

Convention 2004

FSPA Today

Enhancing integrated media training for scholastic journalists and advisers

TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE

MONDAY, APRIL 19

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting

3 - 5:45 p.m.

Convention check-in at FSPA Registration Desk. Advisers pick up packets, programs and t-shirts.

Turn in all Carry-In Contests with proper labels.

Set up Danny Wellman displays.

Pick up convention photo IDs (required).

4 - 9 p.m.

On-the-Spot Photography Contest (Pre-registration required).

5 - 6 p.m.

Hotel check-in: Advisers ONLY. Must have copy of original hotel registration form mailed to Hyatt Tampa, along with any corrections and a copy of school's tax-exempt certificate.

Dinner, on your own.

6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Opening Session, produced by CLHSCA Productions.

7:50 - 10 p.m.

On-the-Spot Contests

8 - 10 p.m.

Individual anchor contest

8 - 9:30 p.m.

Sessions for delegates not in contests.

8:15 - 9:45 p.m.

Adviser Reception and District Meetings: Advisers turn in behavior contracts and pick up banquet and luncheon tickets. Bring your school/community calendar to facilitate planning for fall district workshop.

10 - 11:50 p.m.

Carnival

12:15 - 6:30 a.m.

Students in rooms and quiet.

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

7-7:50 a.m.

Adviser Breakfast

8-8:50 a.m.

Panel Discussion. All delegates expected to attend. Contests based on this discussion.

9 - 11:50 a.m.

Sessions 1, 2 and 3

Noon - 1:50 p.m.

Students' lunch, on your own.

Noon - 1:50 p.m.

Advisers' Luncheon: Business Meeting, Recognition of District Teachers of the Year, presentation of Silver and Gold Keys and Lifetime memberships.

2 - 3:50 p.m.

Sessions 4 and 5

6 p.m.

Banquet doors open

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Banquet: Semiformal dinner featuring keynote speaker Les Rose, ceremonies announcing prejudged awards, Student Journalist and Teacher of the Year.

9:30 - 12 a.m.

Film Festival

12:15 - 6:30 a.m.

Students in rooms and quiet.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21

8 - 10 a.m.

Closing Session

10 - 11 a.m.

Advisers' final check out

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting

Silent Auction

Don't forget your items for this FSPA Foundation fundraiser. Have fun and be creative putting together your school's basket (see page 5).

Convention 2004: Tampa's ready, are you?

By Terry Sollazzo

FSPA President



What an appropriate theme this year's student reps have chosen: *Media in Motion: You Direct Your Future*. That simple slogan reflects the behind the scenes flurry of activity and session plan-

ning of FSPA's Executive Board as we organize what will be a rewarding and fulfilled three days for you and your staff, one that will help shape the future of your journalism program.

Like any convention or workshop, what you are able to bring home to infuse into your program depends on you and your staff. In fact, the success of this convention relies heavily on adviser and student delegate participation. But before we discuss convention participation, let's talk about pre-convention planning.

By now, you have submitted your travel request. Don't forget to contact your county personnel office to make sure that you can earn inservice points for attending sessions at the convention. Be aware of their procedures and be sure to file the necessary paperwork. We have included a new advisers' track to meet various school boards' mandated requirements.

Next, let's talk about your student delegates. Make sure you have the needed medical release forms, permission to travel forms, signed behavior contracts and copies of insurance cards (just to be on the safe side). While there is a restaurant in the hotel (and a deli, too), encourage them to bring snacks to satisfy those late-night hunger pangs. Cereal bars, muffins, fruit and even cereal can cut down on money needed for morning meals. The deli offers milk, fresh juice, sodas, fruit, sandwiches, burgers and salads. Pizza delivery is also available if the

students have it delivered to the hotel lobby. Many advisers take advantage of arriving early so that they can "bond" with their staff at a pre-convention meal at an area restaurant. The Channelside District near the hotel and Centro Ybor both offer restaurants your students may enjoy. Staffs heading for Busch Gardens before convention should keep in mind that registration begins at 3 p.m., but the Opening Session does not start until 6:45 p.m. As a mother of three boys, I have learned that "a full tummy makes for a happy kid." So take time to feed them.

Once at the hotel, remember that the security of your students is your top priority. They should not leave the hotel unless they are traveling in a group to eat breakfast or lunch near the hotel. The hotel provides night security and FSPA will

FSPA Film Festival



photo courtesy of Rick McKay

Award-winning producer, writer and director Rick McKay will screen one of his latest films, "Broadway," as part of the FSPA Film Festival on April 20. See page 4 for details.

have an officer on duty at our night activities; however, if your delegates leave the hotel grounds, they are your responsibility. In addition, we need you to attend the nighttime convention activities to help monitor your students. Like you, we want our students to remain safe and to have the time of their lives. In order to achieve this level of safety for all 900+ delegates we have to work together.

Before the Opening, you might want
continued on page 4



Perspective

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

Impressed, proud and, frankly, relieved.

These emotions have replaced the gnawing fears that nearly clouded my thinking following the Hyatt Orlando's October closing. Not one to accept negative thoughts, I tried to think positively. Still, many questions loomed.

Could we find a hotel to accommodate our group's unique needs by the Nov. 6-8 Winter Board Meeting? When that miracle occurred, then the question became—would members accept a location outside of the Orlando area? More importantly, could advisers and students miss three days of school?

In fewer than 10 days you answered those question by sending us registrations for more than 1015 delegates, all without complaint and with few glitches. The FSPA staffers already mailed most confirmations. What an amazing feat.

I am also truly impressed with the flexibility and adaptability our Board has shown in orchestrating the intricate details necessary to effect this monumental change for our organization. Inspired by the dedicated leadership of President Terry Sollazzo who periodically reminds us "change is good," the Board has viewed this move as the perfect opportunity to introduce new activities and update others. Even veteran convention attendees should find FSPA 2004 exciting.

Unfortunately, the excitement and anticipation is somewhat bittersweet. The news of Roy Mays' death has dealt all of us a blow. While planning for this convention, my thoughts have often traveled back to the "roller coaster ride" Roy and I shared while working on FSPA's 50th anniversary celebration. His enthusiasm and willingness to tackle any challenge for FSPA will be greatly missed.

We will also miss our dear friend, Evaluation Service Coordinator Marge Craig. We understand her need to "direct her future" in that wonderful, but demanding position in Virginia, but we are aware of how difficult it will be to find someone with her experience, talent and integrity. Thankfully, she is willing to mentor her replacement.

The FSPA office will also have hard time replacing graduating seniors Chris Jensen and Cristy Loftis. In my 37 years as a journalism educator, I have been fortunate to work with many talented students, but none any finer than these two. Both have so willingly dedicated their time and talent to assist me and to serve FSPA. Chris is off to law school, and Cristy has just accepted a internship with *The Gainesville Sun*, and, yes, they are working hard to train this year's volunteers to be ready to for work next year.

Finally, although I have more I want to share in this column, I am out of space and it's time to get the newsletter to the printer. Sadly, I also know in my heart it is time to end my tenure as your director even though I have many more goals I would like to help FSPA accomplish. I have submitted my resignation to Dean Terry Hynes and the Board who will be working together to find a new director. To borrow a phrase from H. L. Hall when his term as JEA president ended: Don't expect me to just fade away.

IN MEMORIAM

Roy Paschal Mays



FSPA lost one of its most enthusiastic supporters March 2 when Roy Mays died suddenly at age 57. Mays' career as a reporter, journalism educator and vital member of FSPA spanned three decades and touched countless lives.

Participating at every level of FSPA, Mays served as a publications adviser, taught at the Summer Journalism Institute, worked in the FSPA office, co-chaired the FSPA 50th Anniversary Committee and served on the Nominations, Elections and Evaluations Committees. In 1999, he helped establish FSPA's independent Evaluations Service which he coordinated for more than two years. Last year Mays was honored as District 2's Teacher of the Year.

"I know Roy touched all of our lives—as an energetic high school adviser, as a colleague in FSPA and as a friend," said former FSPA Executive Director Julie E. Dodd. "I can think of so many times when something needed to be done and Roy jumped in to do it. And there were those times when he would perk us up with the telling

thoughts have often traveled back to the "roller coaster ride" Roy and I shared while working on FSPA's 50th anniversary celebration. His enthusiasm and willingness to tackle any challenge for FSPA will be greatly missed.

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of a story or would just get us moving in another more upbeat direction. I know we valued his role in our lives."

His career as a reporter began at Fort Rucker Army Base, where he served on the base newspaper with future Vice President Al Gore. He then worked for the *St. Petersburg Times* and spent several years as associate editor of the *Citrus County Chronicle*.

Mays spent a majority of his career as an educator, working at Lecanto and Williston High Schools teaching English and journalism. Remaining a student himself, Mays returned to his Alma Mater, the University of Florida, after 30 years to earn a master's degree and teach reporting as an adjunct instructor in the College of Journalism and Communications. Just weeks before his death, Mays began reporting again, writing a feature story for *The Gainesville Sun*.

In addition to his passion for scholastic journalism, Mays was known for his work with the Boy Scouts of America and his impressive collection of Studebakers.

He is survived by his wife Della, his son Doug and his daughter Amber.

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

Terry Sollazzo

terry.sollazzo@sdhc.k12.fl.us

Vice President

Linda Evanchyk

levanchyk@yahoo.com

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

Chris Jensen

Cristy Loftis

Volunteers

Erin Cannaday

Andy Lewis

Yvonne Skillman

Nick West

FSPA TODAY

Editor

Judy M. Steverson

Copy and Design Editor

Chris Jensen

Staff

Cristy Loftis

Erin Cannaday

Andy Lewis

Yvonne Skillman

Nick West



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JEB BUSH
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA

Scholastic Journalism Week

WHEREAS, journalism, an important profession of our time, seeks to inform the public about events, activities and newsworthy happenings on a local, state and national level; and

WHEREAS, on the international level, journalists are placing themselves in harm's way in their efforts to report the news fairly and accurately; and

WHEREAS, student journalists share this passion for informing the public; and

WHEREAS, high school journalism programs enrich students' lives and provide essential skills in communication, writing, photography, design, money management, technology and leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Scholastic Press Association (FSPA), founded in 1946, supports students involved in the field of communications, including newspapers, yearbooks, literary magazines, newsmagazines, broadcast programs and online media; and

WHEREAS, for 58 years, FSPA, through its seven districts, has promoted scholastic journalism on a statewide basis and has served as a network encouraging and aiding advisers, student editors and staff members through workshops, scholarships, conferences and evaluation services; and

WHEREAS, more than one thousand student journalists and advisers will gather at the annual state convention in Tampa, April 19-21, for intensive training to enhance and enrich their classroom learning experiences; and

WHEREAS, this year's convention theme, Media in Motion: You Direct Your Future, reflects the continuing changes in journalism and the opportunities these programs provide for students to grow and share in the recording of our history;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jeb Bush, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all those observing, April 19-24, 2004, as *Scholastic Journalism Week*.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I
have hereunto set my hand
and caused the Great Seal of
the State of Florida to be affixed
at Tallahassee, the Capital, this
19th day of March in the year
of our Lord two thousand four.


GOVERNOR

continued from page 1

to sit down with your students and decide who will attend each session. They will want to take notes to share with the rest of the staff when they return home. In the past, I have had each staffer who attended the convention teach mini-sessions. Whatever your approach, give the students time to share with those who were not able to attend.

After the Opening Session Extravaganza produced by Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts Productions, students will head for On-the-Spot competitions. Those not on contest teams will take classes from 8-9:30 p.m. Broadcast students should bring tapes of their work for the Share-a-Tape session. Advisers will attend a reception sponsored by the UF College of Journalism and Communications and the MANDATORY district meetings where all signed behavior contracts will be given to Security Director Kevin Eastman. Contests should end at 10 p.m.—just in time for the carnival sponsored by Herff Jones and FSPA. All students are expected to be in their rooms and quiet by 12:15 a.m.

An advisers' breakfast sponsored by Jostens kicks off Tuesday's activities at 7 a.m. and the Panel Discussion starts at 8 a.m. All delegates, especially those participating in the Write-Off Contests are expected to attend. Students who attend will also be eligible for door prizes to be given after the banquet. Classes begin at 9 a.m. We have about 70 speakers ready to share their expertise with the finest student journalists in the state.

The advisers' luncheon will be sponsored by Bryn-Alan and Walsworth.

Banquet doors open at 6 p.m., so be sure to have your staff dressed in their Sunday best. Les Rose from CBS News is our keynote speaker. He will show footage from the show he films and helps produce, "Everybody Has a Story." Rose is a favorite of FSPA delegates and has volunteered his time to our organization for three of the last four years. Awards for prejudged contests, Student Journalist of the Year and Teacher of the Year will be presented at the banquet.

The first-ever FSPA Film Festival will follow the banquet. At the festival, the winners of our "Every Student Has a Story" contest will be announced.

The convention will conclude on Wednesday with the Closing Session video by CLHSCA and the announcement of all On-the-Spot contest winners. You will be "in motion" from the moment you open the Hyatt's door on Monday until we adjourn on Wednesday morning. See you in Tampa!

Free T-shirts: Another reason to attend convention



Steve Smith
District 1
Student Rep.

Hey FSPA,

Aside from all the obvious changes this year, we have one more to throw at you. This year, we are providing FREE T-SHIRTS to all FSPA 2004 delegates. So look forward to getting a t-shirt with registration. Also, look forward to more freebies in your welcome kit. Tampa is going to be awesome this year and I look forward to seeing everyone there in April,

Steve Smith

P.S.— Remember to bring some of the money you saved on those free t-shirts for Penny Wars and Pass the Hat. Help your district 'Win the War' and help FSPA fund scholarships.

Monday night carnival kicks off social activities



By Teri Middleton
District 3 Director

In addition to the competitions, films and classes that are planned for this year's convention, the student representatives of FSPA are excited to announce that on

Monday night we will be hosting a carnival complete with games, prizes and snacks. Delegates will have the chance to unwind after completing their classes and competitions by spinning wheels, throwing basketballs and knocking over trolls in hopes of winning one of the many prizes that will be made available during the banquet.

Students who participate in the carnival will

have the chance to win raffle tickets, which will enable them to be eligible for prizes such as CD/DVD players and free video rentals at Blockbuster. The more raffle tickets the student wins, the better his or her chance of winning a prize.

And for those who tire easily of spinning wheels and throwing balls, there will also be an entertainment area complete with dart boards, foosball and billiards, just to name a few, where delegate will be able to relax while meeting students from other schools.

Regardless of where your interests lie, this year's FSPA student reps have worked hard to ensure that after the sessions are over and the competitions are completed everyone has a good time and is given ample opportunity to meet with other students and share ideas.

"Broadway" screening set for Tuesday night's festival

In their own words, and not a moment too soon—"Broadway" tells the stories of theatrical legends, how they came to New York and how they created a legendary century in American theater. This may be the last chance these stories will be documented, because live theater exists only in the memories of those who were there watching, or more importantly, creating the magic on stage. "Broadway" tells the stories of these performers, composers and writers while illustrating their tales with amazing, rare performance footage and these legends' home movies and photos.

Rick McKay is one of the nation's most talented producers, directors and writers. For five seasons he produced a segment on New York's "City Arts," which won more than 30 Emmy awards. McKay helped create the opening broadcast segment of the last two Tony Awards, won three Telly awards and is an independent producer for "Biography" on A&E. He was honored by PBS at last year's Sundance Film Festival and is an award-winning print journalist. His story "Birds of a Feather" won the Cable Car Award in San Francisco for Feature Reporting.

Speaker calls for examples of ethical dilemmas

In preparation for her discussion on ethics, Dr. Kim Walsh-Childers requests that advisers and students submit information that would help to plan her presentation. In talking to high school students about ethical decision-making, she enjoys dealing with issues that are realistic for them — the kinds of decisions they might actually face. Therefore, her presentation will involve real-life ethical dilemmas that your staff has faced. In order to protect privacy, names will be changed. If you or your staff have ethical concerns, please share them. Information should be e-mailed directly to the FSPA office at fspa@jou.ufl.edu. The office will forward this information to Dr. Walsh-Childers.

ASNE & KRT launch high school wire service

KRT Campus, a national wire service utilized by over 300 college newspapers, is now available for high school use. KRT Campus provides stories, photos, graphics and packages to high schools. For more information, see www.highschooljournalism.org/editors/news/2004krtcampus.htm

Watch mail for contest registration confirmation



By Steven Jay Thor
District 7 Director

Everything is ready to go for the On-the-Spot contest portion of the upcoming convention. Please remember to bring only items that are listed in your convention booklet and advise your students to be aware of testing rules.

All confirmations are going out this week. If you do not receive one and have sent in an application to me, please re-send the information promptly. We have had a major problem with communications in Broward County schools. It is very important that you register

in order for me to plan the correct number of contests to prepare.

Advisers: If you have not sent me the judging agreement (page 22 of the convention booklet), fax or e-mail me today, noting which contest(s) you prefer to judge.

Students: 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! If you need any other help, please do not hesitate to contact me:

Steven Jay Thor, Contest chair
FAX: 754-322-0743
Phone: 754-322-0740
E-mail: sjtrucker@aol.com

Support the Foundation—and have fun, too, at FSPA 2004

By Judy B. Richman
FSPA Foundation Chair

Since the inception of the FSPA Foundation, the amount of money raised at the convention has steadily grown. For each of the past two years, more than \$1550 has been raised. Be a part of this exciting legacy for future journalism students and teachers by participating in the following convention activities:

Pass the Hat: During the opening, drop a buck into a hat passed around by student reps.

Penny Wars: This activity pits district against district. Drop pennies into your district's bottle

to add points and drop bills or silver coins into other districts' bottles to deduct points.

Silent Auction: Bid on items ranging from art to sports memorabilia. Check back later to see if you've been outbid and re-up.

Where does all this money go? The FSPA Foundation is an investment account. The annual interest on this account is used to fund scholarships for students and teachers (visit www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa for details). As the Foundation grows, FSPA will be able to better provide for our future journalistic endeavors. Be a part of it all. Plan to invest in your Foundation through these convention activities.

Panelists to discuss ways of broadening coverage



By Christie Gold
Panel Coordinator

Multiculturalism has been a buzzword in education and industry for years now, yet a study by the American Society of Newspaper Editors shows that only 10 percent of professional journalists in this country are minorities.

As journalism advisers, we understand the importance of covering our schools. Our publications or broadcasts should reflect the rich and varied cultural, ethnic, socio-economic and religious diversity of our schools, but how many of us truly reach this goal? Diversity is key to gaining an audience, and the best way to create diverse coverage is by recruiting a staff that mirrors the school population.

How can advisers and staffs create news-

rooms that are more diverse and report on issues that are of interest to a melting pot of students? This year's convention panel will focus on how to accomplish these goals.

St. Petersburg Times media critic Eric Deggans, President of the Tampa Bay Association of Black Journalists; WFLA-TV Senior Consumer Investigative Reporter Victoria Lim, Vice President for broadcast of the Florida chapter of the Asian American Journalist Association;

and *Tampa Tribune* reporter and columnist Cloe Cabrera-Gutierrez, will address questions concerning recruitment, inclusion and coverage. These three award-winning journalists

will candidly share their knowledge, experience and expertise to help us transform "multiculturalism" from a catchphrase to a common practice in all of our newsrooms.

Panel Discussion

Attendance is mandatory for a number of competitions. Check the convention program for details. Drawings for door prizes will be held afterwards—you must be present to win.

Tampa Media Tours

Space is limited, so sign up today.

Tampa Bay News Center

In 1893, the *Tampa Tribune* was a single edition daily newspaper. But that was then, this is now. Today the Tampa Bay News Center is a 24-hour news source, serving the community with three branches: newspaper, television and internet.

The News Center, located in downtown Tampa, houses all operations of WFLA-TV News Channel 8, *The Tampa Tribune* newsroom and Tampa Bay Online—TBO.com.

Nowhere else in the United States do a daily newspaper, broadcast TV station and online service share quarters.

The News Center will welcome Florida Scholastic Press Association members for a tour of the News Center on Monday April 19 from 10 a.m. through 3 p.m., and on Wednesday April 21 from 1 p.m. through 4 p.m. Each one-hour tour is limited to 20 people per group; tours will take place every 20 minutes.

Tours will be given through advance reservations only. To sign up to tour the News Center, please e-mail Jodi Pushkin, education specialist for *The Tampa Tribune's* Newspapers In Education department at jpushman@tampatrib.com.

Bryn-Alan Photography Lab

"For 68 years, Bryn-Alan Studios has been photographing students for their high school yearbook portraits. It has been our privilege to serve the yearbook staffs, parents and students with quality yearbook portraiture at reasonable prices," said Harvey Parido, Executive Vice President of Bryn-Alan Studios, Inc.

The laboratory is located conveniently within walking distance of the FSPA Conference hotel, at 606 W. Kennedy Blvd. Bryn-Alan welcomes students for a tour of the lab and facilities.

Tours will be offered on Monday April 19, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Each one-half hour tour will accommodate 15 people and will take place on the hour and half hour.

Tours will be given through advance reservations only. To sign-up to tour the Bryn-Alan Lab, please e-mail Martha DuBose at m.dubose@brynalan.net.

Evaluations Coordinator thanks lifelong friends, says goodbye



By Marge Craig
FSPA Evaluations Service Coordinator

Flashback to November, 2000.

Past President Judy Booth Richman and I drove down to visit Roy Mays. Roy had just stepped down as evaluations coordinator after several years on the job. He was responsible for implementing the individual contests, which are the most popular entries for students. Roy gave Judy and me a tour of his beautiful new home that the family relished. He was a gracious and smiling host as usual. Over the next two years he continued to offer assistance to me and FSPA. Roy was the ultimate advocate for FSPA and student journalists. He will be missed.

Once again, it is time to pass off the reigns of this position to someone new—someone who will be able to devote more time than I am able with my full-time teaching and advising two publications in Virginia. FSPA has enriched me in so many ways since I first joined in 1986 as an enthusiastic novice. I will miss seeing all my lifelong friends at the work-

shops and convention. No one understands the dilemmas facing publications advisers like other journalism teachers. What I have learned from all of you far outweighs what I have shared in my work with you.

Scholastic journalism is undergoing so many technical changes and scheduling challenges that FSPA and trained and experienced advisers are needed now more than ever. FSPA has earned its reputation of being an outstanding support for advisers and student journalists. I can't tell you how many compliments I receive from judges all over the country who praise the newspapers, yearbooks, literary magazines and videos that they are evaluating. One judge from Pennsylvania told me recently that she has had to cut back on the number of critiques she does, but she wants to continue evaluating for FSPA because she is so impressed with the caliber of work she sees year in and year out in Florida. I couldn't agree more.

Remember that I am a life member of FSPA and so a part of me will always be with you. As Bob Hope would say: thanks for the memories.

Editor's Note:

FSPA thanks Marge Craig for her service.

A search committee appointed by the Executive Board hopes to announce a replacement for Craig at the convention.

Convention photo contests evolve, adapt to 'digital revolution'



By Tom Pierce
Photo Contest Coordinator

Over the 20-plus years I've been helping with the annual photography competitions, I've been proud of the accolades given the organization and to me for what we have accomplished. The fact that we have run dual competitions of finished, mounted prints (in a dozen-plus categories) plus a "shoot-out" type contest, all executed over just three days has amazed a number of people.

"How do you do that?" they asked. Well, we took the suggestions of advisers and professional photographers—mainly Paul Baker of Bryn-Alan Studios—and worked out a system we tweaked and polished until it kept on working. This is the procedure:

Pre-registered student photographers report on the afternoon of the first day of convention and are given a thematic challenge, some film (or a disposable camera) and a few hours to come up with a single image entry. Over the years we have had participants use black-and-white film, slide film, color print film and, of late, print film in "disposable" cameras donated by Bryn-Alan, which also has picked up to tab for processing and/or printing. This always means a time crunch to get the processing done overnight, return the prints for the shooters to pick their best shot and have judges pick a first, second and third place effort.

We have continually tried to give the student photographers feedback. Recently, we've invited photographers to listen to the judges' comments as they evaluate the display entries. After the judges finish, they stay for a brief time to answer questions and expound on the reasons for their choices. Everyone agreed this was a worthwhile effort. But we can't do anything similar for the On-the-Spot contest because there just isn't enough time.

Once again in the On-the-Spot photo contest, contestants (who MUST pre-register) may bring and use their own 35

mm cameras and peripheral equipment, such as strobes and special lenses. Film will be provided by Bryn-Alan, as will the disposable cameras for those who prefer. Film and instruction pickup will be Monday at 4 p.m. near the FSPA registration desk. For the first time we will allow contestants to use their own digital cameras. They must agree to shoot the same number of exposures as others (24) on a removable flashcard or memory stick (provided by the contestant) and avoid editing. These contestants will turn in their memory card, just as the others do their film, by the 9 p.m. deadline. Contestants pick up prints and select their entry between 4 and 4:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Winners will be selected by professionals not connected with any participating school (nor Bryn-Alan) and announced at the closing session. The criteria will be: exposure, composition, creativity and capturing the theme.

Here's a reminder of rules that have long been in effect for the display contest: All prints **must be at least 8"X10"** and **must be mounted on 16" X 20" boards** (of any color). Only one entry per photographer per category and no more than five entries total

by one photographer. Enter prints in the right category—judges won't correct mistakes. For the On-the-Spot contest, only one photographer per publication may enter and **must be pre-registered**.

What's ahead? We're planning to seek input from this year's participants and judges as to how we handled digital involvement. When we've had a chance to consider that, we may see the need to tweak the rules again for 2005. Although there is little time between now and the convention, I would be glad to hear from anyone about our plans for this year and beyond, via e-mail, regular mail or you can find me in person at the convention.

Are we doing things right? I earnestly believe so. We are certainly seeing the young student photographers of yesterday turn into the successful professional photographers of today. I see this trend continuing in the future.

Convention Photo Contests

For more information, comments or suggestions, contact Tom Pierce at:

gntp@aol.com

-or-

1617 15th Street N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33704

Tom Pierce is an adjunct journalism professor at the University of South Florida. He taught journalism and advised high school and college publications for 41 years. Pierce has also been a part-time copy editor for the St. Pete Times and Orlando Sentinel for 30 years. He is an FSPA Past President, Lifetime Member and Gold Medallion recipient.

2004 student journalists of the YEAR



FSPA extends congratulations to finalists for the 2004 Todd C. Smith Student Journalist of the Year Award. In 1989, Smith, a former FSPA student journalist, was kidnapped and later killed by Shining Path guerillas while attempting to report on cocaine production in Peru's notorious Huallaga valley.

The winner will be announced at the banquet on Tuesday, April 20. The Independent Florida Alligator will award \$500 to the first-place winner. FSPA will present an award of \$300 to the second-place winner and \$200 to the third-place winner. Look for these journalists' portfolios on display at the convention.

barilieberman

m.s. douglas high school
parkland

Bari Lieberman's passion for journalism is apparent in her self-evaluation: Journalists "must always strive to research more, write with more meaning, touch more lives and help more people."

Lieberman is Editor-in-Chief of Stoneman Douglas High School's newspaper *The Courier*. She has tackled such sensitive issues as date rape, teen pregnancy and cosmetic surgery for teenagers. Lieberman has also gained experience writing for the professional media as a summer intern at *The Herald* and as a regular contributor to a community magazine.

Evaluators complemented Lieberman on her "expert reporting" and "engaging designs." One judge commented that she "obviously sees a social responsibility to her work."

Adviser Michelle Gideon commends her editor for her leadership skills and her willingness to help others on staff.

natalieschultz

freedom high school
tampa

Writing has been the dream of Natalie Schultz since she "nagged" her way onto the newspaper staff as a freshman at Gaither High School.

Now a senior at Freedom High School in Hillsborough County, Schultz is Editor-in-Chief of the school newspaper, *Revolution*, and a sports intern at the *Tampa Tribune*.

Adviser Christie Gold credits Schultz's "vision and work-ethic" for the remarkable success the *Revolution* staff has achieved in the two years since the high school has been opened.

Photojournalist Flip Schulke, after reading many of Schultz's stories, compared her to Shana Alexander, a columnist for *Life*: "Heart with accuracy."

Schultz has covered political issues and the journey of a Cuban refugee and has penned sensitive commentaries on love and tragedy.

cassandraseda

tampa bay technical high school
tampa

Evaluators praised Cassandra Seda's writing for being "captivating and well-researched." The *Titan Thunder* newspaper's Editor-in-Chief's ability to handle sensitive subjects, such as a Colombian kidnapping and budget cuts, impressed everyone who read her portfolio.

Seda has been a part of her school's Academy of Journalism since her freshman year. Her adviser, Carla Sparks, notes her high motivation has led to awards for writing and page design, earned her the highest GPA in her class and enabled her to be involved with many clubs, the swim team and a community choir.

Seda also writes for *Teen Life*, a monthly page in the *Tampa Tribune*. She has covered topics such as the St. Francis Wildlife Rescue and bias in Oscar awards. Seda's love for writing may very well lead to the accomplishment of her long-term goal: to be the Editor of *Time*.

2004 Morty J. Schaap District Teachers of the Year

These teachers will be recognized at Tuesday's advisers' luncheon and at the banquet, where the winner will be announced.

FSPA will nominate the winner to be the next Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Teacher of the Year. Taylor Publishing Co. helps FSPA sponsor cash awards for each winner.



District 1

Stephanie Schlenker
B.T. Washington H.S.
Pensacola, Fla.



District 2

Susanne Griffin
Madison County
Central School
Madison, Fla.



District 3

Tim Oldakowski
University H.S.
Orlando, Fla.



District 4

Christie Gold
Freedom H.S.
Tampa, Fla.



District 5

Robin Mitchell
Pine View School
Osprey, Fla.



District 6

Mary Sullivan
Dr. Krop H.S.
Miami, Fla.



District 7

Jonathan Gordon
McFatter Tech
Davie, Fla.

Scholastic journalism week offers opportunities to celebrate successes



By Linda Evanchyk
FSPA Vice President

The days are getting longer, temperature is warming up and most of us have only a couple deadlines left. Yes, it is about time to celebrate our successes for this school year. Scholastic Journalism Week is a perfect time to do so (see page 3).

For the fourth consecutive year, Gov. Jeb Bush has declared convention week, April 19-25, as Scholastic Journalism Week in Florida. Back in December, journalism students from Choctawhatchee High School in Ft. Walton Beach, traveled to Tallahassee to meet the governor and garner his support for school journalism programs. The students were concerned that the new 18-credit graduation policy was hurting journalism programs across the state. Bush, who did not support the lower credit measure, assured the students that journalism programs have his support. The students invited Executive Director Judy Steverson to attend the interview. She thanked the governor for previous proclamations and asked him to issue another for this year's convention.

Scholastic Journalism Week is a great time to brag about your successes and hard work this school year. I urge you to take time to share your students' accomplishments. Here are some ways to get others in your school and community to notice your students' efforts:

1. Fan Mail. Send a letter home to the parent of each staff member. Explain that you want the parent to send back a letter or card to the student praising him/her on an article or the work during the year. This can be adapted for students who work on yearbook and broadcast as well.

2. Have each staff member send out a special invitation to one teacher



Choctawhatchee High School journalism students meet Gov. Bush on Dec. 1.

to share lunch (or refreshments) with him or her in the staff workroom. Make sure the teachers know what it takes to get the publication out or broadcast on the air. No doubt, they will be impressed. Teachers (don't forget administrators) will be honored to be asked. Your local paper might even cover it if you give them enough notice of the event.

3. Have "Scholastic Journalism Week" placed on your school's marquee or make your own sign to hang.

4. Make a display of publications through the years at your school. Put this in the media center or other highly visible place.

5. Create some "commercials." Take video footage of all journalism programs and run it on your morning news show or ask English teachers to show it in classes. This is also great to attract new staff members.

It is important that we share our students' successes and Scholastic Journalism Week offers great opportunities.

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