

Spring 2004

FSPA Today

Enhancing integrated media training for scholastic journalists and advisers

2004 Calendar

FEBRUARY

27- Broadcast evaluation deadline

MARCH

5-7- SIPA convention

8-12- FSPA office closed for UF Spring Break

12- Convention Deadlines:

- Registration
- Hotel Registration
- On-the-Spot Contest registration
- "Every Student Has A Story" registration
- Opening session video submission

15- Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale scholarship application deadline. For more information, visit www.aifl.edu.

17-19- CSPA Convention in New York

18- Convention late registration deadline

APRIL

1-4- JEA/NSPA Spring Convention in San Diego

5- Independent Florida Alligator scholarship deadline for a student who will major in print journalism at UF. For more information on the application process, visit www.alligator.org.

19-21- Convention 2004 at the Hyatt Regency in Tampa

24-30- FSPA office hours adjusted for UF Final Exams

MAY

3 - FSPA office closed for UF summer break

JUNE

2 - Summer Journalism Institute (SJI) application deadline

13-18 - JEA Adviser Institute Session I, Nashville, Tenn.

19-24 - SJI at the UF College of Journalism and Communications. For more information, visit www.jou.ufl.edu/sji.

CBS photojournalist helps launch new contest, film festival



By Terry Sollazzo
FSPA President

The Tampa Bay Area is gearing up for what promises to be one of FSPA's most exciting conventions. The positive response from the area's media, the 13th largest top television market in the nation, has been unbelievable. Add the involvement and discounted admission rates from the area's entertainment venues, and delegates can be assured that April 19-21 will be one action-packed experience.

In fact, advisers may want to arrive early to treat their staffers to a day at Busch Gardens, Adventure Island, the Florida Aquarium, the Museum of Science and Industry or the Tampa Theatre. Students can hit the Channelside District and Centro Ybor. Both areas have movie theaters, restaurants and unique shops. GameWorks, a hi-tech entertainment center, offers interactive games and full-motion simulators. On a more serious note, the Florida Holocaust Museum and the Florida International Museum can be found just across the Howard Franklin Bridge in St. Petersburg.

The Executive Board is still in the process of arranging media tours for those staffs choosing to arrive earlier in the day. Watch for pre- and post-convention activities in the March issue of *FSPA Today*.

When you arrive at the Hyatt Regency, get ready for competitions, classes and fun. Les Rose, from CBS's *Everybody Has A Story*, will be back to teach sessions all day Tuesday and will serve as our banquet keynote speaker. We have also asked him to present the awards

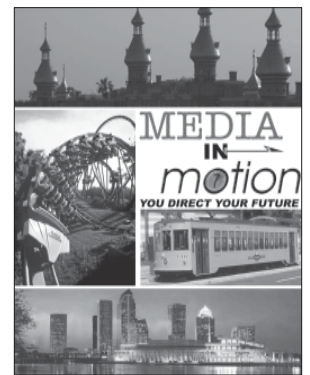
for the *Every Student Has A Story* Contest, which will be shown at the film festival following the banquet. Don't forget to submit your entries (print or video) by March 12. This is your chance to highlight your work. Who knows? Maybe you'll be discovered. To get a sampling of Rose's work, visit cbsnews.com and click on "The Early Show."

Other speakers for Tuesday's sessions include several well-known professionals from the Tampa Bay Area. The Poynter Institute for Media Studies is providing speakers this year including: Kelly McBride (ethics faculty); Keith Woods (reporting, writing, and editing group leader); and Larry Larsen (multimedia editor and Macromedia Certified Flash Developer). Featured presenters from News Channel 8 - WFLA are Bob Hite (anchor), Victoria Lim (investigative reporter) and Stacie Schiable (co anchor).

New to presenting this year will be three speakers from the *Pewter Report*, a magazine that covers the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. They will walk students through the reporting process and will give us a peek at their new televised newsmagazine.

Those students who attended the University of Florida's Summer Journalism Institute will recognize

continued on page 3



Convention track offers advisers chance to earn certification points



By Linda EFSPA Vice
President

Attention Advisers! This convention is as much for you as it is for your students. You are important, and FSPA wants to make sure you feel special at this year's convention. Whether this is your first year advising, first year to an FSPA convention, or you are an experienced adviser, the convention has much to offer you. Make plans to attend the adviser reception on Monday. There will be lots of goodies for all advisers, and it's a great opportunity to meet up with friends

you never get to see and to meet some new advisers. On Tuesday, there will be four sessions just for advisers-including one on every kind of journalism certification you can obtain. The adviser banquet/business meeting allows us to recognize our peers with several awards and to learn about plans the board has made.

Check with your school district to find out what is required for you to receive in-service credit for attending sessions at the convention. We want you to get the credit you deserve. We all know that it takes a lot of preparation on the part of the adviser to bring students to a convention, but I think you will find it well worth the effort after spending three days in Tampa at this year's convention. See you there!



Perspective

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

How can I be excited about attending my 35th FSPA state convention?

Actually, I have been asking myself that question lately.

You would think that after so many years, two as a high school journalist, 28 as a publications adviser and four as your director, I would weary of this annual spring pilgrimage. Not so. In fact, this year, I am more excited than usual. In trying to answer my own question, I have considered the following possibilities:

... Must be our new location. The Hyatt Regency Tampa is a beautiful hotel with great amenities and the Bay area's merchants and media representatives are making us feel very welcome (see page 3).

... Maybe it's all the fantastic speakers President Terry Sollazzo is scheduling for us, or possibly, it's that new specialized teacher track being designed by Vice President Linda Evanchyk (see page 1).

... Certainly, it could be the creative activities being planned by the student representatives and our sponsors (see page 6).

... Or, perhaps it's our very appropriate theme, "Media in Motion: You Direct Your Future," which allows us to examine the continuing changes in journalism.

Whatever the answer may be, FSPA 2004 will be a special event. Even without all the exciting changes and surprises we have planned, being with Florida's dedicated and talented student journalists and advisers always warms my heart and rejuvenates my spirit.

Each year I truly look forward to seeing you all and learning about your great accomplishments. It's a shame that you all are so busy or so modest that I have to wait until convention to hear about your achievements. I know you and your students are doing noteworthy things all the time—send us your "brags," because I love to hear from you and I love to brag on our state's journalism programs, students and advisers everywhere I go.

Here are a few noteworthy items I discovered quite by accident . . . Evaluations Coordinator Marge Craig will be receiving CSPA's highest honor, the Gold Key award at this year's CSPA convention in New York. Our own award-winning adviser Shirley Yaskin from Miami Palmetto serves as CSPA Past President. FSPA 2004 Panel coordinator Cristy Gold who teaches at Gaither High School and former FSPA Teacher of the Year coordinator Mary Inglis from Wellington High School will play vital roles in SIPA's convention March 5-7. Next year these two outstanding Florida advisers will serve as SIPA convention co-chairs.

Do let us in the office hear from you. Can't wait to see you in Tampa.

IN MEMORIAM

Nancy Casson Diaz



Nancy Casson Diaz, of Seffner, died Sunday Nov. 16, 2003. A graduate of the University of South Florida, Diaz had taught in the Hillsborough County school system for 33 years.

She served as FSPA Vice President during the 1994-1995 school year. In addition, Diaz served as District 4 Director, chair of the Constitutional Revisions committee and Nominations Committee during

her long involvement with FSPA.

"She was instrumental in rewriting the constitution in the format that we use today," said Jill Maassen, FSPA President at the time of Diaz service as Vice President. "Nancy was a good friend and devoted board member. She was committed to her staff and her school, and she will be greatly missed."

Diaz loved seeing her students accomplish their life goals. Her favorite avocation was her tropical flower garden. She was also an avid reader and crossword enthusiast.

Survivors include her daughter, Amy; her brother, Larry; four nephews; and one niece.

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

FSPA, Hyatt working to make convention parking easy



By Jill Maassen
FSPA Past President
and Hotel Liaison

Parking for the FSPA convention isn't going to be the problem it once appeared to be. FSPA convention delegates have been offered free valet parking if traveling by car, van or truck. Those delegates should

come to the main entrance on Tampa Street and identify themselves as an FSPA convention attendees. On a first come, first served basis, delegates will be allowed to park free in the valet parking area for the hotel. Parking is limited in this area to the first 200 vehicles. Once there, delegates can leave the valet garage during the day or evening and return to the valet at the front entrance of the hotel and have their original spot reserved.

Additional free parking is also available. The open air lot operated by the Hyatt Regency Tampa is one-half block down from the main entrance to the hotel on Tampa Street. This lot is open to the public. People working in the surrounding buildings utilize this lot. There are no reserved spots in this lot, so convention goers who leave will not be guaranteed a spot when they return.

A third option is the Ft. Brooke Parking garage, owned and operated by the City of Tampa. This garage is one-half block down from the main entrance of the hotel. Delegates should turn left at Whiting Street and turn left again into the garage at the underpass. Delegates will get a parking ticket when entering and pay upon departure. The current parking fee is \$8 a day. Spaces are not guaranteed nor reserved.

If traveling by bus to the convention, advisers should phone the hotel identifying themselves as FSPA delegates and giving the hotel the approximate arrival time of the bus. This will allow the hotel time to have adequate people there to help unload and direct the bus. Buses should let delegates off at the Jackson Street entrance. If your school will need to secure overnight bus parking, please e-mail the FSPA office at fspa@jou.ufl.edu right away.

continued from page 1

photographer Glenn Danforth, Ted Spiker, and Dr. Kim Walsh-Childers. Danforth was the Institute's talented photography and web instructor. Spiker heads UF's magazine sequence. And Walsh-Childers teaches ethics.

The Tampa Tribune, St. Petersburg Times, Taylor Publishing, Walsworth Publishing, Herff Jones, Jostens, Bryn Alan, the University of South Florida and the Sarasota Herald Tribune will provide the best of the best to teach sessions on photography, feature writing, editorials, design, editing, news writing, column writing, art, poetry, fiction writing and every yearbook topic imaginable. Their continued support for scholastic journalism has been overwhelming.

Overall, plans for the convention are falling nicely into place. We just need you to start motivating your staff for the trip. Please encourage them to enter the various competitions. The experience is not only fun but personally rewarding. You have 20 spots you can fill; we hope to see your entire crew (all 20 of them) at the Hyatt in April.



The Tampa Bay Area offers many great adventures for delegates who can arrive early or stay an extra day. Here are a few suggestions. For more ideas on how to spend your time in Tampa before or after the convention, visit www.visittampabay.com. Be sure to mention you are in town for the convention to see if you qualify any of the special discounts FSPA has arranged for members.

FSPA will not be scheduling tours or attractions. All arrangements for tours and attractions must be made directly by advisers. Advisers/chaperones will assume complete responsibility for students participating in these activities.

American Victory Mariners Memorial & Museum Ship

Take a tour of the SS *American Victory*, a 56-year old cargo ship that served in World War II, the Korean War and in Vietnam. The *American Victory*, currently being refitted her maiden condition, is located behind the Florida Aquarium.

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay

Busch Gardens is considered one of the best theme parks in the world. Boasting six world-class roller coasters, more than 2,000 exotic animals and several live shows, Busch Gardens has something for everyone. Try the Montu, Kumba or the all-wooden Gwazi thrill rides. The new Rhino Rally attraction takes you through the African Serengeti Plain in your own Land Rover.

The Florida Aquarium

Experience this 152,000 sq-ft. aquarium, which boasts over 10,000 aquatic plants and animals from Florida and beyond. Watch as divers swim with sharks, then check out the playful river otters, American alligators, free-flying birds, a giant Pacific octopus and much more.

Henry B. Plant Museum

Turn this turn-of-the-century museum, which was originally founded as the Tampa Bay Hotel. Filled with artifacts from the Victorian period, the museum teaches visitors about the humble beginnings of Florida's tourism business. The museum is named after Henry Plant, the railroad tycoon responsible for much of Florida's early West coast development.

Tampa Bay History Center

Visit this regional history museum to learn about most history impacting the Tampa Bay area. Learn about the Civil War, Spanish-American War, the expansion of the railroads and the cigar and citrus industries.

Tampa Museum of Art

This world-class museum is known for its large collection of 20th century, contemporary, Roman and Greek art. The Joseph Veach Noble Collection, part of the permanent museum holdings, is a must see for anyone interested in the cultural roots of Western civilization.

Museum of Science & Industry

This unique museum is home to a host of interesting, hands-on exhibits including a flight simulator, hurricane simulator and even an IMAX dome movie theater. MOSI, as it is known, offers an extensive selection of information about Florida's wildlife and ecosystems.

The Tampa Theatre

The show extends beyond the screen at Tampa Theatre, where art, mythology and history are interwoven in one of America's most ornately decorated movie palaces. Originally built in 1926 as a vaudeville era silent film house, the Theatre was saved by Tampa's citizens in the late 1970's. For more information, visit the theater on the web at www.tampatheatre.org.

In the past seven 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 fourth year, FSPA will offer 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, March 26**.

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 15 and recognized at the advisers' luncheon at the FSPA convention in April.

2004 Julie E. Dodd Scholarship Application

Please type or print in ink. Postmark deadline is **March 26, 2004**.

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 early August.

Send this application and your letter of support by **March 26** to:

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

2004 Webb-Stapler Scholarship Application

Please type or print in ink. Postmark deadline is **March 26, 2004**.

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, March 26**.

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 15 and recognized at the advisers' luncheon at the FSPA convention in April.

Direct your future at FSPA 2004...



Giovanni Benitez
Student Co-chair



Jeremy Emerman
District 7
Student Rep

A new broadcast contest is available for ambitious students seeking a challenge... and an interesting story. *Every Student Has A Story* has been created in honor of our keynote speaker photojournalist Les Rose. Working for CBS Evening News, Rose has been an integral part of the popular news segment "Everybody Has a Story." Based on the program, we have created a contest that models the CBS segment by allowing participants to experience the struggles and challenges both Rose and the segment's reporter, Steve Hartman, go through on a daily basis.

We may not have a red carpet, but the special presentation and awards of entries during our exclusive film festival Tuesday night hopes to inspire an Oscar-style atmosphere. We are pleased to announce that Rose has agreed to be our host for the evening. Following the awards we will premiere a new film--exclusively for FSPA delegates. Help us achieve an award-winning atmosphere by wearing your formal attire to the festival following the banquet.

Now it is your turn to find and submit your award-winning tale because... *Everyone Has A Story*.

P.S. — Don't forget, if you would like your staff showcased in the opening ceremony, you must send your tape in by March 12 (see page 14 of your convention booklet for more details). Also, with our new convention site comes the downtown shops, restaurants and excitement of the Tampa Bay area. This exhilarating environment fits perfectly with our carnival-themed activities at the Hyatt on Monday. Check out some things we've scouted for you on page 3.

"Every Student Has A Story" Contest Information

✓ Attach a copy of the registration form found on page 2 of the convention booklet to your entry (a PDF copy of the booklet can be found on the FSPA Web site, www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa). Be sure to read the rules and regulations carefully before sending in your submission.

✓ Postmarked deadline is **March 12**.

✓ Send all materials to FSPA President Terry Sollazzo.

Opening Session Videos

✓ Remember to send in those opening session videos to CLHSCA Productions. See the ad on page 14 of the convention booklet. You don't want to be left out

Think you have what it takes to be the "FSPA Idol"?



By Teri Middleton
FSPA Convention Co-chair

In keeping with the spirit of change that this year's convention move has brought us, the student representatives of FSPA have worked hard to come up with some fun and innovative forms of entertainment for everyone on Monday night after the competitions and Tuesday night after the banquet.

We are excited to announce that the student representatives have chosen to host a "FSPA Idol" contest for students to participate in. In a parody following the premise of the popular "American Idol," students will be given the opportunity to show their singing talent, either solo or in a small group – and the best part of all is that it's all a cappella! Those who aren't in the spotlight will be there to help the judges decide who is the "FSPA Idol."

In addition to the "FSPA Idol" contest students will be given to opportunity to meet and mingle with entertainment in adjoining rooms.

Contest Rules and Regulations

- The first three schools from each district to sign up for the contest will have the opportunity to perform on Monday, April 19 at the state convention. Only three students per act.
- Limit five minutes per act.
- Acts must have no profanity, hazardous props, or inappropriate costumes.
- Each school must send the lyrics of its act for board approval with the contest registration form.
- Before the show, students must have their costumes checked by an adult representative of the Executive Board. If the script and costumes do not meet requirements of the board, the school may not perform. Any deviation from

the submitted script will disqualify the act.

- Any inappropriate gestures or language will result in an official reprimand of the group and a letter detailing the offense will be sent to the school's principal. (Please read the convention Behavior Contract prior to submitting your registration form.)
- You will be informed prior to the convention of your approximate performance time.
- Co-chairs and student representatives will host the show.
- Contest winners will be determined by audience applause, and they will be recognized at the end of the show and at the closing ceremony.

"FSPA Idol" Convention Competition Pre-Registration Form

Only three delegates per staff may register. The registration deadline is **April 2**.

Act name

Student name(s)

School

Staff name

School address

School phone

School fax

Adviser name

Adviser e-mail

Mail, e-mail or fax form by April 2 to:

Teri Middleton
FSPA Convention Co-Chair
University High School
11550 Lokantosa Trail
Orlando, FL 32817
middlet@ocps.k12.fl.us

Students, advisers encouraged to open window of opportunity



By Mary Sullivan
FSPA District 6 Teacher of the Year

Mary Sullivan is adviser of the Renaissance yearbook and Lightning Strike newspaper at Dr. Michael Krop High School in Miami.

Opportunity is never a problem for teachers. We have stacks of them: in the mail, on the computer, even uninvited faxes. What is a problem is picking and choosing.

As media advisers, we know the sure bets. The FSPA and CSPA conventions rarely disappoint. But my favorite slogan is "The turtle never gets anywhere unless it sticks its neck out," so this year I tried the national JEA/NSPA convention in Washington DC. The convention theme was "A Monumental Experience," and it really was. For three days nearly 5,000 student journalists plus their advisers were assembled under one roof to attend over 150 workshops taught by top professionals in the field.

What set apart the JEA experience for me was the caliber of speakers and variety of competitions we were exposed to. Pulitzer prize-winning journalists, cartoonists and photographers from all media disciplines offered their advice; Marvin Kalb, senior fellow of the Shorenstein Center on the Press hosted a session in which foreign correspondents from the Arab satellite channel Al Jazeera and the Russian news service ITAR-TASS discussed how the rest of the world views the United States; I even learned that there is a workshop that helps advisers set up an AP journalism curriculum.

Write-off contests for the students were highly organized

and involved 1,920 entries from 34 states judged by nearly 200 advisers. Most helpful were the judges' comments that were condensed and broadcast on large screens at our final assembly. I learned right along with the students what to do and not to do on the variety of 47 categories.

Perhaps the most moving moments of the convention happened at the advisers' luncheon. Listening to the words of The Dow Jones National Journalism Teacher of the Year was a reminder of how important the role of adviser is. Beth Fitts of Oxford High School in Mississippi told of the unique angle her students undertook to relate the tragedy of a drunk-driving death in their school. They decided to see if they could purchase liquor at a bar with fake ID. In order to get such a story, Ms. Fitts "chaperoned" her students by pacing in front of a local bar while students collected first-hand proof that underage teens would be served, all the while praying that she was doing the right thing. Hers was a story of going way past the distance and of faith in her students that was inspiring to all that heard her speak. Ms. Fitts' students have not only produced award-winning stories, but have learned life-lessons from their adviser who is dedicated to teaching her subject as well as her values.

Opportunity knocks. The next time you receive a brochure touting a convention that is a "Monumental" or offers you a chance to "Direct Your Future," take them up on it. You won't be disappointed.

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 5. 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.aifl.edu.

Summer Workshops

Summer Journalism Institute 2004

The University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications will sponsor the annual Summer Journalism Institute for students and advisers, June 19-24 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.

CSPA 23rd 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 20-25.

The application deadline is May 21. For more information, visit www.columbia.edu/cu/cspa.

JEA Advisers' Institute 2004

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 13-18, 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 18-23, Kansas State University, Advising Student Publications – Advisers receive an overview of information and materials to help them teach journalism and advise publications. Advisers may earn one or two hours of academic credit.

Sequence III: July 23-28, Kansas State University, Desktop Publishing – Attendees will learn PageMaker, Photoshop, QuarkXPress, InDesign and Illustrator. Advisers may earn one or two hours of academic credit.

The application deadline for Sequence I is June 15 and July 1 for Sequences II and III. For more information, visit www.jea.org/.

The good, the bad and the not-so-pretty: getting the best sports photos



Nick West is a senior photojournalism major at the University of Florida. He is currently photo editor for the *Independent Florida Alligator*.

By Nick West
Special to FSPA Today

Looking back through my high school yearbook, I can see where I made some common, but correctable mistakes when covering sports. Specifically, I always went for the standard "armpit" shot when shooting a basketball game (you know the kind, one with a player holding the ball up high).

One way for photojournalists to avoid "the hairy" is to shoot the action that is taking place *on and off* the court.

Key in on the players that have the best facial expressions when driving the lane or crashing the boards. Many times the best action can come on rebounds or when players are fighting for a loose ball. Try focusing on the grimacing faces during these scrambles.

But, one of the big things covering college basketball has taught me, some of the best action and emotion comes from the sidelines. Many of the head coaches I have photographed are very intense and get wrapped up in the game. I know from experience that a lot of high school coaches are the same way. Try watching the coach and see what kind of emotion he or she gives off and snap a few frames.

Try experimenting with some of these ideas and see what you get. You may burn a few frames, but in the end you just might discover that you've got a few gems that will look good in your publication.

Until next time, keep shooting.

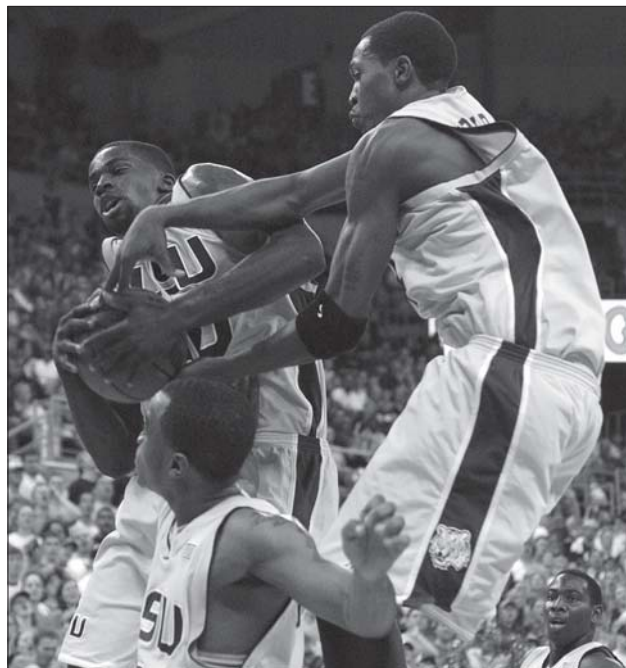


photo by Nick West

A group of LSU defenders goes for the defensive rebound in the second half against the Gators, Feb. 14. Emotion and action make the photo more appealing than a typical arm pit shot.

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