

# FSPA Today

FLORIDA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION



March Issue

[www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa/](http://www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa/)

Twitter hashtag: #fspa2010

## Get Ready for the *Jungle*: Convention 2 Months Away

By Alan Toussaint, Student Co-Chair

It's almost the end of the year, and things can get chaotic for your publication. But there's no need to stress out; the 2010 FSPA state convention is just around the corner.

The other student representatives and I have been working since the winter board meeting to plan the best state convention in the history of FSPA.

If anyone is concerned about anything that's going on or because it's your first time attending, there's no need to worry; I have some tips and pointers that will help you prepare yourself for convention.

**CONTESTS:** You may have seen the contest page on the

FSPA Web site already and noticed that there are not as many contests as last year. At the winter board meeting, the student representatives had to

cut some contests to reduce and streamline the number of categories. The good news is that we have added several new contests, including literary

magazine, scriptwriting and video- photojournalism Carry-In contests.

Another exciting change this year is the location of team design contest. All design contests, which include newspaper, yearbook and literary magazine, will be held nearby at the University of South Florida. Supervision and transportation to and from the hotel will be provided.

As always, delegates who are participating in On-the-Spot Contests need to bring their own materials and equipment for the specific category in which they will be competing.

**ENTERTAINMENT:** The entertainment for convention is always one of the most exciting  
**See CONVENTION on page 2**



Students participate in an on-the-spot contest at the 2008 convention, in Tampa, Fla. These competitions will now be held at USF. Photo/FSPA Office

## FSPA Advisers to Vote on Middle School Convention Attendance

*Editor's note: The exact wording of the current by-law as well as the proposed changes can be found on page 4.*

By Jill Maassen, FSPA Past President

This year advisers will have the opportunity to vote on a very important issue: middle school member attendance at the annual convention.

The addition of middle school students as delegates to the annual spring convention for FSPA has twice been voted on and defeated. Each time the issue brought much controversy. The FSPA Executive Board will again ask for input on that issue at the adviser's business meeting Friday, April 30, at the 2010 state convention.

FSPA has always welcomed middle school publications as members and encouraged their attendance at district workshops, but they have never been

invited to the spring convention. Currently, under FSPA by-laws, middle school advisers are eligible to attend but may not bring students.

As state legislators have changed how they look at high school journalism and as each district adjusts its funding policies in the current economic environment, FSPA has had to adapt. The main impetus for the board putting this ballot before you again is because of the financial ramifications of shrinking numbers of school publications and the students who work for them. That has an impact on our annual convention, its location, quality and cost.

When FSPA signs a contract with a hotel for the convention, an integral part of that contract is spending a minimum amount on rooms and food. If we don't reach those guaranteed numbers, we must make up the difference to the hotel. With

membership down the last several years, making the guarantee has become more of a concern.

By revisiting the by-laws change, the Executive Board is considering the economy and the state of journalism in Florida. FSPA is trying to keep its numbers up so we can not only fulfill our guarantee, but can also attract hotels that are bidding on the convention. Attendance is also a factor when the board decides who to invite as a speaker. Many speakers prefer a larger audience, and some simply will not speak to a small group.

Most importantly, however, middle schools are a valuable training ground for high school programs. By offering more opportunities to middle school students, we can create more interest in these younger students for high school journal-

**See BY-LAW VOTE on page 4**

# Step-by-Step: Register for Convention

Instead of receiving an extensive pre-convention booklet as in past years, all convention materials are posted in Convention Central on the FSPA Web site.

Planning for convention may seem like a daunting task, but we've broken it down into five easy steps:

## 1. Adviser's Survival Guide

Before you get started, take a moment to review the Adviser's Survival Guide. You will probably want to print a copy to refer to as parents, students and administrators pepper you with questions in the weeks to come.

## 2. Convention and Contest Registration

**CONVENTION:** Each publication planning to attend convention must complete a separate registration form. If you advise multiple publications, you only need to pay the adviser registration fee for the first publication.

**CONTESTS:** All staffs must register in advance for the team and individual On-the-Spot contests. Registrations will NOT be accepted at convention.

## 3. Hotel Registration

All convention delegates MUST stay at the Hyatt Regency Tampa. For safety and insurance purposes, the Hyatt must have a list of the occupants of each hotel room. The hotel forms must be sent directly to the hotel, not the FSPA Office.

## 4. Student Behavior Contract

FSPA convention delegates have established a record of good behavior, primarily because the rules are clearly stated in the behavior contract, which must be reviewed and signed by all delegates prior to departure for the convention.

## 5. Adviser Responsibilities

This form must be completed and signed by the publication adviser and school principal. Please bring the signed form to the district meeting Thursday night at convention.

All of these forms are available on our Web site: <http://www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa/convention/>

Remember, the deadline for all convention materials is March 11, 2010.

# CONVENTION

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things students look forward to.

As we've done in previous years, there will be a montage video of all the schools that are attending convention at the beginning of opening ceremonies on Thursday night. All un-edited footage is due to Rory Cooksey at Deerfield Beach High School by March 25. For more information, please go to [www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa/convention/](http://www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa/convention/)

Also on Thursday, there will be a new contest for students: singing. A karaoke contest will be open to anyone who would like to participate. Look for more information on the FSPA Web site soon.

On Friday night the annual banquet and dance will be held from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Come dressed to impress and get ready for a fist-pumping good time.

**THE TAMPA BAY AREA:** Staying inside a hotel for two days might get boring, so try going outside to visit some of the many amenities Tampa has to offer.

The list is endless of what your school can do while you're here in the Hillsborough-Pinellas county area. For a list of activities, please go to <http://www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa/convention/> and click on "local activities."

As this will be my third and final FSPA state convention as a high school student, I would like to leave you with a few tidbits that I think may be helpful as you plan for convention:

- Students, let your adviser(s) know where you are going at all times. If you don't, they might go crazy and everyone will be looking for you.
- Meet other student journalists and see what you have in common with them.
- For those who are staying on the top floors of the Hyatt: For your own sake, do not climb up the stairs. You will be super tired in the morning. Seriously, this is not a joke!
- Have fun on the dance floor, but don't get too crazy.
- As a student, I understand the temptation to bring alcohol to convention. But, I want you to know that it really is a bad idea. You will probably be caught and end up making a late-night phone call to

your parents and school principal. You will also be letting down your adviser and the rest of your staff, because your publication's awards will be taken away and your school will be suspended from attending future conventions.

- Represent your school well at all times and cheer for your fellow students when they win!

## How do I contact the FSPA OFFICE?

- E-mail is the best way for us to keep in touch! Phone calls will likely go straight to voicemail so that the appropriate person can call you back.
- Snail mail is only for official business. However, a note attached to forms explaining special situations is helpful.
- Twitter: You can message @fspa with any questions. Also, be sure to use the official hashtag #fspa2010 to discuss the 2010 Convention!

E-mail: [fspa@jou.ufl.edu](mailto:fspa@jou.ufl.edu)



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**UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA**  
*The Foundation for The Gator Nation*

# Pulitzer Prize Winner Lane DeGregory to Serve as Keynote Speaker

Lane DeGregory will be the keynote speaker at the opening session of convention Thursday night.

She is a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer at *The St. Petersburg Times* who prefers writing about people's private struggles.

She hung out with a little girl who had been kept in a closet for six years; went shopping with a city manager who was changing from Steve to Susan; and followed daredevil Evel Knievel as he worried whether he'd make it to his last public appearance.

DeGregory was born in Gainesville, Fla., and grew up in Rockville, Md. From the time she was in fourth grade, she knew she wanted to be a journalist.

In 1989, DeGregory graduated from the University of Virginia, where she was editor-in-chief of *The Cavalier Daily* student newspaper.

Later, she earned a master's degree in rhetoric and communication studies from the University of Virginia.

For 10 years, she wrote news and feature stories for *The Virginian-Pilot*, based in Norfolk, Va. In 2000, Lane moved to write



for *The St. Petersburg Times*.

She's married to a drummer, Dan DeGregory, and they have two sons, Ryland, 13, and Tucker, 11, plus two big crazy dogs and an ornery turtle.

DeGregory's stories have appeared in *The Best Newspaper Writing* 2000, 2004, 2006 and 2008 editions.

Her work has been published in "Telling True Stories: A non-fiction writers' guide from the Nieman Foundation at Harvard

University."

She has been a frequent speaker at the Nieman Narrative Conference at Harvard, at National Writers Workshops and newspapers across the country and at The Poynter Institute.

She wrote one travel book: *The Insiders' Guide to North Carolina's Outer Banks*.

She also taught a graduate class in literary journalism at the University of South Florida.

She has won more than a dozen national awards, including: winner, 2009 Pulitzer Prize for feature writing; winner, 2009 National Headliner Award for feature writing; winner, 2008 American Society of Newspaper Editors Award for non-deadline writing; second place, 2008 National Headliner Awards for feature writing; finalist, 2008 GLAAD Media Awards for single newspaper story; winner, 2008 American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors for short feature writing; and winner, 2007 Ernie Pyle Award from the Scripps Howard Foundation for human interest writing.

*Biography from The St. Petersburg Times.*

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## 'Everybody Has a Story' Photojournalist Shares Stories at Convention

Les Rose is thrilled to be a photojournalist for the CBS News bureau in Los Angeles. His television career started in 1978.

Prior to joining the L.A. bureau in 1997, Les worked 13 years at KCBS and from 1984-1986 he was with NBC News, Miami as a freelancer. He has also shot for WFLA in Tampa, Fla., KTVI in St. Louis, Mo., and WTSP in St. Petersburg, Fla.

His assignments are for *The CBS Evening News*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, *60 Minutes*, *48 Hours*, and *The CBS Early Show*.

For almost six years he was the photojournalist for the "Everybody Has a Story" series with Steve Hartman, and together they produced more than 125 stories. They are currently working together on the "Assignment America" series whenever Hartman is west of

the Rockies.

Rose's awards include a Murrow and a DuPont with Hartman and nine local Emmys.

But Rose will be quick to say that he is far more proud of his family and friends' accomplishments, especially his two young sons. Most of all, he'll tell you that in the end, it is all about real moments in a story and someone saying, "that was a good story" and not "that was a cool shot."

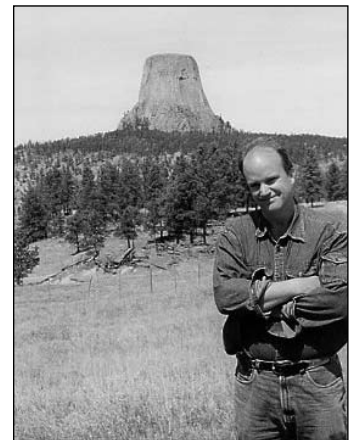
Rose believes "It's about the story, subjects and viewers, not us. It's also about being a human being in the process." He also believes we are here on earth to make it a better place, which is one reason he chose journalism.

Major stories that Rose has been involved with include 9/11 in Shankesville, Penn, and then NYC, the Cerritos Air disaster, the Civil Wars of Nicaragua and El Salvador for

NBC News, the Northridge Earthquake, the Nagano Olympics, a hostage release in Wiesbaden, West Germany, the Malibu Fires, political conventions, multiple hurricanes, Oscars, Emmys, major sports events and countless celebrity interviews (and trials), including O.J. Simpson and Michael Jackson.

Rose has a profound love for teaching and is a frequent lecturer.

A partial list of his keynotes and workshops include: The Poynter Institute, the N.P.P.A., the Hawaii Association of Broadcasters, Global Television in Calgary and Edmonton, Icelandic State Television, the University of South Florida, FSPA, WTSP-TV, WPBF-TV, the IRE, the RTNDA with Al Tompkins, the Student Television Network, the Broward Teen Network, and the Missouri, New



Les Rose at Devils Tower, Wyo. Photo/LesRose.com

Mexico, West Virginia, and NATOA Broadcasters.

He is juggling those boys, a job at CBS News, the seminars he leads, and attending the University of Nebraska grad school for a Masters of Arts in Mass Communications, Broadcasting.

*Biography provided by Les Rose's Web site, LesRose.com*

# BY-LAW VOTE

Continued from page 1

ism programs, as well as enable them to hit the ground running for their future high school newspaper, yearbook, Web site, television station or literary magazine.

The board recognizes that adding middle school students to the state convention wouldn't just be a financial matter. The age differences between middle and high school students should also be considered.

We have checked with the Department of Education about any statewide prohibitions on middle and high school students attending the same conventions or staying overnight in the same convention center hotel and found that there are none; those regulations are left up to individual school districts. We suggest you find out what your school district has to say – if anything – on this subject before deciding how to vote.

Let's make this important decision based on careful thought and lively discussion at the business meeting, as well as at the adviser's reception.

# Proposed By-Law Changes

Advisers will be voting on this proposed change at the FSPA convention on April 30.

Pursuant to a unanimous affirmative vote of the board of directors on Nov. 7, a change in the by-laws will hereby be put to a vote on April 30 at the general membership business meeting at the 2010 state convention to amend Section 3 of the by-laws to read as follows (amendment underlined and boldfaced):

**SECTION 3. STATE CONVENTION.** A state convention shall be held in the spring of each year. The state convention shall be open to **middle school and** high school students who are on staffs of FSPA regular members and middle school and high school advisers who are advisers of FSPA regular members. To be eligible to attend the convention, a staff must have been represented by the adviser and at least one student at the fall district workshop or staffs not represented by the adviser and at least one student at the fall district workshop

will be eligible to attend the convention at a higher cost for convention registration.

It is the intention of the board's vote that the change, upon approval by the membership, would take effect with the 2011 state convention.

Per FSPA by-laws, in Article X:

These bylaws shall be subject to amendment at any regular meeting of the regular membership or at any special meeting of the regular membership which shall have been called for the purpose of considering the said amendment. Adoption of an amendment at any meeting of the general membership shall be by a majority of the votes cast at a meeting where a quorum (50 percent plus one of the members attending the business meeting) of members are present.



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