

Winter 2002

FSPA Today

Enhancing integrated media training for scholastic journalists and advisers

2002-03 Calendar

DECEMBER

6 – Teacher of the Year application deadline
14-20 – FSPA office hours adjusted for UF final exams
21 – FSPA office closes for UF Winter Break

JANUARY

6 – FSPA office reopens
24 – Literary magazine, newspaper and individual contest entry application deadlines
31 – Student Journalist of the Year portfolios and Foundation Need-Based Scholarship application deadlines

FEBRUARY

24-28 – National Scholastic Journalism Week
28 – Broadcast evaluation deadline

MARCH

8-15 – FSPA office closed during UF Spring Break
14 – ASNE Adviser Summer Journalism Institute application deadline
21 – Convention registration deadline

APRIL

4 – Convention late registration, Webb-Stapler Scholarship and Julie E. Dodd Scholarship application deadlines
26-May 2 – FSPA office hours adjusted for UF final exams

MAY

3-8 – FSPA office hours adjusted for convention preparation
8-10 – FSPA 2003 Convention
12 – FSPA office closes for summer break

JUNE

21 – Summer Journalism Visitation Program at UF
21-26 – Summer Journalism Institute at UF, for information visit www.jou.ufl.edu/sji

Department of Education approves honors credit for additional journalism courses

Florida's Department of Education recently approved FSPA's request that students be awarded honors credit in Journalism II, III and IV courses. This change takes effect in January.

In 2001, DOE approved honors designation for Journalism V-VIII, which worked well for students in the block-scheduled schools. While there is no requirement that journalism courses be taken sequentially in Florida, administrators of schools with traditional schedules were reluctant to allow students to skip to the higher-level courses in order to receive the honors credit. Thus, FSPA launched a campaign to get honors credit approved for Journalism II-IV.

In the summer of 2001 at the curriculum-writing workshop sponsored by DOE, members of FSPA partnered with DOE to update curricula for Journalism II, III and IV to create three new courses: Journalism II, III and IV Honors. This task force embedded the state Benchmarks and Sunshine State Standards into the new journalism courses. These course descriptions may be viewed on DOE's Web site at www.firn.edu/doe/curriculum/crscod/basic612/lnart912.htm.

Hillsborough County, backed by Superintendent Earl Lennard and his staff, sponsored FSPA's request that included letters of support and the rationale for requesting honors credit.

Convention plans feature new activities



By Terry Sollazzo
*FSPA Vice President
 and Convention Chair*

It's official.

Convention planning is already underway. The theme is set, the information booklet is being typeset and we are contacting speakers. Now, it's your turn.

What can you do?

Start your paperwork tomorrow for FSPA's state convention May 8-10 at the Hyatt Orlando in Kissimmee. At the Winter Board Meeting, the board voted to allow 15 delegates per staff to attend the convention. Hopefully, your staff attended your district workshop and paid your FSPA membership fee before Nov. 15. If you missed the membership deadline, you may download a form from the FSPA website and pay the late fee.

Registration for the convention, hotel and contests are all due by Friday, March 21. Costs have not increased from last year. Video footage and stills for the opening ceremony are also due March 21.

My advice is to start early collecting registration and hotel fees from your students if your staff's budget cannot cover these expenses. You can also arrange a payment schedule so delegates don't feel overwhelmed in March. I encourage you to have your students apply for the FSPA Foundation scholarships (*see page 7*).

Be sure to contact your supervisor now about the possibility of receiving inservice points for attending the convention. Most counties award inservice points, but vary on the time required to submit the paperwork for

prior approval. Check today while it is on your mind.

The convention will be a rewarding and enriching experience for students and advisers. More than 60 sessions will be offered. Thursday evening, after the opening session, students will participate in On-the-Spot contests for newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine, magazine, photography and individual broadcast anchor. Students not participating in competitions will attend classes. Broadcast students will have the opportunity to attend the Share-a-Tape session.

The evening will culminate with FSPA's new talent show and ice cream social. Only 16 acts will be selected, so start preparing now, and be sure to register before March 21. Watch for more details.

Friday is reserved for sessions, individual contests, the banquet and dance. Your student reps have started their hunt for fantastic door prizes for those dedicated journalists who make it to the panel discussion early Friday morning.

Saturday we find out the winners of the convention contests.

Penny Wars and the Silent Auction will be back to raise funds for student journalist and adviser scholarships. Start collecting those pennies (and silver to knock-off the competition) and items for your auction basket.

Finally, I know preparing for this convention can be exhausting, but believe me, it is worth all the trouble, headaches and paperwork. Once your feet hit the Hyatt grounds you will feel the electricity, the creativity and the excitement.

You don't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime chance to make a difference.



Convention 2003

you
 make the difference



Perspective

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

Scholastic Press Week, Feb. 16-22

For ideas on how to celebrate Scholastic Press Week, visit the Journalism Education Association's Website at www.jea.org.

Christmas came in November this year.

At least that's how it felt when I got confirmation from the Department of Education that honors credit had been approved for Journalism II-IV. I wanted to shout—Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, loudly enough for all of you around the state to hear the good news.

I managed to restrain myself for a few days until the Winter Board Meeting, but just like a child, anxious to rip into presents under the tree, I had difficulty waiting my turn to speak.

While all board members, adults and students alike, were happy to hear the news, they gently brought me back to reality. After taking a few moments to celebrate and reflect on more than two decades of campaigns our organization has waged in the struggle to keep journalism programs alive in Florida's high schools, they reminded me that many principals are reluctant to award honors credit for elective courses.

Sobered by the facts, but encouraged by the spirit of the holiday season, I urge you who have deserving students not yet receiving honors credit to join me in waging one more campaign. We must work together to convince administrators of the worth of journalism programs. We have to take advantage of every opportunity to demonstrate how these programs help students meet all state standards and actually hold the potential of helping schools achieve 'A' status, every principal's major goal.

I realize you and your student journalists are usually too busy, or too modest to launch campaigns that publicize your own amazing accomplishments, but I also know we simply must do a better job of helping principals see how student-run media programs serve as "guide dogs," or "lead dogs," so they will not think of publications only as "watch dogs"—or worse, "attack dogs."

Never would I suggest student publications serve as mere public relations vehicles for the school, but I do urge you to help students build bridges with administrators and keep the lines of communication open. Start by hosting regular press conferences with school and district administrators in your classroom if your staffs are not already holding such meetings.

Next, help your staffs do everything possible to communicate the value of their program to the entire community. Begin by participating in Scholastic Press Week, scheduled for Feb. 16-22. Check the Journalism Education Association's Web site, www.jea.org, for ideas on how to celebrate this occasion. Celebrate again during Florida's Scholastic Press Week by attending FSPA 2003, May 8-10.

You have my promise that this year's convention will make a difference in your students' lives.

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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.

Evaluation deadlines rapidly approaching



By Marge J. Craig
Evaluations Coordinator

Hard to believe that the holidays are right around the corner and soon it will be January. That means it's time to start thinking about getting those entries ready for the individual

student contests as well as newspaper and literary magazine evaluations. All of those deadlines are Jan. 24, while the broadcast evaluation deadline is Feb. 28.

Here are a few guidelines to remember in preparing your entries for the individual student submissions.

First, all the submissions must have been published prior to evaluation time. That means no original art or poems or copy that has not already been featured in one of your publications. Last year I was forced to return quite a few entries because of a misunderstanding in this area.

Next, photography entries need to include the original photograph along with the published photo. This allows the judge an opportunity to see how the photo was cropped in addition to its composition, clarity, etc.

Page Design is another category that caused

some confusion last year. We need to have the actual published page design rather than computer mock-ups. If you want to include a thumbnail sketch with the finished page, that's up to you. Only actual published pages will be accepted for evaluation.

Also, if you will be mailing entries from several publications all in the same package, you need to include return postage (\$3) for each publication. You can judge that for yourself when weighing

Evaluations Coordinator

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the package to send. FSPA needs to at least be able to cover its expenses if we are to continue offering the individual contest categories.

Finally, deadlines. Late submissions will be returned to the school. The deadline is the postmarked date, not the date it is actually received. If there are extenuating circumstances, please contact me by email ahead of time to see what can be worked out.

As you are selecting your individual entry materials, please feel free to contact me at fspaevaluations@aol.com if you have any questions about preparing your submissions. Our goal is to have as many opportunities as possible for students' work to be evaluated individually. And, of course, we look forward to receiving newspapers, magazines, and broadcast tapes as well.

Past President issues call for officer elections



By Jill Maassen
FSPA Past President

At the convention, the FSPA membership will elect a president and vice president whose terms will begin immediately following the convention. Encourage your well-qualified colleagues to run, or run yourself. The officers will serve two-year terms, ending in 2005.

The FSPA Constitution does not allow political parties, so candidates must run independently. The campaign filing deadline is Feb. 17, 2003.

Qualifications

To be eligible for nomination a candidate must be an adviser of an *active* FSPA member staff.

Duties

The president presides at all board and general membership meetings, appoints all committees, serves as ex-officio member of all committees and helps plan and supervise the convention. Additionally, the president guides the organization in undertaking programs designed to achieve its goals and objectives. The president also represents the organization at other journalism meetings and conventions.

The vice president serves as chair of the ad-

viser education committee, convention co-chair and, in the absence of the president, as president.

Application Package

Candidates must submit the following:

- ◆ A resume that includes the following divisions: teaching experience, publication advising experience, teaching certification areas, academic degrees, service to FSPA, service to other journalistic organizations, personal honors and awards, staff honors and awards, list of publications advised and the number of years advising each. Please condense your responses to 150 words or less.
- ◆ A statement of no more than 200 words outlining your goals for FSPA and your rationale for each.
- ◆ A current photo (email or send hard copy).
- ◆ Deadline: Send all materials together to the FSPA office by Monday, Feb. 17, 2003.

Additional Information

Each candidate will give a speech of no longer than two minutes at the advisers' luncheon on Friday. Nominations will be accepted from the floor and candidates will be expected to give a speech. Voting is done by secret ballot. There is one vote per member publication. No proxy votes are allowed. Advisers must be present to vote.

NEWS-IN-BRIEFS



photo by Marge Craig

FSPA Convention 2000 keynote speaker and CNN News Correspondent Martin Savidge with FSPA member Linda Evanchyk during the Adviser's Luncheon at the JEA/NSPA Fall Convention in Dallas, Nov. 23.

Journalism Education Association Honors Savidge, Evanchyk

At the JEA/NSPA Fall Convention, FSPA adviser Linda Evanchyk of Choctawhatchee High School received her Master Journalism Educator certification and was recognized for nominating CNN's Martin Savidge for JEA's Media Citation Award.

"Martin Savidge deserves to be recognized... for his commitment to student journalists. He inspires them with his professionalism and is eager to tell his story of being a student journalist and the importance of scholastic journalism programs," said Evanchyk.



FSPA member Anne Whitt (right), receives the Pioneer award from NSPA Associate Director Ann Akers at the JEA/NSPA Convention.

photo by Marge Craig

National Scholastic Press Association honors Anne Whitt with Pioneer Award

Anne Whitt, publications adviser at The First Academy in Orlando, received the Pioneer Award from NSPA at the Adviser Award's Luncheon during the organizations' Fall Convention.

The Pioneer Award is the highest award NSPA offers to journalism educators. The honor is given to those individuals who have made substantial contributions to high school publications and journalism programs outside of their primary employment.

2002 FSPA executive BOARD

Here are the representatives you have elected to serve you. Be sure to contact them with any questions, ideas or suggestions regarding FSPA. Let them know how you want to help the organization.

District directors serve a two-year term. Odd-numbered districts elect their directors in odd-numbered years, and even-numbered districts elect their directors in even-numbered years.

Student reps serve a one-year term and must be a junior in high school. Major duties include attending the board meetings, helping plan and organize district workshops and helping plan and organize the state convention, including developing a theme.

theresa MYERS

dist. 1 director

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Myers has advised publications since 1994. Prior to that, she worked professionally in marketing, printing, publications and broadcasting. This year, Myers became the director of her school's Multimedia Academy.

"I am primarily concerned about responsibility as it relates to scholastic journalism: the responsibility of schools to maintain journalism programs, the responsibility of advisers to lead their students and the responsibility of students to report fairly and ethically," said Myers.

judy booth RICHMAN

president

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Richman, serving her second term as FSPA President, is adviser of the *Performer* yearbook. She has been a workshop speaker, contest judge, Contest Chair. She is Foundation Committee Chair and a member of the Finance Committee.

"FSPA is a mental slideshow. So many people, friends, classes, speakers, banquets, surprises, smiles and tears are worth all the time and effort. It is an experience of love," said Richman.

terry SOLLAZZO

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Sollazzo has advised student publications since 1975. Currently, she advises the *Predator* newspaper. Sollazzo was the 2000 Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year and a 2001 Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Distinguished Adviser. A former FSPA Teacher of the Year and Gold Medallion recipient, Sollazzo is a member of the Mass Communications Hall of Fame at USF. The past two years, she has served as District 4 Director, convention co-chair and an ASNE Summer Journalism Institute instructor.

"From the time I attended my first state convention at 16, I have loved the creativity FSPA fosters in scholastic journalists and advisers. FSPA grabbed me early, and has taken me for an extremely rewarding ride," said Sollazzo.

judy m. STEVERSON

executive director

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Steverson, serving her fourth year as FSPA Executive Director, began her involvement with the organization as a high school student. She holds FSPA's Silver and Gold Keys and is a Gold Medallion recipient. Steverson received the organization's first-ever Morty Schaap Journalism Teacher of the Year award. A Certified Journalism Educator, Steverson retired in 1997 after 30 years of teaching journalism and advising the newspaper and yearbook.

jill MAASSEN

past president

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Jill Maassen holds both the silver and gold keys from FSPA as well as the FSPA's Gold Medallion. In 1991, she was the Morty Schaap Journalism Teacher of the Year. In 1992, she was named Teacher of the Year for DeSoto County and was named as distinguished adviser from Dow Jones. Currently, she advises the newspaper *Bulldog's Bark*, magazine *Pedigree*, and broadcast segment *WDHS*. She's served as FSPA's President for terms in two different decades as well as serving in a variety of capacities for FSPA. Currently, she is the immediate Past President and Hotel Liaison.

"As a student delegate to an FSPA convention I was overwhelmed by the dedication and commitment to journalism. As an adviser I am still awed by those things," said Maassen.

matt HALL

student co-chair

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Matt is a senior in his high school's Communications Technology Academy of Journalism. He has studied in the Academy for the past four years and presently serves as sports field director at his school.

"At the convention, I am looking forward to seeing my peers learn how and what they do in journalism, day in and day out, can have such a huge impact on the lives of others," said Hall.

liz STEM M

student co-chair

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Stemm, a senior, serves as editor-in-chief/copy editor for *The Bulldogs' Bark* newspaper and editor of the *Pedigree* literary magazine. She studied broadcast journalism at the University of Miami last summer and is an anchor for one of her school's broadcast programs.

"I'm looking forward to meeting fellow students from all over the state and working to make sure that the convention lives up to the past standards," said Stemm.

jacque ADAMS

dist. 1 student rep

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Adams, a junior, is a member of *WPHS*, her school's broadcast staff. She is also an employee of *WSRE*, the Gulf Coast's public broadcasting station. At *WRSE*, she has been on the production crew for pledge and both phone screener and camera operator for local productions.

Adams looks forward to encouraging more schools in District 1 to participate in the state convention.

jenny WILLIAMS

dist. 2 student rep

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Williams has been involved in journalism since her freshman year in high school. She has been a member of the *Cougar Courier* newspaper staff for the past two years and has served as business manager, circulation manager and reporter for the *Courier*.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how excited my peers will be after seeing how hard we worked for them and ourselves," said Williams.

sharon THOMASON

dist. 2 director
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Thomason advises the *Cougar Courier* newspaper and teaches English and journalism. A graduate of Florida State University, she is a Certified Journalism Educator who has also served as a consultant for the *Tallahassee Democrat's* teen page.

She is a FSPA silver and gold key recipient, former District 2 Journalism Teacher of the Year and has advised yearbook, newspaper and literary magazine during her 27-year teaching career. She hopes to promote awareness of scholastic journalism's importance and encourage its growth.

aimee BENSON

dist. 3 director
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Benson is a graduate of the University of Central Florida, where she received degrees in communications, public relations and advertising, while minoring in psychology. She has advised the yearbook and newspaper since 1994, when her students first introduced her to FSPA and the convention.

"FSPA is a lifesaver. The advice and information I received might well be the reason I am teaching today. Both my staffs enjoy the fall and state workshops; we wouldn't miss it, even if it falls on Prom weekend," said Benson.

pam EUBANKS

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Pamela Eubanks is the instructor of television production and the adviser of both *First Take* and *Hall Pass OHS* broadcast programs at her school. She became district director after five years of FSPA membership and contest, workshop and convention experiences because she felt it was time to start giving something back.

"I strongly believe that technology and journalism should go hand in hand in the 21st century," said Eubanks.

larry RAYKOVICS

dist. 5 director
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"My field specialty is broadcast and television production, and since my earliest days I have been attracted to journalism. My mother, in her 70s now, still keeps a small piece of folded paper that has the headline *Daily News* with three short 'stories' scraggly written by a kindergartner who found his passion early in life," said Raykovics.

"Through this passion I hope to keep learning and changing with the industry while sharing new ideas with my students and teaching them to express themselves through pictures and words. Armed with information and critical thinking skills, they can better share information and thought with those who follow."

adriana gonzalez FAJET

dist. 6 director
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Fajet, entering her second term as district director, has advised newspaper and television production for the past four years. She is beginning television production and yearbook programs at her new school. Fajet also advises cheerleaders and the Class of 2006. Fajet's students have won numerous state and national awards.

"I believe the power of the scholastic press is boundless. I strive to empower all aspiring journalists to 'catch the fever' and challenge their journalistic ability daily," said Fajet.

She has worked in the corporate and non-profit arenas and holds a B.S. in Communication and a M.S. in Integrated Communication from Florida International University.

steven jay THOR

dist. 7 director
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Thor began his 22 years of FPSA service in 1984 when he was elected district 7's first director. In 1989, Thor served as president of FSPA, and as Contest Chair in 1990, a post he has filled each year since. He has advised yearbook and newspaper publications for 27 years in Broward County schools.

"I frequently question why I keep getting involved. I have come to the realization that student press freedoms are my greatest concern," said Thor. "I believe that FSPA can provide the training and motivation that students need to put into practice. I just like to see kids smile and have a good time when they win awards."

kayla CHAMPAIGNE

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Champaigne, a junior and the yearbook's people section editor, feels in her element when she has a pencil in hand and is writing.

"I am a very ambitious individual. I became a student representative before I really understood what it meant to be part of FSPA, and I'm still learning, but I'm excited about it. I see it as a wonderful opportunity to learn and to meet new people," said Champaigne.

deanna DONG

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Dong, a junior, has been a high school journalist for three years. She is the Features Editor of the *Scepter* newspaper.

At the 2002 state convention, Dong and her staff placed second in the On-the-Spot layout design competition. She won the same competition at her district workshop this year.

"I hope that FSPA can provide students with renewed inspiration for their work," said Dong.

tyler MAASSEN

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Maassen is the news and graphics editor of the newspaper *Bulldog's Bark* and assistant editor of the magazine *Pedigree*. He is a three-year veteran of publication staffs. Maassen is also the editor of the school's parent newsletter, the *Dog's Tale*. His natural skill with computers has been instrumental in launching his publications into the 21st century. He also serves as a Student Council Senator and will soon be an Eagle Scout.

giovani BENITEZ

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Benitez, a junior, and the main anchor at his school's TV station, is also the award-winning newspaper's sports editor. He was chosen as a NBC Junior Broadcaster for the Miami affiliate, *WTVJ*. Benitez has served as National Teen Correspondent for *iHigh.com*, and written for several magazines.

"I have passion for journalism and its responsibilities. Organizations like FSPA help students pursue this passion," said Benitez.

Mentoring sessions lead to valuable exchange of ideas, experiences



By Krista Smith
Adviser, Freedom High School
2002 FSPA Teacher of the Year

Look for more information on the Julie E. Dodd Scholarship in the spring issue of FSPA Today, or check online at www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa.

Thanks to the generosity of the Florida Scholastic Press Association, this summer I was afforded the opportunity to begin pursuing a long-term goal of mine—a degree in Mass Communications.

I was awarded the Julie E. Dodd Scholarship at the 2002 state convention in Orlando. The purpose of the scholarship is to pay the expenses for an adviser to attend a summer media workshop. I chose to use the scholarship to enroll in two introductory mass media courses in the College of Mass Communications at the University of South Florida. I've been teaching journalism classes for nearly eight years, however my degree is in secondary English education. Returning to the university to begin a formal education in mass media has been very rewarding.

In return for receiving the scholarship, I agreed to pass along what I'd learned during my experience to a colleague in my district, District 4. I share a lot in common with my colleague, Janice Blagg from Middleton High School in Tampa. We both recently began teaching television productions at brand new schools. She seemed like an ideal choice to strike-up a partnership with.

I shared with her teaching ideas I'd picked up from my

professors. For instance, one idea I've already implemented in my own classes is weekly clippings. *Introduction to Mass Media* taught me that a well-rounded reporter knows what's going on in the world around him, and in the industry in which he works. Therefore, students are required to bring in a clipping about a major news event or about mass media from a newspaper, magazine or online source. The students are required to summarize and analyze the importance of the information they've discovered.

To report the news, you need to know the news. *Writing for the Mass Media* taught me to emphasize developing basic writing skills with my students. Before acquiring the advanced skills of a reporter, a young writer needs to have a firm grasp of basic grammar, punctuation and spelling.

In sharing what I'd learned this summer with Janice I learned even more. We've swapped suggestions for organizing our new studios, for ordering new equipment, and for training rookie reporters. We're taking turns visiting each other's schools for more ideas. It's been extremely helpful to have another teacher to bounce ideas off of about the building of a new program.

Thank you FSPA for giving me the chance to begin my pursuit of a long-time dream. Thank you Janice for the wonderful teaching ideas and advice.

I look forward to continuing to exchange ideas and experiences.

\$cholarship Opportunities

Membership does have its privileges. Just add up all the scholarship opportunities offered in this issue.

- Five \$150 Foundation scholarships are available to help need-based students attend the convention for the first time.
- Three scholarships (application enclosed) will be awarded to Florida's top student journalists who plan to continue their careers in journalism. The Student Journalist of the Year will receive \$500, while the second and third place winners will earn \$200 and \$100 respectively.
- Unlimited scholarships are available to students who plan to attend the Summer Journalism Institute. Urge your students to check the Web site at www.jou.ufl.edu/Pubs/sji for details. Don't fail to contact your local newspaper for other possibilities.
- Look for applications for FSPA scholarship opportunities for advisers in the next issue of FSPA Today. Also, don't forget the American Society of Newspaper Editors will be sponsoring all-expenses paid institutes this summer. For more information on applying, check their Web site at www.highschooljournalism.org or contact Diana Mitsu Klos at dmk@asne.org. Her mailing address is 11690B Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20191, and her phone number is (703) 453-1125.

there's just
one
more chance

If you have not joined FSPA for the 2002-03 school year, this will be your last issue of *FSPA Today*, and you will not receive the convention booklet in February. You can still join FSPA by adding a \$10 late fee to your application. Don't miss out on FSPA's many member benefits, including receiving *FSPA Today*, getting your publications critiqued by FSPA's Evaluation Service and attending the state convention in May. Download an application from the FSPA Web site at www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa.

FSPA Foundation Scholarship Application

For the fifth consecutive year, the FSPA Foundation Committee is pleased to offer scholarship opportunities to students.

Five \$150 scholarships will be awarded to need-based students to enable them to attend the FSPA 2003 State Convention, May 8-10. Only one student per school may apply, and this must be the student's first time attending the convention. Completed applications must be returned by Jan. 31, 2003, and recipients will be notified by Feb. 21, 2003.

The Foundation Committee will appoint a selection committee, who will then rank in order the top eight applications. The

FSPA Foundation Chair will tabulate results and select five scholarship recipients and three alternates (who will receive the scholarships if the recipients are unable to attend). The FSPA office will work with the chair to notify all students and advisers.

QUALIFICATIONS

- ◆ Students must have been on an FSPA member staff for at least one year.
- ◆ Students must have a 3.0 minimum grade point average.
- ◆ Only one student per school is permitted apply.

APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:

- ◆ A letter of nomination from the student's adviser that verifies the student's financial need.
- ◆ An essay addressing: What my scholastic journalism experience means to me (should not exceed 250 words).
- ◆ A copy of the applicant's transcript

Send applications to:

FSPA Foundation Scholarships
Attn.: Judy Booth Richman
1104 Horatio
Tampa, FL 33606

Photocopy form after completion -- send the copy and keep the original for your records.

Name _____	School _____
Home Address _____	School Address _____
_____	_____
City _____ ZIP _____	City _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____	Adviser _____
Email _____	Phone _____
Publication _____	Email _____
Years on staff _____	Principal _____

CHECKLIST

	FSPA	
Student	Office	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Completed application returned by Jan. 31, 2003

QUALIFICATIONS

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Must have been on an FSPA member publication or multimedia staff for at least one year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Must have a minimum 3.0 GPA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Only one student per high school may apply |

APPLICATION

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A letter of nomination from adviser (to be returned under separate cover to address above) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | An essay not to exceed 250 words. Subject: What my scholastic journalism experience means to me. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A copy of the student's transcript (must be sent directly from school to address above) |

Board approves Sollazzo's appointment as interim vice president



By Judy Booth Richman
FSPA President

What do you get when you put nine students in a room with 11 adults? Some would think that these two groups could not get along, could not reach consensus, could not think together for the common good.

Not true at the Winter Board Meeting.

At the Hyatt Orlando, Nov. 14-16, these two groups did in fact meet in the same room for two and a half days. What emerged was a very positive experience and decisions that affect FSPA and student journalists in a good way.

Most people think that the Winter Board Meeting is all about the convention. And in large part, it is. But it is also a business meeting which deals with financial matters and issues such as honors credit for journalism courses, the evaluation service and scholarships.

The first order of business dealt with a personnel issue. Our vice president, Candace Gibson, who served FSPA long and well, had to resign due to job-related concerns. Fortunately, Terry Sollazzo, current co-convention chair as well as past District 4 Director and FSPA Teacher of the Year, agreed to accept the appointment as Vice President to finish Gibson's term. Other board members stepped up to fill other positions vacated by Gibson.

Another large issue was that of convention "entertainment." Mark Granning of Lakewood High School in St. Pe-

tersburg, who for years lead CATCOM and ran all the opening session video, dances, and closing video, in addition to a myriad of other convention duties, had to step down as well. Some health issues caused him to disband his beloved CATCOM. However, the Board is currently in negotiations with another scholastic group which will continue CATCOM's tradition of excellence. You will hear more on this issue when it is resolved.

The student representatives, led by Co-chairs Liz Stemm and Matt Hall, came up with an amazing presentation outlining a bold, yet symbolic, theme. In one afternoon, they devised a well-thought-out presentation, showing their depth and willingness to get the job done. Expect great things from this group.

Executive Director Judy Steverson announced the big news that your students may now earn honors credit for Journalism II-IV. Since last year, students in Journalism V-VIII were eligible for honors credit, and for over a year FSPA worked closely with the DOE to achieve this designation. So, hurray for us, the DOE and your students, who will be able to gain some additional recognition as student journalists.

Scholastic journalism is alive and well in Florida. As usual, we need you to continue to do your part in your school and in the classroom. The rewards that come from challenging your students and leading them to explore the worlds of journalism will bring you and them pleasure for a lifetime.

Still haven't logged on? Visit FSPA's Web site today @ www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa

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