

FSPA Today

FLORIDA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION



Welcome Back!
Spring convention dates have been set for April 16-18, 2009!

President Jepson has a dream for your year

I dreamed the other night that the Florida Legislature decided that since journalism is the foundation of our democracy, Journalism I would replace algebra as a required class for graduation.

I dreamed that each journalism teacher received money for three field trips—one to the local newspaper where business was flourishing, one to the Fall District Workshop, and the last to the FSPA Spring Convention in April—additional spending money included!

I dreamed that all journalism teachers had an extra plan period and their publications' supplements exceeded those of

the football coaches. Principals paid careful attention to all journalism teachers' class schedules to assure that no one had too many preps during the school day.

What a blissful night!

But I soon woke up to a school year where many of us are battling budget cuts, overloaded classes, and sometimes a lack of consideration.

I do believe that when life hands you lemons, make lemonade. We are all professionals here and we will make it work. Our students are the bright spots and our vision must always be to do the best we can for them, no matter what the situation we find ourselves in.



By **DEB JEPSON**
 FSPA PRESIDENT
 djepson@bellsouth.net

Here are a few things you can do to help:

1. Stay engaged with FSPA. Together we are strong. We are a united voice and as an organization we strive to be your advocate.
2. Read the story written by Anne Anderson on journalism as a practical art. Send a letter or an email to Todd Clark at the DOE. Do this BEFORE the public hearing on September 30.
3. Go to your district workshop. Tell your district director you would like to be a volunteer for FSPA. Encourage others to become involved.

4. Plan to attend the spring convention in April. Bring a busload of kids and network with advisers from around the state.
5. E-mail me and let me know what is going on at your school.

I cannot promise that my dream world will ever become reality, but I can promise that FSPA and those associated with FSPA will do their best to come as close to that dream as possible.

After all, we know who you are, we know what you do and we know what you deserve. (And I also know that you probably aren't getting it.)

Congrats to 25 All Florida Schools

Welcome back. I hope you are rested and ready to dig into a new year with exciting new ideas. I know many of you spent your summer attending workshops where you were introduced to new and exciting ideas.

Many of you had your yearbooks and literary magazines evaluated by our national judges, who awarded 21 yearbook All Floridas (out of 43 entries) and four literary magazine All Floridas (out of 14 entries).

Congratulations should go out to the All Florida

yearbooks from the following schools: Archbishop McCarthy H. S., Bishop Kenny H. S., Coral Gables, Coral Reef, Freedom (in Orlando), Chiles MS, Johnson MS, M. Stoneman Douglas, N. Broward Prep, Pace, Palm Harbor University, Pasco, S. Plantation, Suncoast, Titusville, University (in Orlando), Vero Beach, Wellington, and West Shore.

The four All Florida literary magazines were awarded to Gulf Breeze, University School at Nova, DeSoto, and Booker T. Washington. Congratulations to all of you.

The 2009 newspaper,

broadcast and individual contests will take place in January.

The deadlines for the newspaper and broadcast contests will be January 9. That is the end of the first week back after the vacation. The individual contests' deadline will be January 23. All the applications will be on the Web site before December.

Yearbook staffs should take note that there will be an expanded choice of individual contests this year. Please just keep checking the Web site.

And remember, your publication (not just school) MUST be a current member (November 08-November 10) of FSPA.

Have a great year!



By **JANE ROBBINS**
 EVALUATIONS COORDINATOR
 jprob212@aol.com

Evaluation Deadlines

- **Newspaper Evaluations**
 Due January 9, 2009
 Those received January 10-15 will incur a late fee of \$20.
 After January 15, not accepted.
- **Broadcast Evaluations**
 Due January 9, 2009
 Those received January 10-15 will incur a late fee of \$20.
 After January 15, not accepted.
- **Individual Contests**
 Due January 23, 2009
 Those received January 24-29 will incur a late fee of \$20.
 After January 29, not accepted.

Evaluation applications will be placed online before December.

VP introduces changes to be made, 2009 theme contest

contests will be revised by new committees, elevators will work in 2009

Democrats and Republicans seldom see things the same way. But at their recent political conventions, the one thing they could agree on is that America is in the mood for change. If that's true, then what better time than now to institute some changes while we begin thinking ahead to FSPA's statewide journalism convention scheduled for the Tampa Hyatt on April 16-18.

The FSPA executive board recently held a back-to-school meeting where members analyzed your feedback regarding the previous convention. Your responses were overwhelmingly positive, but it became clear that some aspects of the conference needed tweaking. Three concerns stood out in your comments and the following is how we will try to address those issues.

Design-a-Theme

When you return to school following your annual three-day adventure at the state conference, it's likely that you and your staff mates are wearing the latest convention T-shirts so that the rest of the student body will know that you had a special weekend — and they didn't. Those shirts, along with the convention programs, carry the all-important verbal and visual theme. The theme also dictates the decorative flourishes at the hotel. In short, the better the theme, the better the convention. Obviously we want to keep raising the bar, so FSPA is inviting you to participate in choosing the 2009 theme and perhaps have your convention

registration paid for in the process. Here's what we have in mind: Design a convention book cover and T-shirt and bring the designs with you to your District Workshop in a jpg format. Participants at each workshop will view all entries and then vote on the best two designs. District directors will then e-mail the winning designs to the FSPA offices in Gainesville where the designs will be posted on the FSPA Web site. Staffs throughout the state will be able to vote online for their favorite entry before the end of October. As a little extra incentive, FSPA has agreed to pay the convention registration fee for the winning designer.



By **MARK SCHLEDORN**
FSPA VICE PRESIDENT
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Contests changes

Last spring marked the beginning of change with the addition of laptop use for some of the newspaper and yearbook contests. While you clearly appreciated that 21st Century touch, many of you indicated that it was time to update the contest formats and evaluations as well. With that in mind, FSPA has already put together committees to revise broadcast and newspaper contests and is currently looking for a group of advisers to serve on a panel to make similar alterations to the yearbook contests. If you're interested in serving on that panel, feel free to contact me or FSPA President Deb Jepson.

Elevate me

Finally, you'll be glad to hear the Hyatt has been busily updating its elevators, so braving the crush of sweaty dancers during marathon marches upstairs to the 16th floor will be — if not a thing of the past — at least less likely next spring.

In each of these areas, FSPA is working hard to implement the change you've asked for.

SAVE THESE
important
DATES

September 27

DISTRICT 3 & DISTRICT 7 WORKSHOPS

October 10

DISTRICT 4 WORKSHOP

October 11

DISTRICT 6 WORKSHOP

October 18

DISTRICT 2 WORKSHOP

November 30

MEMBERSHIP FEES INCREASE
FROM \$30 TO \$50

April 16-18, 2009

FSPA STATE CONVENTION 2009 IN TAMPA



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UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
The Foundation for The Gator Nation

Florida high school J classes may lose practical art credit

FEATURED ARTICLE

BY: ANNE ANDERSON

On again, off again. That's what has happened the last few years with a Florida high school "practical arts" graduation requirement option.

Since at least 1994, Florida high school students have been required to take either a full year of a performing/fine art course or a practical art course or half a year of each. Journalism I was one of about 1,100 courses fulfilling the practical art component.

With the passage of the so-called A++ legislation during the summer of 2006, the practical art option was removed entirely. Beginning in the fall of 2007, incoming 9th graders were required to take only a Performing Fine (PF) arts course. The change meant Journalism I no longer counted for more than an English elective, which also meant some students didn't have room for it in their schedules. Typically, Journalism I students feed into high school newspaper and yearbook production classes.

According to Deb Jepson, Florida Scholastic Press Association president, some journalism teachers across the state – including Jepson – decided to teach journalism as "Multimedia Technologies," another basic education class that counts toward the PF art credit.

The plan hasn't worked yet for Jepson, mainly because students didn't know about the name change.

"Last year I had about 25 students in each of two Journalism I classes," Jepson said. "This year I have 15 students in one Multimedia Technologies class."

Jepson, the school newspaper adviser at Oviedo High School near Orlando, has to teach an extra English class this year. But Jepson

wonders whether she'll have enough students feeding into Journalism II - IV, the newspaper production classes in the next couple of years.

Some teachers still haven't heard about the change passed two years ago. Todd Clark, chief of Florida Department of Education's (DOE) Bureau of Instruction and Innovation, said DOE communicates changes to guidance counselors and not directly to teachers.

This past spring the Florida State Legislature passed SB1908. Among other things, the 81-page omnibus education bill reinstated the practical arts course option. The bill defined practical arts courses as being only those Career and Technical Education courses which "incorporate[s] artistic content and techniques of creativity, interpretation, and imagination."

It was decided this summer which Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses, based on course descriptions, met the requirements.

Only about 80 of the current 1,100 vocational courses which previously counted toward the practical arts requirement have been included on a draft list of eligible courses obtained from DOE. Journalism I, one of the 1,100 courses, is not one of the 80 on the draft list, although some other related courses are.

According to state senator Don Gaetz, who chairs the Florida Senate's Education Pre-K – 12 Committee, SB1908 also implemented Career and Technical Education programs called CHOICE.

One of Okaloosa County School District's CHOICE Institutes called Creative Arts draws students interested in "computer animation,

graphic design, advertising or television." None of the other 14 school districts around the state adding CHOICE Institutes have a Creative Arts Institute.

UF journalism professor Julie Dodd, on the boards of several national scholastic journalism organizations, said losing graduation requirement credit is just one issue pushing high school journalism courses to the sidelines.

"Subjects that are not tested

are not emphasized," Dodd said, referring to the FCAT and other standardized testing.

Teacher certification and honors credit for journalism classes are

other issues Dodd cited as affecting the future of school newspapers and yearbooks.

"In some states, journalism programs have become after-school programs," Dodd said.

DOE will hold a public hearing, called a Rule Development Workshop, about the draft list on September 30, 2008, according to Mary Jane Tappen, Deputy Chancellor for Curriculum, Instruction and Student Services. The hearing begins at 10 a.m. in Room 1721 of the Turlington Building at 325 Gaines Street in Tallahassee. People who cannot attend the workshop may provide comments in writing to Todd Clark, chief of the Bureau of Innovation and Instruction, 325 W. Gaines Street, Room 432, Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400 or via e-mail Todd.Clark@fldoe.org.

Once the list is finalized, the education commissioner will present the list to the State Board of Education for adoption. Clark said the list could be adopted at the Board's December meeting.

Subjects that are not tested are not emphasized,

*Julie Dodd,
UF journalism professor said.*

With the passage of the so-called A++ legislation... Journalism I no longer counted for more than an English elective.

Executive Director reflects on the economy of our time

How many ways do we have to battle tremendous budget cuts throughout the Florida Education system?

Going Green

Has your school started a green initiative? The University of Florida instituted a green mandate for this year called "Think before you ink". As faculty we strive not to print handouts for students but place pdfs as downloads on Web sites instead. University departments no longer print newsletters. Faculty now receive a flurry of digital newsletters via e-mail. FSPA will be posting its second newsletter online in an attempt to go green and reduce print newsletters.

Going digital voicemail.

FSPA's new phone number -- 352-505-2925 -- came about because of the increasing cost of maintaining a landline

at the university. For the same price as three months of connection to a landline FSPA has paid for a year of incoming and outgoing calls.

Reading online and via phone.

While there is something about sitting down with a newspaper, it is a rare sight to see others reading a newspaper in a restaurant over coffee. Remember when it was a very common sight? Today you see those around you frequently consult their cell phone, not a newspaper. And, in the economy of our time, we'll read the New York Times and the Associated Press on our phones.



By **JUDY ROBINSON**
FSPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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In a few minutes, I will proofread a paper (yes paper) copy of FSPA Today. We will print 350 - 400 copies and snail mail them to all of FSPA's members.

Open this newsletter and feel the texture of the paper. Read it then save it. In the economy of our time you may be holding a collector's item.

<http://www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa>

Win FREE Convention Registration!
DESIGN

the 2009 Convention theme

participants must submit:

- a slogan for the 2009 convention
- a 250-word essay explaining the theme and how it applies to scholastic journalism
- a two-color design for the T-shirt and an 8.5 x 11 inch design for the convention book cover. Both designs must be a minimum of 600 dpi, submitted in an alterable CS2 or CS3 file and in a PDF or jpeg format.

Bring all designs to your FSPA District Workshop. Preliminary voting will take place at the District Workshops and the final vote will be held online. All current FSPA members are eligible to compete.

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Florida Scholastic Press Association
www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa
FSPA

Florida Scholastic Press Association

2008-2009 Membership Application

<http://www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa>

This membership form is for **high school and middle school publications only**.

1. Write your contact and publication information clearly in black ink OR download file from FSPA Web site and fill out on a computer using Adobe Reader.
2. If you are an **adviser for more than one publication**, you may register up to **three** publications per membership form. Please remember, **membership fees are per publication**.
3. Keep a copy of the filled-out form for yourself and your accountant. Send a copy to the office.
4. Make checks payable to *Florida Scholastic Press Association-Memberships*
5. Mail completed form and payment to:

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

- Membership is valid through Nov. 15, 2009.

Join Now because membership fees increase to \$50 after Nov. 30, 2008.

CALCULATE FEES (check all that apply)

Mandatory

High School _____ x \$30= \$ _____
of publications

Middle School _____ x \$10= \$ _____
of publications

Optional

FSPA Foundation Contribution \$ _____
The FSPA Foundation was created to support scholastic media in the state of Florida. Make checks payable to *The Community Foundation of Tampa Bay*.

TOTAL AMOUNT \$ _____

Adviser name _____

Adviser e-mail _____

Adviser phone _____

Address for FSPA mailings _____

City _____ Zip _____

School phone _____ School fax _____

FSPA District (1-7) _____

County _____

School name _____

► Publication 1 _____
Publication name

Check **one**.
 Broadcast Magazine Newsmagazine
 Newspaper Yearbook Online media

► Publication 2 _____
Publication name

Check **one**.
 Broadcast Magazine Newsmagazine
 Newspaper Yearbook Online media

► Publication 3 _____
Publication name

Check **one**.
 Broadcast Magazine Newsmagazine
 Newspaper Yearbook Online media

Office use only			
Date Processed	Check #	Amount	Initials

CONVENTION 2008 - GET A CLUE



Convention 2008 was held in Tampa at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. If you missed it, take a look at these pictures to see why you can't miss it this year.

photos/Sarah Jones, FSPA office staff

More than 1,000 students came to investigate what it takes to keep their publications from being dead on arrival.



Students compete in the on-the-spot contests.

District 1 Director, Katie Lane, helps judge the on-the-spot contests. Advisers with students competing in the contests were required to help judge in other categories.

Save the Date!

CONVENTION 2009 IS APRIL 16-18!