

The Bulletin

The newsletter for student journalists and advisers across Georgia



December 2011

Volume 82, Issue 5

Important Dates:

Thursday-Sunday, Nov. 17-20

JEA/NSPA Convention

Friday, Jan. 27

Postmark Deadline

First Amendment

Essay Contest

Wednesday, Feb. 22

Postmark Deadline

Georgia Champion Journalist

Friday-Sunday, March 2-4

SIPA Annual Convention

Friday, March 16

Postmark Deadline

General Excellence Newspaper, Broadcast, Literary Magazine (Round One) and all individual entries

Friday, March 30

Postmark Deadline

Achievement Awards
Junior Champion Journalist

Saturday, March 31

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

Thursday, April 26

GSPA Awards Ceremony
The Classic Center
Athens, Ga.

GSPA holds annual First Amendment Contest

In an effort to strengthen First Amendment awareness in Georgia, the Cox Institute for Newspaper Management has teamed up with GSPA for the sixth annual First Amendment Essay Contest.

Open to all students at schools with a GSPA membership, entrants are required to submit an essay of no more than 500 words detailing their thoughts about the First Amendment.

Winning entries discuss how the First Amendment is interpreted in America, how it affects American press and how it affects student publications, including yours. When you begin writing, consider

the importance of the First Amendment on your campus. What does it mean for your school newspaper, magazine, yearbook or broadcast?

Prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 will be awarded to the top three essayists as well as their student publication or program. Winners will be recognized at the GSPA Awards Ceremony and will be published on the Grady College website.

Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 27, 2012.

For more information, see pages 8-9 of this issue of *The Bulletin* or visit www.gspa.uga.edu.



GSPA Conference offers training

By: Lauren Pruitt

Six hundred high school students, along with advisers and speakers, flooded the UGA Tate Center Sept. 21-22 for the Georgia Scholastic Press Association (GSPA) fall conference. Eager students were handed red bags that included a schedule of more than 50 possible sessions, taught by journalism professionals, with topics ranging from photography and news writing to Adobe InDesign skills and editors-only discussions.

"I like that we have the actual professors and teachers coming in and teaching us, it's not like people that don't know what they're doing," Parkview High School (Lilburn) senior Daniel Sandler said. "They talk to us and I know they know what they're doing, because I can go look at their webpages and see what they were teaching us in classes in action."

GSPA began its two-day conference on Sept. 21, with several night sessions followed by performance from UGA student improv group, Improv Athens.

Day two of sessions kicked off at 8:30 a.m. on Sept. 22, where students were greeted with refreshments and encouraged to mingle and share publications.

"I think high school journalism, like many different high school niches, is so ensconced in what it does that kids forget that there are others doing the very same thing," said David Ragsdale, adviser of the Clarke Central High School (Athens) Odyssey and Iliad, and a speaker at the conference. "It's a larger community, and I think that it's great when kids from across the state get to talk about the thing that they're passionate about, which is telling other people's stories."

In all, 32 high schools attended the conference and were greeted by 29 presenters, giving students many networking opportunities, as well as a chance to bond with other high school journalists.

"I think the networking opportunities are awesome," Ragsdale said. "As someone who's presented sessions, I love when my kids get to share what they've learned and, in turn, take back

Continued on page 3

Director's Corner

Clarke Central, Grady High School set the "pace"



On a much too cold day in Minneapolis, Minn., two Georgia high school publications were awarded the top honor in scholastic journalism — the Pacemaker. This recipients of this award, given out annually by the National Scholastic Press Association, is determined by a panel of industry professionals, collegiate professors and former high school advisers.

Clarke Central High School's "The Odyssey" and Henry W. Grady High School's "The Southerner" were determined to have met the extremely rigorous criteria for excellence. What makes me even more proud is that both these schools have been heavily involved in GSPA. There are many variables that go into producing an outstanding publication, but the one constant is the adviser. Both publications have outstanding advisers. They consistently

challenge students to pursue stories further. They challenge editors to take ownership of the product. They challenge their administrators and colleagues to consider the critical thinking values offered by scholastic journalism. Kudos to a trio of outstanding advisers who are up to the challenge: David Ragsdale of Clarke Central and David Winter and Kate Carter of Grady.

Joe Dennis

Letter from the Editor

On The Bulletin, other changes and working for GSPA



Working for GSPA has been one of the best experiences of my freshman year. Coming into this job, I never imagined I would have the types of opportunities that would allow me to design flyers, compose booklets, and create the new layout for The Bulletin. I came into my job imagining myself working with spreadsheets in Excel or even more likely, filing papers for hours on end. Instead, my time has been spent learning more about InDesign, Photoshop, and other design applications than I ever thought possible. The more I use these programs and become more familiar with them, the better my work at GSPA becomes. This allows me to produce the best products for you!

When it came time to work on The Bulletin, I was given full reign to keep or change any element from the old format I desired. The decision to change the layout arose from my desire to create something uniquely different from the former newsletter while still maintaining the feel the traditional GSPA newsletter gave; the entire Bulletin has undergone evaluation in order to create the best possible newsletter.

After going through past newsletters, as well as newsletters from other organizations, I began to tinker with the front page, discovering that once I started making changes, everything began flowing together.

This newsletter sports the new GSPA logo. The logo has been simplified; it is now a much cleaner and crisper image of GSPA. Following in suite, the newsletter has taken on a crisper and cleaner image. This compliments our brand new website, launched in the summer (see page 6 for details).

I hope you enjoy the changes to the newsletter! Don't forget to visit www.gspa.uga.edu for more the most updated information from the GSPA office. While you're online, follow our Twitter feed @GSPAuga and "like" our Facebook page — Georgia Scholastic Press Association.

Sophia Griesenauer

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2011-12 association

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Want to help shape GSPA?

Join the Advisory Board.

*Contact Joe Dennis at
jodennis@uga.edu for more
information.*



The Bulletin

Editor

Sophia Griesenauer

Contributors

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Lauren Pruitt

Angela Pyle

The Georgia Scholastic Press Association was founded in 1928 by the faculty of the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at The University of Georgia.

Membership is open to school-sponsored newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine, television and online publications or productions in middle and high schools in Georgia. The GSPA Bulletin is published by the University of Georgia five times annually as a benefit of membership in the Georgia Scholastic Press Association.

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Pursuing a career in journalism

By: Angela Pyle

As a high school student, I am always looking to capitalize on opportunities that will help me achieve my goals. Because I want to pursue a career in journalism, I joined my high school's magazine staff, Blueprints, during my sophomore year. Cedar Shoals' journalism program has seen major improvements in the two years since I joined the staff, but it still has a long way to go before reaching its goal.

Last school year, our staff produced two magazines but neither were published. A combination of factors including staff size, money and staff structure were to blame.

The Blueprints staff studies successful high school magazines such as Clarke Central's The Odyssey for inspiration and ideas. The first thing I noticed about The Odyssey was the size of its staff. There are eight students on the Blueprints staff this year. During the fall GSPA conference, I attended a class for editors and learned that Clarke

Central's magazine has over 20 staff members, which allows for more to be successfully done in less time. We are working with the staff we have but are hoping to recruit more students into the program next semester. We hope that staff increases will allow us to publish Blueprints once a month instead of once a semester.

Money is also an issue. Publishing just one magazine is very expensive and we have to sell advertising to support the publication. We have trouble catching the interest of potential advertisers because our magazine is not well known. Our staff also hasn't always been well-organized in the past.

This semester, I am the editor of the magazine and I have been working with our new adviser, Marc Ginsberg, to fix these issues. He has created a chart of responsibilities for our staff and we are working towards creating an online magazine. We are also strictly enforcing deadlines to ensure that our staff is getting more reporting

and writing experience. This has already brought about noticeable improvements.

Creating an online magazine was a perfect fit for our staff. We have had a continuous flow of article writing which has allowed us to test out our new editing process.

When I first began taking journalism as a class I was very eager to get experience in journalism. I didn't get much my first year, but with these new improvements I have gotten a much better idea of what being a journalist is actually like. In the past few months we have gotten great opportunities at actual reporting. I have learned so much this semester alone and I feel like with some work I will learn a lot more in the future. Our school may not be home to the number one magazine in the state by the time I graduate, but I believe that in time, the journalism program will provide an enriching and beneficial experience for everyone who participates.



2011 Fall Conference *Continued from page 1*

information and ideas from other schools. That reciprocity is really important to me."

For Lowndes High School (Valdosta) freshman Clara Burke, GSPA not only offered an opportunity to learn new skills, but also to feel like a part of a larger group that shares her growing interest in the journalism field.

"I got into this journalism class (at my school), and it wasn't really our first choice, but GSPA just gets you more interested in it," Burke said. "Being around (other high school journalists) was different, because I expected them to be talking about all sorts of things, but everyone was talking about journalism and had the same kinds of questions we had, so it was easy to talk and learn."

Students participated in two on-site competitions in review writing and photojournalism, as well as enter their staff's publication into a first-issue contest. Opportunities were also

available to get personal publication critiques by long-time newspaper editor Cecil Bentley, now director of external relations and career services at the Grady College. Lowndes High School's Saga adviser Adam Floyd found the critique helpful to show the growth of his staff.

"Last year, when we came to GSPA, we had completely re-designed the paper and (Bentley) kind of put us through the ringer for it -- since it was our first year doing it, he told us a lot of things we could improve on," Floyd said. "He basically went through each page and showed us not so much the content of the articles, but more the design and layout as far as what worked and what didn't, pitfalls to avoid and such. This year, he had very little to say negative about what we were doing. He just had a handful of critiques and we left pretty happy."


By the end of the two-day session, many students felt that they gained

knowledge for themselves and their staffs.

"I do think it will benefit the staff as a whole coming here. We have a lot of young blood on this staff, and I'm not going to say we don't know what we're doing, but we do need some advisement and some help to make sure we don't get stagnant and always have different ideas," Sandler said.

For those presenting sessions to students, such as Ragsdale, the conference as a whole is an opportunity for professionals to show how important high school journalism is.

"(High school journalism) gives kids a voice in their school, in their world. It helps them be critical consumers of the media around them and helps them make sense of the events happening around and for them, too," Ragsdale said.

GSPA will hold an awards ceremony in the spring as well as the Georgia Journalism Academy in June. 

GEORGIA scholastic
PRESS
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(Top) Students at the 2011 GSPA Fall Conference watch Improv Athens (top left) perform.



(Middle) Students take notes during a fifty minute class.



(Bottom left) A student discusses a topic from class with instructor Mark Johnson.



(Bottom right) Students review the schedule for the day before heading off to their first class.

2011 Fall Conference

The winners of the first-issue competition:

Best Overall Winner -
The Verve, The King's Academy (Woodstock)

Best News Coverage -
Knightly News, Pace Academy (Atlanta)

Best Features Coverage -
The Saga, Lowndes High School (Valdosta)

Best Sports Coverage -
The Forum, North Hall High School (Clermont)

Best Opinions Coverage -
Pantera, Parkview High School (Lilburn)



GSPA update: New Website

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GSPA

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[About GSPA](#) [Publications](#) [Competitions](#) [Events](#) [Forms](#) [Tips And Tricks](#)

What's the Buzz?

Find us on Facebook



Georgia Scholastic Press Association
We just updated our website, the new "tips and tricks" section includes links to presentations given at the fall conference and a list of GSPA publication websites. Email us at gspa@uga.edu to include your school's website!
October 14 at 9:38am

Georgia Scholastic Press Association
Check out our new photo album from the fall conference, and be sure to tag yourself if you're in a picture!

Facebook social plugin

@GSPAuga
MT @EditorPublisher

Newspaper Website Traffic Increases 20 Percent In Past Year
<http://t.co/zNUOjgEW>

about a week ago

Latest News ...

- Avoid late fees! Join GSPA before Oct. 31. [Download the application.](#)
- Attended the fall conference and need presenter handouts/powerpoints? Visit [Tips & Tricks](#) to see selected presentations.



About GSPA

The Georgia Scholastic Press Association assists Georgia high school media programs and students by

Get the latest news by checking out the "What's the Buzz" section for twitter updates.

Under our "Tips and Tricks" section check out the Director's Corner for informational articles about current topics.

Look up information about the Georgia Journalism Academy under the "Events" tab.

The entire PDF version of the Winner's Circle is online now! Check it out or print out a copy of your own under "Publications."

For the complete calendar, and more information about upcoming events, check out the "About GSPA" tab.

First Amendment Essay Contest

The First Amendment's guarantee of a free press is of crucial importance to all Americans. It is the foundation of American freedom and the essential distinction between our democracy and totalitarianism.

Journalists must dedicate themselves to defending our free press, and we call upon the scholastic journalists of Georgia to join the battle. Do so by entering our First Amendment Essay Contest!

Essays should focus on the importance of the First Amendment to all Americans, to freedom of speech and, particularly, freedom of the press for student publications.

Explain in your own words how you interpret the First Amendment and the role it plays in American life. What is its importance on your campus and in your school newspaper, magazine, yearbook or broadcast?

Sponsored by:



Section I: General Rules

1. The contest is open to all participating Georgia Scholastic Press Association member high school students in grades 9-12.
2. There is no cost to enter the contest.
3. Contestants may enter only one essay.

Section II: Contest Rules

1. Each contestant should read a copy of the rules and must complete the entry form. The rules contain information about the contest, judging and awards.
2. Each entry must include the contest entry form. The essay must have the name of the entrant, high school and publication listed at the top of each page.
3. Essays must be typewritten and must be single-spaced.
4. Essays must contain at least 300 words but no more than 500 words.
5. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly. Failure to identify non-original material will be considered plagiarism.
6. Essays must be written in English.
7. The entry form and essay must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner.
8. GSPA and The Cox Institute are not responsible for any entries lost or damaged in the mail.
9. Entries will not be returned. **Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 27, 2012.**

Section III: Judging

1. A panel of qualified judges, including University of Georgia and The Cox Institute faculty and staff will complete judging.
2. Judges will not discuss or compare essays being judged until all essays have been judged.
3. Decision of the judges is final.

Section IV: Scoring of Contest

1. Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.
2. Essays will be scored based on:
 - material organization (logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic);
 - vocabulary and style (phrasing and continuity),
 - grammar, punctuation, spelling, neatness; and
 - adherence to contest rules (prepared in the proper format).

Section V: Awards

- 1st Place: \$100 for publication staff, \$100 and an engraved plaque for student
 2nd Place: \$75 for publication staff, \$75 for student.
 3rd Place: \$50 for publication staff, \$50 for student.

Winners will be recognized at the GSPA Awards Ceremony, April 26, 2012 at The University of Georgia in Athens.

For more information about the First Amendment Essay Contest and to view last year's winning essays, visit www.gspa.uga.edu or contact Joe Dennis at 706-542-5022 or jodennis@uga.edu.

Official Entry Form

2012 First Amendment Essay Contest

Amendment I: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

Student Information:

Full Name: _____

Home Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Year (circle one): Senior Junior Sophomore Freshman

School _____ City _____ County _____

Medium (circle one): Newspaper/newsmagazine Literary Magazine Broadcast Yearbook

Publication Name: _____

Adviser's Certification:

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, this is the work of the student named and this student is a member of my publication staff.

Adviser's signature: _____ Date: _____

Adviser's name (please print): _____

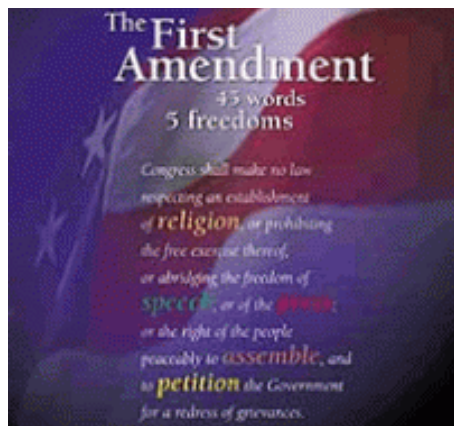
Please attach this form to your entry and return to: First Amendment Essay Contest, GSPA, 120 Hooper Street, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018.

Sponsored by:



PLEASE NOTE — List your name, high school, and publication at the top of each page of your essay. All entries must be postmarked by Jan. 27, 2012.

First Amendment Essay Contest



Tell us why press freedom is important and you may win \$100 for you *and* your staff!

Details on pages 6-7

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**WIN \$100 FOR YOU AND YOUR STAFF!
ENTER THE 1ST AMENDMENT ESSAY COMPETITION.**