

Spring 2003

FSPA Today

Enhancing integrated media training for scholastic journalists and advisers

2003 Calendar

MARCH

21 – Convention registration deadline

28 – CATCOM video submission deadline. See page 7 for extended deadline details

APRIL

4 – Convention late registration

7 – *Independent Florida Alligator* scholarship application deadline

11 – 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, 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

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

Pulitzer Prize winner Rick Bragg to deliver banquet keynote

Rick Bragg, a Pulitzer Prize-winning national correspondent for the *New York Times* and best-selling author, says he learned to tell stories by listening to the masters, the people of the foothills of the Appalachians.

A native of Alabama, Bragg has covered civil unrest in Haiti, the Jonesboro killings, Oklahoma City bombing, Susan Smith trial and even more as an Atlanta-based national correspondent. Bragg joined *The New York Times* in 1994 and served as Miami Bureau Chief for the *Times* during the Elian Gonzalez story. Currently, he is a roving correspondent for the *Times* in New Orleans.

For more information about Rick Bragg, see page 3 of *FSPA Today* and check out some online interviews with the author.



photo courtesy of Rick Bragg

New York Times correspondent Rick Bragg will deliver the keynote address at FSPA 2003. In addition to the Pulitzer Prize he received in 1996 for feature writing, Bragg has twice won ASNE's prestigious Distinguished Writing Award and, in 1992, was awarded a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard University.

Convention lineup features more than 60 sessions



By Terry Sollazzo
*FSPA Vice President
and Convention Chair*

If you have made the decision to attend the annual state scholastic journalism convention, you have made a wise decision. This year's convention speakers will definitely impact your students and, in turn, make a difference in your journalism program.

For me, this time of year is especially exciting. It is a rush when a speaker agrees to give back to his or her profession by volunteering to teach a session, judge a contest or serve as a panelist or keynote speaker. This year FSPA has hit the jackpot. Over 60 speakers have agreed to share their knowledge with Florida's student journalists and advisers.

Our banquet keynote is Rick Bragg, a national correspondent for *The New York Times* and author of "Somebody Told Me," "All Over but the Shoutin'" and "Ava's Man." Bragg won the Pulitzer Prize in

1996 for feature writing and has earned over 50 awards for his writing in his 20-year career. If you have never read any of Bragg's work, you don't know what you are missing. In fact, I think his work should be required reading for all writing instructors and journalism students. In preparation for his address, Bragg asks that delegates have questions ready for him because he plans to spend a good deal of time answering questions while explaining his craft. If you have the chance, grab one of his books, experience his storytelling and jot down some questions you would love to ask him.

Fawn Germer, a Pulitzer-prize nominated investigative reporter, will teach a class on Friday and participate in the panel discussion Friday morning. Germer's book "Hard Won Wisdom" earned a spot on many best-seller lists and a feature on the "Oprah."

Another featured panelist and session speaker is Kelly McBride, a member of the ethics faculty at the Poynter Institute. McBride will teach "Five Steps to

continued on page 3



Perspective

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

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without words,
And never stops at all...

Emily Dickinson

As we prepare to put this issue *FSPA Today* to bed, our nation is headed into war, our homeland security alert is climbing to red, our state legislators are

battling budget woes and our schools are facing ever-increasing challenges.

What can I possibly say to offer an encouraging perspective?

Just remember, our nation is still free, our people are still brave, teachers like you still care and students still inspire us daily.

Join me at convention where we will celebrate your continuing efforts to "Make a Difference."

IN MEMORIAM

Lawrence E. Raykovic



As many have sadly learned, Lawrence E. Raykovic died in an automobile accident Jan. 3. Larry Ray or Mr. Ray, as he was called by friends and students, served as district 5 director and had taught at Estero High School since 1989.

"Larry was a long-time member of the FSPA Board, who always had interesting ideas, and he will be greatly missed," said FSPA President Judy Booth Richman in the FSPA e-mail announcing the tragedy.

Raykovic, born on Feb. 21, 1952 in Fort Dix, New Jersey, graduated from Beaver Area Senior High and West Virginia Wesleyan College. At Estero High, he first taught drama and later became director of Wild 4 News, the in-school television production class. Along with his FSPA's executive board duties, Raykovic served as a board member of CNN Broadcasting's Student Bureau. In addition to teaching, Raykovic worked for Waterman Broadcasting to gain experience to share with his students.

After the accident, NBC2 News posted an online message board. Students, colleagues and friends expressed their grief and shared memo-

ries of Larry Ray. Anyone wishing to contribute a special memory or story may still do so at www.nbc-2.com. Al Shilling, a broadcast adviser at Cypress Lake Center for the Arts, wrote about his admiration for his friend.

"Larry touched and inspired so many students to pursue broadcasting, that, if they all got together, they could probably start their own broadcasting station," Shilling said in his message. In addition to volunteering to complete Raykovic's term as district 5 director, Shilling has devoted many hours to assisting Raykovic's staffs.

In her message, former student Caitlin McGarry said, "Mr. Ray taught all of his students to, as he would say to, 'think outside the box.'"

McGarry said he taught them to look at multiple sides to every story and to pursue a career they loved as much as he loved his.

"Mr. Ray was passionate about the subject which he taught," she said. "He loved to share the power of television."

Survivors include his wife Kandace Kissick Raykovic; his son Andrew and his fiancée Renee DeLisle; and his daughter Catherine Strong and her husband Lee. Larry had recently become a grandfather to Rebecca Lynn Strong. Additional survivors include his parents Lawrence and Lilly; his grandmother Helen Raykovic; his brother Kenneth and sister Patty Watkins.

IN MEMORIAM

Elizabeth Sue Wrenn



FSPA lost an inspirational and compassionate adviser when Elizabeth Sue "Betty" Wrenn of Pensacola died Feb. 18.

She advised high school publications for more than 30 years, beginning with Brownsville Junior High's yearbook. In 1979, she began teaching at Escambia

High School in district 1. She advised the yearbook, "Escambian," and newspaper, *Gator Tales*.

Her father, Henry Wrenn, former editor of the *Tallahassee Democrat*, inspired Wrenn to devote her life to journalism. In 1990, FSPA named Wrenn Morty Schaap Journalism Teacher of the Year.

"My students and I have faced problems to-

gether. My goals over the past 30 years have been honesty, fairness and accuracy," said Wrenn upon receiving the award.

Her effectiveness as a teacher is demonstrated by the success of her students. Two students, L. Wayne Hicks and Amy Schlein, won the Pulitzer Prize and she is said to have influenced doctors, lawyers, athletes, educators and CEOs.

"She taught all her classes with a hammer in one hand and a velvet glove on the other, a taskmaster like no other," said Judy Gross in an article written about her friend.

Gross said that Wrenn considered her students as her children and was motherly and caring.

"If she had a student who wanted to go to prom and couldn't afford a dress or a tux, Miss Wrenn got them one, and let the student work off the favor by washing her car," said Gross.

FLORIDA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

PHONE

352-392-0460

FAX

352-846-2673

E-MAIL

fspa@jou.ufl.edu

ONLINE

www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Judy Booth Richman
judy.richman@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Vice President

Terry Sollazzo
terry.sollazzo@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Past President

Jill Maassen
maassenje@usa.net

Evaluation Service Coordinator

Marge Craig
fspaevaluations@aol.com

Executive Director

Judy M. Steverson
jsteverson@jou.ufl.edu

OFFICE STAFF

Lauren Fackender
Chris Jensen
Cristy Loftis

Web Master

Beth Nabi

FSPA TODAY

Editor

Judy M. Steverson

Copy and Design Editor

Chris Jensen

Staff

Lauren Fackender
Cristy Loftis



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.

Student Co-chair issues challenge: get ready to 'make a difference'



By Elizabeth "Liz" Stemm
Student Co-chair

With the convention only weeks away, the student representatives have been working hard to "Make a Difference" in 2003.

Each district has decorated a jar for Penny Wars and the final products can be viewed at the convention when the contest begins. Remember that pennies add points, while silver change and paper money subtract. The money raised will go to student scholarships and the winning district will receive a trophy.

The color scheme for the banquet is blue, silver and black, and matching dress attire is requested. There will be a semi-formal dance afterwards, so please dress accordingly.

The excitement leading to the convention is mounting and the countdown until May has begun. Collect those pennies and get ready to "Make a Difference!"

continued from page 1

Writing, 10 Tools for Writing with Inspiration" on Thursday night and an ethics class on Friday.

Larry Larsen, Poynter's multimedia editor and a Macromedia Certified Flash Developer, will discuss the advent of digital reporting kits and what the future holds for digital reporters. Larsen coauthored "Flash 4 Magic" and contributed to "The Flash 4 Bible," "The Flash 5 Bible," "New Masters of Flash" and "Effective Web Animation." He has created content for the Macromedia Flash 4 CD-ROM and the Flash content

for Eyewire's Flash Foundry. Larsen's work has been featured on CNN.

Author and University of South Florida professor Rick Wilber will teach a class for FSPA's literary magazine students. Wilber is the author of more than 50 short stories in "Asimov's," "Fantasy and Science Fiction," "Analog" and other magazines and anthologies. His books include "Where Garagiola Waits and Other Baseball Stories" and "To Leuchars," which was called a "minor classic" by the SFSite. His next novel, "The Cold Road," will hit shelves in June.

Al Tompkins, a friend and teaching colleague of CBS's Les Rose, whom Rose

says is "the best of the best of the best" broadcast storytellers, will be teach three sessions, one on Thursday night and two 2-hour sessions on Friday. Tompkins has trained more than 8,000 television news producers, reporters, photojournalists and managers in 23 states. He has won The National Emmy, The Peabody Award, seven National Headliner Awards and the Robert F.

Kennedy Award for international reporting. He is the author of "Aim for the Heart: A Guide for TV Producers and Reporters." His hour-long documentary, "Saving Stefani," was featured on "Dateline" and received the 1999 Clarion Award.

Unfortunately, because of his busy schedule, Rose may be unable to attend this year. However, as he told me, "you never know what might happen." So keep your fingers crossed.

Now that you have a small taste of the professionals who will be at the convention, I hope you will want to join us to make a difference in the lives of Florida's student journalists. Sessions have been planned with speakers from state newspapers, universities, year-book publishing companies and broadcast companies who are ready to make the convention a memorable and valuable learning experience. You don't want to miss this one.

Rick Bragg

For more information about the keynote speaker and his colorful personality, visit these Web sites:

www.josephbeth.com/html/braggarchive.html

www.bookmagazine.com/issue18/bragg.shtml

www.randomhouse.com/knopf/authors/bragg/

Scholarship Opportunities

The Independent Florida Alligator Scholarship

The Independent Florida Alligator offers an annual \$1,000 scholarship to a new student majoring in print journalism at the University of Florida. While applicants are welcome to apply for work or training at *The Alligator*, it is not necessary for this award.

The applications deadline is April 7. For more information, visit www.alligator.org.

The Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale

Up to \$5,000 in scholarships are available to high school juniors and seniors to use toward programs at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. To apply, students must be a member of FSPA. For more information, visit www.aifi.edu.

Summer Workshops

Summer Journalism Institute 2003

The University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications will sponsor the annual Summer Journalism Institute, June 21-26 in Gainesville.

Classes are open to rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors who have received recommendations from their publication's advisers or principals. Journalism advisers of all media types are also encouraged to participate and develop skills to ensure the success of their staffs.

The application deadline is June 2. For more information, visit www.jou.ufl.edu/sji/home.htm.

JEA Advisers' Institute 2003

The Journalism Education Association's Advisers' Institute aims to give advisers a fresh look at journalism. JEA offers three different sequences for tailored to specific adviser needs.

Sequence I: June 16-20, Nashville, Tenn., Advisers Retreat – Advisers will benefit from hands-on experience designed to make teaching journalism easier. This is a great time to network with other advisers.
Sequence II: July 20-25, Kansas State University, Advising School Publications – Advisers receive an overview of information and materials to help them teach journalism and advise publications.

Sequence III: July 25-30, Kansas State University, Desktop Publishing – Attendees will learn PageMaker, Photoshop, QuarkXPress, InDesign and Illustrator.

The application deadline for Sequence I is June 1 and July 1 for Sequences II and III. For more information, visit www.jea.org/.

CSPA 22nd Summer Journalism Workshop

The Columbia Scholastic Press Association will host the 22nd Summer Journalism Workshop for students and advisers at Columbia University in New York, June 22-27. The application deadline is May 23. For more information, visit www.columbia.edu/cu/cspa/index.html.

In the past six years, FSPA has awarded advisers more than \$6,000 to help better prepare them for their advising. The scholarships on these two pages benefit the recipients, as well as scholastic journalism in Florida. We encourage you to take advantage of these educational opportunities.

Julie E. Dodd Scholarship for Advisers

For the second time, FSPA will award the Julie E. Dodd scholarship to an adviser to attend a summer media workshop.

Dr. Dodd, who was FSPA's executive director from 1988-1999, served the longest term in the organization's history. During her 11-year tenure, Dodd helped develop FSPA's Student Journalist of the Year Award program and worked to gain FSPA the not-for-profit status designation. She also helped establish the FSPA Foundation, which funds these scholarships.

The recipient of the Julie E. Dodd scholarship will receive \$300 upon completion of a mentoring project accompanied by a related article that will be published in *FSPA Today*.

- Any adviser of an FSPA member staff is eligible to apply. You must have advised an FSPA-member staff for at least two years.

- All applicants must submit a letter of support from a colleague, administrator or local media contact.

- The postmark deadline for applications is **Friday, April 11**.

Applications for the Julie E. Dodd Scholarship will be reviewed by a panel from the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications.

An adviser may apply for both the Webb-Stapler and the Julie E. Dodd Scholarships, but may receive only one scholarship.

The recipients of the scholarship will be notified by April 23 and recognized at the advisers' luncheon at the FSPA convention in April.

2003 Julie E. Dodd Scholarship Application

Please type or print in ink. Postmark deadline is **April 11, 2003**.

Adviser name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____

Home phone _____

E-mail _____

School name _____

School address _____

City _____

Zip _____

School phone _____

E-mail _____

Publication/broadcast/media name: _____

Years advising FSPA-member staff: _____

Total years advising: _____

Have you received an FSPA scholarship in the last five years? [] Yes [] No

On a separate page, address the following:

1. Describe the course/workshop you propose to attend and the benefit this training will provide for you (helping you earn journalism certification, a course to complete a graduate degree, etc.). Provide specific information on the dates and location. If you plan to attend a workshop, include the sponsors of the workshop. If possible attach a copy of the workshop application form.
2. Select a new adviser from your district who would benefit from learning about your involvement in the course/workshop. Arrange at least two mentoring sessions to share information and materials from the workshop.
3. Follow up with an article in the back-to-school issue of *FSPA Today* that details your experiences as a student and a mentor. Article must be received by late August.

Send this application and your letter of support by **April 11** to:

**Julie E. Dodd Scholarship
Florida Scholastic Press Association
University of Florida
College of Journalism and Communications
PO Box 118400
Gainesville, FL 32611-8400**

2003 Webb-Stapler Scholarship Application

Please type or print in ink. Postmark deadline is **April 11, 2003**.

Adviser name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ E-mail _____

School name _____

School address _____

City _____ Zip _____

School phone _____ E-mail _____

Publication/broadcast/media name: _____

Years advising FSPA-member staff: _____

Total years advising: _____

Have you received an FSPA scholarship in the last five years? [] Yes [] No

On a separate page, address the following:

1. Describe the course/workshop you propose to attend and the benefit this training will provide for you (helping you earn journalism certification, a course to complete a graduate degree, etc.). Provide specific information on the dates and location. If you plan to attend a workshop, include the sponsors of the workshop. If possible attach a copy of the workshop application form.
2. Describe the product you plan to develop as an outcome of your training. Be specific in describing the format of the product (teaching unit, instructional video, thesis, etc.). Explain how this project will benefit FSPA and journalism teachers.
3. Include any other information you feel would support your candidacy.

Send this application and your letter of support by **April 11** to:

Webb-Stapler Scholarship
Florida Scholastic Press Association
University of Florida
College of Journalism and Communications
PO Box 118400
Gainesville, FL 32611-8400

Webb-Stapler Scholarship for Advisers

The Webb-Stapler Scholarship, named after former FSPA executive directors John Webb and Harry Stapler, is awarded to advisers to support their training and to improve scholastic journalism in Florida.

The recipient of the award will receive a \$300 scholarship, funded from interest on FSPA's long-term investments. More than one award may be presented each year.

The Webb-Stapler Scholarship recipient is required to propose and complete a project that would be of use to other journalism teachers. The scholarship will be awarded when the FSPA office receives the completed project.

Applicants must meet these criteria:

- Provide information on the college or university course or media workshop you plan to attend.

- Include a letter of support from a colleague, administrator or local media contact.

- Complete this Webb-Stapler Scholarship application form.

- Submit a proposal explaining a product you will develop as part of your training. This could be a media course syllabus, a research project, a journal article, an instructional videotape, a multi-page Web site on Zip disk, etc. The product must benefit FSPA and/or journalism teachers.

- The postmark deadline for application is **Friday, April 11**.

Applications for the Webb-Stapler Scholarship will be reviewed by a panel from the University of Florida College of Journalism and Communications.

An adviser may apply for both the Webb-Stapler and the Julie E. Dodd Scholarships, but may receive only one scholarship.

Scholarship recipients will be notified by April 23 and recognized at the advisers' luncheon at the FSPA convention in April.

Students encouraged to participate in On-the-Spot contests



By Marge J. Craig
Evaluations Coordinator

Convention attendees: It's the time to learn and a time to compete.

Well, now that all the individual entries, newspapers, magazines and broadcast tapes have been sent to judges, it's time to start thinking about convention entries and contests. We had an amazing response from all of you with more than 700 individual entries, publications and tapes submitted for judging. All of the entries will be returned to advisers in April along with certificates for honorable mentions and first place ratings. The All-Florida entries will be announced and presented at the convention.

That gets us back to the convention entries. Those of you who are new advisers may not know what to expect for on-the-spot contests or think that your staffers are not prepared

enough to participate. That's where you're wrong. Participation is a great way to learn. There are so many benefits to be gained by competing. Students learn about working as a team, thinking on their feet and using their creativity. Individual on-the-spot contests gives students the opportunity to compete against some of the best student journalists in the state and to work under a really tight deadline.

The carry-in contests offer staffs the chance to develop their skills as journalists and, once again, to work as a team.

Last, but not least, are those videos and photos of your staff at work in the media area. It's always exciting to hear staffs screaming with delight to see themselves in lights on the big screen at the convention. This is a chance to have a little fun

and break some of the tension of all those late night sessions.

Advisers, if you have questions about any of the contests, contact the contest coordinators, and make sure your journalists are competing.

Evaluations Coordinator

Marge J. Craig
P.O. Box 150158
Alexandria, VA 22315-9998
fspaevaluations@aol.com

Broadcast Coordinator clarifies competition guidelines



By Haley Brueck
Broadcast On-the-Spot Contest Chair

Hi everybody! We made some changes and improvements to the broadcast contests this year and want to make certain everyone understands the information included in the FSPA 2003 convention booklet. Just for clarification, pull out your copy of the convention booklet and review the following areas of special concerns.

- ◆ Only one student representative per school may enter the Individual News Anchor (INA) Contest regardless of how many broadcast publications you have registered.
- ◆ Equipment and Materials. No equipment will be provided. If you are competing in one of the editing contests (Feature Package Computer Editing [FPE] or Team News Anchor Computer Editing [TNAE]) you will need to bring your own editing equipment, power adapters, etc. No editing is allowed in the Feature Package (FP) or Team News Anchor (TNA) contests.
- ◆ Carry-In contests (see page 21) are to be completed before the convention and dropped off at the FSPA registration desk. Each school may submit ONE entry for each Carry-In Contest category. Please label VHS tape with school name and indicate whether it is a computer graphic, news package, PSA #1 or PSA #2.
- ◆ If you did not check that you would be willing to judge contests on your entry form, please volunteer and help make a difference.

And last but not least, I will miss all of you at this year's convention as I am expecting my second son on May 5th. Therefore, I want to make sure there is as little confusion as possible for the person standing in for me.

(Don't worry – you'll be in good hands!) If you have ANY questions please don't hesitate to contact me. My contact information can be found on page 19 of the booklet.

Carry-In contest adds more opportunities for yearbook staffs



By Celene Sessions
Yearbook Carry-In Contest Volunteer

Editor's note: FSPA thanks Celene Sessions, yearbook adviser at Pace High School in district 1, for designing and coordinating a yearbook Carry-In contest. Here are the guidelines and requirements for this new competition.

Yearbook Carry-in Contest:

This is a double-page spread (DPS) design contest. All FSPA member staffs are eligible to participate. Each staff is allowed to submit two entries combined (i.e. one student life and one academics, NOT two student life, two people and two organizations). The categories are:

Student Life
Sports
People
Academics
Clubs/Organizations

Directions

Select your best DPS for any two of the categories listed. Bring (or send with your adviser) a computer generated copy or a paste-up of the spread. If a computer generated copy is submitted, tape the DPS together as it would be in a yearbook. On the back of the DPS, attach an index card with the following information: contest name and category (e.g. Yearbook Carry-in, Sports), your name(s), school name, publication name, and your adviser's name.

Remember, this is a design contest. You will not be judged on the use of photographs, captions or copy. You will be judged on the design elements and overall appeal. Certificates will be awarded to first place, second place, third place and honorable mention in each category. Turn in Carry-In contest entries at the convention registration desk.

Remember, the designer(s) must be on the staff of an FSPA-member publication, but does/do not need to attend the convention. Each publication may enter only TWO of the categories and the DPS must be suitable for high school publication.

**SEND US
IMAGES
TO
HIGHLIGHT
YOUR
SCHOOL
IN THE
FSPA
2003
CONVENTION
OPENING
SESSION
VIDEO!**



STUDIOS

:: Creating a DIGITAL Planet ::

PRESENTS

**THE
MULTIMEDIA
EXPERIENCE**

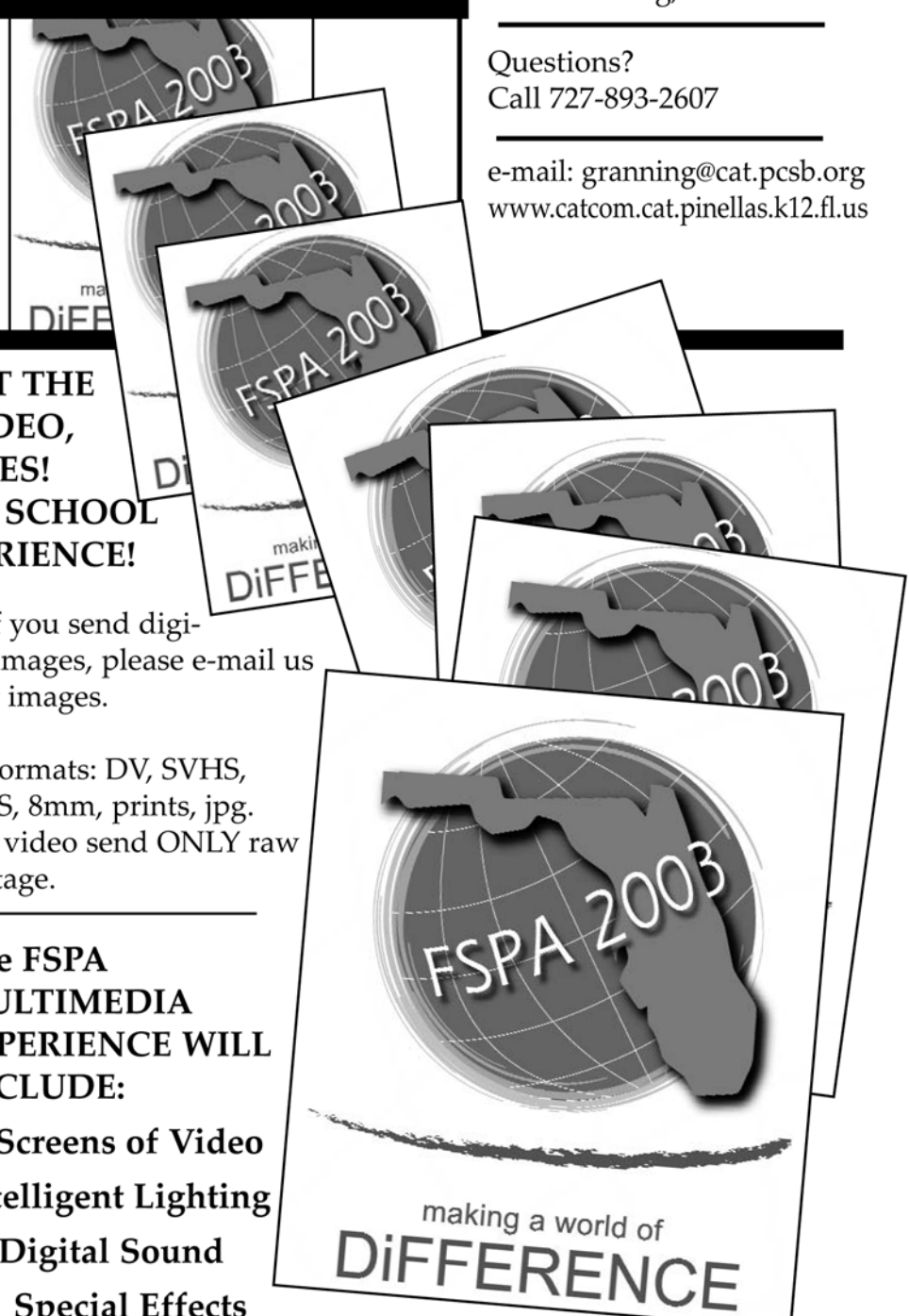
**DEADLINE:
MARCH 28**

Send videotape, photos , or
e-mail images to:

CATCOM Studios
Mark Granning
1400 54th Ave. So.
St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Questions?
Call 727-893-2607

e-mail: granning@cat.pcsb.org
www.catcom.cat.pinellas.k12.fl.us



**ANYONE CAN SHOOT THE
PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEO,
OR DIGITAL IMAGES!
MAKE SURE THAT YOUR SCHOOL
IS A PART OF THE EXPERIENCE!**

MEDIA STAFFS:

Get a camcorder, a digital camera, or a 35mm camera and follow these directions to be included in the opening video:

1. Videotape or photograph your staff at work in the media area. Make it fun. Demonstrate the theme, Making a Difference in a visual way.

2. Videotape or photograph a copy of your publication or send clips from your TV show.

3. Videotape or photograph your school campus with a sign that shows your school name.

4. If you send digital images, please e-mail us .jpg images.

5. Formats: DV, SVHS, VHS, 8mm, prints, jpg. For video send ONLY raw footage.

**The FSPA
MULTIMEDIA
EXPERIENCE WILL
INCLUDE:**

- 4 Screens of Video**
- Intelligent Lighting**
- Digital Sound**
- Special Effects**

Former FSPA photographer launches tip column for student journalists



By Nick West
Student Photographer

When I think back to my days as rookie photographer in high school, one of the biggest problems I had was learning how to avoid dead space. Fortunately, my staff had community volunteers who shared helpful tips I would now like to pass on as space is available in each issue of *FSPA Today*.

Early on, I learned it is important to remember that you are in charge of the scene — you are the director. Make adjustments as needed and get close to the subject. Moving just a few steps toward the subject can cut down on “empty” space and draw attention to the center of interest. By filling the entire frame of a negative, the photographer is not only able to capture the image, but also alleviate dead space.

For this image, I watched the racers warm-up and I began to visualize the ideal shot. I wanted to catch the racers at the top of their jumps, so I selected a location where I could capture all of the action on film and fill the frame. Instead of the standard 35-80 mm, I decided to try using an 80-200 mm to zoom in on a preset focal point.

Look for more tips from Nick West in his “Behind the Lens” column in upcoming issues of FSPA Today.

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 photo editor for *The Talon*, the newspaper of Tallahassee Community College, where he won awards for his sports and news photography from the Florida Community College Activities Association. Additionally, West has worked as an intern at the *Tallahassee Democrat*.



photo by Nick West

Motorcross racer Nick Adams catches some air while hitting a jump at the 2003 Winter Am Nationals at Gatorback Cycle Park in Newberry on Jan. 25.

Florida Scholastic Press Association
University of Florida
College of Journalism and Communications
2032 Weimer Hall
PO Box 118400
Gainesville, FL 32611-8400