



GSPA

GEORGIA SCHOLASTIC
PRESS ASSOCIATION

www.gspa.uga.edu

THE BULLETIN

The newsletter for student journalists and advisers across Georgia

Vol. 81, No. 5

November/December 2010

Important Dates:

Friday, Jan. 28

Postmark Deadline

First Amendment
Essay Contest

Tuesday, Feb. 15

Postmark Deadline

Ga. Champion Journalist
Ga. Rising Journalist

Friday-Sunday, March 5-7

SIPA Conference
Columbia, S.C.

Friday, March 11

Postmark Deadline

General Excellence
Newspaper, Literary
Magazine (round one),
Broadcast News and
all individual entries

Friday, March 25

Postmark Deadline

Achievement Awards

Thursday, April 28

GSPA Awards Ceremony
Athens, Ga.

*GSPA Membership required to
enter competitions.*

2010 Fall Conference

High schoolers gain skills

ATHENS — GSPA recently hosted its fall conference for 21 Georgia high schools. The conference was attended by more than 400 students who participated in 63 educational sessions. Students were taught techniques in the areas of broadcast, literary magazines, newspapers and yearbook.

“I learned a lot about brainstorming and different ideas I can come up with on one subject,” Summer Lewis, Dawson County High School student said. “The seminars helped a lot and I’m glad I came.”

The conference kicked off with a musical performance by The Accidentals, UGA’s A’cappella group. After a 45-minute set, the group held a question and answer session with Athens journalist Brian Creech and conference participants. The concert was followed by two days of 50-minute sessions on topics such as news writing, high school

media rights and yearbook design. Presenters included local media professionals, Grady College faculty and high school journalism teachers.

Students at the conference, such as Cody Deese from Lowndes High School, found the sessions very beneficial. “I went to the 12 Tips for Broadcasting session and it was very helpful,” Deese said. “I learned a lot of new things, which even being the director of my broadcast, I didn’t know.”

Several schools also participated in the conference’s First Issue Competition, which recognizes the best first issue in several categories. Winners in the First Issue Competition were:

- Best Overall Winner, The Prowler, Stars Mill High School (Fayetteville)
- Best Overall Design, The Prowler, Stars Mill High School (Fayetteville)

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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 seventh annual First Amendment Essay Contest.

Open to all students at schools with a GSPA membership, entrants must submit an essay of no more than 500 words on their thoughts of 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. What is its importance on your campus and in 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 Web site.

Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 28, 2011.

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

Director's Corner



There is a lot of discussion among educators about the changing face of journalism. As the last two GSPA Awards Ceremony keynote speakers noted, the more aspiring journalists learn about multimedia, blogging and social media, the more successful they will be in their careers.

As I look at my friends still in the journalism business, this concept holds true. After nearly two decades covering sports for traditional newspapers, a friend in Chicago utilized his more than 3,000 Facebook and Twitter followers to launch a successful Chicago sports blog. A longtime daily newspaper reporter and former journalism instructor at the Grady College is now a regional editor at patch.com, a hyper-local community journalism web site being launched locally by AOL. Another friend and former colleague writes, shoots video, edits audio and blogs for CNN Online.

The changing structure of journalism has led the Grady College to adjust its curriculum. Most notably, an editing class I teach has been transformed from a copy editing and graphic design class to a multimedia competency course. In addition to gaining a stronger grasp on grammar and AP Style, students are taught how to blog, create a web site, record and edit audio, produce soundslide shows, and shoot and edit video. It's a lot of ground to cover in 15 weeks and by no means will a student be an expert in any of these areas after the semester, but the goal is to at least expose students to the many different elements of journalism. This will give them a competitive advantage over their peers when they enter the workforce.

The changes have certainly been met with some skepticism. Some wonder whether teaching multimedia "skills" is really the job of a journalism professor. But for students to fully understand how multimedia can be utilized by journalists, I think it's critical that college journalism teachers incorporate it into their teaching. When I teach audio editing, I emphasize the importance of maintaining the context of the interview, just as a journalist should recognize the context of a quote. When teaching Twitter, I show students how it can be used as a reporting tool by searching keywords and applying hash tags, rather than just getting updates about what Lady GaGa had for breakfast. By learning multimedia skills through a journalism frame, my students are maintaining the journalistic concepts and ethics that are often missing from online content.

As GSPA director, I'm often asked if we're incorporating multimedia lessons in high school journalism. We are not, and I don't think we should. The fundamental concepts of traditional journalism — such as developing story ideas, accuracy in reporting, conducting research, proper interviewing techniques, and utilizing correct grammar and AP style — can be overwhelming for a teenager. Yet these concepts are essential for an aspiring journalist. Without this basic understanding, moving into multimedia can be dangerous, resulting in prospective journalists who focus on the technology over the content. It's a lot easier to teach multimedia competencies to a trained journalist than teaching journalistic concepts to a technologically-skilled student.

High school journalism teachers shouldn't get caught up in the Journalism 2.0 craze. Because without learning the basics — what high school journalism has always been about — there is no journalism in multimedia.

Joe Dennis
GSPA Director



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

THE BULLETIN

Editor: **Joe Dennis**
Assistant Editor: **Laynie Rose**

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.

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2010 Fall Conference



Top left: Students look through the conference program. The program contained the class schedule and a short description of each class.

Top right: Students take notes during class. Classes were fifty minutes long and covered everything from basic journalism skills to editing.

Bottom: The Accidentals, UGA's A'cappella group, perform for students on the first night of the conference.

Continued from page 1

- Best Front Page Design, The Prowler, Stars Mill High School (Fayetteville)
 - Best News Page, The Talon, Dacula High School (Dacula)
 - Best Features Page, The Saga, Lowndes High School (Valdosta)
 - Best Sports Page, The Talon, Etowah High School (Woodstock)
 - Best Opinion's Page, The Forum, North Hall High School (Gainesville)
- An On-the-Spot Photo Competition

was also held. Aspiring photojournalists were instructed to take pictures of the GSPA Conference. Griffin Mitchell from The King's Academy (Woodstock) took first place, and Sarah Gilbert from Stars Mill High School (Fayetteville) finished second.

Joe Dennis, GSPA director, said the conference gives students the opportunity to advance their skills.

"GSPA encourages students to fur-

ther their journalism skills, while getting hands-on experience," said Dennis, GSPA director and journalism instructor in Grady College. "The conference offered a great, inexpensive opportunity for students across the state to learn from some of the best journalism teachers and practitioners in Georgia."

— Raisa Habersham
Grady College intern

2009-10 GSPA General Excellence Critique Service Six literary magazines earn ‘superior’ rating

Judging is complete in the first and second rounds of the 2009-10 GSPA General Excellence Literary Magazine Competition.

General Excellence winners, Best Layout and the All-Georgia Literary Magazine Award will be announced at the GSPA Awards Ceremony on Thursday, April 28, 2011.

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

Literary Magazines were evaluated in the following categories: literary standards (quality of content, variety of genres, and editing and proofreading) and graphic standards (cover, organizational structure, layout, typography, and illustrations and photography).

To view the GSPA literary magazine evaluation guidebook, visit www.gspa.uga.edu. Information about the 2009-10 literary magazine critique service and general excellence competition will be included in a future issue of *The Bulletin*.

Superior

Clarke Central High School, *The Iliad*
Chattahoochee High School, *Chrysalis*
North Forsyth High School, *Threshold*
Collins Hill High School, *The Epiphany*
Eagle's Landing H.S., *The Gyre*
Northview H.S., *The Muse/Vol. 7*
Northview H.S., *The Muse/Vol. 8*

Excellent

Grady High School, *The Unmasking*
Wesleyan School, *Pencils and Pawprints*
Woodward Academy, *Silent Voices*
Roswell High School, *Helicon*
North Springs Charter H.S., *Echo*
Cedar Shoals High School, *The Mosaic*

Achievement

Roswell H.S., *Helicon*



**SIPA Annual Convention
Columbia, S.C.**

**March 5-7, 2010
www.sipa.sc.edu**

Southern Interscholastic Press Association

Annual Convention • March 5-7, 2010 • Columbia, S.C.

Imagine a trip with no electricity or running water but filled instead with prison breaks, mosquitoes, infant mortality and mangos.

Sound exciting? Probably not for most people, but for a University of South Carolina junior, Paul Bowers, it was. The trip was his chance to make a difference.

Bowers began his career in journalism working on his high school newspaper, *The Wavebreaker* (Summerville HS, SC). He eventually became editor-in-chief. He also wrote for his local daily newspaper, *The Post and Courier*, in the “by teens for teens” section.

The trip became possible when he

won the “Win-A-Trip” contest held by New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof. The contest was designed to allow Kristof to take a college journalist with him to Africa for two weeks.

During Bowers' two-week stay in Africa, they went from village to village visiting clinics and maternity wards. In his free time, Bowers kept a blog.

For more information or to register for the SIPA Convention, visit www.sipa.sc.edu.

REGISTRATION COSTS

\$75 early-bird registration by Feb. 1

\$85 registration after Feb. 1

Advisers bringing 10 or more students may register for free.

2010 Georgia Journalism Academy

June 6-12, 2010



ABOVE: Academy students Andrew Chen (North Hall HS), Clinton Lewis (Metrolina Christian Academy), Michael Smith (North Hall HS), Scott Lauderdale (McIntosh HS) show off their “rock star” skills during a break. RIGHT: Broadcast students Rose Fox (Alcovy HS) and Reginald Askew (Southwest DeKalb HS) from the week to the newspaper produced by the students.



Lithonia’s Brown named journalism “Rock Star”

ATHENS — Savannah Brown, a rising senior at Martin Luther King Jr. High School, Lithonia, was named the “Rock Star” of the 2010 Georgia Journalism Academy, hosted by the University of Georgia’s Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

“Savannah really set herself apart at camp with her professionalism and dedication to getting a story, not just a photo,” said camp photojournalism instructor, Sue Myers Smith. “I noticed right away how polite and friendly she was, and obviously her peers recognized that trait about her too.”

Brown was one of 71 participants of the Academy, a weeklong camp for high school journalists. Students live in a campus residence hall during the week and take classes at the Grady College in one of seven core areas: broadcast writing and reporting, broadcast news production, news writing, feature writing, editorial writing, photojournalism or graphic design. This year’s camp, held June 6-12, had the theme of “Journalism Rock Star.”

Brown was a member of the photojournalism class that took photos for The

Amplifier, a 12-page newspaper produced by journalism students at the Academy. Broadcast students produced a 15-minute newscast called the Grady News Network. In addition, students maintained personal blogs throughout the week.

“This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” Brown said. “This was my first time using a camera, and now this is what I want to do. I want to be a photojournalist.”

Brown said her favorite part of the camp was taking pictures in downtown Athens during the evening. “Downtown is definitely different during the night,” she said. “There’s a different personality out there.”

The Academy “Rock Stars” were recognized at a closing banquet at UGA’s Memorial Hall on Friday, June 11. Brown was nominated by instructor Smith for the photojournalism award, and was voted on by students as the overall Academy Rock Star. Along with Brown, the following students were named “Rock Stars” in their respective classes:

- Rose Fox (Dacula, Ga./Alcovy High

School), broadcast production

- Reginald Askew (Decatur, Ga./Southwest Dekalb High School), broadcast production

- Payton Spell (Covington, La./Saint Scholastica Academy), broadcast writing and reporting

- Meghan Walsh (Norcross, Ga. / Norcross High School), broadcast writing and reporting

- Nicole Smith (Marietta, Ga./Walton High School), editorial writing

- Marisa Meyerowitz (Roswell, Ga./Roswell High School), feature writing

- Asia Thomas (Zebulon, Ga./Pike County High School), news writing

- Taylor Carpenter (Richmond Hill, Ga./Richmond Hill High School), graphic design

In its 27th year, the Georgia Journalism Academy is open to any high school student interested in journalism. Since 2005, CNN has been a strong financial supporter of prospective Academy students, this year providing funds for full or partial scholarships for roughly 20 camp participants.

First Amendment Essay Contest

Sponsored by:



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?

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 post-marked by Jan. 28, 2010.

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 28, 2011 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

2011 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): _____

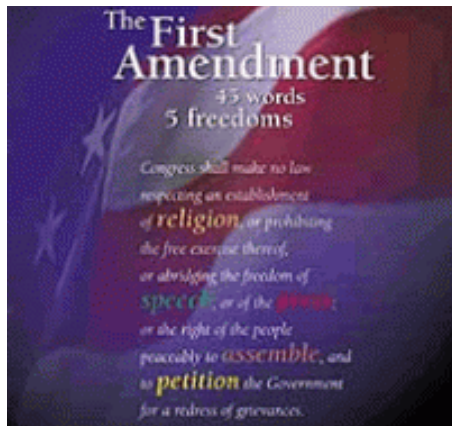
Please attach this form to your entry and return to: First Amendment Essay Contest, GSPA, 120 Hooper Street, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018.

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. 28, 2011.

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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