



GSPA

GEORGIA SCHOLASTIC
PRESS ASSOCIATION

www.gspa.uga.edu

THE BULLETIN

The newsletter for student journalists and advisers across Georgia

Vol. 79, No. 4

August/September 2008

Important Dates:

Tuesday, Sept. 30
Postmark Deadline:
General Excellence
Yearbook, Round Two

Thursday-Friday
Oct. 2-3
GSPA Conference
The University of Georgia
Athens, Ga.

Friday, Oct. 31
Postmark Deadline:
GSPA Membership
(memberships processed
later subject to late fee)

Thursday-Sunday
Nov. 13-16
NSPA/JEA Convention
Renaissance Grand
St. Louis

Friday, Dec. 12
Postmark Deadline:
First Amendment
Essay Contest

*Contests are open only to
current GSPA members.
Absolutely no late contest
entries will be accepted.*

Early-semester training

GSPA Conference to be held Oct. 2-3

ATHENS — With the goal of offering training to high school media staff members early in the school year, the 2008 GSPA Conference will be held Oct. 2-3 at the University of Georgia.

"Most scholastic journalism conferences take place in November or in the spring," said GSPA director Joe Dennis. "Our goal is to help out students early in the school year, so they can apply what they learn to their publication or program throughout the year."

The 2008 GSPA Fall Conference will be held Thursday and Friday, Oct. 2-3 at the Tate Center on the campus of the University of Georgia. Sessions will be held for students involved in newspaper/newsmagazine, literary magazine, broadcast and yearbook.

This is the second year GSPA will be holding a single statewide conference.

"Last year's conference was a huge success," Dennis said. "We had more than 500 participants from as far north as Rome and as far south as Valdosta."

Following a similar format from last year, more than 60 sessions will be offered with a maximum of eight sessions running simultaneously throughout the conference. Session presenters will include journalism professionals and educators, and offerings will be available for both beginners and advanced students. In addition, adviser-only and editor-only sessions will be offered.

Session titles include: InDesign Tips and Tricks, A Picture is Worth One Million Words, Newswriting:

Be the Best, Telling the Story, Be a Leader, Sportswriting: Beyond the Score, Poetic Justice and Dealing with Censorship.

GSPA member schools are encouraged to submit proposals to present at the 2008 conference. Interested presenters should contact Dennis at jodennis@uga.edu or 706-542-5022.

In addition, a "first issue" competition will be held in which schools are encouraged to submit the first issue of their newspaper for review. An on-the-spot photojournalism competition will be held for aspiring photojournalists. On-site critiques will be available for newspaper/newsmagazine and broadcast staffs.

Sessions will be held Thursday, Oct. 2 from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Friday sessions will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Advanced registration is \$15 per student for a two-day registration, and \$12 per student for Friday-only registration. Adviser and chaperones accompanying a student staff may attend for free. The advance registration deadline is Sept. 24, 2008. The late registration fee will be an additional \$5 per student, and is limited to availability.

A limited number of hotel rooms are being held at the Holiday Inn hotels in downtown Athens at a rate of \$80-\$85 per night for two double beds or one king-size bed. Hotel rooms must be booked by Sept. 11, 2008.

GSPA membership is required to attend the GSPA Conference. For the 2008 GSPA Fall Conference registration form and for more hotel information, see pages 3-4.

GSPA 2008-09 Membership Form on Page 5

Director's Corner



"What is GSPA and why should I care?"

For many receiving this publication, I know this is the top question on your mind. Before you toss this in the recycling bin (if it's not there already) or set it on top of that big stack of papers on the side of your desk that won't get looked at until a less busy time (meaning the end of the year), please spare me three minutes to explain.

You received this because someone at your school's front office identified you as the "journalism adviser." If you do not advise your school's media publications or broadcast programs, then please pass this on to the appropriate person.

He/she will be easy to recognize — the underappreciated, stressed-out, underpaid teacher who is balancing a full teaching load with trying to meet a production budget, raise money for publication, serve as a counselor to students, and satisfy the administration while granting students the autonomy required for educational growth.

If this is you, then I have some good news — **you are not alone!** GSPA is the state press association for all Georgia high school media: newspaper/news-magazine, yearbook, literary magazine and broadcast. Based out of the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia, GSPA has been serving high school media in the state since 1928. Last academic year, more than 150 high school publications/programs were members of GSPA.

Now that you know who we are, I'm sure you're wondering, "What's in it for me?" I'm glad you asked (and if you didn't, please humor me and continue reading). GSPA offers training opportunities for you and your students, professional critiques of your publication or program, and an e-mail listserv linking you with more than 100 journalism teachers from across the state. Perhaps the organization is most known for annually distributing more than 200 individual and staff journalism awards — so when a newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine or broadcast claims they are "best in state," they earned that distinction from GSPA.

There are several other organizations that serve scholastic journalism. At the national level, the Journalism Education Association (JEA) specifically supports journalism teachers and advisers across the nation. The National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) is similar to GSPA, but at the national level. Regionally, the Southern Interscholastic Press Association (SIPA) serves student journalists in the Southeast and holds an annual conference in Columbia, S.C. I encourage you to join as many organizations as possible, but I hope you will consider GSPA first. As the state SPA, we are the smallest of the aforementioned organizations and therefore the most accessible. The University of Georgia and the Grady College pay me to serve as a resource for you. Feel free to contact me (e-mail is best: jodennis@uga.edu) any time you have any questions or concerns regarding scholastic journalism.

And I hope you plan on bringing your students to our Fall 2008 Conference at UGA. The training offered at the conference is invaluable to students and new advisers.

Joe Dennis, GSPA Director

THE BULLETIN

Editor: Joe Dennis

The Georgia Scholastic Press Association was founded in 1928 by the faculty of the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at The University of Georgia.

Membership is open to school-sponsored newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine, radio/television and online publications or productions in middle and high schools in Georgia. The GSPA Bulletin is published by the University of Georgia five times annually as a benefit of membership in the Georgia Scholastic Press Association.

GSPA contact information:

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Web site www.gspa.uga.edu



2007-08 Advisory Board

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*Want to help shape GSPA?
Join the Advisory Board.
Contact Joe Dennis at
jodennis@uga.edu for more
information.*





2008 Fall Convention

Oct. 2-3 @ UGA

Convention Registration Checklist

- If needed, book hotel rooms by Sept. 11 (information below).
- Join GSPA for the 2008-09 school year.
- Complete registration form and send to GSPA office by Sept. 24.
- Either send payment to GSPA by Oct. 3 or bring check to the convention registration desk at the Tate Center.
- If applicable, bring the first issue of your publication for the first-issue competition.
- Bring several copies of your publication to share with other staffs (optional).
- If planning to eat meals in the Tate Center cafeteria, plan on bringing roughly \$6-8 per student for lunch, \$4-6 for breakfast.
- Bring any materials/equipment you need (cameras, laptops, etc.).

Conference Extras

Registration for the following conference "extras" is at check-in at the conference ...

First Issue Competition

Newspaper/newsmagazine staffs are encouraged to bring a copy of their first issue for the competition. Ribbons for best overall, best front page, best news coverage, best opinion coverage, best feature coverage, best sports coverage, best photography and best layout will be awarded.

On-site Critique

Newspaper/newsmagazine and broadcast staffs may bring a copy of their product/program for an on-site review by an evaluator. The evaluator will spend 20 minutes with no more than three members of the staff to discuss your product/program. Sign-up is first-come, first-serve at registration.

On-the-spot Photojournalism Competition

Participants must bring their own camera and any card readers/cords necessary to download their photos to a PC. The competition will be held on Friday, Oct. 3. Information will be given at registration.

Hotel Information

A limited number of hotel rooms are being reserved for the GSPA Convention at the Holiday Inn hotels in downtown Athens. The hotels are conveniently located in downtown Athens near several local eateries and just off the campus of the University of Georgia. They are within walking distance of the Tate Center.

Special rates are available for the evening of Thursday, Oct. 2 and Friday, Oct. 3. The majority of rooms available are two double-bed, non-smoking rooms. A few king and queen-size rooms are also available for advisers and chaperones. **To reserve rooms at the special rate, contact the Holiday Inn Athens hotels at 706-549-4433 and ask for the "Georgia Scholastic Press Association block." The deadline to reserve rooms at the special rate is Thursday, Sept. 11.**

Please note that GSPA is not responsible for hotel reservations, including handling room payments. Please plan for separate payments for conference registration and hotel rooms.



GSPA
GEORGIA SCHOLASTIC
PRESS ASSOCIATION

2008 Fall Conference

Oct. 2-3 @ UGA

The 2008 GSPA Fall Conference will offer training sessions for broadcast, literary magazine, newspaper/newsmagazine and yearbook staffs. The conference will be held at the Tate Center on the campus of the University of Georgia. Sessions will be offered from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 2, and 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 3.

Early registration fee: \$15 per student, two-day registration
\$12 per student, one-day registration
Early registration deadline is Sept. 24, 2008

Please PRINT or TYPE all information required and send or fax to the GSPA office. Early registration must be received by Sept. 24, 2008. Payment is accepted at registration of the conference or can be mailed to GSPA. Meals are not provided at the conference. Meals are available at a variety of restaurants near the host hotel or at the Tate Center cafeteria.

PLEASE NOTE: GSPA membership for the 2008-09 school year is required for registration. If you are not a GSPA member, please submit a completed membership form with your registration and include membership dues with your payment.

School Name _____ Adviser Name _____

Publication Name(s) _____

Type of Media Newspaper/newsmagazine Yearbook Broadcast TV Literary Magazine

Adviser Phone _____ Fax _____ Adviser E-mail _____

Registration type: Two-day (\$15 per student) One-day (\$12 per student)

Number of advisers/chaperones attending _____ Total cost: FREE

Names of advisers/chaperones (continue on separate sheet if necessary)

1. _____ 2. _____

Number of students attending _____ Total cost _____

Names of students (continue on separate sheet if necessary)

1. _____ 7. _____
2. _____ 8. _____
3. _____ 9. _____
4. _____ 10. _____
5. _____ 11. _____
6. _____ 12. _____

Please fax completed form to 706-542-2183 or mail to GSPA, Grady College, 120 Hooper Street, Athens, GA 30602-3018.

A confirmation will be e-mailed back to you upon receipt of registration.

Questions? Call 706-542-5022 or e-mail jodennis@uga.edu. Visit www.gspa.uga.edu for updated conference information.



2008-2009 Membership Application

Join GSPA by Oct. 31, 2008 to avoid late registration fees!

Please list school and staff name as you want it to appear on membership certificate and other documentation. **Please type or print neatly.** Make a copy of this form for your records. Check, money order or purchase order made payable to GSPA must accompany form.

Publication Name(s) _____

Type of Media Newspaper/newsmagazine Yearbook
 Broadcast TV Literary Magazine

Name of Editor(s) _____

Editor(s) e-mail _____

Principal Name _____

School Name _____

Address _____ City _____

County _____ ZIP _____

Phone () _____ ext. _____ Fax () _____

NOTE: An adviser service of GSPA is a listserv through which advisers find out the latest news about scholastic journalism locally and nationally, share information and request resources. All GSPA advisers will automatically be placed on the listserv. Since the listserv can be the only way the GSPA director has to contact advisers on short notice, placement on the listserv is mandatory.

Adviser Name(s) _____

Home Address _____

Home Phone () _____

Adviser e-mail (MUST BE COMPLETED FOR MEMBERSHIP):

Please note the following before sending your payment:

- Membership is effective for the CURRENT school year only.
- Only publications/productions that are members are eligible for GSPA competitions, held in Spring 2009
- Fees for the 2008-09 school year are \$40 per staff. Each additional adviser for the same staff is \$15. Multiple advisers must each pay the full \$40 membership fee. **Staffs joining after Oct. 31, 2008 will be subject to an additional \$20 late fee per application.**
- Teachers who advise more than one publication/program should use the following key:
 - 1 staff/1 adviser = \$40**
 - 1 staff/2 advisers = \$55**
 - 2 staffs/1 adviser = \$55**
 - 3 staffs/1 adviser = \$60**

Payment enclosed:

\$ _____ for _____ publication(s)/ production(s)

\$ _____ for _____ additional adviser(s).

\$ _____ late fee (\$20 late fee required if sent after Oct. 31, 2008)

\$ _____ **TOTAL**

Please make checks payable to GSPA. Send form and payment to:

GSPA Membership
 Grady College
 The University of Georgia
 120 Hooper Street
 Athens, GA 30602-3018

All schools who join will receive a membership package in the mail, including a copy of The Winner's Circle, a magazine highlighting the work of 2007-08 GSPA Award winners.

Membership packets will be mailed in September or approximately two weeks after receipt of paid application.

For office use only please:

Ck# _____ P.O. invoice # _____ Amt. _____ Initials/Date _____

Official Entry Form

GSPA General Excellence Contest 2008

Please attach this form to your contest entry materials. Use a copy of this form for each contest you intend to enter. Individual student entries require a separate form. **Type or print neatly.**

School Name: _____ Adviser's Name: _____

Publication Name: _____

School Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ ZIP: _____

School/Staff Room Phone: (_____) _____ School/Staff FAX: (_____) _____

Adviser or Staff E-mail Address: _____

Please indicate which contest(s) you are entering:

(NOTE POSTMARK DEADLINES -- NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED!)

- Yearbook, Round Two (Sept. 30, 2008)

Please indicate what materials you are sending with this entry form:

Contest Entry Materials and Fees:

- Media Information Form
 \$35 Contest Entry Fee
 \$8 Yearbook Return Fee (optional)

Materials to be Evaluated:

- One copy of a published Yearbook.

Return this form, along with a media information form and contest materials to:

GSPA Contests, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, 120 Hooper Street, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018.

GSPA is not responsible for entries lost in the mail. Use of a certified mail delivery service is recommended.

Guidelines for yearbook, round two entries

Yearbooks from the 2007-08 school year will be judged in two rounds. Books published in the 2007-08 school year can be entered in either round. The postmark deadline for the first round was June 30, 2008. Critiques and scores from the first round will be returned in early October so next year's staff can benefit from the judge's comments.

The postmark deadline for the second round is Sept. 30, 2008. Critiques and scores from the second round will be returned in November.

Superior-rated books from both rounds will be eligible for the General Excellence competition in spring 2007.

Yearbooks will be evaluated in four categories: concept and organization, coverage, photography and design, and copy. Each category will represent 25 percent of the total evaluation.

Guidelines for the yearbook contest:

- All entries must be postmarked by **Sept. 30, 2008.**
 Staffs competing in this contest must be members of GSPA.
 Complete contest entry form (page 6).
 Complete a media information form (page 7).
 Submit the \$35 critique fee.
 If you would like your yearbook returned after judging, submit an \$8 UPS shipping fee.

Media Information Form

GSPA General Excellence Contest 2008

A separate media information form MUST be attached to each contest entry. Please type or print neatly.

Name of Publication or Broadcast Program: _____

School: _____ City: _____

MEDIA CATEGORY:

Newspaper/Newsmagazine Broadcast News Literary Magazine Yearbook

Frequency of Publication/Program: _____ per _____ Total Circulation or Audience: _____

Number of students on regular staff (not including contributors/freelancers): _____

METHOD OF PRODUCTION FOR PRINT MATERIAL:

- Commercial Printer (Printer does all from set type to layout to press run.)
 Commercial Printer
 In-School Offset Press
 In-School Office Duplication Machine
 Other (explain) _____

PRODUCTION INFORMATION FOR BROADCAST PROGRAMS:

What is the purpose of this broadcast? _____

What format do you use? _____ What is the average length of program? _____

Please describe your method of production: _____

FINANCING:

Cost per issue/program: \$ _____ Cost per year: \$ _____

Amount from school/administration: \$ _____ Amount from sales/subscription: \$ _____

Amount from advertising per year: \$ _____ Base ad rate: \$ _____ per _____

Amount from other sources (explain): \$ _____

WORK DISTRIBUTION:

Percentage of work done by students: _____ Percentage of work done by adviser: _____

Percentage of work during class: _____ Percentage of work after school hours: _____

Percentage of photos taken by students: _____ Percentage of photos taken by professionals: _____

PRIMARY SOURCE OF PRODUCTION:

First-year journalism class Experienced journalism class Student volunteers/extracurricular

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (Example: printer errors, etc.)

