write the news or feature material and serve as on-air correspondents and anchors). Newscasts over school public-address or closed-circuit TV systems, videocasts, broadcast over the web, also qualify.

To submit entries:

- ☐ All entry materials must be postmarked by **Feb. 26, 2016**. *No late entries will be accepted.*
- ☐ Staffs competing in this contest must be 2014-15 members of GSPA.
- ☐ Complete a contest entry form (page 3).
- ☐ Complete a media information form (page 5).
- ☐ Submit the \$40 contest fee (or \$35 critique only fee).
- ☐ Submit two copies of any two news programs produced during the current school year. (Entries should be on DVD.)

Individual Student entries

All individual student entries, including those from broadcast, must be postmarked by Feb. 26, 2016. Follow submission guidelines on pages 6-8.

Guidelines for literary magazine entries

Literary magazines are judged for General Excellence.

Judges consider the overall artistic impression, theme, effectiveness and content of the magazine.

All magazines are entered in the General Excellence category.

Please note the two deadlines for the general excellence literary magazine contest: Feb. 26, 2016 (for fall issue) and June 30, 2016.

Entries by the Feb. 26 deadline will be evaluated and returned by the April 14 Awards Ceremony and awarded their ranking certificates at the ceremony. Entries by the June 30 deadline will be returned with their certificates in August.

To submit entries:

- ☐ All entries must be postmarked by **Feb. 26, 2016 or June 30, 2016**.
No late entries will be accepted.
- ☐ Staffs competing in this contest must be 2015-2016 members of GSPA.
- ☐ Complete contest entry form (page 3).
- ☐ Complete a media information form (page 5).
- ☐ Submit the \$40 contest fee (or \$35 critique only fee) for each contest.
- ☐ Submit two copies of one issue printed during the 2015-16 school year. If you plan to enter more than one issue, you must submit two media information forms, two contest entry forms and you must pay the \$35 critique fee for each issue.

Individual Student entries

The deadline for all literary magazine and yearbook individual student entries will be June 30, 2016. Please note individual entries sent before then will be held for the June 30 deadline.

*Information and entry forms for the 2015-16 yearbook general excellence contest
will be published in the March issue of The Bulletin.*

Media Information Form **GSPA General Excellence Contest 2016**

A separate media information form MUST be attached to each contest entry. Please type or print neatly.

Name of Publication, Website or Broadcast Program: _____

School: _____ City: _____

MEDIA CATEGORY:

☐ Newspaper ☐ Newsmagazine ☐ Website ☐ Broadcast News ☐ Literary Magazine ☐ Yearbook

Total School Population: _____ Number of students on regular staff: _____

PUBLICATIONS:

What design software is used? _____ How many issues per year are published? _____

How is the publication distributed? _____

BROADCAST PROGRAMS:

What production software is used? _____ What is the average length of program? _____

How is the program distributed/viewed: _____

WEB SITES:

What web publication software (if any) do you use? _____

How often is your website typically updated? ☐ Daily ☐ Multiple Times a Week ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly

FINANCING:

Cost per issue/program: \$ _____ Cost per year: \$ _____

Amount from school/administration: \$ _____ Amount from sales/subscription: \$ _____

Amount from advertising per year: \$ _____ Base ad rate: \$ _____ per _____

Amount from other sources (explain): \$ _____

WORK DISTRIBUTION:

Percentage of work done by students: _____ Percentage of work done by adviser: _____

Percentage of work during class: _____ Percentage of work after school hours: _____

Percentage of photos taken by students: _____ Percentage of photos taken by professionals: _____

PRIMARY SOURCE OF PRODUCTION:

☐ First-year journalism class ☐ Experienced journalism class ☐ Student volunteers/extracurricular

Is your publication subject to prior review by a school administrator? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Return this form with your entry form & materials to:

**GSPA Contests, Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication,
120 Hooper Street, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018**

Individual Student Contests

Categories and guidelines

GEORGIA scholastic
PRESS
association

*There is a \$3 fee per entry for individual student contests. Unless otherwise noted, entries are limited to **THREE per staff, per category**. Staff members should work with their fellow staffers and adviser to select the three best individual pieces from your staff per category. Please see pages 7-8 for entry form and rules. Entries that do not follow guidelines properly will be disqualified.*

Judging procedure

Individual categories are designed to recognize outstanding achievement by individual staff members. The best entry deemed by judges will be recognized as All-Georgia. Other top entries will be designated Superior. Please note the descriptions and outlines for all categories. *Some categories require the submission of more than one piece of work.* All entries will be judged on accuracy, completeness, fairness, creativity, clarity, precision and appropriate form.

BROADCAST

For the following categories, please submit the entry on DVD or a url link. Include only the individual entry on the recording (not the entire show), however multiple individual entries may be included on one DVD.

B1. News Package

One news story (versus sports coverage or feature stories) produced by a broadcast student may be submitted. Entries will be judged on news value, reporting/writing and format.

B2. In-depth News/Documentary

This category is for documentary-style packages with emphasis on research, interviewing and analysis.

B3. Feature Package

Acceptable feature package types include human interest, descriptive, personality profiles, informative and how-to stories.

B4. Production

This category includes non-news pieces that are heavy in production qualities. Acceptable entries include music videos, mini-movies, TV shows or PSAs.

B5. Sports Package

This category can include both broadcast sports news and sports feature packages.

NEWSPAPER/NEWSMAGAZINE/ NEWS WEBSITE

For the following categories, please submit a copy of the entry as it appeared in the publication or website from the 2014-15 school year, pasted on an 8.5x11 paper. Please do not affix entries to posterboard.

6. News Story

News stories should report but not interpret events that have news value and timeliness to the publication's readers. This category includes advance and follow-up stories.

7. In-depth News Story

Stories should be in-depth and interpretive, characterized by the use of background information and should inform or instruct the reader. The elements "why" and "how" should be examined. Stories may lack the timeliness of news stories and may lack dependence on a specific news event.

8. Feature Story

Acceptable feature story types include human interest, descriptive, informative and how-to stories. Please note the separate category for profiles (below).

9. Feature Profile

Feature stories focusing on one individual's life, accomplishments, story, etc.

10. Column Writing

Columns must carry bylines or other writer identification and appear in every issue or on a regular basis. A series of

columns throughout the year stapled together is considered one entry. All columns (entertainment, humor, etc.) that are not sports columns or editorial commentary (see below) may be entered in this category.

Exactly two columns by a single writer qualify as one entry. Single column entries will not be accepted.

11. Opposing Viewpoints Column

Opposing Viewpoints Columns represent the opinions of two writers on a singular topic.

12. House Editorials

House editorials should represent the opinion of the staff, editors or editorial board on a timely news matter of concern to the school, community, state, nation or world. In addition to providing the viewpoint of the staff, editorials provide facts and reasoning behind the opinion. House editorials are not bylined, signed or initialed, or in any way identified as being the opinion of a writer(s).

Exactly two house editorials qualify as one entry. Only one entry per staff accepted.

13. Commentary (Op-Ed Columns)

Commentary, or op-ed columns, should represent the opinion of the writer on a timely news matter of concern to the school, community, state, nation or world. Commentary should be bylined or otherwise identified as being the opinion of a particular writer(s).

Exactly two columns authored by the same writer(s) qualify as one entry.

Individual Student Contests

Categories and guidelines

GEORGIA scholastic
PRESS
association

14. Critical Review

Reviews should present opinions, observations and evaluations of films, books, television programs, recordings, concerts, plays, restaurants and other things of interest to the paper's market.

15. Sports News Story

Sports news stories should report but not interpret events that have news value and timeliness to the publication's readers. This category includes advance and follow-up stories. Please note separate category for sports game coverage.

16. Sports game coverage

On-the-spot coverage of a single sports event (i.e., game, match or meet) or tournament.

17. Sports Feature Story

Stories may include human interest, personality profiles, informative and interpretative ("why") features related to sports topics.

18. Sports Column

Column must be related to sports about a sports-related issue and carry the author's byline.

19. Headline Writing

Headlines should accurately reflect the content of stories without repeating the lead, and should draw readers into the story. Please include the articles for which the entries serve as headlines. *Submit at least three headlines written by the same student.*

20. Caption Writing

Captions should contain sufficient information about the people and action in the photograph, without stating the obvious. Please include the photographs. *Submit captions for three photographs, all written by the same student.*

21. Editorial Cartoon

Original artwork serving as news commentary. Each editorial cartoon counts as a separate entry.

22. Sports Photograph

Any non-portrait photo directly related to sporting events may be entered.

23. News Photograph

Photos in this category should be non-portrait, non-sports photos of on-the-spot coverage of an event that has news value and timeliness.

24. Feature Photograph

Photos should be non-portrait, non-sports photos that create a special effect or entertain, appeal to the emotions and accompany a feature story or stand alone on a page with a cutline.

25. Photo Essay

This category is for descriptive stories told through numerous photographs. Submit the full page, including the headlines, copy, photos and captions along with the original photographs. The entry will be judged on the quality of the photographs, copy and layout. Please include the names of all students

who worked on the photo essay.

26. Information Graphic

This category includes artwork or information graphics used to enhance any news, feature or sports article. Submit tear sheet showing how the graphic was used with the original.

27. Illustration

This category is for hand-generated artwork created by a single student. Non-editorial cartoons from newspapers are accepted in this category. Illustrations that are part of information graphics should NOT be entered in this category.

28. Photo Illustration

Photo illustrations (photos manipulated for artistic purpose or to illustrate an idea) fall into this category. Submit tear sheet showing how the graphic was used with the original.

29. Double-truck layout/design

Centerspread layouts will be judged on content, design, originality and overall use of space.

30. Advertising Design

This category includes student-designed and student-written advertisements. Judging will be based on originality, creativity, design, appeal and perceived effectiveness.

How to submit entries:

- ☐ Unless otherwise noted, each GSPA member STAFF may submit up to THREE entries per category.
- ☐ Each writing entry must be clipped out of the publication it appeared in and pasted neatly on a sheet of unlined 8 1/2 x 11 white paper. Please place only one story, column, etc. to each sheet. For large entries, fold the entry to fit the entry form. Entries for magazines and overall design may be oversized. Please do not affix entries to posterboard. Do not submit a disc copy (with the exception of broadcast).
- ☐ Make copies of the entry form on page 8, fill it out and attach one entry form to each entry. Entries that do not include the \$3 entry fee will not be judged. Please indicate on the entry form if the fee is being paid with the staff's overall contest fees.
- ☐ GSPA is not responsible for items lost in the mail. Use of a certified mail delivery service is recommended. Due to the volume of entries received, GSPA cannot return entries.

Official Entry Form**GSPA Individual Student Entry 2016**

PLEASE NOTE -- There is a \$3 fee per entry for individual student contests, and entries are limited to THREE per staff, per category. Staff members should work with their fellow staffers and adviser to select the three best individual pieces from your staff per category. Entries that do not follow guidelines properly will be disqualified.

Story/student Information:

Headline/Title: _____

Publication name: _____ Issue date: _____

Student name: _____

Phonetic Spelling of name: _____

(for announcement at GSPA Awards Ceremony if entry is selected as superior)

Year: ☐ Senior ☐ Junior ☐ Sophomore ☐ Freshman

Name of Publication/Program _____

School _____ City _____ County _____

Media type: ☐ Newspaper/newsmagazine ☐ Website ☐ Literary Magazine* ☐ TV News ☐ Yearbook***Literary magazine and yearbook individual entry deadlines is June 30.*

Which category are you entering? (Please list the category exactly as it appears in the guidelines on Pages 6-8).

Category # (required): _____ **Name of Category** _____**Adviser's Certification:**

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, this is the original work of the student named on the entry form.

Adviser's signature: _____ Date: _____

Adviser's name (Please print): _____

Entry Fee: ☐ I have enclosed the \$3 fee with my entry.
☐ The entry fee is included with the overall contest fees for my staff.

Please attach this form to your entry and return to: GSPA Contests, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, 120 Hooper Street, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018.

POSTMARK DEADLINE: February 26, 2016

Champion High School Journalist Award Guidelines

Co-sponsored by the Georgia Scholastic Press Association and the Journalism Education Association

The **Georgia Champion Journalist Award** is given to the top high school senior journalist in the state. Each state selects a champion journalist, the contest winners from each state competition are sent to the national level. Portfolios are judged at the spring national JEA/NSPA convention (which will be held in Denver this year), and winners are announced at the convention's concluding awards ceremony. Scholarship funds named for Sister Rita Jeanne, JEA's longtime treasurer — \$3,000 for first place and \$850 for six runners-up — are released when a student enrolls in a college journalism program. Students entering the national contest must have an adviser who is a JEA member. The winner of the state award receives a \$150 prize and a plaque from GSPA and will be recognized at the April 14, 2016 Awards Ceremony. There will be one runner-up prize of \$75.

The **Junior Champion Journalist Award** recognizes the top high school junior journalist in the state. The winner receives a \$100 prize and a plaque from GSPA and will be recognized at the April 14, 2016 Awards Ceremony. There will be one runner-up prize of \$50 awarded. *Please note: the Junior Champion Journalist Competition is not affiliated with JEA, however entry guideline should follow the same criteria.*

Requirements

- Applicant's adviser must be a current JEA member.
- Applicant must have participated in student media for a minimum of two years.
- Applicant must have a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Students applying for JEA's Journalist of the Year must complete the requirements listed below as a part of their portfolio.
 - Official high school transcript.
 - Action photo or video of applicant performing work in student media.
 - Three letters of recommendation from adults who know the applicant well and can testify to the applicant's journalistic achievements. Letters should be no longer than two pages.
 - Personal resume.
 - Self-analytical essay no longer than two pages.

Portfolio Guidelines

All portfolios must follow JEA guidelines for entries found at www.jea.org => "Awards & Contests" => "Journalist of the Year"

Entrants must develop an online portfolio of their work.

1. Using a website platform like WordPress, Weebly or Wix, candidates should create an online portfolio for examples of their work.
 - No personal information should be included in your online portfolio.
 - Work examples are part of presentation where candidates can showcase their progress over time as a student journalist.
 - Applicants can choose any platform they wish to present their work examples.
 - Broadcast/video samples should be no longer than 15 minutes in length.
2. Work examples in the online portfolio should be organized according to the following 11 categories: Design, Editing, Entrepreneurship, Law and Ethics, Leadership and Team Building, Multimedia Broadcast, News Gathering, News Literacy, Photojournalism, Web, Writing.
3. Each work example for the portfolio must be labeled with the applicable category, evidence of usage/publication of example, awards/contests entered and an explanation/reasoning for each example.
 - Explanation/reasoning – includes the applicant's explanation about the specific assignment. Include any difficulties encountered with the assignment and special circumstances affecting it. Explanation should be 25-50 words in length, easy to read and should explain why this entry is important and was chosen for the portfolio.
4. The applicant's personality should be evident in the entry. The student should choose a design/concept for the portfolio.
5. Your self-analytical essay, resume, three letters of recommendation, official transcript and action of photo of yourself doing journalistic work **SHOULD NOT** be published in your online portfolio. That information should be mailed to the GSPA office with a completed application form.

Deadlines

Mail your entry form and supporting materials to: GSPA: Journalist of the Year Award, 120 Hooper Street, Athens, GA 30602-3018.

Entries must be postmarked by Feb. 26, 2016.

GEORGIA CHAMPION HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALIST/ JEA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

Which contest are you entering? ☐ Georgia Champion Journalist (seniors only) ☐ Junior Champion Journalist (juniors only)

URL of Portfolio _____

Name _____

Phoenitic Spelling _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Parent (s)/Guardian (s) Names _____

School _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

School Phone (_____) _____

Adviser _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Hometown Newspaper _____

Street Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

How long have you been involved in journalism? ☐ 1 year ☐ 2 years ☐ 3 years ☐ 4 years ☐ More than 4 years

Do you plan to enroll this year in a university journalism degree program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

List colleges you are considering in order of preference. If you have definitely decided which school you will attend, list only that college.

College	Accepted	Definitely Will Attend
1. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

CHECKLIST

- ☐ Website portfolio is published and ready for visitors.
- ☐ I am including an action photo of me doing something journalistic.
- ☐ I am including a copy of my transcript.
- ☐ I am including three letters of recommendation from people who understand my journalistic experience.
- ☐ I am including my self-analytical essay (not more than two pages).

Verification

The information submitted here and included in my online portfolio is accurate to the best of my knowledge and represents my original work.

Sign here: _____

2014-15 Yearbook & Literary Magazine Awards

General Excellence and individual awards for 2014-15 yearbooks and literary magazines were announced Oct. 29 at the GSPA Conference.

Yearbook All-Georgia

- Summit, Mountain View H.S.

Yearbook General Excellence

- Tiger, Dawson County H.S.
- Phoenix, Woodward Academy
- The Pride, Starr's Mill H.S.
- Summit, Mountain View H.S.

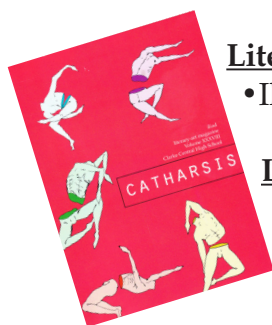


Literary Magazine All-Georgia

- Illiad, Clarke Central H.S.

Literary Magazine General Excellence

- Illiad, Clarke Central H.S.
- Threshold, North Forsyth H.S.



Yearbook Individual All-Georgia

- Story: Kaden Doerksen, Boxing Ring, Beacon, Calvary Day School
- Special Interest Story: McKenzie Strickland, On One Hand, Beacon, Calvary Day School
- News Photo: Brooks Triplett, Summer, Calvary Day School
- Feature Photo: Grayson Parsons, Princesses for the Day, Beacon, Calvary Day School
- Sports Photo: Josh Gilbert, Baseball Dominant, Mountain View High School
- Portrait Photo: Zee Doehling, Sinking Feeling, Summit, Mountain View High School



"Sinking Feeling" by Zee Doehling

- Information Graphic: Sirwait Chinuanichai, What's The Most Popular Cell Phone?, Tiger, Dawson County High School

- Photo Illustration: Zee Doehling, We Are HERE One Last Time, Summit, Mountain View High School

- Spread Design: Anna Martinez, Blood, Sweat & Cheers, Summit, Mountain View High School

- Advertising Design: Carrie McPherson & Maley Hamby, Outside World Outfitters, Tiger, Dawson County HS

- Cover Design: Staff, We are HERE, Summit, Mountain View HS

- Theme Development: Staff, We are HERE, Summit, Mountain View HS

Literary Magazine Individual All-Georgia

- Poem: Cameron Conner, Alternate Perceptions, Threshold, North Forsyth HS
- Short Story: Benjamin Simonds-Malamud, King Fisher, Illiad, Clarke Central HS
- Artwork: Hannah Burton, Girl, Oracle, North Forsyth HS
- Photograph: Austin Gray, Closing Time, Oracle, North Forsyth HS
- Cover Design: Axel Olsen, Making Grady Greatly, Nexus, Henry Grady HS
- Spread Design: Grace Hawkins, The Unmasking, Henry W. Grady High School



"Closing Time" by Austin Gray

Recognizing special accomplishments

Guidelines for GSPA Achievement Awards

Not all accomplishments are necessarily visible by the final published product. The GSPA Achievement Awards helps fill that gap by trying to recognize the people and publication staffs that have overcome significant obstacles and/or went beyond the "call of duty" to further scholastic journalism at their school. Entries are limited to one entry per category per school. There is no fee to enter.

The following Achievement Awards are recognized annually by GSPA:

Administrator of the Year

This award recognizes an administrator who has demonstrated strong support for the journalism program. This includes administrative access, support of the publication in pursuing controversial issues, financially supporting the publication, and in general, fostering a culture of journalism support within the school.

Adviser of the Year

This award recognizes a journalism adviser who goes beyond the "call of duty" in supporting his or her staff. This includes working after hours to ensure production, supporting students in their pursuit of difficult stories, offering training opportunities for the staff, and in general, fostering a culture of journalism within the staff.

First-Year Adviser of the Year

This award recognizes a new adviser who has demonstrated success and desire in strengthening the journalism program at the school. The recipient should have demonstrated effort in gaining advanced journalism training, such as attending an adviser training event.

Community Service

This award recognizes a staff that through its forum has attempted to initiate significant change within the community. This can either be through editorial commentary or hands-on community service, such as helping a middle school class produce a publication.

Freedom of the Press

This award recognizes a producer(s) of work that demonstrated solid reporting and/or insight, but was censored from student publication. The full, unpublished piece should be included in the submission.

Perseverance

This award recognizes a staff that has overcome significant adversity to put out a quality product. The adversity can be related to a lack of funding, severe editorial restrictions imposed by administration, or unforeseen circumstances (adviser on leave, medical emergency to editor) that would drastically disrupt the publication process.

Start-Up

This award recognizes a first-year publication/program that has demonstrated significant quality. This is for brand new programs, or programs that have been resurrected after a hiatus.

Turnaround

This award recognizes a staff that has significantly changed the quality of its product from the previous year. Evidence of improvement should be included, as well as an explanation about how the program was dramatically improved.

To submit entries:

- ☐ All entry materials must be postmarked by Feb. 26, 2016. No late entries will be accepted.
- ☐ Staffs competing in this contest must be 2015-16 members of GSPA.
- ☐ Complete a media information form (page 5).
- ☐ Complete an Achievement Award entry form (page 13).
- ☐ Include an essay of no more than 400 words describing the achievement.
- ☐ Submit supporting documents -- including a copy of the publication -- for each category entered.

Official Entry Form

GSPA Achievement Awards

Please attach this form to your contest entry materials. Use a copy of this form for each contest you intend to enter. Individual student entries require a separate form. **Type or print neatly.**

School Name: _____

Applicant's Name: _____

Applicant's E-mail: _____

Person or Staff Being Nominated: _____

Adviser's Name (if different than applicant): _____

Adviser E-Mail: _____

Publication(s) Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____

School/Staff Room Phone: (_____) _____ School/Staff FAX: (_____) _____

Please indicate which achievement award to be considered (see descriptions below):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adviser of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrator of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First-year Adviser | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Start-up | <input type="checkbox"/> Perseverance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turnaround | <input type="checkbox"/> Freedom of the Press |

Please indicate what materials you are sending with this entry form:

Achievement Award Materials:

- ☐ Essay of no more than 400 words describing achievement
- ☐ Media Information Form (page 5)
- ☐ A copy of the publication
- ☐ Examples supporting achievement (articles, publications, reference letters, etc.)

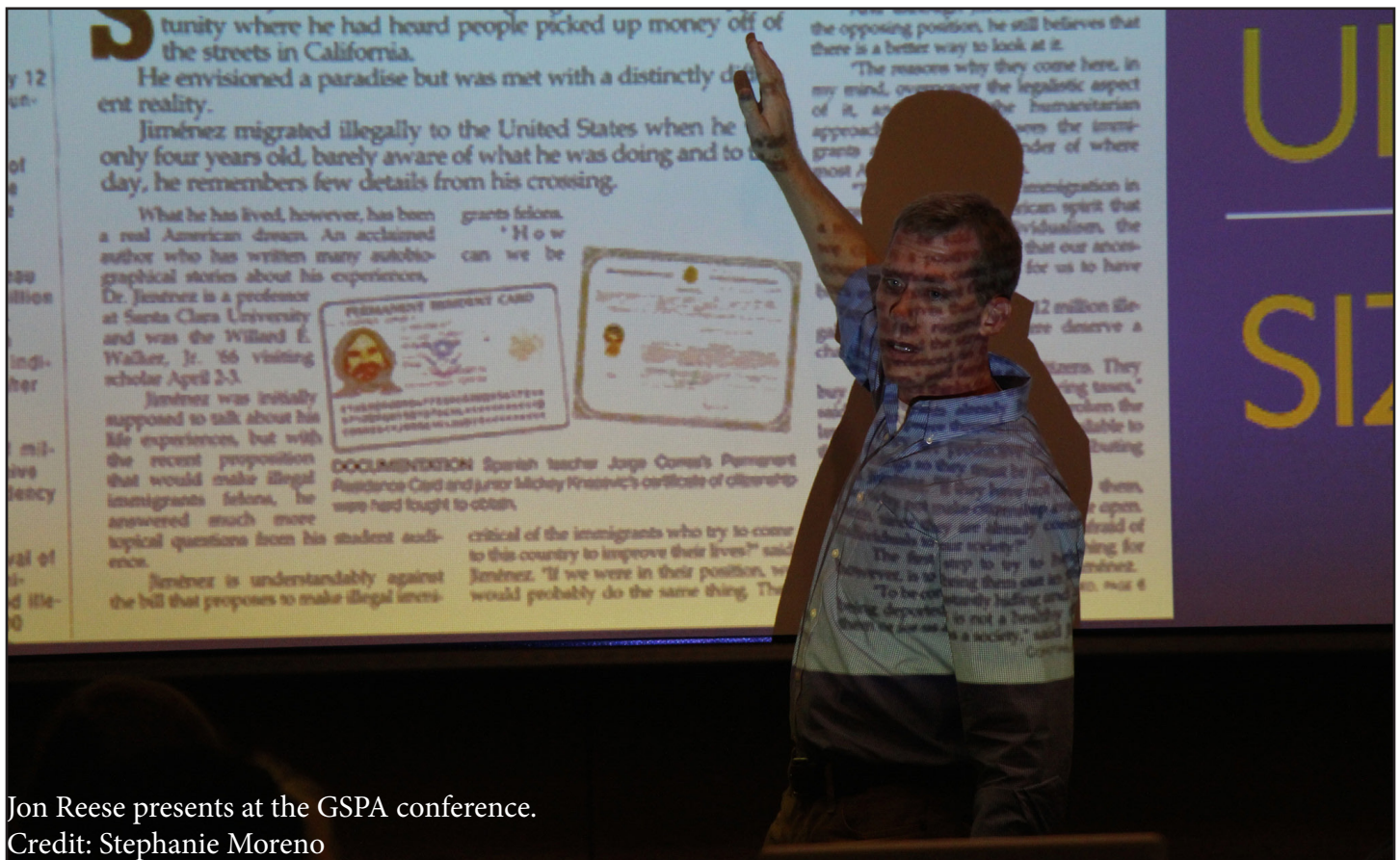
There is no charge to enter GSPA Achievement Contests. All entrants must be GSPA members. Awards may not be given in a category if judges feel entries do not merit award recognition.

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD POSTMARK ENTRY DEADLINE IS FEB. 26, 2016

Return this form with your entry form & materials to: GSPA Contests, Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication, 120 Hooper Street, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018

Fall conference attracts hundreds

Students from across state get journalism training



Jon Reese presents at the GSPA conference.

Credit: Stephanie Moreno

By Jenny Alpaugh

GSPA Assistant

ATHENS — The Georgia Scholastic Press Association's 2015 annual fall conference brought 619 journalism students and teachers from 43 schools to the University of Georgia's campus on Oct. 28-29.

The conference began on Thursday night with students attending two sessions and then listening to UGA's ecologically minded co-ed acapella group, the Ecotones. Attendees spent the second day of the conference attending a variety of sessions to help expand their journalism knowledge.

"The GSPA conference fills the Tate Grand Hall with high school journalists annually, reminding us

all of the importance of a vibrant and free scholastic press," Dean of Grady College Charles Davis said. "A healthy high school press is requisite to a healthy press."

Class topics ranged from InDesign to investigative journalism. Students could choose

which ones best met their current needs based on their experience and the type of publication staff they work with.

"The seminars I attend typically revolve around areas I'm looking to improve upon, so it broadens my knowledge base," said Adam



The Eco Tones open the conference.

Credit: Joe Dennis

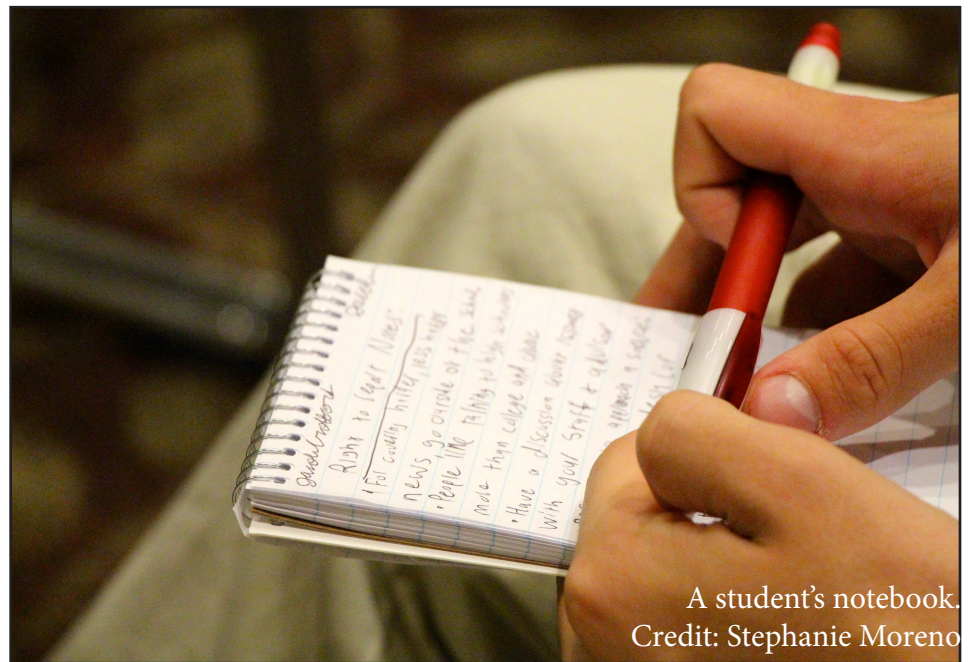
Kovel, senior at North Cobb High School. "However, my most beneficial experience I take from the GSPA Conference is that it always reinvigorates me and allows fellow staff members to see the importance of what we do."

Kovel emphasizes the importance of GSPA for his publication staff.

"Everyone sees the dedication and competition that each school brings, and it elevates our group to want to be even better than we already are," Kovel said. "The inspiration we receive from the GSPA Conference ignites our staff for the rest of the semester, if not year."

Grady College faculty and alumni, industry professionals, and high school teachers taught sessions. David Ragsdale, journalism teacher at Clarke Central High School, was one of the presenters.

"I was fortunate in that I was able to present four sessions with my team to the 400-500 plus students who were in attendance with their advisers at the October Georgia scholastic press association fall convention," Ragsdale said. "I think Joe Dennis did an outstanding job putting



A student's notebook.
Credit: Stephanie Moreno

together great speakers, an entertaining kick-off with the Eco tones and he provided outstanding opportunists for enrichment for all who attended."


GSPA hosts the first-issue competition, where staffs can submit their first issue of the year for a chance to win best overall, or best in individual categories. This year's winners were:

- Overall: Decatur High School, Carpe Diem
- News Coverage: North Cobb High School, NCHSchant.

com

- Feature Coverage: Lambert High School, thelambertpost.com
- Opinion Coverage: North Hall High School, The Forum
- Sports Coverage: Dacula High School, The Talon
- Front Page: Ola High School, Hoof Print
- Design: Clarke Central High School, Odyssey

Ashley Soriano is the editor-in-chief of the Hoof Print at Ola High school and says GSPA helps to prepare her staff for what is coming next in the field of journalism.

"It inspires young journalists to keep pushing forward despite things working against them, such as negative comments or a feeling of insignificance," Soriano said. "It supplies young journalists with a repertoire of skills to employ when creating content. Ultimately, GSPA offers a bonding experience full of fun and opportunity as well as a handy tool to use for improving journalism." 

Spread designed by Marshall Murphy



A student chats with a yearbook rep.
Credit: Stephanie Moreno

march 4-6
SIPA 16

let the truth unfold



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and Mass Communication
The University of Georgia
Athens, GA 30602-3018