

FSPATODAY



Enhancing Integrated Media Training for Scholastic Journalists and Their Advisers

TENTATIVE CONVENTION SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Executive Board meeting

3 - 5:45 p.m.

Convention check-in at FSPA registration desk. Advisers pick up programs and t-shirts.

Turn in all carry-in contests with proper labels and entry fees.

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.

5-7 p.m.

Display photography judging

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Opening session

7:30 - 9:15 p.m.

On-the-spot contests

7:45 - 9:15 p.m.

Sessions for those not in contests

8 - 10 p.m.

Individual anchor contest

8-11 p.m.

Danny Wellman display set-up

8 - 9:15 p.m.

Adviser reception and district meetings: Advisers turn in behavior contracts and pick up banquet and luncheon tickets. **Bring your calendar to plan for fall district workshop.**

9:30 - 11:15 p.m.

Student entertainment

11:30 p.m. - 6 a.m.

Students in rooms and quiet.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

7 - 7:50 a.m.

Adviser breakfast

7:45-8:45 a.m.

On-the-spot broadcast contest

8 - 9 a.m.

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

9 - 11:50 a.m.

Sessions 1, 2 and 3

9:15-11 a.m.

On-the-spot contests

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, Gold, and Platinum Keys, Gold Medallions, and lifetime memberships.

2 - 3:55 p.m.

Sessions 4 and 5

6 p.m.

Banquet doors open

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Banquet featuring keynote speaker, announcement of pre-judged awards, Gold Medallions, and Student Journalist and Teacher of the Year awards.

9:30 - 11:15 p.m.

FSPA anniversary bash with DJ

11:30 p.m. - 6:30 a.m.

Students in rooms and quiet.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

8 - 10 a.m.

Closing Session

10 - 11 a.m.

Advisers' final check-out

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting

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STUDENT JOURNALISTS AND TEACHERS OF THE YEAR: See the nominees for this year's awards before they are announced at convention. **PAGES 6 and 7**

ADVISER CONVENTION TIPS: FSPA President Terry Sollazzo gives advice to advisers to make convention easier.

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CELEBRATE FSPA's 60th ANNIVERSARY IN TAMPA

By **JOE HUMPHREY**
FSPA Vice President



We're just a few weeks from the Florida Scholastic Press Association convention and celebration of our 60th anniversary. The contests are written.

The sessions are planned. The entertainment is booked. All we need now is YOU. Here's a walk through the convention:

The opening session begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 20, and will feature the announcement of our first Emerging Young Journalist award. This new honor, sponsored by the St. Petersburg Times Fund, will provide \$500 toward journalism training for a freshman or sophomore student who shows a promising future in the field.

We're also working on a special welcome to Tampa ... but you'll just have to wait and see.

Following the opening, our contests will begin with the entertainment and sports writing categories, along with the newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine and news magazine team contests. Some broadcast categories also begin Thursday night.

For students not participating in Thursday contests, we've got a variety of breakout sessions. Learn about topics such as the video business, the Poynter Institute's News U, interactive learning Web sites, or narrative writing, taught by the St. Petersburg Times' Ben Montgomery.

After our work is done Thursday, don't just head for your hotel room. An up-and-coming band from South Florida will perform. Or, enjoy our cards and candy room. Students also can win prizes by participating in our convention scavenger hunt.

Friday begins with a panel discussion on the importance of

credibility in our industry. Trust me, you won't want to miss the panel of dynamic speakers, including *Tampa Tribune* Executive Editor Janet Weaver, *St. Petersburg Times* Media Critic Eric Deggans and Don Germaise, a reporter for ABC Action News in Tampa. All



Convention Reminders

- The opening session begins at 6 p.m. Thursday. Register by 5 p.m.
- Don't forget to grab a bite to eat before the opening session on Thursday.
- Remember to bring copies of your newspapers and literary magazines to share.
- Bring VHS tapes for the Share-a-Tape session Thursday night with Les Rose.
- Remind your students that no one may leave the hotel for lunch alone.
- Read the behavior policies contract (page 13 in the convention information booklet).
- Bring each student's behavior contract to the Friday night advisers' reception to receive banquet tickets. You will also need to bring a copy of your Hyatt hotel registration in order to receive banquet tickets.

delegates are expected to attend this session.

Following the panel, we'll offer the best part of our convention: breakout sessions throughout the day, beginning at 9 a.m. and running through 4 p.m. Here's your chance to learn from some of the best and the brightest professionals in our industry today.

See **CONVENTION**, page 4

Perspective

A message from FSPA Director
Jolene Pinder



Jolene Pinder
FSPA Director

One afternoon in February, while the FSPA office was busily making preparations for convention, a knock came at our door. While doing a little "spring cleaning," a member of the University of Florida's staff had happened upon two boxes of FSPA memorabilia. The discovery offered proof that the world is indeed a serendipitous place. **Those brittle boxes contained a treasure trove of FSPA history including three scrapbooks documenting FSPA's activities from 1946 to 1963.** Sorting through the relics over spring break put me in the perfect mood for the 2006 convention.

On the very back page of one of the scrapbooks, I found a small, typewritten quotation on translucent paper that I would like to share with you all: "Keep my mind well filled but never closed, and free me of conceit, buncombe and pose, so that I may do my daily stint honestly and thoroughly, and without too much expectation of applause." This humble reminder echoes this year's convention theme, **Changing Faces, Unchanging Truths.** More than 40 years have passed, but our goals and grounding principles remain strikingly similar. I am thrilled to meet an excited group of minds "well filled but never closed" on April 20.

On another note, I am happy to report that Governor Jeb Bush has declared the week of convention, April 17-22, **Scholastic Journalism Week** in the state of Florida. This honor affords high school journalists and their advisers the opportunity to gain recognition for their year-round efforts to bring honest reporting to their communities. Don't miss out on the chance to publicize Scholastic Journalism Week and your journey to the FSPA convention. Visit our Web site and download a copy of the proclamation for distribution to your principal, administrators, parents, school board, superintendent and local media outlets.

I would also like to remind advisers of another opportunity to receive the recognition they so deserve. Please join us at 8 p.m. on Thursday evening for the Advisers' Reception hosted by the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications. **Through this event, we hope to honor veteran advisers and welcome new convention attendees.** Refreshments will be served and you won't want to miss the important district meetings that follow the reception.

At this time when we convene to celebrate FSPA's past and relish in the present excitement of convention season, **I hope you will also reflect on the organization's future.** Think about how you envision FSPA serving scholastic journalists and advisers in years to come. Voice these ideas at your district meetings and to your Executive Board. In the bustle of convention preparations, don't forget about another element of FSPA's future—the Foundation. To commemorate FSPA's 60th anniversary, consider making a contribution from your staff to support the important work FSPA does to empower young journalists and their advisers.

For me, this hectic time brings a deep appreciation for the dynamic FSPA Board and staff who contribute their time and expertise all year long. I am sad to report that two of these incredible people, Kellie Ridings and Andy Lewis, will be leaving FSPA. Kellie Ridings has served as FSPA Evaluations Coordinator for the past two years, bringing grace, professionalism and integrity to every aspect of this difficult job. We will miss her dearly and wish her well as she pursues new endeavors. FSPA Publications Manager Andy Lewis will also be saying goodbye to FSPA after three years of dedicated service. Andy's tireless devotion to improving FSPA, from redesigning the newsletter to streamlining convention procedures, has left an indelible mark on the organization.



Journalism students from Miami Senior High School pose with their awards from the 13th FSPA convention, which was held in 1963. This reproduced photograph comes from old scrapbooks recently discovered by UF staff cleaning out a Weimer Hall supply room. These documents will be on display at this year's convention.

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UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

The Foundation for The Gator Nation.

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

Student reps find creative ways to celebrate FSPA

By **SHANNON ZABELE**
FSPA District 3 Director



As the Student Representative Coordinator, I have caught the contagious excitement that is shared among the seven young women who

serve as your representatives. They spent one very late evening at the Winter Board Meeting coming up with activities that are sure to make FSPA's 60th anniversary celebration memorable.

Everyone attending the convention can show their district "spirit" by bringing their spare change for the traditional Penny Wars. Delegates, advisers and speakers can put their spare change in the jug belonging to the district of their choice. Pennies adds points to the district's total, while silver coins and bills take away from the total, so feel free to bring your spare cash to take points away from other districts.

Participants should also be prepared to bid on items at the Silent Auction.

On Thursday night, musically savvy delegates can look forward to a performance by the Ft. Lauderdale-based funk rock band Ject. Card games and board games will be available for delegates who prefer a calm evening after a session and contest-filled day. Delegates also will receive their list of 100 scavenger hunt questions on Thursday afternoon. Answers can be found by reading your convention program and talking to your district representatives.

The student representatives will also introduce a few opportunities for some staff rivalry at this year's convention.

Delegates should consider submitting their staff shirts during Thursday night's student entertainment. Submissions will be displayed during the panel discussion on Friday, and advisers and the student representatives will decide the winners, which will be announced at the Birthday Bash Friday night. Staffs that do not submit a shirt can still participate in the rivalry contests.

On Thursday, you will have the opportunity to decorate a bigger-than-life-sized birthday hat to celebrate FSPA's 60th year.

The student representatives will provide poster board with which to create your hat, but staffs should bring their own decorations and supplies. Birthday hats will be judged

Students can look forward to seeing the hat contest winners displayed on Friday night at the Birthday Bash. Delegates should come dressed for dancing to the mixes of DJ Matt Zohler and will enjoy a 60th birthday cake and cupcakes for dessert. However, you may want to make a quick wardrobe swap between the Friday night banquet and the Birthday Bash. The student representatives have deemed the banquet a black and white affair and request that everyone dress to fit the theme, but your black and white formalwear may not be appropriate for the dance's limbo contest and musical chairs.

Altogether, the student representatives are working hard to make this a 60th anniversary celebration to remember. In preparing for convention, keep all the activities in mind so you can pack clothes and accessories that fit the themes. Also, be sure to bring a camera to capture all the fun and memories for your staff. Digital pictures of the various events may be submitted to be included in the slideshow at Saturday morning's closing session.

changing faces
unchanging truths

DON'T FORGET...

- 1. Bring black and white formalwear for the banquet.**
- 2. Bring your staff t-shirt.**
- 3. Bring supplies for making your staff's own FSPA birthday hat.**

on the following: staff incorporates school name, mascot and publication creatively; items unique to the staff are displayed mounted or drawn on the hat; the hat includes something 60th anniversary related; and the hat incorporates the convention theme creatively.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

New contests and entertainment to accompany birthday bash

By **NEGEAN MOHI**
FSPA Student Reps Co-Chair



After 60 years, FSPA still attracts many young, talented student journalists.

The three days dedicated to sessions from prominent journalists in the field have only improved every year. This year is no exception.

The convention will open with the introduction of the 2006 FSPA Executive Board. Then scavenger hunt questions will be passed out on Thursday night, and this will be a good time to get to know the student reps (they

have most of the answers).

The Penny Wars will be a battle among districts. Bring your spare change and donate. The silent auction fundraiser promises a wide variety of items for sale, so walk around and bid—there will be something that appeals to everyone.

Thursday night's entertainment will be provided by Ject, a new funk-rock band from Ft. Lauderdale. And if that's not your style, there will be card and board games on the opposite side of the room.

Contests are sure to get the rivalry fun started. The best publication t-shirt design will be recognized at Friday's Birthday Bash. Also, bring supplies to decorate a themed birthday hat to enter in the birthday hat contest.

Make sure to bring your dance shoes and save room for cake at Friday night's Birthday Bash. But, before we can let loose on the dance floor, you are cordially invited to the formal Black & White Banquet. Come dressed in formal black and white attire, and be ready for a surprise from the district reps.

On Saturday, awards will be distributed and winners of the contests will be announced. Videos and picture slideshows of the participating schools will feature highlights of another great convention.

STUDENT CONCERT



Fort Lauderdale funk-rock band Ject will play at Thursday night's social. Ject recently won second place in the prestigious Best New Talent national competition, held in Los Angeles, California. Photo courtesy of Ject.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Below is a sampling of just five of the more than 60 speakers who will be sharing their knowledge this year.



KERRY SANDERS of NBC News will deliver the 2006 keynote address. Sanders, a 1992 University of South Florida graduate and Miami-based correspondent, contributes stories regularly to *Dateline NBC*, *Today*, *NBC News With Brian Williams* and *MSNBC*.

This year Sanders was an NBC-embedded journalist in Iraq traveling with the US Marine Corps and has reported on the war on terror from Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. He also covered the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy.

□ □ □

TED SPIKER is an assistant professor at the University of Florida, specializing in magazine writing.

A former articles editor at *Men's Health* magazine, he is currently a contributing editor to *Men's Health* and an editor-at-large of *Women's Health*. Spiker is also a freelance writer, with stories published in *Fortune*, *Outside*, *O The Oprah Magazine*, *In Style*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Runner's World*, *Sports Illustrated Women* and many others.

□ □ □

BOB BRANDON is an award-winning news photographer based in Denver, CO. He won two national Emmy Awards for his work on the CBS News magazine "48 Hours" and was the National Press Photographers Association photographer of the year from 1975-1980. The NPPA also honored Brandon with its Cliff Edom Award for his ability to inspire and motivate young photographers.

□ □ □

Some have called **ERIC DEGGANS** the most critical guy in *St. Petersburg Times* history—mostly because he's held more critic's jobs than just about anyone else. Hired at the *Times* in 1995 as music critic, he decided he was getting too old to dodge moshers at Marilyn Manson concerts and moved to television for nine years. Now, after 12 months on the editorial board, he's now critiquing media for the *Times*. Eric has earned a host of cool journalism war stories—from interviewing Bruce Springsteen in a backstage bathroom to chasing down feature stories for the college newspaper under an editor who would go on to create FX's groundbreaking drama "Nip/Tuck."

□ □ □

CINDY HILL has been part of an award-winning team for more than 15 years producing documentaries for national distribution on PBS. Most recently she served as chief photographer/editor for the critically acclaimed *Negroes With Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power*, which tells the dramatic story of the often-forgotten civil rights leader who advocated armed self defense. She currently serves as Associate Director of The Documentary Institute at the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications, where she teaches graduate courses in video production and editing.

Be familiar with plan before arriving

From **CONVENTION**, page 1

Learn about ad design and sales, yearbook theme development, writing dazzling headlines, video storytelling, documentary filmmaking, photojournalism, effective interviewing and much, much more.

Advisers will gather for lunch at noon, when we'll honor our Teacher of the Year nominees, Gold Medallion winners, and Silver, Gold and new Platinum Key recipients.

Advisers will talk business after lunch, including plans for the FSPA convention beyond our current contract with the Hyatt Regency Tampa, which expires following the 2007 convention.

Friday night is banquet time, and we'll gather for dinner and a talk with NBC News

reporter Kerry Sanders. At the banquet, we'll also honor our Todd C. Smith Student Journalist of the Year and the Morty Schapp Journalism Teacher of the Year. We'll honor our All-Florida publications as well.

After the banquet, get ready to celebrate FSPA's 60th birthday with, well, a birthday party. The dinner tables will make way for a dance floor and DJ Matt Zohler will keep the music pumping right up to curfew.

We'll get together briefly Saturday morning, but you won't want to miss it. This is when we honor the winners of all our On-the-Spot and Carry-In contests. The convention ends at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 22. We invite you to spend the day seeing Tampa before heading home.

Exit numbers for hotel change

Due to construction on I-275 through Tampa, the exit numbers for the Hyatt Regency hotel have changed.

For complete directions, see page 5 of the convention booklet.



Check FSPA Web site for broadcast contests

By **HALEY BRUECK**
FSPA Broadcast Contests Coordinator



Broadcast contest information (directions, critique guide and judge's evaluation forms) is now online (www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa). Check it out so you and your students know what to expect.

Please be sure you included your contest fees with your registration or you will not be allowed to participate in the On-the-Spot contests. It would be \$25 to enter every possible contest (Individual News Anchor [INA — \$5 per individual] and two of the four other On-the-Spot contests [\$10 each]).

Also, be sure to bring your entry fees of \$5 per entry with your carry-in contests. Remember, each school is limited to two Carry-Ins, plus the Every Student Has a Story entry. It would be \$15 to enter every Carry-In contest

your publication is eligible to enter.

If you are entering the Web site contest, please bring it in on a CD, not a floppy—we will NOT have access to a floppy drive.

I plan to send a confirmation e-mail to all broadcast advisers entering students in the contests confirming contests entered and fees paid along with the judging schedule (time and location). If you don't receive an e-mail before April 14, please e-mail me.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (754) 322-2235 or at haley.brueck@browardschools.com.

All-Florida winners will be announced at Convention

By **KELLIE RIDINGS**
FSPA Evaluations Coordinator



It is almost time for FSPA's annual convention in Tampa! Plaques and certificates will be awarded during the banquet to all pre-judged yearbook, newspaper, literary magazine and broadcast

staffs that received an All-Florida or First Place overall rating. Certificates will also be awarded to students that received an All-Florida rating on individual pre-judged entries.

There will also be something new to look forward to at this convention. A new "Best of the Best" booklet that recognizes those

publications that have been awarded a rating of All-Florida in the 2005-2006 pre-judged evaluation contests will be introduced. This booklet will include pictures and/or graphics from each All-Florida publication or broadcast program, as well as comments from the judges, and will be available after the banquet.

Deadlines for next year's contests will be announced at convention. The applications for the yearbook contest will be available and will also be posted on the FSPA Web site later in April. A critique is an invaluable tool for veterans, as well as first-time advisers and staffs, so plan on entering your publication in next year's contests.

If you have any questions about evaluations, you may contact me at kellieridings@yahoo.com. I look forward to seeing you all in Tampa!

Penny Wars and Silent Auction: two great ways to help grow the FSPA Foundation

By **TERRY SOLLAZZO**
FSPA President



Now that you've paid your registration, reserved your room, mailed in

your contest information, and compiled and submitted what seems like a mountain of paperwork to attend this convention, you think you're all set, right?

Wrong, but you're getting closer.

This time let your students help you with this duty.

Appoint one person as your Silent Auction go-to-guy (or gal). It's this person's responsibility to come up with a Silent Auction basket for the convention.

The first week of April I ask my SAC (Silent Auction Chair) to choose a theme for our basket, keeping in mind that if we all submit one thing, our basket will be the hit of the auction. (They really enjoy this. You have to

try it.)

One year we decided to have our basket reflect everything typical of the Tampa Bay area, where we live. Each person brought in an item, and he or she received ad sales credit according to how much was spent or donated.

That wicker basket had everything from Gasparilla pirate beads to Busch Gardens' tickets to beach towels, sunblock, killer shades, several pairs of flip flops, Bucs' souvenirs and even a fiddler crab complete with a bowl and food.

Another year we had two baskets.

One was called "Girls' Night In" and the other, "Boys Kickin' Back." The girls' basket had magazines, crazy toe nail polish, gift certificates for facials, popcorn, some old chick flicks and CDs, some cool PJs, you get the idea. The boys packed footballs, a soccer ball, a Buccaneer Cheerleader calendar, Frisbees, a few typical guy Mafia movies, popcorn, *Sports Illustrated* (the swimsuit issue), need I

say more?

Besides raising money for the FSPA Foundation which finances student and adviser scholarships, we shared a tremendously fun activity and built upon our staff pride.

It was really cute to see them keep going back to the Silent Auction room to check on the bidding for their basket.

Don't forget to have your staff bring their pennies and silver for the District Penny Wars and their paper money for the auction. Your SAC can organize this as well.

Which district will rule the Wars, which can go home with the bragging rights for the most spirited district? You tell me.

While I have you thinking about these Foundation fundraising activities, I want to remind you to have your students apply for this scholarship money next year. There are scholarship dollars available for advisers, too.

Take advantage of the fun.

See you in Tampa!

Delegate safety is FSPA's top priority

By **JOE HUMPHREY**
FSPA Vice President



We fully expect that delegates will have plenty of fun at this year's convention, but it is important to note requirements that they must follow to ensure our top priority of student safety.

Advisers, please review the behavior expectations with your students. And also, make sure you return the behavior contracts, which you must bring to Tampa in order to receive banquet tickets.

Here are some things for students to avoid during their stay:

- **Missing curfew:** We have established 11:30 p.m. as the time for all students to be in their own rooms for the night. This is to ensure everyone is accounted for and is a convention-wide policy. Failure to adhere to the curfew may result in a student being suspended from the convention.

- **Inconsiderate/disruptive behavior:** Simply stated, act like adults. Carry yourself with dignity, treat other delegates and other hotel guests with respect and remember that you are representing FSPA.

- **No convention ID:** Remember that you must wear your convention wristband at all times.

- **Unsupervised visitation with the opposite sex:** Remember that delegates of the opposite sex are not to be in each other's hotel rooms at any time.

- **Inappropriate clothing:** This is a business meeting, not a foam party at Spring Break. Dress appropriately.

- **Sexual harassment:** Again, remember this is a business meeting. Be respectful of others.

The following violations are taken most seriously by FSPA.

- possession of a weapon
- sexual misconduct
- fighting
- unresolved damage to hotel
- possession/use of drugs or alcohol
- leaving the convention without supervision or permission

Remember that maintaining good behavior is everyone's responsibility. Many of you will be asked to monitor specific areas (the pool, the courtyard or hotel exits) during the convention, and the more people are willing to help, the shorter a time period we'll each have to stay on duty. Also, all advisers are expected to patrol their hallways in the evenings. Ensuring student safety is our top priority — and we need everyone's help to make that happen.

2006 journalism teachers of the YEAR



These teachers will be recognized at Friday's advisers' luncheon and again at the convention banquet, where the 2006 Morty J. Schaap Journalism Teacher of the Year will be announced. FSPA will nominate the winner to be the next Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Teacher of the Year. The Tampa Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and the Florida Association of Broadcasters help

FSPA sponsor cash awards for each district winner. The statewide winner also receives a day of instruction at the Poynter Institute.



DISTRICT 3

Jeff Moffitt

Olympia High School
Orlando

Even though Jeff Moffitt has been teaching and advising for only four years, he has accomplished much in the fields of journalism and education. With a journalism degree from the University of Texas, he began work in 2001 at Olympia High School in Orlando, where he advised the *Oracle* newspaper and the *Torch* yearbook.

Moffitt has taught all levels of English, has sponsored Quill and Scroll and freshman class and has served on numerous school committees. A National Board Certified Teacher and Certified Journalism Educator, he was voted Olympia High School's Teacher of the Year this past year.

Always trying to expand his students' opportunities to learn, he organized a speakers' bureau of local professionals who advise his students on graphic design, photography and creative writing.

To Moffitt, diversity goes beyond the selection of a staff. His staffs incorporate diversity into their coverage and include a range of issues and people. He is proud that the ethnic make-up of his staff shows that "they are creating publications that encourage minorities not just to read the paper, but to become part of it."

As the parent of one of his editors wrote, "Mr. Moffitt is teaching his students life skills which will serve them well no matter what the future holds for them. He always boasts that he has the best students in the school, but that is a two-way street which usually, and certainly in this case, starts with the teacher."



DISTRICT 4

Daniel Barr

King High School
Tampa

Dan Barr teaches at King High School in Tampa, where he advises the *Scepter* newspaper. A teacher since 1964, Barr has taught in Kentucky and throughout Florida's Hillsborough County. Involved in FSPA since 1976, he has advised yearbooks, newspapers and literary magazines at four different schools.

Honors come easy for him. He has been awarded District 4's Teacher of the Year twice, Lifetime Membership, and has served as the District 4 Director. At two schools, his yearbooks have received All-Florida status. In 2005, he received FSPA's Gold Key.

Barr was first turned on to journalism as business manager of his high school yearbook. But, without a journalism degree, he found he had to read, research and attend journalism workshops throughout the district, state and nation to lead his publication to award-winning status.

Barr's biggest challenge today is saying goodbye to his students. After 26 years, he is retiring from the profession of advising.

As his Department Head Carole Pressick wrote, "For over forty years, he has guided and inspired his students, encouraging them to reach their full potential. He truly exemplifies the humanitarian qualities of journalistic excellence that would represent the high ideals of FSPA."



DISTRICT 5

Ileane Flores

Fort Myers High School
Fort Myers

Eight-year veteran Ileane Flores advises the *Tidal Wave* newspaper at Ft. Myers High School. She always knew she would be involved in journalism to some degree. As a member of the Women's Army Corps, she was an Army journalist during the Vietnam War. After the Army, she received her journalism degree from FIU in Miami. Her writing connections grew as she moved from writing for a Caribbean newspaper and starting the Gulf Coast Chapter of National Writers Association to working as the Festival Administrator for the Hemingway Festival of Sanibel Island.

Without a background in teaching English, as many advisers have, Flores brought her business skills to the position. As a result she was a semi-finalist for the Alan Shepherd Technology in Education Award.

She derives satisfaction from watching her students look for their bylines. Pride in their work creates the bond between her students and her.

As her Editor-in-Chief Jenny Meyer wrote, "She encourages us to keep high goals as well as high standards by awarding achievement and by telling her students to work hard until they get the results they desire."



DISTRICT 6

Otto Zequeira

Coral Gables High School
Coral Gables

Otto Zequeira advises the *Highlights* newspaper at Coral Gables High School.

With a degree from Harvard in 1991, he continued his education with course work in Spain and universities in the Miami area. In 1999 he began his teaching career. After a stint at Miami Senior High School, he moved to Coral Gables High School when he learned about a newspaper adviser opening.

In the past three years, he has become increasingly involved as a journalism educator. At District 6's fall workshop and FIU's Journalism Day, he presented sessions on increasing sales and organizing and training staffs. He has since won All-Florida awards for Opinion Writing and various awards in FSPA judging. Zequeira's interests in art and business can be traced back to his parents, who specialized in these fields.

As Assistant Language Arts Department Chair Paula Munnerlyn wrote, "Many of his journalism students find 'Mr. Z' an awesome teacher and they look to his diversity of thought and mind, as well as his commitment to the news, especially its accuracy."



DISTRICT 7

Suzanne Alioto

Nova High School
Ft. Lauderdale

Suzanne Alioto advises the *Olympian* yearbook at Nova High School in Ft. Lauderdale. Advising and teaching since 1984, Suzanne has watched the journalism program expand from one journalism class and one yearbook class to three sections of Journalism I and three sections of yearbook, with a \$100,000 budget.

Her books have garnered the highest accolades from CSPA, FSPA, ASPA, NSPA and SIPA, plus she's also been her school's Teacher of the Year.

She began her career as a member of the University of Wisconsin's yearbook, where she was photo editor, and also freelanced for the AP. She continued to work as a reporter for the *Miami Herald's Broward Times*.

She took on the challenge to teach a middle school yearbook class and use members of her high school staff as mentors to work side-by-side with the children in layout, editing and photography.

As her Assistant Principal Joshua Leinweber wrote, "Suzanne Alioto is a teacher whose influence can be seen any day of the week, almost any hour of the day. This is because her students are always working. Their work is not driven purely by a desire for a grade, but driven by the faith, respect, and admiration they have for their teacher, Mrs. Alioto."

Seven students submitted portfolios of their work in the Todd C. Smith Student Journalist of the Year competition. The evaluators indicated how impressed they were with the quality of the students' work. This year's Student Journalist of the Year will be announced at the banquet on Friday, April 21. The winner is awarded \$500 and a trip to the Poynter Institute. The second place winner receives \$300, and the third place winner receives \$200. The first place winner's portfolio has been sent to the Journalism Education Association for national competition. The portfolios for all three finalists will be on display during the convention.

2006 student journalists of the YEAR



milesdoran east lake high school tarpon springs



Miles Doran is a reporter for the *Eagle Eye News* at East Lake High School in Tarpon Springs. However, his connection with the daily school morning show is deeper. After realizing the school did not have a

morning TV show, he started one. Patricia Cunningham, library media director, said, "He took the initiative to get one back in production." His involvement in media also reaches into the community with an internship at ABC Action News. Through this position, a 3-minute report that Doran wrote, shot, and edited was shown during "Flashpoint," a weekend news and public affairs program on ABC. Doran describes himself as always carrying a reporter's notebook in his back pocket and a pen in his front. His goal is to become a foreign news correspondent, and he has been accepted at the University of Florida, the University of Missouri at Columbia, and the University of Georgia.

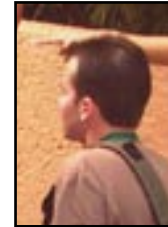
kristinbjornsen s. plantation high school plantation



Kristin Bjornsen is currently the co-editor-in-chief for the *Sword and Shield* newspaper at South Plantation High School, in Plantation. Adviser Alyce Culpepper commends Bjornsen for motivating the

staff by her example, writing stories for all the sections, selling the most advertisements, taking photographs, and creating unique layouts. Bjornsen has also used her abilities to assist other teachers in the school. Since offering to design the playbills for the school theater production, Theater Arts director Jason Zembuch said he has received "countless compliments on the quality of the playbill." Bjornsen says her motivation is making others feel what she feels. She plans to pursue a career in editorial writing or photography after studying at the Annenberg School of Communication at the University of Southern California, the University of Florida or The Art Institute of Ft. Lauderdale.

andrewdelong east lake high school tarpon springs



Andrew DeLong is the editor-in-chief and business manager of the *Talon* newspaper at East Lake High School in Tarpon Springs. He also serves as the senior copy editor for the *Visions*

yearbook. DeLong works with media in his area and has been published as a columnist in the monthly newspapers *East Lake Eagle* and *Oldsmar Monitor*. He is also an Xpress Correspondent for the *St. Petersburg Times*, an intern at *Tampa Bay Magazine* and a writer for *Florida Trend's Next* magazine. DeLong had the privilege of reporting on a story that aired on Bay News 9 after he took the initiative to contact anchor Leigh Moody when he learned she also graduated from East Lake High School. DeLong considers his scholastic journalism career one of the most rewarding experiences of his life. He plans to pursue a degree in print journalism at the University of South Florida.

Summer journalism programs offer great opportunities

Students will spend time on college campuses, with faculty

University of Florida

The University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications is proud to host the annual Summer Journalism Institute June 24 - June 29.

Classes are open to rising 10th, 11th and 12th graders who have recommendations from their publication advisers or principals. Graduating seniors and middle-school students are not eligible.

For six action-packed days, we offer classes in Writing, Editing, Photography, Broadcasting and Web Publishing. In addition to specialized classes, the group meets three times a day to hear speakers talk about design, photography, Web publishing, communication law, editing and journalism's role in society.

The instructors are University of Florida faculty members, distinguished high school publications advisers and brilliant UF journalism graduate students.

The workshop costs \$360, which includes all instruction, housing and meals.

For more information and to apply, visit www.jou.ufl.edu/sji.

Princeton University

The *Daily Princetonian* Summer Journalism Program welcomes about 20 students every year to Princeton University's campus for a 10-day, all-expenses-paid seminar. High school sophomores and juniors are invited to apply. Professional journalists teach seminars on news, sports, opinion and arts journalism, as well as television reporting. Princeton admissions officers, Princeton Review representatives and Princeton alumni instruct seminars on applying to college.

The program's goal is to diversify the world of college journalism — and, ultimately, the world of professional journalism — by energizing students from under-resourced backgrounds about the possibility of attending elite universities and working for their college papers. Program graduates have gone on to elite schools such as Stanford, the University of Pennsylvania, Cornell, Williams and New York University. This past year, one of the program's participants was accepted into Princeton's Class of 2010.

Applications must be postmarked by April 15 and may be downloaded at www.dailyprincetonian.com/summer/SJApplication06.pdf.

New York University

The Asian American Journalists Association is accepting applications for J Camp now through April 14. This year's J Camp at New York University is July 29-August 3.

J Camp is a one-of-a-kind program to develop the next generation of journalists of color. This free six-day training camp will bring together a multicultural group of high school students from across the nation to sharpen their journalism skills and work together in a unique learning environment. The curriculum consists of interactive workshops, hands-on training and field trips.

Applicants should have a keen interest in broadcasting, newspapers, magazines, photo-journalism or new media. This program is not limited to Asian American students and is open to all young journalists. Applicants must be high school freshmen, sophomores, or juniors for this current school year and must be 16 years of age on or before July 28, 2006. There is no fee to apply and all costs are covered — including airfare, lodging and meals. Students will stay in university housing during the camp week.

AAJA will select a maximum of 40 participants. For more information and to download the application form, visit www.aaja.org/programs/for_students/j_camp/

Pay attention to details and plan ahead for success

By **TERRY SOLLAZZO**
FSPA President



I know life is hectic now. You're submitting travel forms, collecting medical release forms, gathering your carry-in contests and creating an outstanding Silent Auction basket while still cranking out a publication. Before the

hysteria sets in, I want to leave you with a few things to consider.

First, be sure to contact your county personnel office in charge of recertification. Find out what you need to file and do to earn inservice credit for attending convention sessions. Next, bring your school's 2006-7 calendar. You will select a fall district workshop date Thursday night at your district meeting. Be aware of any school holidays and come with suggestions also for an alternate date. Remember that the publication adviser and one staff member must attend the district workshop in order to qualify to attend next year's state convention.

While you're getting your principal's

signature on your behavior contracts, don't forget to secure a copy of your school's tax exempt number. You will need this along with your updated rooming list for hotel check in. Even though your students and their parents have signed the behavior contract, still sit down with your staff and review the contract. Let them know your expectations as well as ours. While we will have police officers on site to enforce the rules, you are ultimately responsible for your students' behavior. This means it is your responsibility to chaperone your delegation during all evening activities.

About a week before we head for the Hyatt, I ask my students to determine who is bringing what snacks. The only meal provided for them is the banquet on Friday night. The hotel does have a deli and restaurant, but they tend to be a bit pricey.

Encourage your staffers to bring breakfast snacks, sodas and late night munchies. They may leave the hotel for lunch on Friday as long as they travel in groups; however, no student may leave the hotel during the evening. Burgers, pizza and sandwiches are available at the hotel

restaurant, but snacks brought from home can satisfy those additional hunger pangs.

The hotel will sell breakfast foods a la carte near the FSPA registration area for those who like fresh fruit and pastries.

Convention registration begins at 3 p.m., hotel check-in at 5 p.m. and the Opening Session at 6 p.m. on Thursday. Once the Opening starts, it's a roller coaster ride from there on out. Try having a late lunch together. You won't have a

chance to eat until around 9 p.m. when contests and sessions are over, so fill them up early.

My last bit of advice has to do with sessions. Encourage them to attend as many different sessions as possible. This is a wonderful way for them to share what they have learned. We sit down with our programs and assign sessions for each staffer to attend. I then tell my students that they must get the speaker's signature on the program if they want points for attending a particular session. It's just my way of checking where they are at a certain time.

Did you pack your on-the-spot contest supplies? If so, you're ready! Travel safely.

**President's
Update** 

Check our Web site!

- Gov. Bush has declared April 17-22 Scholastic Journalism Week. Look online for the proclamation.
- Read about FSPA's new Executive Director Judy Robinson.

www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa

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