

Friday, May 1, 2009

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Georgia Scholastic Press Awards Distributed in UGA Ceremony

Athens, Ga. – More than 200 awards recognizing excellence in high school broadcast, yearbook, newspaper and literary magazine journalism were distributed at the 2009 Georgia Scholastic Press Association (GSPA) Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 1 at the Classic Center.

Nearly 500 high school students and their advisers attended the annual event, which was keynoted by Julie Wolfe, a noted “backpack journalist” and Atlanta TV reporter for 11 Alive Atlanta. Wolfe joined 11 the station in 2006 as a reporter. As a “backpack journalist,” Wolfe is responsible for shooting, editing, writing and reporting her own material. A native of Chicago, Wolfe had stints as a reporter in Buffalo and Cheyenne, Wyoming prior to arriving at 11 Alive. She is a recent graduate of the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

“There’s an exciting time ahead for journalists,” she said. “But you’ve got to be prepared. You have to be able to do everything, and that means writing and shooting for your stories. The lines between print and broadcast are blurring.”

Isabel Bryan Barks, a senior at Clarke Central High School in Athens was named the 2009 Georgia Champion Journalist, the highest honor given to a scholastic journalist. A reporter with Clarke Central’s newsmagazine *Odyssey*, Barks has responsibly reported on incredibly difficult issues such as prostitution in her town, illegal immigration and its effect on her community and school, and the effects of No Child Left Behind. When not writing for her school publications, she is writing for her community newspaper. Her columns, ranging from the racism in the south to a pointed editorial on the dangers of school vouchers, have generated an immense amount of feedback from her readers.

Her adviser writes, “She is regarded as the classroom leader and is the face of our magazine in the community.”

The All-Georgia awards are given to the publications that performed best overall in their areas. The *Odyssey* newsmagazine of Clarke Central High School (Athens) was named the All-Georgia newspaper/newsmagazine. Out of more than 50 newspapers and newsmagazines entered in the state contest, the *Odyssey* demonstrated excellence in news, features and sports coverage, photojournalism, advertising design and page design. *The Muse* of Northview High School (Johns Creek) was named the All-Georgia literary magazine. It used the best poems, short stories and photographs of more than 13 publications. The All-Georgia yearbook award was given to *Mnemosyne* of Northview

High School (Johns Creek) and *Wolverscenes* of Union Grove High School (McDonough). The staff used the best story coverage, photographs, organization and advertising of more than 30 publications.

Among the 200 awards distributed, General Excellence awards were given to the top entries in each school classification. Schools and publications receiving awards include:

Yearbook A/AA- Elkins Pointe Middle School (Roswell), *The Echo*
Yearbook AAA-Dunwoody High School (Dunwoody), *Chrysalis*
Yearbook AAAA-Monroe Area High School (Monroe), *Hurricane*
Yearbook AAAA-Woodward Academy (Atlanta), *Phoenix*
Yearbook AAAAA-Northview High School (Johns Creek), *Mnemosyne*
Yearbook AAAAA-Union Grove High School (McDonough), *Wolverscenes*

Literary Magazine AAA-Grady High School (Atlanta), *The Unmasking*
Literary Magazine AAAA-Clarke Central High School (Athens), *Iliad*
Literary Magazine AAAA-Woodward Academy (College Park), *Silent Voices*
Literary Magazine AAAAA-Northview High School (Duluth), *The Muse*
Literary Magazine AAAAA-North Forsyth High School (Cumming), *Threshold*

Broadcast-Decatur High School (Decatur), *The Dec*

Newspaper A/AA-The King's Academy (Woodstock), *The Verve*
Newspaper AAA-Henry W. Grady High School (Atlanta), *The Southerner*
Newspaper AAAA-Starr's Mill High School (Fayetteville), *The Prowler*
Newspaper AAAA-North Springs High School (Atlanta), *The Oracle*
Newspaper AAAAA-Pebblebrook High School (Mableton), *BrookSpeak*
Newspaper AAAAA-Pope High School (Marietta), *Greyhound Tracks*
Newsmagazine-Clarke Central High School (Athens), *Odyssey*
Newsmagazine-Decatur High School (Decatur), *Carpe Diem*

For a complete list of awards, visit <http://www.grady.uga.edu/gspa>.

Organized in 1928 by UGA's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, the Georgia Scholastic Press Association assists Georgia high school media programs and students by encouraging the production of quality publications and broadcast programs through instruction and contests. There are 132 GSPA member publications for the 2008-09 school year, representing some 3,000 students across the state.

The Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication offers seven undergraduate majors including advertising, broadcast news, magazines, newspapers, public relations, publication management and telecommunication arts. The college offers two graduate degrees, and is home to the Knight Chair in Health and Medical Journalism and the Peabody Awards, internationally recognized as one of the most prestigious prizes for excellence in electronic media. For more information, visit www.grady.uga.edu.