

Fall 2004

# FSPA Today

Enhancing integrated media training for scholastic journalists and advisers

## 2004-05 Calendar

**\*NOTE:** If you missed the yearbook evaluation deadline see page 7.

### SEPTEMBER

**18** – District 4 Workshop in Tampa

### OCTOBER

**2** – District 6 Workshop in Miami and District 7 Workshop in Deerfield Beach  
**21-23** – Winter Board Meeting in Tampa

### NOVEMBER

**6** – District 3 Workshop in Orlando  
**15** – Membership deadline

### DECEMBER

**9** – Teacher-of-the-Year application deadline  
**12-17** – FSPA office hours adjusted for UF Final Exams  
**17-Jan. 3** – FSPA office closed for UF Winter Break

### JANUARY

**4** – FSPA office reopens  
**28** – Literary magazine, newspaper and individual contest entry application deadlines

### FEBRUARY

**4** – Student Journalist-of-the-Year and FSPA Foundation Scholarship application deadline  
**25** – Broadcast evaluation deadline  
**26-March 6** – FSPA office closed for UF Spring Break

### MARCH

**6** – FSPA office reopens  
**18** – Convention registration deadline

### APRIL

**1** – Convention late registration deadline  
**14-16** – 2005 FSPA Convention in Tampa  
**23-29** – FSPA office adjusted for UF Final Exams

### MAY

**3** – FSPA office closes for UF summer break

## Hurricanes fail to KO journalism programs, FSPA

By Terry Sollazzo  
FSPA President



As I write this note to you, I am waiting to hear if another storm will pay us a visit. First Charley, then Frances, followed by Ivan, the Terrible, and

Jeanne—four major storms, what a horrific way to open a school year! If you are like me, you now have your staff trained to dismantle all of the computers and store all the equipment and diskettes in a mere 40 minutes or less.

Needless to say, given the circumstances, meeting that first deadline for some of you has been an unbelievable task. For others with a young staff like me, the challenge has yet to be met. However, for many advisers with severely damaged schools meeting that first deadline may be many weeks away. For those of you in this situation, we empathize with you and want to help in any way we can.

As president, I would like to extend an invitation to you to attend whichever district workshop is closest to you. Many schools scheduled to host district workshops have been severely damaged and hosting the workshop at these locations will be virtually impossible. Check

### Storms pound schools, affect publication deadlines



photo by Nick DeJonge/Choctawhatchee HS, Ft. Walton Beach

**Waves Crash** against the shore of Santa Rosa Sound in Ft. Walton Beach after Hurricane Ivan passed over the Panhandle in September. Many schools statewide were damaged, and some have yet to reopen. Schools in Santa Rosa and Escambia counties will not return to class until Oct. 11. Closings have affected school publication deadlines, as staffs attempt to keep coverage current in the wake of four strong hurricanes within six weeks.

FSPA's Web site for workshop locations, dates and times. When the Executive Board meets in late October we will address the problems affected districts now face. At that time, I will propose an alternative plan for those districts to enable their publication staffs to be able to attend the state convention April 14-16 in Tampa.

If we can help you as an organi-

zation, please contact us. Even if you just need to hear those simple words of encouragement or have someone to commiserate with you, we are here for you. This is one of the major goals of our organization. While we are naturally concerned and sometimes preoccupied with enhancing the education of our journalism students, we often

*continued on page 7*



Elections 2004

**Districts 2, 4 and 6** hold elections for Directors to serve a two-year term on FSPA's Executive Board.

**All Districts** elect Student Representatives to help plan and conduct the 2005 state convention and select Teachers-of-the-Year.

### Hurricane Update

**District Workshops** for Districts 1 and 5 postponed. District 3 workshop rescheduled for Nov. 6 in Orlando. See page 6 for details

**Extended Yearbook Evaluation Deadline**  
See page 7 for details

For up-to-date information, be sure to check  
<http://www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa>

# Perspective

a message from administrative assistant **Chris Jensen**

It's been a rough couple of months, hasn't it?

From Pensacola to Key West, our state has been hammered. All of us in the office hope that you and your families are safe. We are aware that other concerns have interrupted—rightfully so—normal fall schedules, from production deadlines (including FSPA Today's) to district workshops. That's why we are making allowances for storm-related difficulties (see page 7 for more information) and why we will do our best to be flexible and understanding with all FSPA deadlines this fall, subject to Board approval.

As many of you know, FSPA is undergoing a whirlwind of another kind. Last spring, then-FSPA Executive Director Judy Steverson announced that family health concerns forced her to retire, effective July 1, 2004, after 30 years teaching and five more running FSPA.

However, the FSPA Executive Board and the University of Florida have not yet found a candidate to fill the position. Fortunately, Steverson agreed to stay on as Director Emeritus and Chief Financial Officer until a new executive director can be found. In the meantime, we continue to have access to the great experience, people skills and wisdom that made her five-year tenure leading FSPA so successful.

The Board, directed President Terry Sollazzo, Vice President Linda Evanchyk, the FSPA office staff (all of whom volunteered in the office last year) and our group of dedicated on-campus volunteers will continue to work hard and do everything we can for you.

As for me, after four full years of working under Steverson in the FSPA office, I will be fully taking over many of her former responsibilities. And while I could never replace her, I hope to earn your respect by making this year one of the most productive and successful in FSPA's 58-year history.

In the coming months, I will use this space to share news and information about Florida's student journalists and their advisers. Whenever you ever have any comments, questions, suggestions or concerns, please contact me, in the FSPA office, or contact an FSPA Board member. Let us know how we can better serve you.

## FSPA Staff



**chris jensen**  
administrative assistant/office manager

Chris Jensen, a first-year law student, oversees FSPA's day-to-day business. As part of these duties, Jensen is responsible for membership and convention registration, membership correspondence and editing each issue of the newsletter and other FSPA publications, including the convention booklet, sponsorship brochure and Web site. He works closely with the FSPA board.



**erin cannaday**  
membership

Erin Cannaday, a second-year recreation and event management major, is beginning her first year working for FSPA. She volunteered in the office last year. She was editor-in-chief of the Aftermath yearbook at Palm Harbor University High School. Cannaday helps with membership applications, maintaining the membership database and correspondence between members and the FSPA office.



**andy lewis**  
publications

Andy Lewis, a second-year journalism/editing major from Orlando, is beginning his first year working for FSPA. He volunteered in the office last year. This spring and summer, Lewis coordinated MTV's Rock the Vote campaign in Central Florida. Lewis helps design, edit and publish all FSPA publications. Additionally, he maintains the FSPA Web site and handles member requests.



**yavonne skillman**  
membership

Yavonne Skillman is a second-year magazine journalism major from Tampa. She volunteered in the FSPA office last year. Skillman was assistant editor-in-chief of the Red and Black newspaper at Hillsborough High School. She helps with membership applications, maintaining the membership database and correspondence between members and the FSPA office. Skillman also works on special projects.

## 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

### Evaluations Coordinator

Kellie Ridings

kellieridings@yahoo.com

### Administrative Assistant

Chris Jensen

fspa@jou.ufl.edu

### Director Emeritus

Judy M. Steverson

jsteverson@jou.ufl.edu

## OFFICE STAFF

Erin Cannaday

Andy Lewis

Yavonne Skillman

### Volunteer

Kayla Stanley

## FSPA TODAY

### Editor

Chris Jensen

### Copy and Design Editor

Andy Lewis

### Staff

Erin Cannaday

Yavonne Skillman

Kayla Stanley

Nick West

Shannon Zabele



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.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

- Membership valid through Nov. 15, 2005
- Please type or print neatly in black ink.
- After completing form, mail a photocopy and keep original for your records.
- Publications from new schools (opening in Fall 2004) are eligible to receive a one-year complimentary membership.
- Use this form to apply for membership in one publication category only. Copy this form if you want membership for more than one publication.

### school/company/organization information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

### adviser/affiliate information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

FSPA District: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

County: \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Broadcast/Multimedia    Magazine    Newsmagazine
- Newspaper    Yearbook

(If your student editor(s) would like to receive the FSPA Today newsletter.)

Editor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Recruited by: \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration Fees

- Check your records. Make sure you haven't joined. A \$5 processing fee will be charged for membership refund.
- Make checks payable: Florida Scholastic Press Association
- Mail completed form and check to:

FSPA  
 University of Florida  
 College of Journalism and Communications  
 Weimer 2032  
 P.O. Box 118400  
 Gainesville, FL 32611-8400

### Membership Type

- \$25 [ ] **High School**
- \$7 [ ] **Middle School**
- \$0 [ ] **New Publication at New School**
- \$10 [ ] **Late Fee:** Add \$10 after Nov. 15, 2004
- \$25 [ ] **Late Fee:** Add \$25 after Jan. 15, 2005
- \$25 [ ] **Professional Affiliate**  
 (non-advising high school or college teachers)
- \$50 [ ] **Business Affiliate**  
 (yearbook, photography companies, newspapers)  
 \*Attach a list of four company representatives who will receive FSPA mailings. Please provide all contact information, including name, address, phone number and e-mail.

### Options

- \$8 [ ] **Editor's Newsletter**  
 Your student editor(s) can receive the year's issues of *FSPA Today*, the organization's newsletter
- \$20 [ ] **FSPA History Book**
- \$\_\_\_\_\_ [ ] **FSPA Foundation Contribution**  
 The FSPA Foundation was created to support scholastic media by providing scholarships for FSPA advisers and students. Please make checks payable to: *The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay*

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL AMOUNT**

Office use only

Date	Check #	Amount	Receipt #

# MEDIA IN motion

YOU DIRECT YOUR FUTURE

April 19-21, 2004  
Hyatt Regency Tampa

## Convention Wrap-up

Centered on the theme, *Media in Motion: You Direct Your Future*, the FSPA 2004 state convention, April 19-21 at the Hyatt Regency Tampa, provided Florida's student journalists and their advisers an opportunity to celebrate the school year's accomplishments, as well as to recognize and honor outstanding student journalists and advisers.

### Scholastic Journalism Week

Gov. Jeb Bush issued a resolution declaring convention week, April 19-24, 2004, Scholastic Journalism Week. Referring to the convention theme, *Media in Motion*, the governor said, "[the theme] reflects the continuing changes in journalism and the opportunities these programs provide for students to grow and share in the recording of our history."

The convention got off to a great start during the multimedia opening session, sponsored by Bryn-Alan. Students then gathered for a night of fun and games at the first-ever FSPA carnival, sponsored by Herff Jones. Tuesday morning, advisers started their day with breakfast provided by Jostens. Advisers met again for a formal luncheon, cosponsored by Walsworth and FSPA, followed by the annual business meeting.

### Guest Speakers

This support was apparent as more than 60 speakers volunteered to share their expertise with over 1,000 students and advisers who attended the convention. Les Rose of CBS News delivered the banquet's keynote address. Rose, a veteran video-journalist, produces the "Everybody Has a Story" segment with correspondent Steve Hartman. Rose emphasized the importance of good interviewing techniques and shared several of his favorite clips.

### Banquet

Tuesday night's banquet brought together all 1,046 delegates, advisers and guests to recognize the 2004 Student Journalists of the Year and Journalism Teacher of the Year. Les Rose delivered the evening's keynote address. In addition to Rose's collection of clips, video biographies of the seven District Teachers of the Year were shown.

The evening also featured a sad farewell to FSPA Executive Director Judy M. Steverson. Steverson's involvement in the organization spans 37 years. Her colleagues and friends thanked her for strong support and dedication to scholastic journalism. FSPA President Terry Sollazzo told the audience that Steverson is the person to thank for many achievements,

including Honors credit for journalism classes and Florida Scholastic Journalism Week.

### Todd C. Smith Student Journalist of the Year Award

In addition to featuring exciting speakers, sessions and entertainment, the 2004 convention showcased accomplishments of Florida's scholastic journalists and advisers. Bari Lieberman, editor-in-chief of *The Courier* at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High was named Florida's Todd C. Smith Student Journalist of the Year. Cassandra Seda, editor-in-chief of the *Titan Thunder* newspaper at Tampa Bay Technical School in Tampa, earned second place. Natalie Schultz of Freedom High in Tampa earned third place.

Scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$500 to the first-place winner and \$300 to the second-place winner and \$200 to third. These awards are funded by contributions from *The Independent Florida Alligator* and FSPA.

### Morty Schaap Florida Journalism Teacher of the Year Award

Christie Gold, from Freedom High School in District 4, was announced as Florida's Morty Schaap Journalism Teacher of the Year. Gold represented Florida in the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund's National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year competition. Other nominees for Florida's Teacher of the Year included Stephanie Schlenker (District 1 - B.T. Washington High School, Pensacola), Susanne Griffin (District 2 - Madison County Central School, Madison), Tim Oldakowski (District 3 - University High School, Orlando), Robin Mitchell (District 5 - Pine View School, Osprey), Mary Sullivan (District 6 - Dr. Krop High School, Miami) and Jonathan Gordon (District 7 - McFatter Tech, Davie). All Teachers of the Year received plaques and cash honorariums, funded by Taylor Publishing and J&S Printing.

### Gold Key, Silver Key and Gold Medallion Honors

FSPA awarded lifetime memberships to Brenda Feldman of Coral Gables Senior High and Shirley Yaskin of Miami Palmetto Senior High. Gold Keys went to Michelle Gideon (Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School, Parkland) and Aimee Benson (Titusville High School, Titusville), signifying 10 years of involvement with FSPA. Earning Silver Keys for five years of involvement with FSPA were Rhonda Weiss (Cypress Bay High School, Weston) and Adriana G. Fajet (Doral Academy Charter High School, Miami). Three prestigious Gold Medallion awards, FSPA's highest honor, were presented to Cheryl Cammarano of Hollywood Hills High School, Michelle Gideon of Stoneman Douglas High School and Randy Miller of the University of South Florida.



photos by Nick West

Adviser Laurie Cohen of Dreyfoos School of the Arts and student Heather Ratcliffe share a moment together at Tuesday night's banquet.



Student Co-Chair Tyler Maassen congratulates a prejudged contest winner at the banquet Tuesday evening, April 20.

CONVENTION '04



**CBS Producer Les Rose** gives student reporters tips on shooting as they interview FSPA President Terry Sollazzo.



photos by Nick West, FSPA volunteer

**Kayla Stanley**, editor-in-chief of Wharton High School's newspaper *Predator*, introduces keynote speaker Les Rose at Tuesday night's banquet.

**Heartfelt.** FSPA President Terry Sollazzo embraces outgoing Executive Director Judy M. Steverson and presents her with a plaque at Tuesday night's banquet. Steverson resigned in July after five years as Executive Director. Under her leadership, many initiatives were passed, including Honors credit for Journalism classes and Florida Scholastic Journalism Week.



NEWSBRIEFS

## Former FSPA adviser receives JEA teacher inspiration award



**Betsy Owen**

The Journalism Education Association (JEA) selected Betsy Owen of Delray Beach as its Teacher Inspiration Award recipient for 2004.

This award recognizes a teacher who, through the teaching or advising of journalism, inspired others to pursue journalism teaching as a career and who has made a positive

difference in the teaching community.

Owen's association with FSPA spanned three decades. She served on the Board as District 7 Director and sat on the Finance and Professional Activities committees as well.

Owen retired from teaching at Spanish River High School in July 2003 after 41 years in the classroom.

She will formally accept the award Saturday, Nov. 20, during the JEA Convention in Atlanta.

A former student nominated Owen for the award. Valerie Amster, yearbook adviser at Oakton High School in Vienna, Va., nominated Owen, who was Amster's yearbook adviser at Spanish River High School in Boca Raton, 14 years ago.

## Gold earns Dow Jones Newspaper Fund distinction



**Christie Gold**

FSPA's Morty Schapp Teacher of the Year has been selected by the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund as one of the top four teachers in the nation. Christie Gold of Freedom High School in Tampa was named a Newspaper Fund Distinguished Adviser in September.

At the convention in April, Gold received FSPA's Teacher of the Year award, and, as winner, was nominated for the Distinguished Adviser award. Her staffs have won an all-southern rating from SIPA, All-Florida from FSPA, Best in show from NSPA and a Gold Medalist from CSPA. She will be honored at the JEA/NSPA convention in November. In 2001, she was named a DJNF Special Recognition Adviser.

## ASNE offers Web site hosting opportunity for newspapers

The American Society of Newspaper Editors is offering its Web hosting service to all middle and high school newspapers for a one-time fee of \$25. The program enables newspapers to cut and paste stories and photos onto their individual Web site. The system allows students to load material and advisers to control posting. In addition, the service gives newspapers the ability to archive past issues. For applications and more information, please visit [my.highschooljournalism.org](http://my.highschooljournalism.org).

FALL STORMS



photos by Nick DeJonge/Choctawhatchee HS, Ft. Walton Beach

**From top left to bottom right:** 1) Hurricane Ivan destroyed this house on Okaloosa Island between Destin and Ft. Walton Beach with its 110-125 mph winds. 2) Felled trees in the Shalimar area of Okaloosa County snapped powerlines, damaged houses and made some roads impassable. 3) Water surged over a dock on an estuary in Ft. Walton Beach during Hurricane Ivan. 4) Storm surges carried water and sand into beachfront buildings, such as this one in Destin.

# districtworkshops2004

## District 1

Theresa Myers, Director  
850-937-2316 or [tmyers@escambia.k12.fl.us](mailto:tmyers@escambia.k12.fl.us)

Due to the effects of Hurricane Ivan on the Panhandle, the District 1 Workshop has been postponed until a later date. Information about the new Workshop date, should it come available, will be posted on the FSPA Web site at [www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa](http://www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa). Contact District 1 Director Theresa Myers as well for additional information.

Each fall, FSPA's seven districts hold a workshop to prepare student journalists and advisers for the new year. Contact your district's director for additional information on your district's workshop. Districts 2, 4 and 6 will hold elections for district director this year, and all districts will elect new student representatives to the FSPA board and Teachers of the Year. Remember, attendance is required for convention eligibility.

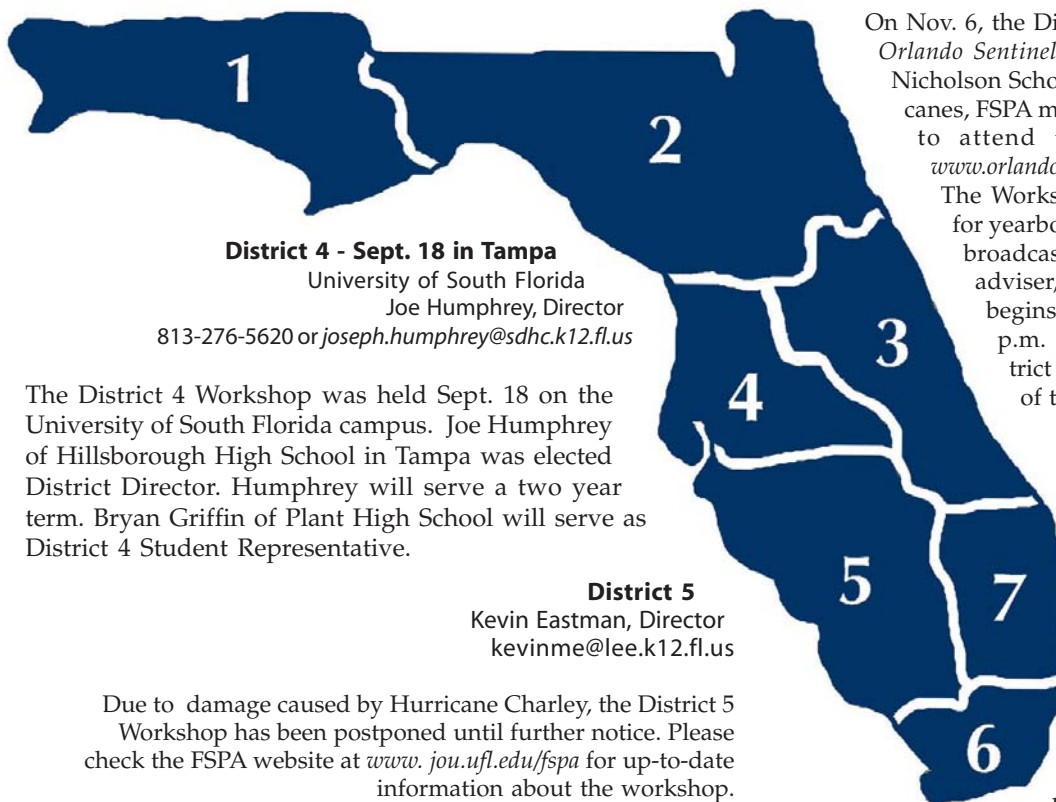
## District 2

District 2 will NOT hold a district workshop this year. Instead, District 2 members will attend either the District 1 or 3 Workshops.

## District 3 - Nov. 6 in Orlando

University of Central Florida  
Terri Middleton, Director  
407-482-8759 or [middlet@ocps.net](mailto:middlet@ocps.net)

On Nov. 6, the District 3 Workshop will be hosted by *The Orlando Sentinel* at The University of Central Florida's Nicholson School of Communications. Due to the hurricanes, FSPA member schools from District 2 are invited to attend this workshop. Register online at [www.orlandosentinel.com/journalismworkshop](http://www.orlandosentinel.com/journalismworkshop) by Oct. 22. The Workshop will offer classes and competitions for yearbooks, literary magazines, newspapers and broadcasts. The cost will be \$12 per student or adviser, and lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Classes run from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. For more information contact either District Director Teri Middleton or Heila Ammoun of the *Orlando Sentinel* at 407-420-5295.



## District 4 - Sept. 18 in Tampa

University of South Florida  
Joe Humphrey, Director  
813-276-5620 or [joseph.humphrey@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:joseph.humphrey@sdhc.k12.fl.us)

The District 4 Workshop was held Sept. 18 on the University of South Florida campus. Joe Humphrey of Hillsborough High School in Tampa was elected District Director. Humphrey will serve a two year term. Bryan Griffin of Plant High School will serve as District 4 Student Representative.

## District 5

Kevin Eastman, Director  
[kevinme@lee.k12.fl.us](mailto:kevinme@lee.k12.fl.us)

Due to damage caused by Hurricane Charley, the District 5 Workshop has been postponed until further notice. Please check the FSPA website at [www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa](http://www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa) for up-to-date information about the workshop.

## District 6 - Oct. 2 in Miami

Florida International University

The 32nd annual South Florida Journalism Day was held Oct. 2 at Florida International University in Miami with the theme, "Seeking, Reporting, Discovering: The Power of Journalism." Nearly 500 public high school, private school, middle school students and advisers from across South Florida attended. Neki Mohan, anchor and reporter from WPLG Local 10 in Miami was the opening speaker, and Jim DeFede from the *Miami Herald* was the closing speaker.

Pinnacle Systems (a video-editing software company) donated nearly \$5,000 in video editing software to every school that participated in video contests.

Mary K. Sullivan of Michael Krop Senior High School will serve as District Director.

Mariana De Carli of Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart was elected as District 6 Student Representative.

## District 7 - Oct. 2 in Deerfield Beach

Deerfield Beach H.S.  
Steven J. Thor  
954-322-0740 or [sjtrucker@aol.com](mailto:sjtrucker@aol.com)

The District 7 Workshop was held Oct. 2 in Deerfield Beach. Over 1,000 eager journalism students attended the workshop.

The mayor of Deerfield Beach proclaimed Oct. 4, 2004 as "Scholastic Journalism Day in Deerfield" and presented an award to Mrs. Kathleen Martinez, principal of Deerfield Beach High. Les Rose of CBS news traveled from California to attend and speak at the Workshop.

"Beyond the lens lies the true story that I try to impart to all of the viewers of our programs," he said. "As a journalist you have to look beyond the mundane and search for answers and then find the correct route to share the message."

An associate producer from *America's Most Wanted* and Tom Swick, Travel Editor of the Sun-Sentinel, both held popular sessions.

Instructors from the Fort Lauderdale Art Institute taught construction of games for the Web.

Marc Fetzer of Boyd Anderson High School was selected as District 7 Teacher of the Year. He will be recognized at the 2005 FSPA Convention.

Negean Mobi of Western H.S. was selected as District 7 Student Representative.

## Top 10 reasons to attend your district workshop

**10 Skills development.** New staffers can start gaining the knowledge and experience it takes to be effective journalists.

**9 Refresher course.** Veteran staffers can renew and improve skills that often rust over the summer.

**8 Leadership training.** Editors can further develop leadership skills needed to improve publications.

**7 Show and tell.** Advisers get the opportunity to share motivational and organizational strategies.

**6 Networking capabilities.** Staffs have the chance to network with other staffs to share valuable experiences, solutions, skills and techniques.

**5 Seminars and discussions.** Sessions led by fellow students, advisers and professionals cover a wide range of topics from photography to copy writing, from broadcasting to Web publishing and from free speech to the legal rights and responsibilities of the scholastic press.

**4 Promoting partnerships.** Staffs have the opportunity to build relationships with professional journalists.

**3 Teacher of the Year.** Districts select their Teacher of the Year at the workshop, who is then nominated for FSPA's State Teacher of the Year award.

**2 Your vote counts.** Districts 2, 4 and 6 will hold elections for District Directors, who will serve a two-year term on the FSPA Executive Board. In addition, all districts will elect new Student Representatives. Only FSPA member publications can cast votes.

**1 Convention eligibility.** Only staffs that send an adviser and at least one student to their district workshop will be eligible to attend the state convention April 14-16, 2005.

# Fall yearbook evaluation deadline extended



By Kellie Ridings  
Evaluations Coordinator

## Contact Ridings about extensions

With the beginning of a new school year comes time to submit yearbooks for evaluation. It is a great way to gain feedback that will allow students to improve their publication. You receive a written evaluation booklet with specific comments and suggestions.

FSPA certificates or plaques are awarded to those participating in the evaluation service. Unfortunately, the deadline was Sept. 18. However, due to difficult situations beyond control, many staffs were unable to meet that deadline.

If your staff missed the deadline due to hurricane-related reasons and would still like to submit a year-

book for fall evaluation, contact me immediately and I will do my best to accommodate you. Applications are available at [www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa](http://www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa).

Additionally, as announced at convention, the first seven new member advisers to contact me will receive a complementary evaluation. This is an incredible teaching tool available at no cost, so take advantage. Any new publication at a new school also is eligible for a complementary evaluation. Contact me for more information.

I am excited to serve as Evaluation Service Coordinator for FSPA and look forward to a great year. Remember, the deadline for newspaper, magazine and individual contests is coming up in January, so plan on participating.

### New Evaluations Coordinator

Kellie Ridings  
6753 Thomasville Road, Suite 108  
PMB #157  
Tallahassee, FL 32312  
[kellieridings@yahoo.com](mailto:kellieridings@yahoo.com)

## JEA/NSPA fall conference set for Atlanta Nov. 18-20



By Linda Evanchyk  
FSPA Vice President

While all of us are still reeling from the results of hurricanes, a nice break is on the horizon. The Journalism Education Association/National Scholastic Press Association fall conference is being held in Atlanta Nov. 18-20. What a wonderful opportunity for you and your students.

It is rare to have the conference in the Southeast.

Of course, Atlanta is a great city for media. CNN is hosting tours and so is the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Atlanta is also home of Coca-Cola and Coke World is located at the entrance of the famous Atlanta Underground.

You and your students will gain from the conference even if you don't leave the Hyatt Regency downtown, which will host the event. The opening ceremony on Nov. 18 features the Freedom Sings musical program that makes a

connection between music and the First Amendment.

To download a convention booklet and to find other information go to [www.studentpress.org](http://www.studentpress.org). All the details you need to head for Atlanta are right there.

It would be great to have a large group from Florida there.

If you can't make the conference, at least consider joining JEA or NSPA. They offer a variety of programs linked to the world of scholastic journalism. Membership forms are located on their Web sites: [www.jea.org](http://www.jea.org) and [www.studentpress.org](http://www.studentpress.org).

Speaking of membership, the most IMPORTANT is your membership in FSPA. Remember, the deadline is Nov. 15. Now, more than ever, we need as many members as possible to stand together in such a challenging time.

Here is hoping all of you are recovering from our season of hurricanes. At least our students have their publications and broadcasts to use as an outlet from the frustration of hurricane after hurricane.

## FSPA offers variety of support systems to advisers, students in need

### continued from 'Hurricanes,' page 1

forget to ensure that we remain "healthy" advisers. To help us maintain that "good health" we have to have an outlet for our stress and a place to renew our creativity and energy. In the past FSPA has offered me that support system, and I would love to have it become your safe haven, too. If you would like to be mentored or simply connect with someone who may share your same love of journalism, contact Carla Sparks ([carla.sparks@sdhc.k12.fl.us](mailto:carla.sparks@sdhc.k12.fl.us)), and she will set you up with a "new" friend, a mentor. If you would like to mentor, please contact her as well.

Before I have to tear down our computers again (cross your fingers), I would like to ask you for any ideas you would like to see implemented for this year's state convention. Any ideas for speakers or sessions? E-mail them to me today. Survey your staff for new ideas. Better yet, have them e-mail me ([fspapres@msn.com](mailto:fspapres@msn.com)). Ask them what they would like to do for fun after the sessions. Finally, if you are interested in helping in anyway, please contact me. I would love to find businesses who would sponsor meal opportunities for our kids.

This is your organization. Let your voice be heard. Stay safe.

## NEWSBRIEFS

**Florida advisers garner ASNE awards**

Administered at universities across the country, the American Society of Newspaper Editors' Summer Institute focuses on skills that include newspaper writing, editing, photojournalism and developing opinion pages. There is an emphasis on issues such as the role and future of daily newspapers, the business of newspapering, journalistic credibility and handling ethical dilemmas. First Amendment matters, privacy concerns and the state of scholastic press freedoms are also key topics. Graduate-level credit is available to those completing the Institute.

ASNE pays for transportation, lodging, meals, cost of instruction and graduate credit hours for participants. Additional benefits include memberships to scholastic journalism associations (such as FSPA and JEA), subscriptions to journalism magazines, an NIE subscription to the local daily newspaper delivered to your school and the beginnings of a substantial journalism library. Congratulations to last year's winners:

**David Bradford** - Edgewood Jr-Sr High School, Merrit Island

**Adriana Fajet** - Doral Academy Charter High School, Miami

**Joseph Malley** - Deltona High School, Deltona

**Diana van den Boogaard** - Cocoa Beach High School,  
Cocoa Beach

For information on participating in next summer's program, visit [www.highschooljournalism.org](http://www.highschooljournalism.org).

**Hillsborough, Pinellas County program offers \$10,000 grant**

The Mid-Florida Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and Community Foundation of Tampa Bay are offering a \$10,000 grant to middle and high school journalism programs in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.

The SPJ chapter will select a journalism program adviser to strengthen the journalism program. Applications will be mailed to eligible schools and must be submitted by Oct. 25.

The grant is offered in honor of Hazel Bryson, a retired educator living in Sun City Center. Bryson said she understands that quality journalism betters the lives of individuals and improves their communities.

Bryson taught at the elementary, high school and university levels for 30 years. She held offices in the Illinois Education Association and served as director of the National Education Association.

**Freedom Forum Scholarship: \$50,000 for top U.S. student journalists**

The Freedom Forum, in conjunction with the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Scholarship and Conference Program, is offering scholarships to two outstanding student journalists in Florida. One male and one female student will be chosen to represent the state in Washington, D.C. next March. Each will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

At the conference, the Freedom Forum will select the top two student journalists in the country and award them each a \$50,000 scholarship.

The winners will be selected from among the 102 state winners (including the District of Columbia) of the annual Al Neuharth Free Spirit Scholarship and Conference Program.

To be eligible, students must be high school seniors interested in pursuing a journalism career and must demonstrate the qualities of "free spirit" in their academic and personal lives. Applications are available online at [www.freedomforum.org/freespirit](http://www.freedomforum.org/freespirit). The application deadline is Oct. 15.

**UPDATE: Hurricanes force changes in deadlines and district workshops. See page 6 for details.**

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