



GSPA

GEORGIA SCHOLASTIC
PRESS ASSOCIATION

www.grady.uga.edu/gspa

THE BULLETIN

The newsletter for student journalists and advisers across Georgia

Vol. 77, No. 4

September/October 2006

Important Dates:

Saturday, August 26

GSPA Valdosta

Valdosta State University

Saturday, Sept. 9

GSPA Atlanta

Decatur High School

Thursday Sept. 21

GSPA Athens

The University of Georgia

Friday, Sept. 29

Postmark Deadline:

General Excellence

Yearbook, Round Two

Monday, Oct. 31

Postmark Deadline:

GSPA Membership

(memberships processed
later subject to late fee)

Saturday, Nov. 4

GSPA Columbus

Shaw High School

Contests are open only to current GSPA members. Absolutely no late contest entries will be accepted. Late entries will be returned. No exceptions will be made!

GSPA Real World

Workshops to prepare staff for year

ATHENS — Several fall workshops have been planned throughout the state to help students and advisers get a jump-start on the school year.

"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 the Georgia Scholastic Press Association (GSPA).

This is the second consecutive year regional fall workshops will be held, replacing the traditional fall convention, last held in 2003 in Athens. Last year more than 350 students attended workshops in Decatur, Fayetteville, Albany and Valdosta.

"With gas prices continuing to climb, we found that it was getting increasingly difficult for teachers to get approval to take their class to Athens," Dennis said. "The goal with the different locations is that no school has more than a two-hour commute."

The difficulty in getting field trip approval, along with the difficulty in finding free space to host GSPA, also led to the creation of several Saturday workshops. "I understand that school rules vary, but hopefully this will allow students to carpool to a workshop — or have their parents drive — without having to cut through the red tape of their school," Dennis said.

Workshops will again be held in Valdosta and Decatur. As of press time, another Fayetteville workshop

was being planned, though a location has not been secured. The Albany workshop was cancelled due to its proximity to Valdosta. New workshops will include Athens and Columbus.

"The new locations fill a gap for us in Northeast Georgia and west central Georgia," Dennis said, adding that he hopes a Savannah site also can be secured. "We've gotten requests to hold workshops in certain areas of the state, but the crucial component lacking is space. In order to keep the workshops affordable to all students, we really need to keep our overhead costs minimal."

Like last year, the workshops will be driven by area media professionals and yearbook representatives who volunteer their time to help GSPA. Registration is \$5 per student, and does not include lunch. Lunch options vary at each conference and more information is sent with confirmation.

Each regional workshop is being organized by an area journalism adviser, with the Athens workshop organized by Dennis.

"The commitment of these advisers continues to amaze me," Dennis said. "To them, serving their students is not enough. They are continuing to reach out to journalism students and advisers across the state."

For updated information on workshop dates, visit the GSPA Web site at www.grady.uga.edu/gspa. For a registration form, see page 4 of *The Bulletin*.

GSPA 2006-07 Membership Form on Page 5.

Director's Corner



I get many inquiries in the GSPA office about what support systems are available for new journalism advisers. As most of you know — some from personal experience — the school newspaper, yearbook, literary magazine and/or broadcast program are often assigned to a teacher without any regard to that person's experience or training in the field. This is especially prevalent in the state of Georgia, where journalism is not recognized as a core credit class, and teachers get little recognition for furthering their knowledge in the field.

I can understand the intimidation that comes along with being "assigned" the journalism program. When I took the job as GSPA director three years ago, I was intimidated. Although I had significant journalism experience, I lacked any classroom experience and was concerned I would fail to understand and recognize the needs of journalism advisers and students. But I learned quickly that I'm not alone. There are dozens of resources dedicated to the field of high school journalism in the form of Web sites, conferences and organizations. Among the organizations I highly recommend are:

- Southern Interscholastic Press Association (SIPA)
www.sc.edu/cmciis/so/sipa/
SIPA holds a great three-day convention in Columbia, S.C. each year in March and also offers critique services for southeast publications.

- Journalism Education Association (JEA)
www.jea.org
The national organization for journalism advisers, JEA's best offer is the nationwide listserv of its members, linking you to more than 1,000 journalism teachers across the country. It also offers several training opportunities, a certificate program and co-sponsors the national convention for students (in Nashville this November).

- American Society of Newspaper Editors (ASNE)
www.highschooljournalism.org
ASNE has the best Web site for journalism teachers, including curriculum plans, scholastic journalism news and teaching tips. If you're seriously committed to teaching journalism, consider applying for a grant to attend their summer adviser workshop. Several Georgia teachers have participated.

The single, best resource is each other. Over the years, I've learned more from journalism advisers than I could from any textbook. If you are new to the field, I encourage you to use your fellow journalism advisers as a resource. The easiest way to do so is by asking questions on the GSPA listserv (all GSPA members are automatically included). Post any question — no matter how silly or simple you think it may be — on the listserv. I promise, no one will laugh at you. As many editors have told me throughout my career: "The only stupid question is the one not asked." After all, who else are you going to ask?

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
phone: (706) 542-5022

fax: (706) 542-2183
Web site www.grady.uga.edu/gspa



Officers 2006-2007

Ray Barrett

Lowndes High School
Valdosta

Matt Lally

Brookwood High School
Snellville

Brian Mink

Central High School
Macon

Spenser Wilkinson

Lee County High School
Leesburg

2006-07 Advisory Board

Sonya Boyd

Shaw High School
Columbus

Kristy Cates

Lowndes High School
Valdosta

Coni Grebel

Lee County High School
Leesburg

Brian Holt

Effingham County High School
Spingfield

Jon Reese

Decatur High School
Decatur

Debbie Smelley

Starr's Mill High School
Fayetteville



Meadowcreek's Thomas named Academy's 'Sole Survivor'

► 63 students spend week at UGA

ATHENS — Joshua (J.T.) Thomas was recently named the 2006 Georgia Journalism Academy's "Sole Survivor." Thomas is a rising senior at Gwinnett County's Meadowcreek High School in Norcross.

Sponsored by the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at The University of Georgia, the Journalism Academy is a weeklong high school camp for journalism students. Students live in a campus dorm and take classes at the Grady College in one of six core areas: broadcasting, news writing, feature writing, editorial writing, photography and graphic design. Sixty-three students attended this year's camp, held June 11-17, which functioned around the theme of "Journalism Survivor."

Thomas, a resident of Tucker, was a member of the broadcast class that put together a 15-minute news show using state-of-the-art editing software and equipment. Thomas' instructors selected him as the "Broadcast Survivor," and he competed against "Survivors" from the five other classes for the title of "Sole Survivor" — an honor derived from a vote by all Academy students.

Thomas' broadcast instructors said they considered him their "Survivor" because he did a great job helping his group edit and complete their project on Academy student housing. "J.T. was also always willing to help out the other groups with editing or whatever else they needed. He came to class excited and eager to learn each day," they noted.

Thomas, a running back for his high school football team, said he hopes to pursue a career that will utilize both his athletic and broadcast skills. "I'm very interested in broadcasting," he said. "I learned a lot of new techniques at the Academy and it really helped strengthen my broadcast skills."

While the broadcast class put together a news program, the other classes worked on *The Triba* Times, the Academy



Academy student J.T. Thomas of Meadowcreek H.S. works with fellow broadcast student Lauren Baggett of Peachtree Ridge H.S. Thomas was voted "sole survivor" by his peers and teachers.

newspaper. *The Triba* Times showcased the work of all Academy students from their specialty classes in news writing, feature writing, editorial writing, photography and graphic design.

Other top campers who were named "Survivors" included:

- Biz Carson (Alpharetta High School), feature writing
- Kelly Lanier (Clarke Central High School), news writing
- Robby Letzler (North Springs High School), editorial writing
- Juan Cardoza-Oquendo (Decatur High School), photography
- Samantha Paulsen (Cardinal Gibbons High School), graphic design

The Georgia Journalism Academy is held each year in June. Instructors include Grady College faculty, staff, graduate students and professionals in the field. For more Academy highlights, visit www.grady.uga.edu/gspa.

Guidelines for yearbook, round two entries

Yearbooks from the 2005-06 school year will be judged in two rounds. Books published in the 2005-06 school year can be entered in either round. The postmark deadline for the first round is June 1, 2006, and is designed for yearbooks published in the spring. Critiques and scores from the first round will be returned in late September so next year's staff can benefit from the judge's comments.

The postmark deadline for the second round is Sept. 29, 2006 and is meant for yearbooks delivered in the fall, though spring delivery books are still allowed to enter the second round. 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. 29, 2006**.
- 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.



GSPA
GEORGIA SCHOLASTIC
PRESS ASSOCIATION

Regional Workshops 2006

Start your school year off with GSPA and enter the real world of high school journalism! Attend a day-long workshop with your staff where they'll learn the skills and tools needed to produce your newspaper or yearbook. Workshops will consist of at least four different sessions led by industry professionals and educators.

Cost is only \$5 per student

Workshop Dates (please circle the one your staff will attend)

Saturday, Aug. 26 - Valdosta, Valdosta State University*

Saturday, Sept. 9 - Decatur, Decatur High School

Thursday, Sept. 21 - Athens, The University of Georgia

Saturday, Nov. 4 - Columbus, Shaw High School*

TBA - Savannah, TBA++

TBA - Fayetteville, TBA++

**indicates broadcast sessions will also be included*

Please note space may be limited at certain locations. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

++For updated dates, please visit www.grady.uga.edu/gspa

Please PRINT all information required and fax to the GSPA office at least five days before the date of your workshop. Payment must be mailed to GSPA at Grady College, 120 Hooper Street, Athens, GA 30602-3018. Lunch is not provided at the workshops. Students are encouraged to bring their own lunch or bring money to purchase lunch.

School Name _____ Adviser Name _____

Publication Name(s) _____

Type of Media Newspaper/newsmagazine Yearbook Broadcast TV Literary Magazine

Adviser Phone _____ Fax _____ Adviser E-mail _____

Number of students attending _____ Total cost (\$5 per student) _____

Publication must be a 2006-07 GSPA member to attend. Submit a membership form if needed.

Names of students attending and their e-mail addresses (required for inclusion on GSPA student listserv). Use extra sheet if required.

Please fax completed form to 706-542-2183 at least five days prior to workshop date.

A confirmation with instructions will be e-mailed back to you.

Questions? Call 706-542-5022 or e-mail jodennis@uga.edu.



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) _____

Principal Name _____

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 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): _____

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
 The University of Georgia
 120 Hooper Street
 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.

Official Entry Form

GSPA General Excellence Contest 2006

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 Deadline: Sept. 29, 2006)

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

Contest Entry Materials and Fees:

- Media Information Form
 \$35 Contest Entry Fee
 \$8 UPS Yearbook Return Fee

Materials to be Judged:

- Published Yearbook. (Deadline is Sept. 29.)

**Return this form, along with a media information form and contest materials to:
GSPA Contests, 120 Hooper Street, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602-3018.**

For office use only:

Date rec.	Check#	Total Amt. Paid/Late fee	Processed?	Initials
-----------	--------	--------------------------	------------	----------

Media Information Form

GSPA General Excellence Contest 2006

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: _____

School Classification (check with principal or athletic director if unsure): _____

MEDIA CATEGORY:

- Newspaper/News magazine 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 — Students provide layouts using:
 - camera-ready layout (hard copies) digital transfer (e-mail, CD, FTP)
- 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 subscription per year: \$ _____

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: _____

STAFF:

- First-year journalism class Recruits from school without training Experienced journalism students
- Combination (explain) _____

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (Example: printer errors, etc.)

GSPA (insert city here)

Take Note



**Saturday, Aug. 26 - Valdosta
Valdosta State University**

**Saturday, Sept. 9 - Decatur
Decatur High School**

**Thursday, Sept. 21 - Athens
The University of Georgia**

**Saturday, Nov. 4 - Columbus
Shaw High School**

**Workshops also being planned for:
Fayetteville
Savannah**



GSPA
GEORGIA SCHOLASTIC
PRESS ASSOCIATION

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*.
RENEW YOUR GSPA MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**