



# GSPA

GEORGIA SCHOLASTIC  
PRESS ASSOCIATION

[www.gspa.uga.edu](http://www.gspa.uga.edu)

# THE BULLETIN

The newsletter for student journalists and advisers across Georgia

Vol. 77, No. 5

November/December 2006

## Important Dates:

Thursday, Nov. 9 -  
Sunday, Nov. 12

**NSPA/JEA  
National Convention**  
Nashville, Tenn.

Thursday, Nov. 30  
Postmark Deadline:  
First Amendment Essay  
Contest

Thursday, Feb. 15  
Postmark Deadline:  
Georgia Champion Journalist

Thursday, March 1  
Postmark Deadline:  
General Excellence Awards

Friday, March 2 -  
Sunday, March 4  
**SIPA Convention**  
Columbia, S.C.

Saturday, March 31  
**Bluejeans Broadcast News  
Workshop**  
Athens, Ga.

Friday, April 27  
**GSPA Awards Ceremony**  
Athens, Ga.

## *Knight Foundation Survey*

### **1st Amendment knowledge increases**

Two years after a groundbreaking study found high school students apathetic to the First Amendment, a follow-up study has found that more students are aware of the law, however many believe the First Amendment "goes too far."

Funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the updated study found that students are more likely to learn about the First Amendment in classrooms. They also express more support for First Amendment protections of media, including their high school publications.

However, more students think the First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees American citizens. Also, the study found teachers are more appreciative of the First Amendment, but feel that their schools are not doing a good job in teaching it.

The study's key findings include:

- 72 percent of students say they've taken classes that dealt with the First Amendment (compared with 58 percent in 2004);

- 64 percent of students say school newspapers should be able to publish without officials' approval (compared with 58 percent in 2004);

- 54 percent of students say all newspapers should be able to publish without government approval (compared with 51 percent in 2004);

- 45 percent of students say they felt the First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees (compared with 35 percent in 2004); and

- 38 percent of teachers say the press has too much freedom

(compared with 29 percent in 2004).

Eric Newton, director of journalism initiatives for the Knight Foundation, said in a press release that the study's results shows progress in several areas, but indicates problems as well.

"Students and teachers alike are starting to re-examine the value of this fundamental law," he said. "But America's next generation of citizens still continues to take the First Amendment for granted. We have to help teachers change that."

The survey questioned nearly 15,000 students and more than 800 teachers.

The full findings of the survey can be found at [www.firstamendmentfuture.org](http://www.firstamendmentfuture.org).

## **GSPA holds annual First Amendment Essay Contest**

In an effort to strengthen First Amendment awareness in Georgia, the Cox Institute for Newspaper Management has teamed up with GSPA for the third annual First Amendment Essay Contest.

Open to all students at schools with a GSPA membership, entrants must submit an essay of no more than 500 words on their thoughts of the First Amendment.

Prizes of \$100, \$75 and \$50 will be awarded to the top three essayists *as well as* their student publication or program.

Entries must be postmarked by Nov. 30, 2006.

For more information, see pages 6-7 of this issue of *The Bulletin* or visit [www.gspa.uga.edu](http://www.gspa.uga.edu).

## Director's Corner



### Prior Review.

It should be the two ugliest words for a journalism teacher. For one, it displays a complete lack of confidence in the journalism adviser. Someone in the school's administration entrusted the journalism program and its students with a particular adviser. However, when prior review is enforced it demonstrates that the administration does not trust the journalism adviser to make decisions. It's a double-standard when compared to other activities. Could you imagine a principal requiring the head football coach to present his

playbook for approval before the big game?

The bigger concern is its effect on students. If a story gets pulled by an administrator for the sole purpose of being "controversial," that administrator is directly inhibiting that student's development of critical thinking. Writing is seen as the foundation for encouraging critical thought. In 1983, a well-publicized report by the Carnegie Foundation that is still considered by many educators as the best approach to education, listed four essential goals to improve American schools. The first goal states, "The high school should help all students develop the capacity to think critically and communicate effectively through a mastery of language."

Requiring writing and consideration of several current issues, high school media provides an ideal forum for students to develop their critical thinking skills. However, if they are threatened with censorship through prior review, students will be discouraged to consider their viewpoints of current issues.

The most common (though often unspoken) reason for prior review is to prevent stories questioning school policies or administrators. Under the guise of Hazelwood, administrators can legally prevent stories from being published that disrupt the nature of the school day. However, in speaking with many students over the course of GSPA's fall workshops, I've found this standard to be loosely interpreted by administrators. Such stories that have been blocked include: how a policy preventing candy being sold at the school is creating a fundraising problem for school organizations; how students are having a difficult time staying awake due to early start times; and how the basketball coach embezzled funds.

I'm not a legal expert, but I'm confident that these issues would not be considered disruptive under the Hazelwood standard. Unfortunately, in all these instances, students were discouraged from even pursuing the story. They have learned where the boundaries are set, and they likely will not bother to get close to them again. Where will this leave students in the future? Will they ever learn to question their leaders where they have misgivings?

I'm not suggesting students should have free reign over every aspect of their newspaper. The journalism adviser should help students develop their publication, not only developing journalism skills but also critical thinking skills. The journalism adviser needs to be trusted with this duty, not second-guessed by the administration.

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:

e-mail: [jodennis@uga.edu](mailto:jodennis@uga.edu)

phone: (706) 542-5022

fax: (706) 542-2183

Web site [www.gspa.uga.edu](http://www.gspa.uga.edu)



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## 'Real World' Journalism



More than 200 students attended the GSPA Athens workshop, held Sept. 21 at the University of Georgia. Clockwise from left, students sit at a roundtable discussing journalism issues; Julie Weeks of Walsworth Publishing offers tips on InDesign; Jim Thompson, editorial page editor of the *Athens Banner-Herald*, leads a session on opinion writing; a student takes note; and Mark Johnson, photojournalism instructor at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, teaches basic rules of photography.

### *GSPA workshops offer lessons from media professionals*

ATHENS — More than 400 high school journalists from around the state took part in GSPA Regional Workshops, held in Valdosta, Decatur, Athens and Fayetteville.

Sponsored by the Georgia Scholastic Press Association (GSPA) and the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, each workshop features several different sessions for high school newspaper, yearbook, broadcast and literary magazine students. Session leaders were comprised of local media professionals and educators.

"The goal of these workshops is to give students an early-year opportunity for some extra journalism training they can apply to their publication throughout the year," said Joe Dennis, director of GSPA. "They learn from local professionals, who all volunteer their time to help train young journalists."

Four workshops were held in Valdosta (Valdosta State Universi-

ty), Decatur (Decatur High School), Athens (The University of Georgia), and Fayetteville (Providence United Methodist Church).

Organized by Lowndes High School adviser Kristy Cates, the Valdosta workshop featured a "Journalists in Action" theme in which participants in broadcasting and newspaper programs learned how to put together a strong product in one day.

GSPA Decatur, organized by Decatur High School Adviser Jon Reese, was highlighted by small-group sessions in which students from different schools discussed problems facing their publication.

Attendees at GSPA Athens, organized by Dennis, had the opportunity to tour the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication and the University of Georgia.

The GSPA Fayetteville workshop, organized by Starr's Mill High School adviser Debbie

Smelley, featured several prominent guest speakers.

"I'm very thankful for the organizer's work," Dennis said.

"It shows the commitment they have to journalism education, not only with their own students, but students across the state."

Presenters at the 2006 GSPA workshops included:

- Curtis Bunn, Bo Emerson, Bridget Gutierrez and Susan Wells of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*.

- Allison Floyd, Melissa Hanna, Courtney Alford Pomeroy and Jim Thompson of the *Athens Banner-Herald*.

- Tory Jones, Mary Kay Kimmitt and Julie Weeks of Walsworth Publishing.

- Mark Childers and Melissa Roberts of Herff Jones.

- Hollie Manheimer of the Georgia First Amendment Foundation.

- Bill Kirms of School Publishing Company.

## 2005-06 GSPA General Excellence Critique Service

# 10 literary magazines garner 'superior' rating

Judging is complete in the first and second rounds of the 2006 GSPA General Excellence Literary Magazine Critique Service.

General Excellence winners, Best Layout and the All-Georgia Literary Magazine Award will be announced at the GSPA Awards Ceremony on Friday, April 27, 2007.

Results from both rounds of judging have been sent to schools along with judges' critiques. All magazines winning Superior ratings have been entered into the General Excellence competition.

Literary Magazines were evaluated in the following categories: literary standards (quality of content, variety of genres, and editing and proofreading) and graphic standards (cover, organizational structure, layout, typography, and illustrations and photography).

To view the GSPA literary magazine evaluation guidebook, visit [www.gspa.uga.edu](http://www.gspa.uga.edu). Information about the 2006-07 literary magazine critique service and general excellence competition will be included in a future issue of *The Bulletin*.

### Superior

Cass High School, *Human Era* (spring)  
Chattahoochee High School, *Chrysalis*  
Clarke Central High School, *Illiad*  
Grady High School, *The Unmasking*  
Kennesaw Mountain High School, *Expressions*  
Northview High School, *The Muse* (spring)  
Northview High School, *The Muse* (fall)  
Roswell High School, *Helicon* (spring)  
Sprayberry High School, *Vox Humana*  
St. Pius X Catholic School, *Carpe Diem*

### Excellent

Apalachee High School, *Paw Prints*  
Eagle's Landing High School, *The Gyre*  
Lassiter High School, *Arete*  
Roswell High School, *Helicon* (fall)  
Woodward Academy, *Silent Voices*

### Good / Achievement

Blessed Trinity Catholic School, *Panorama*  
Cass High School, *Human Era* (fall)  
Lee County High School, *The Mag*

## Student Works ...

Tristes Palabras

by Claudia La Rosa

From the 2006 Clarke Central High School

*Illiad* literary magazine

Tu amor fue lo mejor  
Que sucedio en mi vida  
Por eso no entiendo porque te fuiste asi  
De mi existencia, de mis dias, de mi vida

Quisiera regresar a aquellos dias  
Donde tu presencia  
Brillaba por tu sonrisa  
Y tu alma caminaba junto a la mia

Te quiero, esta demas decirlo  
Porque ahora creo

In each issue of *The Bulletin*, an individual student work will be published.  
To be featured in *Student Works*, send submissions to [jodennis@uga.edu](mailto:jodennis@uga.edu)

Que lo importante es sentirlo  
Ya que tu Corazon me echo al olvido

Mi amor por ti sigue vivo  
Que a pesar de la distancia, tiempo  
No me ayudan a olvidar  
Un sentimiento perdido

Nunca encontrare consuelo  
A este amor moribundo  
Que expresa estas tristes palabras  
Reflejo de su alma, triste y abandonada

Si algun dia  
Esta historia de amor muriera  
Mi alma herida buscaria  
Refugio, en tu sonrisa eternal



# 2006-2007 Membership Application

*Join GSPA by Oct. 31, 2006 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 (required for inclusion on the GSPA student editors listserv) \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ext. \_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

School Classification (MUST BE COMPLETED FOR MEMBERSHIP): \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Applies to high schools only. Please make sure to list your classification for the current year).

**NOTE:** An adviser service of GSPA is an adviser's 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 is frequently 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): \_\_\_\_\_

**For office use only please:**  
 Ck# \_\_\_\_\_ P.O. invoice # \_\_\_\_\_ Amt. \_\_\_\_\_ Initials/Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Join GSPA TODAY!

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 2007.
- Fees for the 2006-07 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, 2006 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, 2006)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL**

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

GSPA Membership  
 Grady College of Journalism  
 and Mass Communication  
 The University of Georgia  
 Athens, GA 30602-3018

*All schools who join will receive a membership package in the mail. Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery upon receipt of membership application and payment.*

# First Amendment Essay Contest

Sponsored by:



The First Amendment's guarantee of a free press is of crucial importance to all Americans. It is the foundation of American freedom and the essential distinction between our democracy and totalitarianism.

Journalists must dedicate themselves to defending our free press, and we call upon the scholastic journalists of Georgia to join the battle. Do so by entering our First Amendment Essay Contest!

Essays should focus on the importance of the First Amendment to all Americans, to freedom of speech and, particularly, freedom of the press for student publications.

Explain in your own words how you interpret the First Amendment and the role it plays in American life. What is its importance on your campus and in your school newspaper, magazine, yearbook or broadcast?

## 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 Cox Institute are not responsible for any entries lost or damaged in the mail.
9. Entries will not be returned. **Entries must be post-marked by Nov. 30, 2006.**

## Section III: Judging

1. A panel of qualified judges, including University of Georgia and The Cox Institute 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 for publication staff, \$100 and an engraved plaque for student  
2nd Place: \$75 for publication staff, \$75 for student  
3rd Place: \$50 for publication staff, \$50 for student

Winners will be recognized at the GSPA Spring Awards Ceremony, April 27, 2007 at the University of Georgia.

*For more information about the First Amendment Essay Contest and to view last year's winning essays, visit [www.gspa.uga.edu](http://www.gspa.uga.edu) or contact Joe Dennis at 706-542-5022 or [jodennis@uga.edu](mailto:jodennis@uga.edu).*

**Official Entry Form**

**2006 First Amendment Essay Contest**

**Amendment I:** "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

**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): \_\_\_\_\_

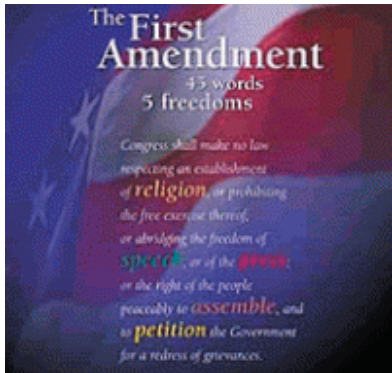
**Please attach this form to your entry and return to:** First Amendment Essay Contest, GSPA, 120 Hooper Street, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018.

Sponsored by:



*PLEASE NOTE — List your name, high school, and publication at the top of each page of your essay. All entries must be postmarked by Nov. 30, 2006.*

# First Amendment Essay Contest



Tell us why press freedom is important and you may win \$100 for you *and* your staff!

Details on pages 6-7

Sponsored by:



Grady College of Journalism  
and Mass Communication  
The University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602-3018

DON'T LET THIS BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN. JOIN GSPA TODAY!