

The Adviser

Fall 2003

A quarterly publication for middle-school and high-school journalism advisers in the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

Maryland Scholastic Press Association

University of Maryland
1117 Journalism Building
College Park, MD 20742-7111
Phone: 301.405.8321 Fax: 301.314.9166
www.journalism.umd.edu/mspa

Students Across Nation Attend MSPA Summer Program



Participants at MSPA's Summer Journalism Program spend an afternoon speaking to representatives at Bloomberg News in Washington, D.C.

MSPA Runs Another Successful Journalism 'Boot Camp' Program

Close to 120 high school students spent an intense week at the University of Maryland this summer studying journalism at MSPA's annual program.

Students from as far as Arizona, Illinois and Iowa traveled to College Park, Md., June 23 to 27 to learn the ins and outs of the journalism profession, gaining hands-on experience and listening to guest lecturers with years of

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Post Funds Students to Attend Summer Program

Twenty high school students from Maryland and Washington, D.C., received Washington Post scholarships to attend MSPA's 2003 summer program. The scholarship, for ethnic-minority students, ranges from \$300 to \$545 and covers tuition, room and board.

Scholarship winners are:

DiLynn Rogers, of Washington's Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, studied television production.

RaShawn Shell, of Coolidge High School in Washington, attended the desk publishing course.

Linda Nnaji, of Coolidge High School in Washington, enrolled in the news editors class.

Susan O'Hara, of DuVal High School in Lanham, Md., took the desk

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Kliksberg Named Top H.S. Journalist

Joel Kliksberg, a senior at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville and editor-in-chief of the school's newspaper, *The Lion's Tale*, was selected to receive the High School Journalist of the Year Award from the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Foundation.

Kliksberg already has established himself as an outstanding young journalist through his work at the school newspaper, in addition to serving as a staff writer and photographer for *El Tiempo Latino* of Washington, DC, as a freelance photographer for area newspapers and as an intern at *Gazette Newspapers*.

"Our winner impressed the judges with his investigative skill, his devotion to the craft, his interest in topics relevant to his school and community, and his developing versatility," said Journalism Education Committee Chair Jean



Thompson, *The Sun's* associate editorial page editor. "He is mastering news writing and reporting in two languages

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Editor's Corner



Leadership, Involvement Continues to Strengthen MSPA Programs

By Marchelle Payne-Gassaway
Adviser Editor

In assuming the executive director position two years ago, I was challenged to revitalize the association while simultaneously growing participation and interest in MSPA's activities. An assessment of past activities reinforced the need to address each challenge in order to promote the importance of scholastic

press and scholastic press issues.

Involvement with scholastic press is critical in shaping today's young journalists into tomorrow's professional journalists. The press is a medium where journalists can ensure that messages are heard and issues not overlooked.

Accordingly, scholastic press is where it all begins for a number of individuals because it represents a place where voices can be heard and where stories can be told.

Even though the last two years have been challenging, the positive results and appreciative comments have made the relentless effort well worthwhile. The Association has been, and currently is still in a rebuilding

Scholastic press is where it all begins for a number of individuals because it represents a place where voices can be heard and where stories can be told.

phase. And that may leave some questioning whether the Association will ever "be out of" the rebuilding phase, and I respond-not if I can help it.

An increase in the number of participants in the Summer Journalism Program, along with an increased number of entries in both the Individual Writing and Editing Contest and the Publications Contest should not symbolize complacency with current progress. Continued effort in

making a good situation better and development in areas not currently explored are critical in ensuring that MSPA provides ongoing opportunities that inevitably are enriching and educational.

Each year is filled with new possibilities and opportunities. As 2003 comes to a close and we approach the beginning of 2004, I challenge readers to think of how MSPA can grow and better meet your needs. As always, the Association is looking for dedicated and committed individuals to bring forth ideas and suggest ways that MSPA can be of assistance.

Any questions or concerns with the governance of MSPA and MSPA's activities can be directed to Marchelle Payne who can be reached by phone at (301) 405-8321 or by email at mspa@jmail.umd.edu.

KLIKSBERG: 2002-3 Top H.S. Journalist

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and he is developing a critical eye as a news photographer."

Kliksberg began working on *The Lion's Tale* as a photographer in ninth grade and moved on to serve as a writer, photo editor and managing editor, before being named editor-in-chief. During his tenure, the newspaper has investigated thefts at the school, exposed unethical practices at an SAT tutoring service, and written editorials critical of decisions made by the school administration resulting in changes by the administration.

"Although Joel and I did not always agree on issues, my job was easier knowing I had an editor-in-chief whom I could trust completely for his clear judgment, honesty and compassion," said Susan Zuckerman, journalism advisor at Charles E. Smith.

Thompson also cited Kliksberg's enthusiasm and professionalism in reporting stories like the expose of an SAT tutoring company and an editorial calling for the school to reinstate a class on Israeli-Palestinian relations.

"Above all, it appears from the subjects and causes that he chooses to cover, such as the plight of Latino immigrants, that Joel understands the role of the journalist

as a champion for making the world a better place," said Thompson.

Kliksberg's freelance photographs have been published by the Associated Press, *El Tiempo Latino*, *Gazette Newspapers*, *USA Today*, *The Washington Times* and *Washington Jewish Week*. Starting in 2001, he worked as a staff writer and photographer for *El Tiempo Latino* using his Spanish language skills to cover a variety of topics, including the closing of DC General Hospital.

"The quality of applicants this year was very high, reflecting the diligence and persistence of many fine young reporters, and the good health of journalism education in many high schools in the MDDC region," added Thompson.

The award includes a \$1,500 cash prize and will be presented March 14 at the MDDC Press Association's annual Editorial Awards Luncheon at the Wyndham Wilmington in Wilmington, DE.

The contest is sponsored by the MDDC Press Foundation which works to enhance newspaper journalism in the region and encourage students to pursue careers in journalism. The Foundation was established by the MDDC Press Association, a nonprofit organization of 158 newspapers including all of the daily newspapers and most of the non-daily newspapers in Maryland, Delaware and the District of Columbia.

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Marchelle Payne-Gassaway
Editor & MSPA Executive Director

Gary Clites
Adviser Columnist
& MSPA President

SUMMER: Students Spend Vacation Polishing Journalism Skills

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expertise in the field. Rising freshmen to rising seniors attended the program, but only rising juniors and seniors were allowed to stay in campus dormitories.

Classes included desktop publishing and page design, beginning and advance news writing, sports writing, poetry and a newspaper editor-in-chief program. This summer's program also brought broadcast production classes into its curriculum.

Even though MSPA receives more applications each year, it still finds a way to ensure class sizes don't become too large to handle.

"We like to keep the program very small," said Marchelle Payne, executive director. "One, so that we mimic the quality of classes that the University of Maryland's journalism program here runs and two, to make sure students get that



Washington Capital News Service Director Steve Crane gives advice to students at MSPA's Summer Journalism Program held at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism.

hands on experience."

Course instructors included Alice Bonner and Karen Dinsbacher, both

lecturers at Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism. Alison Fitzgerald, a reporter at Bloomberg News, and Donnita Davis, an English teacher at Oxon Hill Middle School, were also on hand to teach beginning news writing and poetry, respectively.

Guest lecturers included Gary Bender of Fox 5, and college instructors Steve Crane and Carl Sessions Stepp, senior editor of *American Journalism Review*.

Students spent time out of class, as well. The program held a movie night, scavenger hunt, talent showcase, and field trips to Bloomberg and the Washington Post.

As a result, students are inquiring about the program earlier and earlier each year, Payne said.

"All the courses were a big success," she said. "It left many wondering if we'd be willing to do multiple weeks."

SCHOLARSHIPS: Washington Post Funds 20 to Attend MSPA Summer Journalism Program

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publishing course.

Jamila Thompson, of Cardozo High School in Washington, attended the news editors class.

Ke'Juan Westbrook, of H.D. Woodson High School in Washington, studied news editing.

Natalia Addison, of F.W. Ballou High School in Washington, studied poetry.

Walter Fuentes, of Bell Multicultural High School in Washington, took the beginning news writing course.

Chanelle Fuller, of DuVal High School in Lanham, Md., attended the advanced news writing course.

Maurice Brown, of Eastern Senior High School in Washington, attended the news editors class.

Samantha Shinsato, of Catonsville High School in Baltimore, took the news editors class.

Kevin Brown, of Albert Einstein High School in Kensington, Md., took the sports writing class.

Whitney James, of Baltimore City College High School in Baltimore, took the advanced news writing course.

Kelly Douglas, of Banneker Senior High School in Washington, took the beginning news writing class.

Brian Ku, of Richard Montgomery

High School in Rockville, Md., took the sports writing class.

Rohit Manaktala, of Quince Orchard High School in Gaithersburg, Md., studied advanced news writing.

Jahi Wise, of DuVal High School in Lanham, Md., took the news editors class.

Dayea Park, of Glenelg High School in Glenelg, Md., took the advanced news writing class.

Whitney Buggs, of Charles Herbert Flowers High School in Springdale, Md., took the news editors course.

Jason Garcia, of Blake High School in Silver Spring, Md., took the sports writing class.

Interested in
making a difference
 in **scholastic press?**

Perhaps MSPA is for you.

Time Commitment—Minimal
Impact—Significant

To indicate interest,
 email mspa@jmail.umd.edu
 or call (301) 405-2382



President's Corner

MSPA Enlists Volunteers to Enrich Scholastic Journalism

The last year and a half have seen tremendous growth within MSPA, and the repair of many problems from the past. As we look to the future, the organization needs the help of committed communications educators from across the region to work for the good of our students and programs. In simple terms, to continue growing, MSPA needs you.

Last November, the Fall Convention at Maryland went on as planned, despite significant fears over the D.C. area sniper case and the related cancellation of all field trips by a number of school systems in the area. The number of attendees was, predictably, down, but those who did manage to come had a wonderful time spending the day with top professional

journalists and educators from around the area.

This year, thanks to able planning by Executive Director Marchelle Payne, nearly every segment of the Summer Program filled up far earlier than expected, including the newly revived broadcasting curriculum overseen by the College's vice president and director of development for UMTV David Burns. Our young journalists filled the Maryland campus the last week in June, writing, reporting, filming and generally experiencing communications firsthand at one of the top J-schools in the country. As a participant at the event, I can attest to the positive experience shared by everyone at our annual "camp." Finally,

MSPA's competitions, which had slid a bit in recent years, have surged upward significantly in participation. Forty-two newspapers, yearbooks and magazines entered our annual publication contest this year, and we received a whopping 729 entries in our annual individual writing and editing contests. Better still, at press time we are on track to have those entries judged and returned in time for this year's Fall Convention on October 18.

All of this is positive progress toward making the Maryland Scholastic Press Association the kind of vibrant, useful organization communications educators

In recent years, due largely to retirements and job changes by several participants, the number of active members on our board has dwindled, leaving MSPA weakened. To continue as a significant force for teachers and students in our field, the organization needs interested teachers like you to join in.

need throughout Maryland and the District of Columbia, especially in light of potential curricular challenges to our largely elective programs under the Department of Education's No Child Left Behind initiative and Maryland's Bridge to Excellence. For MSPA to grow, however, we need the help of committed journalism educators like you.

How can you get involved? By joining the Board of Directors and helping guide the organization.

MSPA is headquartered at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland. The College provides infrastructure and Executive Director Payne does an excellent job of administering the day-to-day operation of

the group as a part of her job at the University.

The Board of Directors, made up of teachers from throughout the area, meets two or three times a year at the College to plan events and discuss issues of importance to journalism educators in Maryland and D.C. Meetings are informal, include refreshments, and allow directors to make a significant contribution in a short period of time. The rest of the year, the Board stays in touch via e-mail, handling whatever problems emerge electronically.

In recent years, due largely to

retirements and job changes by several participants, the number of active members on our board has dwindled, leaving MSPA weakened. To continue as a significant force for teachers and students in our field, the

organization needs interested teachers like you to join in. Think you don't qualify? MSPA needs teachers of all levels of experience, in all fields of journalism, from across the state of Maryland and D.C. on its board. Don't assume that because you are a young teacher, an old teacher, or come from outside the beltway, that we don't need you. We do.

If you are interested in helping MSPA work in support of scholastic journalism in Maryland, please contact me by e-mailing gclites@chesapeake.net. I'll be happy to discuss with you how you can get involved. Don't assume someone else will do it. To assure communications education will grow and prosper in Maryland and D.C., we need your help.

Adviser Advisories



COLUMBIA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

The 64th Fall Conference at Columbia University for Scholastic Student Journalists will take place on November 3, 2003 at the university's historic Morningside Heights campus in Manhattan. Sessions will cover all aspects of student publishing including: writing and editing; staff organization and motivation; design and layout; suggestions for special areas of coverage; and legal and ethical concerns for advisers and editors. Advisers are welcome to attend sessions with students; in addition, some sessions will be organized for advisers only. The program is rich and varied, with experienced advisers and journalists serving as session leaders.

In addition, the officers of the Columbia Scholastic Press Advisers Association (CSPAA) will consult with faculty advisers about specific concerns and problems regarding the publication of newspapers, magazines and yearbooks. Speakers from Teachers & Writers Collaborative, as well as advisers from award-winning magazines, will discuss how to put together an attractive and well-edited student magazine.

For convention information, please visit: www.columbia.edu/cu/cspa/FallConfHome.html.

JEA/NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

The JEA/NSPA Fall National High School Journalism Convention will take place on November 20-23, 2003 at the Washington Hilton in Washington, DC. It is the largest fall gathering of student journalists in America which will include newspaper, yearbook, magazine, broadcast and online staff. The convention will take special advantage of its location which is known as a hotbed of history where many of the nation's top reporters practice their craft.

For more information, please visit www.studentpress.org/nsipa/conventions.html.

KETTLE MORAINÉ PRESS ASSOCIATION

The annual day-long fall conference will be held on Oct. 17 at the University of Wisconsin, Whitewater campus. During the event, information from more than 60 presenters will be organized into three 45-minute sessions. Students will also have the opportunity to compete in the yearbook on-the-spot contest, the newspaper write-off, editorial writing and cartoon-off sessions. Conference presenters will be a mix of high school journalism teachers, publication advisers and working professional journalists.

For more information, please visit www.kempaonline.com/fall.html.

MICHIGAN INTERSCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Fall Conference is on October 9, 2003 at the Lansing Center and features around 75 sessions for students to attend. An opportunity exists for students to attend four sessions that day. Speakers include publication advisers from all over the state, professionals, MSU School of Journalism faculty and yearbook representatives. There is something for everyone at the conference, including sessions for yearbook, newspaper, photography, broadcast, Web, etc. Advisers may attend a yearbook or newspaper advising track.

For more information, please visit <http://mipa.jrn.msu.edu/>.

NORTHEAST OHIO SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

Press Day will be held on April 21, 2004. The annual NOSPA Press Day event has been expanded to include more than 50 learning sessions in four different time slots at the Kent Student Center, Taylor Hall, and The Music and Speech Center. These cover print media, television and radio, design, photography, cartooning,

law and ethics, careers, and just about every other media aspect imaginable.

Tours of Kent's journalism, broadcast and visual communication design facilities are available during the day. Also students can pre-enter on-site contests for Day of News Event, Interview, Broadcast, Yearbook and Photography.

Pre-entered individual advance contests allow students to get feedback on more than 30 different categories of media work. Yearbook students have three special categories just for their work. Overall newspaper and newsmagazine evaluations help publications improve their writing, design and content. Deadline for entering contests is Jan. 23, 2004. Information will go out to schools Dec. 1.

For more information, contact Candace Perkins Bowen at cbowen@kent.edu or call 330-672-8297. Or visit www.jmc.kent.edu/smp/nospa03.htm.

PENNSYLVANIA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

The annual state conference will take place on Nov. 21 at the Hilton Harrisburg and Towers. This year's theme is "Onward and Upward," and the day-long event will feature informative sessions for student journalists and their advisers, as well as contests and awards. The featured keynote speaker will be Pennsylvania Homelands Security Director (and former broadcast journalist) Keith Martin.

For more information, please visit www.pnpa.com/pspa/pspa/calendar.htm.

SOUTHERN INTERSCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

The SIPA Convention will be held on March 5-7, 2004 in Columbia, South Carolina. The annual convention offers more than 100 educational sessions to students and advisers. Sessions are designed to help all staffers, from the beginning to the advanced, and are taught by nationally recognized advisers and journalism professionals.

For more information, please visit www.sc.edu/cmccis/so/sipa/con.html

MSPA FALL CONVENTION

Oct. 18, 2003, University of Maryland, College Park

The Maryland Scholastic Press Association will be holding the 2003 Fall Convention Saturday, October 18, 2003 at the University of Maryland, College Park. The convention promises to be an exciting opportunity for advisers and students to share meaningful experiences, learn innovative practices, and develop new relationships.

Sessions will cover a range of topics from writing and editing to staff organization and management while also addressing the varied needs of students and advisers. Thus, there's something for everyone, regardless of skill level, staff size, or scholastic publication.

Registration

Since space is limited, all students and advisers are strongly encouraged to register early. Advisers, school representatives and/or accompanying adults should submit the registration to:

Marchelle Payne/MSPA
University of Maryland
1117 Journalism Building
College Park, MD 20742

All checks should be made payable to "Maryland Scholastic Press Association" or "MSPA". Payment should accompany the registration forms. No refunds can be issued after October 1, 2003.

Do not mail registration forms to MSPA after October 13, 2003. If you have not mailed your registration by that date, please contact MSPA to check on session availability and on-site registration for the convention.

Advisers and/or administrators will be notified of receipt of registration forms within five business days. Schools not notified within two weeks of submitting information should contact the MSPA office at (301) 405-8321.

School submitting registrations after October 8, 2003 should contact the MSPA office, no later than Thursday, October 16, 2003 to confirm receipt of information and determine whether an alternate form of payment will be requested upon arrival Saturday morning, October 18, 2003.

Participant Roster

Convention participants will be issued a name badge indicating registration for the convention and participation in a University of Maryland sponsored event. Advisers and/or school representatives needing to change the names of participating students may do so upon checking into the program Saturday morning.

Since no refunds can be issued after October 1, 2003, advisers and/or school representatives may submit the name of a different student in lieu of the student initially submitted. Advisers and/or school representatives aware of such student changes may contact the MSPA office prior to October 16, 2003 if desired.

Convention Rates

Early Registration—Registration forms postmarked on or before October 8, 2003
\$ 7.00 - Student Attendees
\$ 30.00 - Advisers and/or School Representatives

Late Registration—Registration forms postmarked after October 8, 2003
\$ 15.00—Student Attendees
\$ 45.00—Advisers and/or School Representatives

On-site registration may be available the day of the convention. However, advisers and/or school representatives should contact MSPA, in advance, to ensure that space is still available.

Convention Sessions

The convention will feature a host of sessions covering a wide range of topics addressing the varied needs of students and advisers. There should be something for everyone, regardless of the skill level, staff size or scholastic publication.

Many sessions will entail student/adviser participation, so come prepared to ask hard questions and share innovative practices.

More on next page ►►

MSPA FALL CONVENTION

Oct. 18, 2003, University of Maryland, College Park

Swap Shop

Students will have the opportunity to have their own swap shop at the convention to share publications and ideas with other journalist. Schools interested in participating in the swap shop should identify the school's interest to do so on the Participant Roster form.

Meals

Students: Breakfast and lunch are not included in the registration fee. Students may purchase food from campus or area restaurants.

Advisers: The adviser's registration fee includes the cost of the Adviser Luncheon. Since the caterer requires confirmation for the number of luncheon attendees in advance, luncheon for late registrants to the luncheon is subject to space availability.

Advisers submitting registration after October 8, 2003, may be prohibited from attending the luncheon. Advisers submitting late registration forms should contact MSPA at (301) 405-8321 to inquire about space availability.

NOTE: The registration fee for advisers will not be reduced if registration forms are submitted after October 8, 2003 and the Association is unable to accommodate the individual for the luncheon.

Adviser Luncheon

The adviser luncheon is catered and includes a brief presentation with the opportunity for advisers to network and share ideas. Advisers should identify special dietary constraints on the registration form.

Note: Advisers submitting registration forms postmarked after October 8, 2003 are subject to the existing luncheon items selected. No special dietary needs can be honored for late registrants.

Area Hotels

Conference attendees living outside of the local area may stay in one of several hotels located in close proximity to the University of Maryland, College Park. Convention attendees interested in securing hotel accommodations should inquire with MSPA to obtain additional information.

There are a limited number of rooms at area hotels so you are encouraged to inquire early to secure the best rate. The adviser(s) or accompanying

adult(s) will be responsible for making the reservation and any damage occurring to the property during the stay.

Transportation

The campus is easily accessible by public transportation, private automobiles and school buses.

Adequate parking is available for convention participants in several unrestricted lots on campus, at no cost. However individuals electing to park in a pay lot are subject to parking fees associated with each lot.

Convention Guidelines

Guidelines have been established to ensure that all participants have an enjoyable experience at the convention.

- ▶ All convention attendees must wear the convention name badges at all times during the convention.
- ▶ Several sessions limit the number of participants that may attend. Once the session has reached its capacity, students and/or advisers will be expected to join an alternate session.
- ▶ Food and/or drinks may not be taken into sessions utilizing computer equipment.
- ▶ Convention attendees are expected to exhibit appropriate behavior at all times. Destruction of university property and inappropriate behavior is not acceptable. Convention attendees displaying such behavior are subject to expulsion from the remainder of the day's events, without a refund.
- ▶ Advisers, chaperones and school representatives, along with the respective schools, are liable for damage to university property by attendees.

Convention Questions or Concerns

Questions and/or concerns with the 2003 Fall Convention should be directed to Marchelle Payne. Ms. Payne can be reached by phone at (301) 405-8321 or by email at mpayne@jmail.umd.edu.

See Insert for Form ▶▶

Awards and Competitions

2003-04 MDDC HIGH SCHOOL JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR
MDDC High School Journalist of the Year Applications are now being accepted for the 2003-2004 High School Journalist of the Year. Deadline to apply is Dec. 3, 2003. Download an application at www.mddcpress.com/Foundation/hsjournalistapplication.pdf



THE RYAN WHITE EXCELLENCE IN JOURNALISM AWARD

Created in memory of Ryan White, the Ryan White Excellence in Journalism award recognizes the student coverage of a health issue in an interesting and relevant manner.

The award program will include a cash prize of \$500 for the first place feature and the first place editorial or commentary winners. The second place feature and second place editorial or commentary winners will each receive \$300. The three honorable mention in feature and in editorial or commentary will receive \$50 gift certificates to the JEA Bookstore.

The 2003 winner will be announced at the JEA/NSPA National High School Journalism Convention in Washington D.C., Nov. 20-23, 2003.

Each entry must be postmarked on or before Oct. 30, 2003. For more information visit the Web at: www.jea.org/awards/ryanwhite.html

**55TH annual
MSPA
CONVENTION
OCTOBER 18
UNIVERSITY OF
MARYLAND**
See page 6 for full details

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