



THE BULLETIN

The newsletter for Georgia's student journalists and advisers

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IN THIS ISSUE

Register for the 2018 Spring Workshop and Awards ceremony by March 30.

The event will take place on Tuesday, April 17, at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education and Hotel beginning at 9 a.m.

Help us celebrate GSPA's 90th Anniversary!

More information inside.

The winners of the 2018 Champion Journalist Competition and First Amendment Essay Contest have been announced!

Look inside to read more about these outstanding young journalists.

We are now accepting applications for the 2018 Media and Leadership Academy at the University of Georgia.

The Academy will take place June 3-8.

This year's theme: Grady Things!

See more information on page 7.



Congratulations to the 2018 Georgia Champion Journalist

Lucia Bermudez

Lucia Bermudez, co-editor-in-chief of Odyssey Media Group at Clarke Central High School in Athens, Georgia, has been named the 2018 Georgia Champion Journalist by the Georgia Scholastic Press Association and the Journalism Education Association.



Lucia Bermudez, co-editor-in-chief of the ODYSSEY Media Group, presents to journalism students and advisers during the GSPA journalism conference in October 2016. Bermudez has been named the 2018 Georgia Champion Journalist of the Year.

The award recognizes the top high school senior journalist in the state.

The winners were selected from a pool of 11 entrants, each with portfolios packed with academic achievements and journalism accolades. Portfolios were scored in the following categories: candidate background; news gathering; writing; editing; design; multimedia broadcast; photojournalism; web; law and ethics; leadership and team building; news literacy; entrepreneurship; and candidate reflection.

The nomination of Bermudez included comments about her ability to recognize the unique power she possesses as a Latina journalist, “evident in her journalism work and in the various ways she speaks up for her community to ensure they have a voice.”

Bermudez demonstrates a commitment to her community that extends beyond the pages of the Odyssey. She tutors students at Clarke Middle School. She serves as vice president for her school’s Hope Club (Hispanic Organization Promoting Education), organizing fundraising projects and monthly meetings.

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She is co-president of her school’s Interact Club, which runs an annual event – DreamFest – to promote awareness of undocumented students in the community. She also founded the Latinx Student Union at her school, an organization that celebrates Latino culture and promotes volunteerism.

Bermudez will receive a \$100 prize and be recognized at the GSPA Workshop and Awards April 17, 2018. She also moves on to represent the state in the Journalism Education Association’s National Journalist of the Year competition.

Congratulations to Odyssey Media Group co-editor-in-chief Aneesa Conine-Nakano, who was the runner-up in the competition, and Haley Burke, editor-in-chief of the Calvary Beacon at Calvary Day School in Savannah, Georgia, who placed third.

Congratulations to the 2018 Junior Champion Journalist

In addition to the senior Georgia Champion Journalist of the Year, the GSPA honors the top high school junior journalist in the state. **Ana Aldridge** was named the junior winner and **Valeria Garcia-Pozo** was the runner-up. Both are on staff with the Odyssey Media Group.



Student Advisery Board Showcase

Student advisery board member and editor-in chief of West Forsyth High School's "Zephyr" recounts a memorable and humorous New Year's Day in 2010.

New Year's Day, 2010.

It was an unusually warm Michigan day, and the fluffy blanket of snow from the night before had started to melt, leaving in its place a slick sheet of ice. With this in mind, the adults deemed it safe enough to sled, but only if we heeded their words of caution: "grab your mittens or else you'll freeze your fingers off!" Little did they know that frozen fingers would be the least of our worries.

At last, with our jackets zipped to our chins, and beanies pulled low to cover our ears, we opened the sliding glass door and headed out into the frozen wasteland that was my backyard. We grabbed our sleds and clamored up the massive hill before us. I went first. I placed my sled on the snow, and launched myself down the hill. It was at this moment that I realized two important things: I was going too fast and I didn't know how to stop.

Now, normally, this wouldn't be that big of a problem. I'd just overshoot the sidewalk and end up in the street, no big deal. However, my father's 10 X 12 motorcycle trailer was parked just at the bottom of the hill. Right where I was headed. To most people, they'd simply just roll off, maybe slide into some trees but overall come out unscathed. To me, I was not familiar with proper snow etiquette, having just moved up north, and gripped the nylon string tighter, frozen.

Everything felt like slow motion as the trailer gained more and more mass, eventually engulfing my entire line of sight. I had tried to put my arms out to stop myself, but alas, Newton was right about objects in motion. Everything from then on was a blur.

I lost half my tooth, the ambulance was called, everything you'd expect at a disaster New Year's Day party. However, there were also lots of lessons learned that day, especially on my part. One being, don't try to use your face as a brake, it just won't work.



2018 Spring Workshop and Awards Ceremony

Join GSPA and its members from across the state in celebrating the best in high school journalism and the 90th anniversary of the GSPA at the 2018 GSPA Spring Awards. The event will be held at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel on Tuesday, April 17.

This year's event combines favorite elements from awards celebrations over the years. It will begin with a morning conference focused on professional development from 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m., and will conclude with a banquet-style awards luncheon, catered by The Georgia Center, starting at noon. Professional dress is suggested.

Please make your reservations by March 30. We hope you'll join us for this special day honoring all of your hard work and a major milestone for GSPA!

How to Register

Complete the [online form](#). Deadline to register is March 30.

Payment Information

Cost: \$25 for students, free for advisers.

Payment can be mailed ahead of time to GSPA at Journalism 211A, 120 Hooper Street, Athens, GA 30622.

Payment will be accepted at the event, but ONLY if it is enclosed in an envelope labeled with the number of students being paid for and the school name.

Room Block Information

Rooms have been set aside at the Holiday Inn Express for the nights of April 16-17. If you would like to take advantage of this room block, the group code is GSP, which can be used online or by calling the hotel at 706-546-8122.

Parking Information

If your group will be traveling in a school bus, contact gspa@uga.edu before April 11. For those coming by car, parking in UGA's South Deck is available for the daily fee.



2018 First Amendment Essay Winner

Anna Hicks

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. Every year, GSPA administers the First Amendment Essay Contest. Students from across the state submit an essay describing the importance of the First Amendment and its relevance in his or her life. This year, over 25 essays were submitted and judged by University of Georgia Grady College First Amendment scholars. This year's winner is Anna Hicks from South Forsyth High School. (Essay printed as submitted.)

The First Amendment is what makes America so special. Every citizen, no matter age, gender, race, or religion is free to speak their mind and contribute their thoughts to our society. This is a privilege that many people around the world are not as fortunate to have. It is the basis of all our news, music, and art and is much of what makes our country so great to live in.

The First Amendment plays such a huge role in our lives. We use it everyday in our work, at school, online, and everywhere else. Without it, our lives as we know them would be changed. As a part of a student news publication, I can say that this amendment is especially important for me. I have the opportunity to share news and information and my opinion with the entire world. Being able to share these things with everyone is such a vital part of my life. I think I grow as a person by listening and reading what others have to say about the world. Everyone has a different view on the events going on and it would be a very different world if we could not share our thoughts and beliefs freely.

The First Amendment has also been a great factor in developing who I am as a person. My entire life and how I have grown as a person has revolved around this amendment whether I realized it or not. I watch the news, read books, listen to music, and speak my mind all on a daily basis. Everything I have read and heard so far has been a part of making who I am today; and in the same way I am able to express who I am through speaking and writing as well. I couldn't imagine who I would be today without it. We often take advantage of this amendment because we have never lived in a place without it.

The First Amendment is what I believe to be the most important part of our country. It embodies everything that our founding fathers stood for. It gives us the right to stand up for ourselves, learn something new, and hear about different perspectives. Without it the world as we know it and more importantly, ourselves would be changed.

Congratulations to William Logsdon of South Forsyth High School and McKaela Kramer of Calvary Day School for earning 2nd and 3rd place, respectively.

Apply Now!

2018 Media and Leadership Academy



June 3-8, 2018

The Media & Leadership Academy at Grady College is an intensive residential one-week program focused on experiential learning. This program is open to rising high school sophomores to seniors interested in the mass communication field. Incoming UGA freshmen who intend to pursue a Grady College major also are eligible to attend.

Participants will choose from one of the three offered tracks: Journalism, Advertising & Public Relations or Entertainment. Participants will spend the first half of the week learning about their chosen track. In the second half of the week, they will develop more specific skill sets based on their interests by working on teams to complete a class project.

A taste of college life

The Academy is a residential program and participants will stay in a residence hall during the week. Accepted students can choose their roommate or a roommate will be assigned. Academy counselors (current UGA students) will stay with the students and will respond to needs and make sure students are in their rooms by the curfew. Please visit the UGA Residence Halls website for details about the accommodations.

Nightly activities throughout the week will provide opportunities for participants to network, build connections and have fun.

You won't want to miss out on the fun with this year's theme: Grady Things!

Applications are now open at
www.ugagspa.org/academy/



“IN MANY WAYS, THE HEART OF JOURNALISM INNOVATION IS EMERGING FROM MERCER UNIVERSITY.”

THE NEW RESEARCH CENTER, “SOCIAL NEWS IN A DIGITAL AGE”

The Center for Collaborative Journalism (CCJ) has since partnering several Mercer University, the largest and largest public broadcasting, will give you access to the internet, and more! Knight Foundation and The Knight Foundation's resources.

Our groundbreaking collaboration has resulted in a city and several innovative working together in a platform where learning in a “learning/teaching” model, our goal is to provide a community with the latest digital tools and help with a portfolio of published work that provides an idea for a media channel. We welcome your input.

Learn more about the CCJ and events for our Media Center on Mercer University's website. 2018 and 2019 Media Center Dates are 10-20, 2018 and 2019.

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CCJ.MERCER.EDU

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- ★ Learn journalism skills and methods to create a multi-platform story package
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- ★ Connect with other student journalists and advisers from across the Southeast
- ★ Engage in real world experiences and discussions

EAT. **SLEEP.** **ATLANTA SUMMER YEARBOOK WORKSHOP**

YEARBOOK. **REPEAT.** **SAVE THE DATE JULY 16-17, 2018 ATLANTA**

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