

The Bulletin

The newsletter for student journalists and advisers across Georgia



February 2012

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www.gspa.uga.edu

Important Dates:

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, Georgia Junior Journalist

Saturday, March 31

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

Thursday, April 26

GSPA Awards Ceremony, The University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.

Spotlight: Achievement Awards

GSPA is spotlighting achievement in several often unheralded areas with the GSPA Achievement Awards: Adviser of the Year, Administrator of the Year, Community Service, First-Year Adviser, Freedom of the Press, Perseverance, Start-Up and Turnaround.

Created five years ago, the purpose of the awards is to give recognition to those instrumental in the success of a high school publication.

Entries for the eight achievement awards will require an essay of no more than 400 words describing why the person/staff should be considered for the award. Supporting materials, such as newspaper copy, broadcast video or letters of recognition can be included but are not required.

See entry forms on pages 6 & 7.

New 'Best Journalist' Award

Juniors can earn top recognition

The Upcoming Champion Journalist Award is a new award given to the top high school junior journalist. The qualifications and recognition mirror the Champion Journalist Award for high school seniors. Prizes include a scholarship to the GSPA summer academy (June 10 – 16, 2012) and a \$100 cash prize.

Applicant qualifications:

- Must be a high school junior
- Have a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Plan to study journalism and pursue a career in journalism
- Participate in high school journalism for at least one year

Portfolio checklist:

- The official entry form
- Autobiographical essay on "Why I'm interested in journalism"
- Action photo of you doing something "journalistic"
- Official copy of your transcript
- Two letters of recommendation from your advisor or teachers who know your journalistic abilities.
- Sample of your work to show a diversity of reporting, writing,

photography, design, etc.

- A self-addressed, padded, stamped envelope large enough to hold your portfolio, if you want it returned.

Preparing your portfolio:

- Entries should not exceed 20 one-sided or 10 two-sided pages
- Plastic sheet protectors are acceptable. All letters and transcripts should be opened and included as part of the 20 pages.
- Provide judges with a good cross section of your best work. Date, name of publication and relevance should be on each sample.
- At least one issue of your publication should be enclosed to show the context of your work. Audio and/or DVDs should accompany an entry that focuses on broadcast work, and please indicate what portion should be judged.
- Photocopies of the letters, clippings and art are acceptable; however, original prints of photographs should accompany entries based on published photographs.

See entry forms on page 5.

Director's Corner



Remembering a legend, friend of scholastic journalism

Eight years ago I received an e-mail from Professor Conrad Fink that said he wanted to see me. Details were nonexistent. This e-mail immediately made me nervous. I had heard about Professor Fink from fresh-out-of-college reporters at my previous employer, *The Walton Tribune*. Among the descriptions: "hard-nosed journalist," "fierce editor," "intimidating," "a glare that could kill" and "eyebrows of steel." I had seen papers that fell victim to his red pen, each sentence marked for errors. Most who have taken a Fink class rank him as the best professor they've ever had. And judging from the work his graduates produced, it was clear his lessons were heeded. I had only been director of GSPA for a few weeks, why would this legendary professor want to see me?

I anxiously walked to his office, 234 in Grady, and knocked on the door.

"Yes," Fink said with his glasses halfway down his nose as he glanced up from the paper he was marking up.

"I'm Joe Dennis, the new director of GSPA. You said you wanted to see me," I said.

"Hmm," he answered, immediately giving me his trademark glare. "Yes. Sit down Dennis."

I fought back my urge to correct him and mention that my name is Joe. I'm glad I didn't give into my urge, as I later learned through the years that he calls all his students by their last name. Only when you have earned a certain level of respect from Fink will he call you by your first name.

As I sat down, Fink tossed a report in front of me. It was a Knight Foundation study that showed high school students had severe misconceptions of the First Amendment.

"What do you think about this?" Fink asked.

"It's disturbing," I answered.

"So what are you going to do about it, Dennis?" Fink asked.

I wasn't sure what to say. I didn't recall "making sure all high school students in America are educated on the First Amendment" on the job description when I applied to be director of GSPA." Fink noticed I was perplexed.

"How about you come up with a proposal to educate students on the First Amendment and I'll come up with the funding," Fink said.

Thus, the First Amendment Essay Contest was born. It was one of many GSPA offerings that Fink helped fund through his role as Director of the Cox Institute of Newspaper Management: the adviser's workshop, student workers, scholastic research and the summer camp, to name a few. My funding requests became so frequent that each time I walked into Fink's office he would immediately lean back in his chair and ask, "How much?"

As a graduate student I was lucky to have Fink as a professor. I quickly learned that 10 years of professional experience only made the criticism of Fink moreso.

"Dennis. I expect more from you," Fink would often say in class or scribble on my paper.

He expected more, because he inherently knew I was capable of more. Just as he knew high school students are capable of producing sound journalism, which is why I think he was such a strong supporter of GSPA.

Dozens of articles have chronicled the death of Conrad Fink, talking about his legacy living on through thousands of his former students who now fill newsrooms across the world. But his legacy extends beyond his college students. Whether it's a teacher trained at a GSPA adviser workshop or a high school student educated at the Georgia Journalism Academy, Fink's reach is much farther than anyone could imagine.

Joe Dennis, GSPA Director

The Bulletin

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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*Want to help shape GSPA?
Join the Advisory Board.
Contact Joe Dennis at
jodennis@uga.edu for more
information.*

The Bulletin

Editor: Sophia Griesenauer



2010-11 GSPA Yearbook Contest 17 yearbooks garner 'superior' rating



Judging is complete in the first and second rounds of the 2010-11 GSPA General Excellence Yearbook Contest.

General Excellence winners and the All-Georgia Yearbook Award will be announced at the GSPA Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 26 in Athens.

Results from both rounds of judging have been sent to schools with critiques from the judges. All books winning Superior ratings have been entered in the General Excellence competition.

Yearbooks were evaluated in four categories: concept and organization, coverage, photography and design and copy. Each category represented 25 percent of the total evaluation.

This year, GSPA will again offer two deadlines to accommodate delivery dates for 2011-12 yearbooks. Books published in the 2011-12 school year can be entered in either round. Superior-rated books from both rounds will be eligible for the General Excellence competition next spring.

The postmark deadline for the first round is June 30, 2012 and is designed for yearbooks delivered in the spring. Critiques and scores from the first round will be returned in September so next year's staff can benefit from the judges' comments.

The postmark deadline for the second round is Sept. 30, 2012 and is meant for yearbooks delivered in the fall, though spring delivery books are allowed to enter the second round. Critiques and scores from the second round will be returned in December.

Additional details of the 2011-12 GSPA Yearbook Contest will be published in a future issue of *The Bulletin* and will be available online at www.gspa.uga.edu.

Superior

Holy Innocents'
Providence Christian Academy
Mount Paran
Dawson County HS
Decatur HS
North Hall HS
Monroe Area HS
Union Grove HS
Habersham Central HS
Whitewater HS
Sprayberry HS
Frederick Douglas HS
Starr's Mill HS
Walton HS
Northview HS
Grayson HS
North Forsyth

Excellent

Elkins Pointe MS
Hebron Christian Academy
Johnson HS
Chestatee HS
Pope HS
Rome HS
Johns Creek HS
Woodstock HS
Woodward Academy

Achievement

Bleckley County HS
Autry Mill MS
King's Academy

A day in the life of a high school editor

By: Angela Pyle

As the Editor of BluePrints magazine, I am proud to say that my staff and I are the originators of what has become the beginning of a new publication.

At the start of the 2011–12 school year, I asked myself “How do I get those who are not interested in journalism, interested?” Personally, I have always held an interested in writing and reporting. The only problem lay with the fact that the majority of the staff, including myself, lacked these skills.

In order to gain experience, we frequently asked ourselves the questions, “How do we approach improving this magazine?” and “What needs to be done in order to make this possible?” We eventually found the answers to these questions to be the need for better organization, and the need to assign specific jobs to staff members.

At the beginning of the year specific jobs were not given to the staff members. This ultimately caused frustration when members did not understand the reason behind the tasks they had been assigned. Thankfully, as issues were addressed and as the weeks went by, my advisors and I could better recognize where the members fit corresponding to their interests. Whether it was “Sales Manager” (for advertisement selling) or “Art Director,” it seemed as if all the members started to contribute to the magazine in a way that emphasized their individual talents and interests.

Now, not everything was perfect; we still had our days. But by the end of the semester, the magazine found itself with a significant number of higher quality articles. With the magazine’s 20-page limit, I struggled to choose from the articles whose topics ranged from stress to de-facto segregation. In addition to this battle, my advisor asked the staff who would be interested in taking on the responsibility of laying out the magazine before sending to the publisher. Because no members wanted the job, I became responsible for this as well. The only problem with this was the fact that I had hardly any InDesign experience. The job was difficult at first, but after weeks of hard work and frustration, the InDesign pages began to take the form of an actual magazine.

Currently we are still working on perfecting our publication. It is a new semester with new staff members, and there will always be new obstacles to overcome. I am looking forward to everything we do this semester, as well as all the semesters in the future.



- Due Dates
- Deadlines
- Spelling & Grammar
- Send to PRINTER!

- Find Ads

***STAY CALM!**



Duties of the Editor...

UPCOMING CHAMPION JOURNALIST AWARD ENTRY FORM

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____

Home Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Parent (s)/Guardian (s) Names _____

School _____

School Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Adviser _____ Phone (_____) _____

1. Hometown Media _____ 2. _____

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

Positions Held (specify type of media such as yearbook, newspaper, literary magazine, radio, TV):

Publication Name/Type	Position	Length of Time
_____	_____	From _____ To _____
_____	_____	From _____ To _____
_____	_____	From _____ To _____
_____	_____	From _____ To _____
_____	_____	From _____ To _____

Has any of your work been cited by the media? If so, when and what award? Use a separate sheet to explain.

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

What aspect of journalism and mass communication is your career goal?

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"/>

Send your portfolio to: GSPA, Upcoming Journalist Award, Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication, 120 Hooper Street, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018. **YOUR ENTRY MUST BE POSTMARKED BY MARCH 16, 2012.**

Media Information Form GSPA General Excellence Contest 2012

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

Name of Publication or Broadcast Program: _____
 School: _____ City: _____

MEDIA CATEGORY:

Newspaper Newsmagazine News Website Broadcast News Literary Magazine Yearbook

Frequency of Publication/Program: _____ per _____ Total Circulation or Audience: _____

Number of students on regular staff (not including contributors/freelancers): _____

PRODUCTION INFORMATION FOR WEBSITES:

How often is website updated? Daily Weekly Monthly

Does the website compliment a print product? Yes No

How is your website's template prepared? Designed by students Utilize a school/system template

Use an external template service (i.e. WordPress)

PRODUCTION INFORMATION FOR BROADCAST PROGRAMS:

What is the purpose of this broadcast? _____

What format do you use? _____ What is the average length of program? _____

Please describe your method of production: _____

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: (Check all that apply)

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

Does your publication undergo administrative prior review? Yes No

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: (Example: printer errors, etc.) Attach additional sheet if required.

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 (pg. 6)
- Examples supporting achievement (articles, publications, reference letters, etc.)

Achievement Award Descriptions:

Administrator of the Year recognizes an administrator who has demonstrated strong support for the journalism program.

Adviser of the Year recognizes a journalism adviser who goes beyond the "call of duty" in supporting his or her staff.

Community Service recognizes a staff that through its forum has initiated significant change within the community.

First-Year Adviser recognizes a new adviser who has demonstrated success and desire in strengthening the program.

Freedom of the Press recognizes a producer(s) of work that demonstrated solid reporting and/or insight, but was censored from student publication.

Perseverance recognizes a staff that has overcome significant adversity to put out a quality product.

Start-Up recognizes a first-year publication/program that has demonstrated significant quality.

Turnaround recognizes the staff that has significantly changed the quality of its product from the previous year.

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 MARCH 16, 2012.

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

**The Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication
is seeking the next ...**



**The Georgia Journalism Academy
June 10-16, 2012**

www.georgiajournalismacademy.com



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POSTMARK GSPA ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS BY MARCH 16!