

Women's Voices Essay Contest

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For more than a century, Georgia's women have played a crucial role in upholding the values of the American press, spotlighting problems in society while battling discrimination and breaking down barriers for future women in the workplace.

For example:

- Celestine Sibley (1914-1999) was a renowned syndicated columnist for the Atlanta Constitution for more than five decades. Over the course of her career, she penned more than 10,000 columns on topics as varied as politics and nutrition. Yet, it was her essays on life in the South that made her a Georgia icon.
- Carolyn Caudell Tieger (ABJ '69), a partner and managing director of Porter Novelli's Washington, D.C. office, is the agency's global public affairs leader. Tieger, a Homer, Ga. native, is responsible for overall business development and management of the Washington, D.C. office, as well as public affairs operations. She has been awarded the Colby Award from Sigma Kappa; the 2006 Public Affairs Executive of the Year Award from PR News; and the 2005 Washington PR Woman of the Year Award from Washington Women in PR.
- Deborah Roberts (ABJ '82), who has worked as a correspondent for the ABC news magazine 20/20, NBC News' Dateline NBC, as well as a substitute anchor on ABC's World News Tonight and Good Morning America, is a distinguished Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication alumna. Roberts has reported on a wide variety of stories throughout her career, including a profile of Civil Rights leader Rosa Parks.

Other women from Georgia have made significant contributions to the field of communications. The Women's Voices Essay Contest wants you to seek out a female communicator (i.e. print, broadcast, film, digital media, advertising or public relations practitioner) who has made a positive mark on the field and on society (whether that is the United States, Georgia or your local community). Choose one of the three mentioned above, or select a different woman to profile. Essays should be written in journalistic style, containing factual information about your topic as well as your personal opinion as to how the woman you selected helped transform the industry.

Section I: General Rules

1. The contest is open to all participating Georgia Scholastic Press Association member high school students in grades 9-12.
2. There is no cost to enter the contest.
3. Contestants may enter only one essay.

Section II: Contest Rules

1. Each contestant should read a copy of the rules and must complete the entry form. The rules contain information about the contest, judging and awards.
2. Each entry must include the contest entry form. The essay must have the name of the entrant, high school and publication listed at the top of each page.
3. Essays must be typewritten and must be single-spaced.
4. Essays must contain at least 300 words but no more than 500 words.
5. Any quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be identified properly. Failure to identify non-original material will be considered plagiarism.
6. Essays must be written in English.
7. The entry form and essay must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner.
8. GSPA and the Grady College are not responsible for any entries lost or damaged in the mail.
9. Entries will not be returned. **Entries must be postmarked by March 13, 2009.**

Section III: Judging

1. A panel of qualified judges, including University of Georgia faculty and staff will complete judging.
2. Judges will not discuss or compare essays being judged until all essays have been judged.
3. Decision of the judges is final.

Section IV: Scoring of Contest

1. Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.
2. Essays will be scored based on:
 - material organization (logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic);
 - vocabulary and style (phrasing and continuity),
 - grammar, punctuation, spelling, neatness; and
 - adherence to contest rules (prepared in the proper format).

Section V: Awards

- 1st Place: \$100 and an engraved plaque for student
2nd Place: \$50 and certificate for student
3rd Place: \$25 and certificate for student

Winners will be recognized at the Women's Voices Lecture*, April 1 at the University of Georgia, and at the GSPA Awards Ceremony, May 1, at The Classic Center in Athens.

**The Women's Voices lecture will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, April 1 in the Miller Student Learning Center, Room 248, at the University of Georgia in Athens. The Women's Voice Lecture will feature Atlanta Journal-Constitution war correspondent Moni Basu and Atlanta Magazine book editor Teresa Weaver. They will discuss challenges and opportunities of being a working journalist and editor in today's changing media environment.*

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Student Information:

Full Name: _____

Home Address: _____

E-mail address: _____

Year (circle one): Senior Junior Sophomore Freshman

School _____ City _____ County _____

Medium (circle one): Newspaper/newsmagazine Literary Magazine Broadcast Yearbook

Publication Name: _____

Adviser's Certification:

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, this is the work of the student named and this student is a member of my publication staff

Adviser's signature: _____ Date: _____

Adviser's name (Please print): _____

Please attach this form to your entry and return to: Women's Voices Essay Contest, GSPA, 120 Hooper Street, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018.

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*PLEASE NOTE — List your name, high school, and publication at the top of each page of your essay.
All entries must be postmarked by March 13, 2009.*