

The Bulletin

The newsletter for student journalists and advisers across Georgia



November/December 2012

Volume 83, Issue 2

www.gspa.uga.edu

Important Dates:

November 15-19

*JEA/NSPA Convention
Marriott River Center
San Antonio, Texas*

January 11

*Postmark Deadline
First Amendment Essay Contest*

February 15

*Postmark Deadline
Georgia Champion Journalist*

March 1-3

*SIPA Annual Convention
Columbia, S.C.*

March 15

*Postmark Deadline, General Excellence
Newspaper, Broadcast,
Literary Magazine (Round 1)
All individual entries*

March 23

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

March 26

*Postmark Deadline, Achievement
Awards, Georgia Junior Journalist*

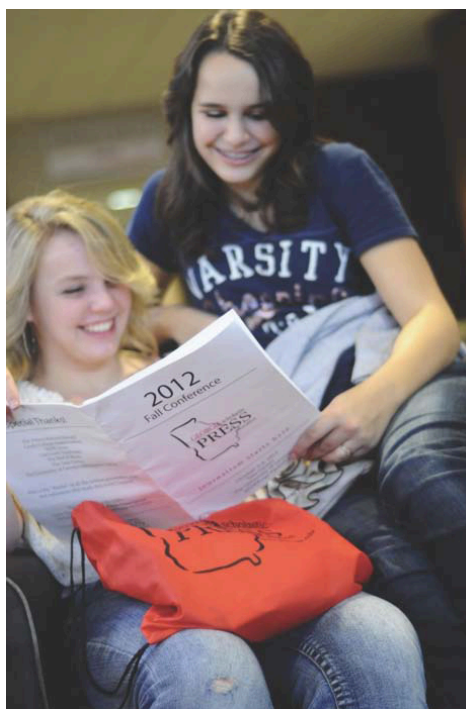
April 25

*GSPA Awards Ceremony
The Classic Center, Athens, GA*

GSPA Fall Conference

By: Lauren Pruitt

More than 550 high school journalists took part in the Georgia Scholastic Press Association (GSPA) fall conference, held Oct. 3-4 at the Tate Student Center at the University of Georgia.



Taken by Hannah Forsberg of The King's Academy, this photo won the 2012 GSPA Fall Conference on-the-spot photo competition.

"This is the largest state conference for high school journalism," said Joe Dennis, public service faculty at the Grady College and director of GSPA. "Schools from across the state attend this conference to enhance their journalism skills."

The annual conference featured 57 different sessions targeted toward high school students participating in their school's newspaper, newsmagazine, yearbook, broadcast or literary

magazine program. Session presenters included Grady College faculty, area journalism professionals and high school teachers. Topics focused on areas such as news writing, the difference between writing for print and writing for online, publication management and broadcast production.

Caitlyn Martin, senior at Jackson County Comprehensive High School and editor-in-chief of Pandora's Box literary magazine found the sessions informative.

"The Little Things was my favorite session. It was pretty much little things you wouldn't think of to make your publication better," Martin said.

Thirty-six schools were represented at the conference from as far south as Valdosta to as far west as Augusta. The event kicked off with an opening night concert from singer-songwriter Kyshona Armstrong. After her performance, a press conference was held where students were encouraged to ask questions in preparation of writing a concert review.

On Oct. 4, students attended classes from 8:30 a.m. to 3:20 p.m., devoting a full school day to their journalistic interest. With a total of 578 students attending on Oct. 4, the Tate Learning Center was packed. A special advisers track was also offered for high school journalism teachers to enhance their training.

"Many times a high school teacher is handed the journalism program with little or no journalism experience," Dennis said. "We encouraged new

Continued on page 3

Letter from the Editor

Journalism Starts Here.



Journalism starts here. It starts with you and me. It starts with the world around us. Journalism thrives thanks to the high school students who participate on newspaper, magazine, yearbook and broadcast staffs.

Their decision to bring the truth, the unbiased truth, to their peers and their communities, is only the start. What these high school students learn in their newsrooms will forever be engrained in their memories. They will take these skills and use them in whatever they decide to do in the future, whether it be journalism or something else.

All great journalists start here. They start in classrooms just like yours and build their skills; they make mistakes, learn from them, and grow into the journalists of today. Journalists never stop learning and growing in order to bring the best stories possible to their readers.

Journalism starts with passion. It starts with a desire to give back to the community. Journalism is innate; it springs from somewhere within.

Journalism starts here; when students decide that finding the truth is the most important fact of all. It starts with a curiosity and a drive to discover what lies beneath the surface.

The staff here at GSPA hopes that every high school student with an interest in journalism pursues that interest. Remember to always strive for whatever facts may be lurking just beneath the surface.

And finally, thanks for making this year's Fall Conference one of our best conferences yet, and for letting journalism start here, for letting it start with you and me.

Sophia Griesenauer

GEORGIA scholastic
PRESS
2012-13 association

Advisory Board

Kristy Cates

Lowndes High School
Valdosta

Coni Grebel

Lee County High School
Leesburg

David Ragsdale

Clarke Central High School
Athens

Jon Reese

Decatur High School
Decatur

Debbie Smelley

Starr's Mill High School
Fayetteville

*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

Joe Dennis

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. GSPA contact information:

Mailing address:
120 Hooper St.
Athens, GA 30602-3018

e-mail: gspa@uga.edu
phone: (706) 542-5022

fax: (706) 542-2183
web site: www.gspa.uga.edu

2012 Fall Conference Continued from page 1

GEORGIA scholastic
PRESS
association

advisers to attend this conference at no charge and get the basic training they need.”

The conference also held competitions for schools to rank their first publication of the year. Lowndes High School (Valdosta) won the “Best Overall” crown for their newspaper, The Saga.

Other schools that received recognition were:

- Pace Academy (Atlanta), The Knightly News for overall design;
- Lowndes, The Saga for news coverage;
- Druid Hills High School (Atlanta), The Spotlight for feature writing,
- Lassiter High School (Marietta), The Laureate for opinion writing; and
- Dacula High School (Dacula), The Talon for sports writing.

The winners of the first-issue competition

Best Overall Design -
The Knightly News,
Pace Academy

Best News Coverage -
The Saga,
Lowndes High School

Best Feature Coverage -
The Spotlight,
Druid Hills High School

Best Sports Coverage -
The Talon,
Dacula High School

Best Opinions Coverage -
The Laureate,
Lassiter High School

Students also could take part in the on-site photo competition, where they submitted a photo taken that day to highlight the conference. The winner was Hannah Forsberg of The King’s Academy (Atlanta).

Grady College reaches out to high schools across the state to further journalism education and ethics. Conferences such as GSPA also give students a glimpse into the university and provide insight and tours for those applying to college.

“I was really excited about the conference,” Martin said. “My parents were both journalism majors (at UGA).”



First Amendment Competition

In an effort to strengthen First Amendment awareness in Georgia, the Cox Institute for Newspaper Management has teamed up with GSPA for the seventh 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 January 11, 2013.

For more information, see pages 6-7 of this issue of *The Bulletin* or visit www.gspa.uga.edu.



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.



GEORGIA scholastic
PRESS
association

(Top right) Students take notes while listening to a speaker.

(Top left) Instructor Brian Creech teaches students about the benefits of the inverted pyramid.



2012 Fall Conference

(Middle) Two students discuss their schedule for the day.

(Middle) Kyshona Armstrong performs for students the first night of the conference.



(Bottom left) Students listen and take notes in one of the afternoon sessions.

(Bottom right) Students celebrate their achievements in the "On Site" newspaper competition.



Censorship Checklist for Advisers

GEORGIA scholastic
PRESS
association

If you have a censorship problem and are seeking help, please use JEA's Scholastic Press Rights Commission website and log your concern (<http://www.jeasprc.org>). Someone will be contacting you shortly. Until then, here's a checklist for you. Please remember to empower the students in their fight — they will be the ones who will need to tackle the issue and “fight the fight.” Avoid giving the administration any reason to consider your actions insubordinate.

1. Take a deep breath - you have support

2. Hit the Panic Button; if you haven't done so yet, go to JEA Scholastic Press Rights Commission's website (www.jeasprc.org)

3. Access your state free expression law, if you have one (<http://www.splc.org/knowyourrights/statelegislation.asp>)

4. Remind students to contact the Student Press Law Center (splc@splc.org)

5. Support students as they take the lead in a censorship fight

6. Know your forum status and what that means. Are you a designated public forum?

7. Ask yourself if this instance of censorship is important enough to fight for

8. Avoid insubordination - follow directives, even if you disagree

9. Use your personal (not school) email

account on a non-school computer for any correspondence

10. Ask administrators for their position in writing, including reasons for censorship

11. Contact a union representative, if applicable, or outside civil rights group

12. Avoid going to meetings with administrators alone - take a union representative or, lacking that, department chair or colleague. Factually summarize the meeting afterward

13. Ask for and collect documentation; keep a paper trail

14. Reemphasize any previous conversations with your principal concerning censorship. Refer to both the Adviser Code of Ethics and JEA's Statement on Prior Review

15. Breathe again - you're doing the right thing!

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. 11, 2013.**

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 25, 2013 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

2013 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. 11, 2013**.

First Amendment Essay Contest

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

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.

COX INSTITUTE
Newspaper Management Studies

GEORGIA scholastic
PRESS
association

Grady  College
THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



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

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