



The Bulletin

The newsletter for student journalists and advisers across Georgia

www.ugagspa.org

January-February 2017

Volume 87, Issue 4

Upcoming Events & GSPA News

Georgia Journalist Deadline February 17, 2017

Submissions for Georgia Champion Journalist and Junior Champion are due on February 17, 2017. The submissions should be an online portfolio emailed to gspa@uga.edu. More information available on page 8 and on the website.

Spring Competitions Postmark deadline February 24, 2017

The General Excellence and Individual Entries contests are open for newspapers, newsmagazines, news websites and broadcasting. While the Champion, JR. Champion & Achievement Awards are open to all MEMBERS. Following the format of this past summer's contest, forms will be submitted online. For more information visit the Spring Competitions tab on the website or page 3-8.

SIPA 2017: SCOPE Mar. 3-5, 2017

The SIPA annual convention will be held in Columbia South Carolina. The convention will be focusing on different types of journalism. Information is available on the SIPA website.

Spring Workshop & Awards

April 4, 2017
University of Georgia

The Spring Awards Banquet has been changed to a spring workshop and awards day. We will devote the morning and early afternoon to workshop sessions. After the lunch break we will reconvene to recognise the Spring Awards. The Workshop & Awards will take place in the Tate Student Center from 9-3 pm. Registration is from 8-8:50 am. Breakfast and lunch will be provided to attendees. \$15 per student attendee and free for advisers.

National High School Journalism Convention

April 6-9, 2017
Seattle, Washington

At this convention, practical and professional learning sessions are offered. More information can be found at <http://seattle.journalismconvention.org/>

Media & Leadership Academy

June 4-11
UGA- Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication

The Georgia Journalism Academy has been reconstructed into the Media & Leadership Academy. Applications will become available in March 2017. Application deadline is May 12. More information to come.

Digital Media Camp

June 11-17
Mercer University
Center for Collaborative Journalism

Each summer Mercer University hosts the Digital Media Summer camp, for high school students. There is a focus on multimedia reporting. More information can be found here: <https://ccj.mercer.edu/camp/>

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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 newspapers, yearbooks, literary magazines, radio/television and online publications or productions in middle and high schools in Georgia. The GSPA Bulletin is published by the University of Georgia six times annually as a benefit of membership in the Georgia Scholastic Press Association. GSPA contact information:

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Spring Contests 2017

General Excellence Guidelines & Categories

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.

1. Guidelines are set to ensure efficiency in processing of entries.
2. All entry materials must be postmarked by Feb. 24, 2017.
3. No late entries will be accepted.
4. Staffs competing in this contest must be 2016-2017 members of GSPA. If your publication(s) is not a current member, please submit an online membership form (<https://goo.gl/forms/j8wuFH7omANctSRq2>) and the membership fee of \$65.
5. Complete a contest entry form online (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSg71CFWDId3nKhTG6zTvAvX8_P5VUExVMEP-u0W0Hc_4WhQ/viewform)
6. Submit the \$35 contest entry fee (or \$30 critique only fee).
7. Send one copy of your two best issues printed during the 2016-2017 school year and/or the URL link to your website or broadcast.

General Excellence

Judges for this category review two entire issues of an entered publication from the 2016-2017 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.

Entries will be divided based on the publication type and school size. Depending on the number of entries submitted for each publication, they will then be divided by school size.

Newspapers

Depending on the number of newspapers entered into the contest, they will be divided into small, medium and large school categories.

Newsmagazines

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.


News websites

A separate evaluation guidebook emphasizing journalistic principles while also taking into account design, ease of navigation, interactivity and use of social media is used to access website entries.

Broadcasts

Contest submissions in the broadcast news 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 that remains within the realms of good news reporting and quality production.

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 or broadcast over the web, also qualify. 

Spring Contests 2017

Individual Entries Guidelines & Categories

New Guidelines

1. \$2 fee for each individual entry.
2. An online form is required for each individual entry submitted. (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOp_LcBGqL0Pur8yn_iAJxmKrnR191QCl41zz68rNu6CT_eg/viewform)
3. Entries are limited to THREE PER STAFF per category. We will not accept multiple entries from one individual in the same category.
4. Staff members should work with their fellow staffers and advisers to select the three best individual pieces from your staff per category.
5. Individual entries for newsmagazine & newspaper should be in a PDF.
6. The PDF title should be the following: Category #-Headline/Title-Publication Name-Student Name. The PDF should include the title of entry and name of students in the document.
7. Enter the URL in the form for individual entries submitted for the broadcast & news websites type of media.
8. Entries that do not follow guidelines properly will be disqualified.
9. Once you have completed this form, please compile all individual entries in a dropbox folder or a google folder and email the link to gspa1928@gmail.com.
10. Entries being covered by individual student, must be sent with the overall payment.

BROADCAST

For the following categories, please submit the entry url link on the submission form . Include only the individual entry on the recording(not the entire show).

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

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 in one PDF 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 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.

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 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.

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.

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.



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.

Recognizing special accomplishments

Guidelines for Achievement Awards

Not all accomplishments are necessarily visible in the final published product. The Achievement Awards helps fill that gap by aiming 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 emailed by February 24th, 2017. No late entries will be accepted.

Staffs competing in this contest must be 2016-17 members of GSPA.

Complete the Achievement Award online entry form- <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScT7Pwci6imREpxpUIIX8qcyBbIs6vDaUOTHJw8SQM6Tj3fcA/viewform>

Include an essay of no more than 400 words describing the achievement.

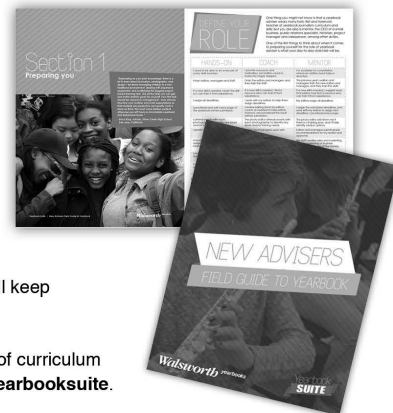
Submit supporting documents -- including a PDF copy of the publication -- for each category entered.

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Champion H. S. 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, 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 \$100 prize and a plaque from GSPA and will be recognized at the Spring Workshop & Awards. 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 \$75 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 must fill out the online entry form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScT40R-kNtXEY0zjJg7D2JFTA-MKvgejrNUj4AYBzzqp-5Mw/viewform>
- 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 e-mailed to gspa@uga.edu.

Deadline

All entries must be e-mailed to gspa@uga.edu by February 17th, 2017.



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Stepping up to the plate

By *Tiffany Smith*, Student Advisory Board Member
and Editor-in-Chief of the *Zephyr* at West Forsyth HS

A lone, Disconnected, Helpless...

Those were the feelings that I felt when sitting on my bedroom floor after another unsuccessful day in the classroom. I found myself staring at the scattered out plans with empty dreams that never made it to the spreads. I wasn't ready to take this monumental task on; while nothing was a set plan for this year.

Massive obstacles were in my way from the beginning of this 'opportunity'. An opportunity to uphold the title of the head editor-in-chief with the impending pressure of awards that has been stacked on from previous years. A new classroom, a new design program and the increasing numbers of *Zephyr* staff. The conflicted problems that seemed to never dissolve until I was convinced that this was something that I wanted to take on. In these past 3 years of journalism I had no title to my name in that class, so from coming to doing nothing from doing mostly everything in a fast moving atmosphere is asking for the inevitable stress. Due to the new occurrences in the staff this year I knew everything from previous years would have to be scratched and the program would have to be rebuilt once more. I decided that I wanted to do this position in the end, because this is my senior year of high school and I wanted the yearbook to be the best that it could possibly be.

*"If you can't fly, run
If you can't run, walk
If you can't walk, crawl
But by all means, keep moving,"
Martin Luther King Jr. said.*

To get rid of the obstacles I took care of them one at a time. I put in extra hours at home to learn the new program, so I could teach my staff. Then I also had to communicate with them daily while we waited to finally get a proper classroom with computers in it. Also due to the increasing numbers this year I needed to get more

organized for them when they turned in their work and had to take time out of the class period to make sure that they didn't have any questions or needed any help on their spreads.

Keep moving! Keep trying! Keep leading! Keep your character! Keep reaching for your goals! You've got this! Being a leader in high school means you will have to take charge of people your age. It's always difficult to establish this type of authority in a peer based environment, because sometimes feelings get in the way of things. Doing what's best for the program and not what's best for me was a difficult lesson that I had to learn this year. Due to the fact that most of the staff was a friend of mine. To have a good work atmosphere the communication that is important to have in the staff is to have a capable leader to communicate with them with the set rules for the classroom. But, at the end of the day a leader is somebody who understands that they need to do what's best for the program. Whoever is the head editor-in-chief in the staff needs to protrude some of the main attributes of an leader to be able to make the classroom setting for everyone a drama free work environment . The year so far has not been ideal, but at this point it's all worth it when I see new completed spreads each week and the improvement of the staffs work ethic since from the beginning of the year.

Who knew that I could step out of my comfort zone and was able to communicate well with my staff to work harder for the set goals that are made. The feelings that I feel right now sitting on my bed with every completed spread scattered out on my floor has drastically changed from the beginning of this opportunity.

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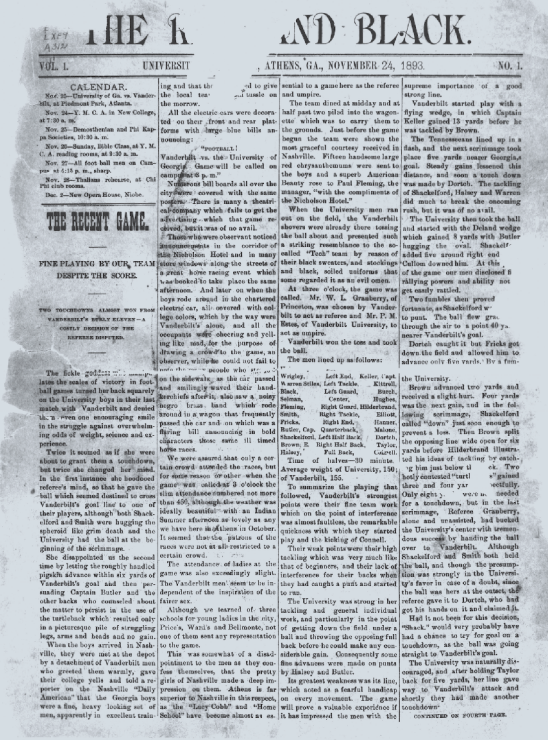
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"I firmly believe that high school journalism students should use the programs that they might see in the design and publication world. However, I have been stressed about how I would continue to maintain our computers and to afford to subscribe to Adobe products. Using Monarch has eliminated all of those worries."

// Tessa Shirley, adviser
North Hall High School [GA]



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