

Convention 2003

# FSPA Today

Enhancing integrated media training for scholastic journalists and advisers

## 2003 Calendar

### MAY

**2** – Final deadline for convention attendees name lists for ID badges (see below)  
**3-8** – FSPA office hours adjusted for convention preparation  
**8-10** – FSPA 2003 Convention, Hyatt Orlando, Kissimmee  
**12** – FSPA office closes for summer break  
**23** – CSPA Summer Journalism Workshop application deadline

### JUNE

**1** – JEA Advisers Institute application deadline for Sequence I  
**2** – Summer Journalism Institute application deadline  
**16** – Yearbook evaluations submission deadline  
**16-20** – JEA Sequence I, Nashville, TN  
**21** – Summer Journalism Visitation Program at UF  
**21-26** – Summer Journalism Institute at UF. For information visit [www.jou.ufl.edu/sji](http://www.jou.ufl.edu/sji)  
**22-27** – CSPA Summer Journalism Workshop at Columbia University

### JULY

**1** – JEA Advisers Institute application deadline for Sequences II and III  
**20-25** – JEA Sequence II at Kansas State University  
**25-30** – JEA Sequence III at KSU

## Convention Security

All advisers MUST submit a list of convention delegate names in order to receive ID badges. Delegate will not be allowed to participate in FSPA activities without ID badges. If you have not submitted your staff's list yet, or if you have a change, please contact Theresa Myers immediately at [tmyers@escambia.k12.fl.us](mailto:tmyers@escambia.k12.fl.us)

## FSPA 2003 convention countdown begins



**By Terry Sollazzo**  
*FSPA Vice President  
 and Convention Chair*

Each year, a few weeks prior to convention, I find myself scrambling to make sure my staff and I are ready for all FSPA has to offer. I push the kids to put finishing touches on our Danny Wellman Display and make sure Carry-In photos have been mounted correctly. You know the drill, right?

I run through my mental checklist (see right). We then hop in the car and immediately head for a late lunch at a great restaurant in Kissimmee. Why? In the words of the latest Checkers' commercial, "You gotta eat." Don't forget. All of you need the energy to survive the night. Simply taking time out to eat will help "make a difference" in your convention experience. Thursday the Opening Session begins at 6:15 p.m., and there is not another chance to eat until after 10 p.m. at the Ice Cream Social, sponsored by Herff-Jones, and Talent/Lip Synch Show/Dance. The hotel does have a deli and a restaurant. There are also several restaurants located near the hotel, but students may NOT to leave hotel grounds unless chaperoned.


Friday activities begin early. There is an advisers' breakfast, sponsored by Jostens, prior to the Panel Discussion. Everyone is strongly urged to attend, because most of the Friday morning contests are based on the discussion. Student reps will distribute tickets for door prizes that will be awarded at the post-banquet dance.

Broadcast students begin their contests at 7:45 a.m., and the first session starts at 9 a.m. We break for lunch

at noon and reconvene at 2 p.m. The Advisers' Luncheon, sponsored by Bryn-Alan, is scheduled at this time, so students may want to head for the deli or hotel restaurant. The last class ends at 4 p.m., and then you can rest until banquet doors open at 6 p.m.

In the past, I have seen some students (including my own) disappointed that they were not in the Closing Session video, which recaps the highlights of the convention. I always tell them that "you can't be videotaped if you are not out and about." That means that they need to be in contests, in sessions, at the dances and the Ice Cream Social. They need to have fun meeting new people and sharing ideas.

I know it's tempting to let them sleep-in (especially since we know how sleep-deprived we all are), but don't let them. This is a chance in a lifetime to learn, from outstanding speakers and each other. Even seniors can bring back valuable information to share with the rest of your staff. Require them to teach what they have learned. In other words, take advantage of all the convention has to offer. This will be an experience that can make a difference in their lives, and definitely in yours.



### Convention Departure Checklist

- Contact supervisor about inservice hours for teaching certificate renewal
- Carry-In contest entries
- On-the-Spot materials
- Behavior contracts and medical release forms
- School tax exempt number
- Substitute requested
- Students, suitcases and snacks in the car

## Board streamlines registration, enhances security



**By Theresa Myers**  
*District 3 Director*

The FSPA Board is always looking for ways to improve convention security. For 2003, we have taken a big step in assuring student safety and identification.

One change in the registration process involves the wristbands that we issue to each attendee. The wristbands are numbered this year, and advisers will receive the list of students' names with the numbers assigned to each person. Advisers must follow this list in distributing the wristbands.

Additionally, Jostens will provide photo identification cards for every student and teacher in attendance. To help speed up the process, FSPA agreed to provide a digital list of ALL attendees.

At this point, we are working from your registration sheets. We do understand last-minute changes in student rosters, but we need that information from you immediately. If you have last-minute changes, e-mail that information to me **NO LATER THAN MAY 2**. We are generating the master list now.

We're really trying to make this year's registration the smoothest ever. If you have suggestions or concerns about this process, please feel free to e-mail them to me. See you in Orlando!



## Perspective

a message from executive director **Judy M. Steverson**

Please join us. . .  
Y'all come.  
Come and get it.

Anyway you choose to say it, help me make sure all advisers attend the reception hosted by the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications Thursday evening.

Scheduled to begin at 8 p.m., this event is designed to honor veteran advisers and introduce first-time attendees. Along with delicious refreshments, we have special gift packets prepared for you. Don't miss this great opportunity to meet, eat and greet.

Following the reception and our general meeting, which will provide you an update on our organization's professional activities, we will breakup into district meetings, where you will discuss special issues of local concern.

Add these three important reminders to your adviser's checklist:

First, come to your district meetings armed with your calendar of fall events to help select the most convenient date for your district workshop. Also, bring great ideas and a willingness to help your director plan this event.

Second, before leaving for the convention, appoint your best writer to prepare a press release that highlights your staff's convention experiences, especially the honors and awards you receive. As soon as you return, send these releases to all members of your local media, and provide one for your principal and superintendent.

Finally, be sure you join me in thanking everyone who has worked so hard to organize this convention, and do thank Judy Richman for her dedication to scholastic journalism. She has truly made a difference in FSPA.

## President reflects on four years of leadership



By **Judy Booth Richman**  
*FSPA President*

During the past four years, I have served as your president. I took the job very seriously because I represented you and you placed your trust in me.

When I came into office, I saw that the members were split because of internal bickering. Membership was declining. Money was in short supply. Scholastic journalism programs needed help.

I met with Vice President Candace Gibson (since replaced by Terry Sollazzo), Past President Jill Maassen and new Executive Director Judy Steverson. We decided that the most important issue was to heal wounds and create a spirit of cooperation. We vowed to be the leaders in this movement. When the next Winter Board meeting came around, we found we were surrounded with others who had the same goal.

Thus began the progress of the last four years.

Responding to the new positive spirit, membership began to grow. District directors came to the Winter Board meeting and left refreshed, invigorated, rather than exhausted. That carried down to the districts where workshops were full of energy and promise.

Finances were central to carrying out ideas. With more members and more people attending the convention, more money was available. But, it should be noted, those responsible for spending the money were always conservative, always aware that the money was your money, not theirs. So, we have remained in the black.

In addition, the FSPA Foundation continues to grow. The Foundation is a living way to create a legacy for journalism students of the future. Money in the Foundation will make a difference.

Judy Steverson set about to make FSPA a household word in many people's minds. She attended principal's conferences and professional press conventions, shaking hands and talking. She led the office staff in developing brochures which explain who and what FSPA is, something that has been needed for a long time.

Also, due to the efforts of the Florida Press Association, the legislature has a better understanding of who we are. We have worked to create honors journalism courses which are now accessible through the state code book.

This organization is not just me or the executive board. It is you. I began just like many of you, a new member, seeking to know more. I attended workshops; I asked questions; I volunteered. You can do the same. This organization is a living, breathing entity because you make it so.

I can actually say that I have enjoyed my tenure as president. There have been challenges along the way, but since I wasn't alone, they were always worked out. There have been tragedies, but since we were family, we picked up and went on. There have been great conventions, and this promises to be another. There have been presidents past and there will be presidents to come. I am proud of my contribution to this great organization.

So long! Farewell! Auf Wiedersehen! Goodbye!

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UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

*FSPA Today* is the official newsletter of the Florida Scholastic Press Association, Inc., a not-for-profit organization, housed in the College of Journalism and Communications at the University of Florida. *FSPA Today* is printed on recycled paper.



*FSPA candidates for President and Vice President outline platforms and state goals for organization's future success.*



## Presidential Candidate TERRY SOLLAZZO

As president of FSPA my goals would be to continue in the direction in which Judy Richman, Judy Steverson and the past Executive Boards have steered us. We have made tremendous strides in making the professional media, the Department of Education, and various other journalistic organizations aware of FSPA and the needs of scholastic journalists and their advisers. Beth Nabi's development of our Web site and sponsorship brochure, and Mark Granning and CATCOM's publicity videos have worked wonders for our organization. We truly look and operate as a professional organization.

As always, I hope to increase membership. Too many of our state's student journalists miss out on so much FSPA has to offer.

We will try every avenue from sending advisers different colored brochures stating the benefits of joining FSPA (we have to get their attention somehow) to relying on the old-fashioned telephone call. District directors will appoint county reps who will help contact their

county's advisers. Student reps will burn up the wires with calls to various staffs. Mass e-mailings of the brochure will be sent to advisers as well as to county supervisors and principals.

Secondly, I hope to expand the Web site. Information has to be posted early and districts need a link to meet their communication needs. I would also like to publish the convention information booklet by the first week of January. This is not an easy task, but we are working the bugs out of the process, and I think that this projected date is a realistic goal.

Finally, I hope to present all school superintendents and their school boards with a persuasive rationale for awarding journalism honors points in their counties. The points are there but not all students have been given the opportunity to benefit from them.

Essentially, we need to improve our communication. You inform me of your needs and concerns, and FSPA will communicate to you the educational and professional opportunities available to you and your students.

FSPA-member advisers will gather during the 2003 convention to select the leaders who will guide the organization for the next two years. Following the advisers' luncheon, Friday, May 9, FSPA members will elect a President and Vice President at the Business Meeting. These officers will begin serving their two-year terms immediately following the convention.

Two candidates have formally declared their intent to run and have met all qualifications. Current FSPA Vice President Terry Sollazzo is running for president and Choctawhatchee High School adviser Linda Evanchyk is running for vice president.

Because FSPA operates without political parties, candidates must run independently. Following a brief nomination process, each candidate must give a two minute speech. Nominations can be given from the floor and those candidates will also be expected to give a speech. Only advisers of current member publications are eligible to run for office. Each member publication may cast a single vote. No proxy votes allowed.

### CURRENT POSITION

1997-Present Adviser for the *Predator* newspaper at Wharton High School in Tampa.

### TEACHING/ADVISING BACKGROUND

Almost 30 years of teaching and advising experience, ranging from seventh grade English to honors journalism. Instructor for 2001 and 2002 ASNE summer program for advisers.

### FSPA SERVICE

FSPA state and district judge, proctor for 20 years, District 4 director 1997-98 and 2001-02, chairperson for FSPA 2003 state convention, Student Press Law Center Rep. 2003, guest speaker at district workshops and conventions, panelist for 2000 Florida Press Association/Florida Society of Newspaper Editors' Annual Convention, written numerous articles for *FSPA Today*. Co-chair for 2001 and 2002 state conventions.

### AWARDS/HONORS

Silver and gold keys and Gold Medallion recipient, 2001 Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Distinguished Adviser, 2000-01 Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year, 2000 Wharton High School Teacher of the Year, 2000 Bay News 9 Everyday Hero, 2000 USF's Kappa Tau Alpha Hall of Fame Award, 1999 offered a fellowship to the Harvard Institute on The Media and American Democracy, 1996 FSPA Teacher of the Year, 1996 FSPA District 4 Journalism Teacher of the Year.



## Vice Presidential Candidate LINDA EVANCHYK

I have two major goals for FSPA. The first is to recruit more members. The teachers' load increases every year, but we must reach out to new advisers to make them a part of our organization. Teaching can be an isolating career, and advising publications can be even more isolating. We must start by reaching out in our own school and school district. We need to make sure that all advisers in Florida know that FSPA exists and that we are here to support them.

The next goal is to increase adviser training and certification. It is important for advisers

to keep updated by attending summer institutes, conventions and by obtaining certifications. For example, JEA offers two certifications which do not require taking college course work. Obtaining these credentials not only helps advisers grow professionally, but gives advisers credibility.

As FSPA vice-president, I want to see our organization grow. We focus a lot of time on planning a terrific convention, however, if more people would get involved, it would take much less effort, and the focus of our organization could branch out into the areas of adviser recruitment and certification.

### CURRENT POSITION

Yearbook and Newspaper Adviser at Choctawhatchee High School in Ft. Walton Beach

### TEACHING/ADVISING BACKGROUND

Twenty-four years teaching experience

### FSPA SERVICE

FSPA member since 1989, served on FSPA's Professional Activities Committee, state convention presenter, wrote proposal for journalism honors credit for District 1, sponsored CNN's Martin Savidge for FSPA 2000, written more than 25 articles for scholastic journalism publications.

### AWARDS/HONORS

Silver, gold keys and Gold Medallion recipient, 1995 Journalism Adviser of the Year, 1995 Dow Jones Special Recognition Adviser, 1996 Dow Jones Distinguished Adviser, 1997 Newspaper in Education Teacher of the Year, Choctaw High School and Okaloosa County Teacher of the Year.

# Florida Scholastic Press Association Evaluation Services YEARBOOK EVALUATION FORM

For yearbooks produced during the calendar year 2002-2003

**DIRECTIONS:**

- Print in black ink or type information.
- Adviser must sign form.
- **School must be a member of FSPA.**

**CHECKLIST:**

- Check for \$70 made payable to FSPA. (If you wish to have your yearbook returned to you, add \$3 for books under 300 pages and \$5 for those over.)  
(Add \$20 if you wish to purchase a wood plaque for your certificate.)  
(Any yearbook not received on time will be critiqued with the fall yearbooks.)

- One copy of yearbook.
- Mail to:

**Marge Craig,**  
**Evaluation Services Coordinator**  
**P.O. Box 150158**  
**Alexandria, VA 22315-9998**

POSTMARK DEADLINE  
 is June 16, 2003 for spring and  
 Sept. 20, 2003 for fall

For more information on evaluation services, visit **www.fspa.jou.ufl.edu.**  
 E-mail: **fspaevaluations@aol.com**

**SCHOOL INFORMATION**

School \_\_\_\_\_

School enrollment \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**ADVISER INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ # of years advising \_\_\_\_\_

**I certify that I have completely and accurately answered all questions on this form.**

Adviser's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PUBLICATION INFORMATION**

Publication Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is this the first time you've had your publication evaluated by FSPA? Y N

2. How many students are on the yearbook staff? \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Cost of producing publication: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Money raised by display advertising: \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Price of publication: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Circulation for publication: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Are the copy and photos in the publication proofread and approved solely by the staff and adviser: Y N

If NO, who else approves material? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the procedure for having the material approved?

8. What journalism courses are offered at your school? \_\_\_\_\_

*(Please respond on back of form.)*

9. Do students have to take a beginning journalism course before joining the staff? Y N
10. Does the adviser select the members of the staff? Y N
11. What percent of photography is taken by students? \_\_\_\_\_ % By professionals? \_\_\_\_\_ %
12. What percent of your darkroom work is done by your students? \_\_\_\_\_ % By professionals \_\_\_\_\_ %
13. What percent of your photography is digital? \_\_\_\_\_%
14. What are some of the challenges that you and your staff faced in producing this publication?

**I certify that I have completely and accurately answered all questions in this form. I give my permission for FSPA to reprint articles or layouts as part of an information packet on FSPA publications.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Adviser's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

For office use only:			
_____ Date	_____ Check number	_____ Amount of check	_____ Receipt Number

## Contest chair offers helpful advice for On-the-Spot competitions



**By Steven Jay Thor**  
*On-the-Spot Contest Chair*

Remember to bring all the supplies you need—from rulers to pencils to dictionaries. Various colors of markers and pencils can also help “push” a final score a few points higher than that of another group! Art supplies are particularly important for the On-the-Spot literary magazine contest on Thursday evening and individual advertising and art contests on Friday morning. Some scotch tape wouldn’t hurt either. Possibly even a watch would be helpful.

Taking the yearbook contests? Bring lots of layout and copy paper, even if your staff only submits electronically. Since we cannot “plug-in” anywhere, it is imperative to complete your contest the old fash-

ioned paper route. Call your yearbook rep!

Remember, if you bring a laptop to write copy. . .there is no place to print your work or plug-in your laptop. Also, make sure that you have *absolutely no sample layouts* of any work completed at school for literary magazines, newspapers, yearbooks or anything else. You will be disqualified if you do!

Most importantly—yes, you want to win. So do the other teams.

Practice, practice and more practice is important—so is sportsmanship, as in all competitions. Proctors will be present to answer all of your questions and help you submit the best work you are capable of doing. Good luck!

## FSPA Foundation Silent Auction coordinator gives sneak peak of items



**By Pamela Eubanks**  
*District 4 Director*

I can’t believe it’s only two weeks until the convention! Hopefully you’re getting geared up for the big event.

We have great board members and student representatives who have put in many long and busy hours on this year’s preparations. It’s going to be great and I know you’ll be pleased with the results.

I’ve been working hard at getting items for this year’s silent auction. So far I have some things for advisers and some for students. To give you a sneak-peak I’ll share that there are gift certificates from Bells Department Store, and Panera Bread, duffel bags full of items from Ironman Triathlon (t-shirt, watch, sunglasses, socks, sunblock and headbands), a CD/cassette/radio boombox and a cordless phone from Circuit City. There’s also a bag of office supplies from Office Depot. I’m still waiting on something big from Office Depot and a pair of Oakley or Spy sunglasses from my brother’s eyewear shop and some jewelry from Stout Jewelers here in St. Pete. I’m also trying to get something from the Devil Rays, and Jill Maassen is finding out if the Hyatt will kick in a weekend stay!

However, we still need more. Remember, we are trying to raise money that will go to scholarships for students to attend the convention and for teachers who want to pursue additional education opportunities. We all benefit when we help the FSPA Foundation endowment grow.

So, now is the time to hit up your school, your family and your friends with businesses of their own for donations. School baskets are always great and something the students really look forward to bidding on. Be creative and have fun putting something together. Bring your donations with you and I will collect them from you when you check in.

It is going to be a great three days at the Hyatt and I can’t wait to see you all there!

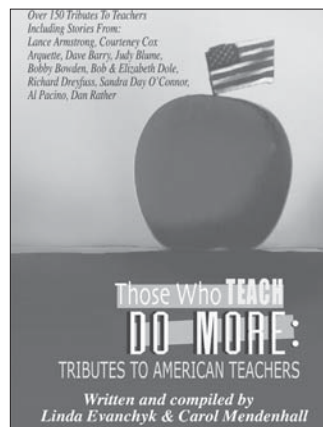
## Member recognizes the positive impact of teachers in new book

Linda Evanchyk, adviser at Choctawhatchee High School in Ft. Walton Beach, and long-time FSPA member, has just released her first book, *Those Who Teach Do More: Tributes to American Teachers*. The book, co-written with Carol Mendenhall of San Antonio, is a compilation of stories submitted by more than 175 successful, well-known people who tell of a teacher who made a positive impact on their lives.

Contributors include Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong, actress Courteney Cox Arquette, Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, baseball legend Yogi Berra and Florida State University football coach Bobby Bowden.

Also featured in the book are stories from journalists such as columnist Dave Barry, Ed Bradley and Mike Wallace from 60 Minutes; NBC Today Show weatherman Al Roker, news veteran Walter Cronkite and CBS News anchor Dan Rather. CNN Correspondent Martin Savidge, who was the 2000 FSPA convention keynote speaker, submitted a story about his high school journalism teacher whom he credits for leading him in the direction of broadcast reporting. The book’s foreword is written by Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, David Shribman, Washington Bureau Chief for the *Boston Globe*.

Evanchyk will sell signed copies of the 168-page book at this year’s convention and is donating a hardback copy for the auction. Previews of the stories can be seen at [www.1stbooks.com](http://www.1stbooks.com).



## Another opportunity to help the FSPA Foundation grow

### Penny Wars

Each district will be vying to make a difference for the Foundation by collecting the most pennies at the convention. Remember, pennies add points and silver change subtracts. Money raised will go to student scholarships and the winning district will receive a trophy.

# Spring-delivery yearbook evaluation deadline set for mid-June



**By Marge J. Craig**  
*Evaluations Coordinator*

Yet another date to circle on your calendar. It seems as though our lives are made up of one deadline after another, but then again we have to remember the alternatives. Therefore, I will give all of you yearbook advisers one more date to circle in your datebooks—June 21, 2003—deadline for summer yearbooks to be postmarked. Any yearbooks not received within a week of that date will be held-off for judging with the fall delivery books.

The application is included in the newsletter and will be online later in May. Forms will also be available at the convention. Speaking of which, I look forward to seeing everyone in Orlando in between working on awards listings and convention certificates. Packing a box full of plaques to take on the plane is presenting quite a challenge, but we'll get

them there. In addition, we'll try to have some extra plaques on hand for those of you who would like to purchase them for your certificates. They are \$20 each.

Just a reminder that the yearbook entry fee was increased last year to \$70 to help offset some of the postage increases that Uncle Sam instituted last year.

For first time yearbook advisers, contact me about receiving a fee waiver for your first yearbook evaluation. We are trying to encourage those who are just starting out to learn about the evaluations process. You don't need to be a veteran teacher to have your yearbook critiqued and it's truly a wonderful learning process for staffs and advisers alike.

Remember, as always, if you have any questions about any of the evaluations, e-mail me at [fspaevaluations@aol.com](mailto:fspaevaluations@aol.com). It's been a long snowy winter up here in Virginia and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in sunny Florida.

## Evaluations Coordinator

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[fspaevaluations@aol.com](mailto:fspaevaluations@aol.com)

## 2003 student journalists of the YEAR



*FSPA extends congratulations to the finalists for the 2003 Todd C. Smith Student Journalist of the Year Award. The winner will be announced at the Convention banquet on Friday, May 9.*

**laurenjohnson**  
wharton high school  
tampa

Lauren Johnson has been involved in journalism for three years. She has served as a staff writer and news editor for her school newspaper, *Predator*, and is currently co-editor-in-chief.

"I think what I admire most about this young lady is her ability to find the truth and to effectively tell every person's story," said Johnson's adviser Terry Sollazzo. "She is passionate about her writing, her peers, and the word in which she lives."

CBS News photojournalist Les Rose, writer and producer of "Everybody Has a Story," said of Johnson, "She has recently interviewed me at length for an assignment. When correspondent Steve Hartman and I are in an area, the local paper often interviews us. Lauren did a better job than many in mid to major markets."

Johnson's work has appeared in *The Tampa Tribune* and *The New Tampa Neighborhood News*, where she worked as a paid editorial assistant.

Johnson has been accepted at Emerson College in Boston, Mass., where she plans to study print journalism. Her dream is to become an editor of a renowned magazine and travel the world. She believes opportunities are endless, because "times have changed, yet the human race has not and we are still hungry for the truth."

**jennischwoerer**  
rutherford high school  
panama city

Jenni Schwoerer joined the *Rampage* newspaper staff her sophomore year. Since then, she worked her way up to sports editor, and is currently editor-in-chief.

Schwoerer credits her mother, her home-school teacher, with providing her start in journalism.

"All it took was a little assignment to start my own newspaper, and I was hooked," said Schwoerer. "For a few years I published, wrote, edited and budgeted my own newspaper."

Beverly Fraser, Schwoerer's adviser for four years, describes Schwoerer as self-motivated, purposeful, capable, diligent and principled.

"[Jenni is] a well-rounded journalist," said Fraser. "Ethical behavior means something to her. She has a soul and a respect for the power and the good that journalism can do."

As a student intern for Panama City's *News Herald*, Schwoerer "has done the mundane and the extraordinary," said Tony Simmons, Features Editor of the *Herald*.

"Jenni is the kind of intern a newspaper loves to find," said Simmons, who has worked with interns since 1995. "Jenni is one of the best to come through the newsroom in that time."

Schwoerer has been accepted to Gulf Coast Community College and plans to pursue a career in print journalism.

## 2003 Teachers of the Year

*All Teachers of the Year will be recognized at Friday's advisers' luncheon and again at the banquet, where the winner will be announced. In the Fall, FSPA Today will devote a special centerspread featuring these distinguished advisers.*

**District 1**  
Celene Sessions,  
Pace HS

**District 2**  
Roy Mays,  
Williston HS

**District 3**  
Gail R. Haack,  
Timber Creek HS

**District 4**  
Carl Zimmermann,  
Countryside HS

**District 5**  
Gordon Gair,  
Cypress Lake HS  
Center for the Arts

**District 6**  
Judy Cowan,  
Miami Sunset  
Senior High

**District 7**  
Carol Neal,  
Westminster Academy

## Natural frames help provide character, add perspective, enliven mundane images



**By Nick West**  
*Student Photographer*

Last issue's tips focused on finding the right angle to capture the images you want. This issue's tip is about using natural framing. Environmental elements can often add interest to an image. Survey the scene and look closely for unique angles.

Natural framing can give distinct character to an image and provide a different perspective. Elements in the foreground can function as frames around the main subject. Some typical frames include stairway railing, windowpanes or the contour of a saxophone (see my photo on the right).

I was given an assignment to photograph a community college jazz band practicing for a concert. Upon arrival, I watched the band warm up and took note of instruments' shapes and the frames they could produce.

After shooting a roll of standard photos, I began experimenting. Here, I used the curve of the saxophone to frame the player in the next seat. The image also includes an interesting repetition of shapes with the sax in the foreground and the background, making the image more appealing to the eye.

While out on assignment, stop and think about the environment and see if there is an element in the foreground that can add something to your image.

See you at the convention.

Nick West is a junior photojournalism major at the University of Florida. He is currently a freelance photographer for the *Independent Florida Alligator* and has served as an award-winning photo editor for *The Talon*, the newspaper of Tallahassee Community College. Additionally, West has worked as an intern at the *Tallahassee Democrat*.



photo by Nick West

**The curve of the saxophone and the repetition of images provides perspective for this otherwise typical photo.**

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