



# The Bulletin

The newsletter for student journalists and advisers across Georgia

[www.uga.gspa.org](http://www.uga.gspa.org)

March/April 2016

Volume 86, Issue 2

## Upcoming Events:

### Digital News Bluejeans Workshop

March 18-19, 2016

This year's Bluejeans workshop will take place on Friday, March 18 and Saturday March 19 at the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia. Each year the Bluejeans workshop looks at current trends or issues in the profession. This year's workshop includes the following topics: Ethics, Leadership, Managing Millennials, Problem Solving sessions with senior managers and Video Storytelling. Register before March 12 for \$35, after March 12 and at the door \$50. For more information visit: [grady.uga.edu/bluejeans](http://grady.uga.edu/bluejeans)

### Georgia Scholastic Awards Ceremony

April 14, 2016

It's time to recognize and celebrate the hard work our members have done during the 2015-16 academic year. The GSPA Awards will take place in the Classic Center, Athens, Georgia on Thursday, April 14 at 12 p.m. We will be recognizing All-Georgia publicatinos, Individual Student Contest winners, Champion High School Journalist Awards and the GSPA Achievement Awards. For more information visit: [gspa.uga.edu](http://gspa.uga.edu). The registration and directions for the Awards Ceremony can be found on page 5 of this bulletin.

### National High School Journalism Convention

April 14-17, 2016

This semi-annual gathering of high school students & advisers is co-sponsored by the Journalism Education Association and the National Scholastic Press Association. The convention will be held in sunny downtown Los Angeles, California from Thursday, April 14 until Sunday, April 17 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel. Participants will be able to choose from a variety of practical and professional learning sessions, from high-profile keynotes to specific, problem-solving breakouts and hands-on workshops.

The earlybird registration deadline is March 22 and the fee is \$90 for JEA or NSPA members. After March 22 the registration fee is \$100 for members. For nonmembers the earlybird registration fee is \$110, and \$120 after earlybird deadline and \$150 for nonmembers professionals. For more information visit: [la.journalismconvention.org](http://la.journalismconvention.org)

### Georgia Journalism Academy

June 5-10, 2016

Registration is now open for this year's Georgia Journalism Academy at the University of Georgia. This summer program is unique in that it is mostly hands-on and requires students to produce sound pieces of journalism or advertising by the end of the week. Early application costs start at \$595, includes tuition, housing, food, evening activities and supplies. Through a generous grant from CNN, we offer a limited number of full and partial scholarships. Early application deadline is May 6 and scholarship deadline is May 1. For more information visit: [georgiajournalismacademy.com](http://georgiajournalismacademy.com)

### Digital Media Summer Camp

June 10-19, 2016

Registration is now open for The Center for Collaborative Journalism Center at Mercer University's Digital Media Summer Camp. Deadline to apply is April 1. For more information visit: <http://ccj.mercer.edu/camp/> 

## 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, radio/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:

e-mail: [rmgandia@uga.edu](mailto:rmgandia@uga.edu)  
phone: (706) 542-5022

fax: (706) 542-7931  
website: [gspa.uga.edu](http://gspa.uga.edu)

## Director's Corner

By: Roxanna Gandía , GSPA Director



Greetings GSPA Members,

I hope your semester is going well. My name is Roxanna Gandía Laforêt, and I am the new GSPA Director and Director of High School & Diversity Outreach at Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. I wanted to take a moment to let you all know a little about myself.

I was born and raised in the metropolitan area of Puerto Rico. I moved to the states at age 18 to attend the University of Tampa in Tampa, Florida. There I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Film & Media Arts in 2008. In 2011, I graduated from the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida with a Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: College Student Affairs. I began my career in College Student Affairs in September 2011, when I started working as a Residence Hall Director (RHD) in University Housing at the University of Georgia. As an RHD, I oversaw three diverse residence halls; supervised 9 Resident Assistants and 2 C.L.A.S.S. Advocates; advised a community programming board of 11 members; provided and created opportunities for college students to develop personally and professionally; participated in staff recruitment and training; organized educational programs; served in diversity committees, and served as a on call consultant for residential emergencies. This prior position provided me with challenging and learning experiences, in which I was able to develop personally and professionally.

I am excited to begin this new chapter in my professional career, here at Grady College. The aspect that interested me most about this position was how it brought together different responsibilities I enjoy doing including diversity education, recruitment and training. I am excited to work with and for this organization. One of my goals is for this organization to provide even more resources, skills, and tools for the development of our members. I see this as a growth opportunity for all those involved. As in any position, the new person always brings a variety of ideas and a different thought process. I have already started the process of brainstorming ideas, goals, and objectives for GSPA. However, I want to know from the members what are the needs and wants for this organization. I believe understanding what advisers and students in Georgia need and want will help in achieving where we need to go to move forward.

I look forward to meeting you all during our various events throughout this year.

Sincerely,

Roxanna Gandía

**GEORGIA** scholastic  
**PRESS**  
2015-16 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

JEA State Director:  
Jon Reese  
jreese@csdecatur.net

**GEORGIA** scholastic  
**PRESS**  
association

# Navigating the New Look

By: Roxanna Gandía , GSPA Director  
& Jenny Alpaugh, GSPA Student Assistant



ABOUT US / EVENTS / COMPETITIONS / THOUGHTS FOR THURSDAYS / MEMBERS ONLY / CONTACT

Shortly after the fall conference last year, the new GSPA website was launched. GSPA student assistants Srishti Mishra and Jenny Alpaugh worked together to make the website easier to navigate and use. It can be accessed through urls: [ugagspa.org](http://ugagspa.org) and [uga.gspa.edu](http://uga.gspa.edu).

Here is what you'll find in each tab on the navigation bar .

**1. ABOUT US:** history and purpose of the organization.

**2. EVENTS:** information on and registration forms for the various events offered by GSPA:

- Fall Conference
- Spring Awards Ceremony
- Advisor's Summer Workshop
- Georgia Journalism Academy

**3. COMPETITIONS:** information on and forms for the two kinds of competitions offered by GSPA:

- General Excellence Competition
- Individual Competitions


**4. THOUGHTS FOR THURSDAY:** currently archive of Weekly Wednesdays. It will be updated to also include Thoughts for Thursday as they are shared and published.

**5. MEMBERS ONLY:** all tabs are password restricted. To gain access to this area, e-mail [gspa@uga.edu](mailto:gspa@uga.edu) and we'll send you the password. In this area you will find:

- Resources:
  - Helpful presentations
  - Helpful links
  - Helpful hints

- Publications: archives of past Bulletins and Winner's Circles in a downloadable PDF form.
- Discussions: we hope this space can foster and cultivate discussion among members about various topics. We have provided two topics. However, e-mail us with any suggestions for topics.

**6. CONTACT US:** general information on the various ways to get in touch with the GSPA office at Grady College.

Our website will be updated continually with new and pertinent information. Be on the lookout for important updates. 

# Reflections: Georgia Journalism Academy

Srishti Mishra, GSPA Student Assistant




Most of my high school summers were spent shuffling from one camp to another, in order to pad up my resume/CV as much as possible before the dreaded college applications. But Georgia Journalism Academy was different. The campers

were some of the coolest human beings I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. The counselors were super sweet, passionate, and so enthusiastic that daily meetings did not even feel like meetings. And I could not have asked for better mentors than the camp directors at the time and my broadcast journalism track teacher. I also learned some important life lessons during my time at the Georgia Journalism Academy. Two of them being: Grady and UGA were my calling.

Fast forward three summers and I returned as a Georgia Journalism Academy counselor. While it was different (since this time since I was on the other side of the camp experience), it honestly felt like things had come to full circle. Seeing the campers scouring North Campus to find the latest news story reminded me of when I was a young camper doing just the same. The

bonding activities, most notably the roller skating rink outing, hadn't changed since the last time I had been there. And the counselors were also just as awesome. Although most of us had only met each other the week before camp started, over the course of five days we became a family (or fam "as the kids call it these days"). I know, it sounds super duper cliché, but you'd be amazed at the power of a few rounds of Cards Against Humanity and late-night duties.

Georgia Journalism Academy was one of the highlights of my high school career because not only did the experience help me figure out what I wanted to do and what I had a passion for, but I also met some pretty awesome people along the way. It was really nice to meet other high schoolers from all over the South who enjoyed journalism as much as I did and my co-workers were some of the most genuine souls I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. And I am happy to say that I still keep in touch with a handful of these people from when I was a camper and from when I was a counselor. And with the ones I don't see as often, every time we meet, it's like we can pick up right where we left off. 



**Right:** Srishti Mishra, Georgia Journalism Academy alumna and counselor participates in the filming of a segment for the broadcast show GJA campers produce.



## Censorship got you down?

You have more rights than you think ... even in Georgia. The Student Press Law Center offers free legal advice and assistance for high school journalism advisers and students.

**Visit [www.splc.org](http://www.splc.org) for more information.**



# 2016 Awards Ceremony

## Thursday, April 14, Noon

### Classic Center, Athens, Georgia

Celebrate the achievements of Georgia scholastic journalists at the 83rd annual GSPA Awards Ceremony. Awards will be handed out in more than 50 categories recognizing individual and staff excellence in broadcast news, literary magazine, newspaper, newsmagazine, websites and yearbook.

A buffet lunch will be served.

Tickets: \$25 per person

**Registration Deadline:** Friday, March 25, 2016 **Payment Deadline:** Thursday, April 14, 2016

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE DIRECTLY ON PDF FORM

Name of Publication or Broadcast Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Media Type: Newspaper/Newsmagazine    News Website    Broadcast    Literary Magazine    Yearbook

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Adviser Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Advisers/Chaperones Attending \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Students Attending \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Tickets Requested \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 = Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send completed form with payment to:  
 GSPA Awards Ceremony  
 Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication  
 120 Hooper St.  
 Athens, GA 30602-3018

Completed forms may also be faxed to 706-542-7931 or e-mailed to [rmgandia@uga.edu](mailto:rmgandia@uga.edu).  
 If not included, payment is due at registration 04/14/16.  
 A confirmation with directions to the Classic Center and parking information will be sent upon receipt of registration. Questions? Contact Roxanna Gandia at [rmgandia@uga.edu](mailto:rmgandia@uga.edu) or 706-542-5022.  
*Due to strict deadlines with the caterer, no changes to registration are allowed after March 25, 2016.*

# Advisers: You are not alone!

by John Reese, Georgia JEA Director

Advising high school student media can feel like an isolated gig, especially since many of us don't benefit from "job-alike" colleagues in our schools with whom we can collaborate. The political, ethical, pedagogical, organizational and even technological challenges can overwhelm at times, and some of us feel the extra weight of an "impostor complex" because we don't have backgrounds in journalism, broadcast or design.

We value a free press, creative student expression, the lessons learned through collaboration, the benefits of feedback and revision, and the memories created through the shared experiences on staff, right? But it can still be a lonely road to trod, one filled with deadline worries, financial obstacles, administrative resistance, undermotivated students, and "never enough time" frustrations.

Here's the thing: you are not alone. Geographically distant from others who share your passion and values? For sure. But not alone.

As a GSPA member and (ideally) a Journalism Education Association member, we are included on active ListServ conversations that reveal how others are struggling, aspiring, and innovating. These threads regularly introduce me to valuable resources and push me to reflect on my instruction, grading, staff organization, even ethical stances. Veteran advisers share generously with newbies, and creative upstarts offer exciting glimpses into work their students are producing. It's virtual community, and the asynchronous exchanges can take a little getting used to. The benefit of breaking the isolation is worth it, though. Go ahead: post a question, offer an insight, or provide some reassurance to others. Add your voice.

Ethical and legal issues run through our work, and our isolation can prevent us from shepherding our students through controversial issues. These are impressionable young people, and we can serve as courageous models of democracy in action if we remember that we're not alone. The Student Press Law Center ([splc.org](http://splc.org)) devotes itself to protecting First Amendment rights by providing free legal assistance for the over 2500 callers that contact them each year. Investigate their resources, educate yourself, and then position yourself to advocate for your students so they can become the next generation of First Amendment defenders.


As tools for reporting, producing, and promoting stories evolve, we can find ourselves overwhelmed by

learning curves. Many of us still cling to the notion that we must command a certain mastery before we try to teach our students. We see the work of successful programs awarded GSPA, SIPA and NSPA honors and think to ourselves: we're just not that kind of program – a sinister, self-imposed isolation. The Poynter Institute's NewsU ([newsu.org](http://newsu.org)) offers dozens of no- or low-cost courses for advisers and students, many taught by some of the most prominent names in media scholarship.

JEA's Digital Media site ([jeadigitalmedia.org](http://jeadigitalmedia.org)) organizes dozens of tech-

specific how-tos in dozens of categories, posts written by advisers for advisers. And JEA's curriculum modules ([curriculum.jea.org](http://curriculum.jea.org)) provide in-depth daily plans for week-long and multi-week units. The handouts and slideshows are downloadable and editable, allowing advisers to customize the content based on their students' needs. Don't let what you don't know leave you feeling alone.

Conferences and conventions provide special opportunities to physically come together, to ask questions of session presenters, to see new approaches firsthand, to be inspired and energized. GSPA's fall conference has grown in its diverse offerings and attendance, and it provides the most economical means to break the isolation. Some Georgia advisers have found a meaningful community in the Southern Interscholastic Press Association, whose March conventions in South Carolina draw hundreds from around the southeast and include presentations from nationally-known advisers and professionals. JEA teams with NSPA to present two conventions a year, and the variety of sessions, contests, and exhibitors is unrivaled. New York City attracts devoted staffs yearly to the Columbia Scholastic Press Association convention, and broadcast advisers find their niche in the Student Television Network's spring convention as well as summer workshops offered by the Academy of Scholastic Broadcasting.

Tens of thousands of students rely on advisers like us to facilitate an engaging and rewarding experience for them. They can't understand how alone we sometimes feel in our work as their advisers. To give them what they deserve and to cultivate our own sense of job satisfaction, though, we need to inventory what's available to us, make good use of these resources, and claim our place at the table with other Georgia advisers and those who share our passion across the country. It's good to remember that we are not alone. 

**“Geographically distant from others who share your passion and values? For sure. But not alone.”**

# Good-bye Weekly Wednesdays, Hello Thoughts for Thursdays!


By: Jenny Alpaugh, GSPA Student Assistant

In the past, GSPA members have received a Weekly Wednesday email. These served mainly as a way of disseminating advice from current GSPA student assistants or the GSPA director, or for addressing important aspects of student journalism, like the impact of the first amendment. This year we are switching things up a bit and will now be sending out "Thoughts for Thursday" bi-weekly starting today. Occasionally we will use this as a way to keep you all updated on important information and upcoming deadlines, but we also want to open these up to you. We want to hear what your high school journalism program is doing! We encourage you to submit a piece of writing for Thoughts for Thursdays about:

- New tools your students are using
- Important skills for student journalists
- Helpful tips related to student journalism
- An update on exciting things your students have accomplished
- Any information that would be useful to fellow journalism advisers

All of you have something to contribute to the collective knowledge of journalism advisers in Georgia, and we hope that this can be one way we can help to facilitate the spread of this information.

We also open up Thoughts for Thursdays for your student editors to write in the style of the past Weekly Wednesdays written by student assistants. We want to hear about obstacles they have overcome in the newsroom and ways they have developed their leadership. This provides students with a chance to help build their portfolios, as Thoughts for Thursdays will also be published in the next month's bulletin.

To submit a written piece send it to [gspa@uga.edu](mailto:gspa@uga.edu) with the author's name, title and school at the top. Pieces should be about 300-500 words and are subject to editing for clarity by the GSPA director or GSPA student assistants. Please send it by the Friday of the week before you want it to be shared. If your Thoughts for Thursday is chosen to be shared we will notify you the Monday of the week it will be sent out to the listserv. 


## Your Organization... Your Voice

By: Roxanna Gandía, GSPA Director

During the January meeting GSPA's Advisory Board, the board discussed challenges, ways of moving the organization forward and how we can provide more opportunities and resources to better serve our members. It was decided an intentional survey would be sent out to the membership. We want to provide members of GSPA a space, in which you can give us feedback.

- We would like to know what your needs as advisers are.
- We would like to know what challenges are you currently facing and how GSPA can help.
- We would like to know how we can continue enhancing our services.



Please be on the look out for the e-mail with the survey link on March 9. You will have until Sunday, May 1 to complete the survey. On behalf of the GSPA Advisory Board, we hope you take this opportunity to share your thoughts with us. 

June 5-10, 2016



Are you ready to play?

[www.georgiajournalismacademy.com](http://www.georgiajournalismacademy.com)



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and Mass Communication  
The University of Georgia  
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REGISTER FOR THE GSPA AWARDS CEREMONY BY MARCH 25.