

The Adviser

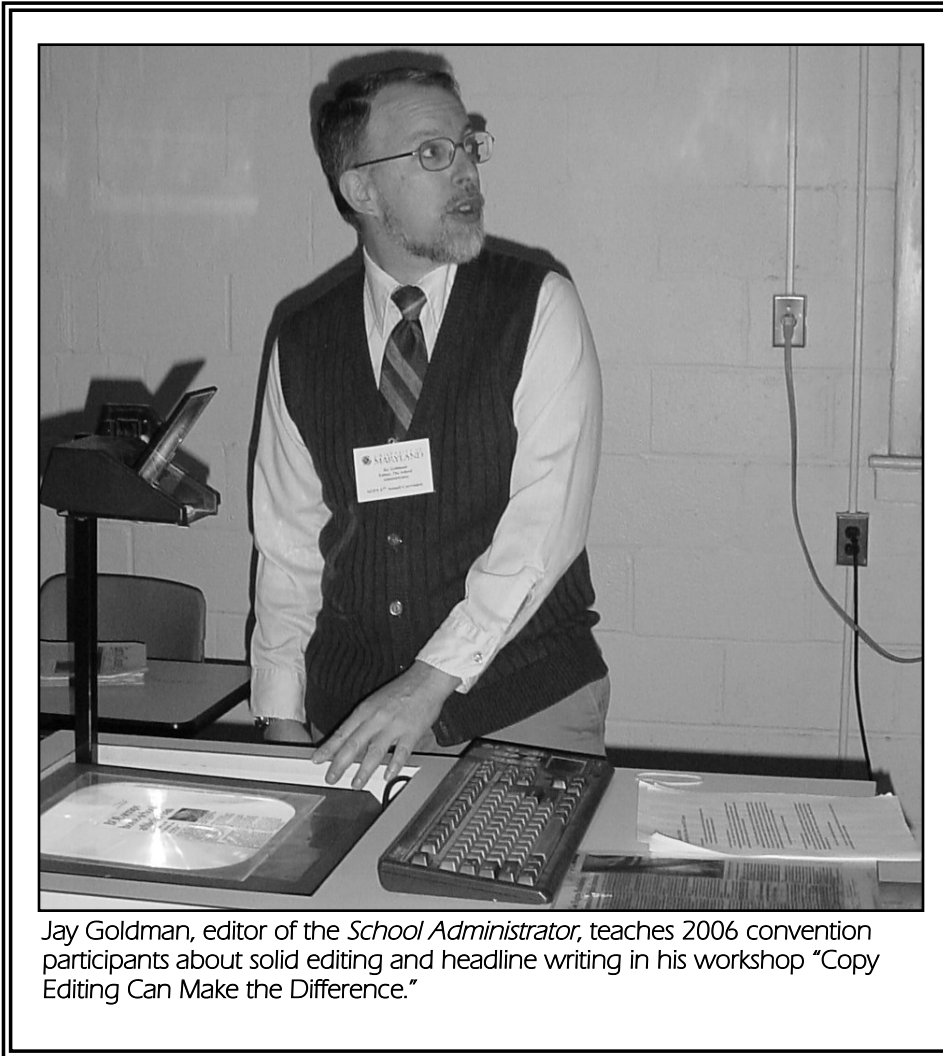
Fall 2007

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

Maryland-District of Columbia
Scholastic Press Association

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www.journalism.umd.edu/mspa

Blair senior honored as best HS journalist of the year



Jay Goldman, editor of the *School Administrator*, teaches 2006 convention participants about solid editing and headline writing in his workshop "Copy Editing Can Make the Difference."

Award marks Mo. Co. High School's second consecutive win

Audrey Kubetin, a senior from Montgomery Blair High School, was chosen unanimously by the selection committee as the recipient of the Michael S. Powell High School Journalist of the Year Award for 2006.

Kubetin, of Takoma Park, Md., is the features editor for *Silver Chips*, Blair's school newspaper.

This is the second consecutive year and the fourth time in eight years a senior from Blair in Montgomery County, Md., is the recipient of the award.

Silver Chips utilizes a highly selective interview and application process for selecting its writing staff, but Kubetin already had the newspaper adviser's attention when she was in the prerequisite journalism class.

"I couldn't wait for Audrey to be on the staff," said adviser Maureen Freeman. "Her writing was a dream. She was clearly a student who 'got' it."

Kubetin started on the school newspaper in her junior year and in since then has distinguished herself as a serious journalist. Freeman credits Kubetin with writing some of the best pieces of journalism the paper has produced in recent years, and her feature work also won a first-place award from the

STUDENT *continued on page 3*

Fall convention to highlight free press issues

The Maryland-District of Columbia Scholastic Press Association will hold its 59th annual convention Nov. 16, at the University of Maryland.

The convention, which is held every year, brings together middle and high school journalism students and advisers from around the area to participate in workshops taught by journalism professors, editors, working reporters

and others in the field.

"Last year's convention turned out to be very successful, and we're trying to continue that success this year," said Marchelle Payne-Gassaway, the executive director of MSPA.

During last year's convention, more than 350 individuals participated in 40

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Editor's Corner



MSPA in Full Swing for the New Academic Year

By Marchelle Payne-Gassaway
Adviser Editor

Headquartered in the Philip Merrill College of Journalism, at the University of Maryland, College Park, the Maryland-District of Columbia Scholastic Press Association provides opportunities to middle and high schools students and advisers by offering programming throughout the year. By capitalizing on its location at the College Park campus, the Association benefits from the readily available resources at an outstanding journalism program at one of the country's top research institutions. Consequently, the Association attracts outstanding professionals, committed advisers and motivated students for annual events.

During my reign as the MSPA's

executive director, I have been committed to revitalizing the Association and strengthening the relationship that the College has with middle and high schools both near and afar. Even with limited staffing, I am please to say that the Association has been moving in the right direction.

Interest and participation in the Association's activities have grown in sheer numbers and by demographic representation. Participants as far away as the midwest and as close as College Park continually participate in the summer program, while students as far away as Garrett County travel to the fall convention. With the consistent receipt of more than 670 entries in the Individual Writing and Editing Contest from in- and out-of-state entrants, the association continually works hard to recognize the some of top journalists.

While growth has occurred, there still is the need to continually grow and serve as many constituents as possible. Over the next few years, the Association will develop and implement initiatives as a means to better serve you. As such, now is a perfect opportunity to shape the direction of the organization by becoming an involved member on the Association's board.

The Association will be holding its 59th annual fall convention, scheduled for Friday, Nov. 16, at the University of Maryland, College Park, is an excellent opportunity for scholastic press staff to jumpstart the 2007-08 academic year by exchanging ideas with other journalists and by hearing from various media professionals and scholastic educators. The Association will award the 2007-08 Washington Post-Maryland District of Columbia Scholastic Press Association Teacher of the Year, recognize the 2007 Publications Contest winners and recognize the 2007 Individual Writing and Editing Contests winners.

The Association also will pay tribute to the late Regis Boyle at the upcoming convention. Dr. Boyle played an invaluable role in scholastic press, had an unforgettable impact on many, and made significant contributions to MSPA and the Merrill College of Journalism.

As always, questions or comments about the Association and Association related events can be directed to the Executive Director, Marchelle Payne-Gassaway by telephone at (301) 405-8321 or by email at mSPA@jmail.umd.edu. Information can be directed also to the President, Gary Clites by email at gclites@verizon.net.

CONVENTION : Outstanding professionals, faculty to bring light to annual event

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different workshops, giving students the opportunity to become more familiar with a specific aspect of journalism. Workshops topics included basic reporting skills, yearbook editing, literary magazine production, layout and design, ethics, photography, marketing, radio broadcasting, and TV broadcasting.

Advisers had the opportunity to attend workshops as well, with topics ranging from a discussion of issues in scholastic journalism to getting students involved.

Outstanding faculty included Brian Henderson, the design editor for The Baltimore Sun, Thomas Kunkel, dean of the Philip Merrill College of Journalism,

Robert Guy Matthews, a reporter for The Wall Street Journal, and Gary Clites, president of MSPA.

Payne, who was not able to attend the conference because she was on maternity leave, added, "I was really disappointed not to be there, but I'm looking forward to this year."

Over the years, MSPA has maintained a strong interest in scholastic free press issues, supporting the rejuvenation of defunct journalism programs, helping journalism educators and strengthening existing programs in area middle and high schools.

This year, the cost per student to attend is \$15. If you have any questions, please contact Marchelle Payne-Gassaway at (301) 405 - 2382.

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Marchelle Payne-Gassaway
Editor & MSPA Executive Director

Gary Clites
Adviser Columnist
& MSPA President



President's Corner

By Gary Clites
MSPA President

Get involved to help scholastic journalism succeed in our area

The Maryland-DC Scholastic Press Association has seen continuing growth in recent years. We once again had a very successful set of Summer Workshops on the University of Maryland campus in June; last year's Fall Convention was one of our best attended ever; and our competitions and critiques continue to provide positive feedback and recognition to journalism programs across the region.

How do all these things happen? To understand that, you have to understand how MDCSPA operates. The organization is centered at the University of Maryland's excellent Philip Merrill College of Journalism. The college provides us office space and infrastructure to run the group

(things like telephone service, web space, temporary staff for big events, meeting space, etc.). Beyond that, they provide professional staff to take care of the business of the group. Assistant Dean Marchelle Payne has served as MDCSPA's executive director for a number of years now running operations on the campus.

Decisions about MDCSPA's overall direction, plans and events are made by the Board of Directors constituted of journalism advisers from schools across the region. As president, I work with the director to see that those plans are carried out according to the wishes of the board and with input from the general membership. If you have an idea or complaint, please let me know.

The challenges affecting journalism educators in our region are strong. We face continuing issues of censorship under Hazelwood. No Child Left Behind and Maryland's Bridge to Excellence have focussed educational priorities on the basics, robbing higher level classes like journalism of funding and support. In the District, journalism programs gutted by years of budget problems are currently struggling to rebuild.

If we are to make MDCSPA a strong advocate for journalism education in Maryland and the District and a group whose events will serve to bring us

together as professionals to support our work in the classroom, we need to work together.

What can you do? First, plan to join is at our Fall Convention on the University of Maryland campus on Friday, November 16. Beyond that, you could volunteer to help out. We need session leaders for our Fall Convention and members in various counties and areas willing to help us disseminate information about the group and its events. Beyond these obvious roles, we need advisers willing to work to plan and organize our events, writers with ideas to contribute to the newsletter, and advocates to support the role of journalism education with state educational representatives. If that sounds like something you might be interested in, you could apply to become a member of the MDCSPA Board of Directors. If you're interested, contact me at gclites@verizon.net.

Too often journalism teachers toil in isolation, hiding in their classrooms while working with students to produce yearbooks, newspapers or broadcasts. MDCSPA gives us a chance to network and to support one another as we continue the fight to gain student journalism the recognition it deserves as a key part of the educational experience.

STUDENT: Journalism advisor not surprised by student's success

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Maryland Scholastic Press Association.

"It was not a surprise," Freeman added, "when Audrey was selected to the important position of features editor."

As features editor, Kubetin says she feels it is her responsibility to guide her fellow staff members through the feature writing process, and sees her own writing becoming stronger with every story.

Kubetin's features have covered students dealing with serious problems such as psychiatric disorders and illiteracy. She also wrote a feature about students at the school who came to the country illegally. Freeman said Kubetin tackled those weight topics with great professionalism and maturity.

She calls Kubetin a very versatile

writer. "She can take the less weight subjects and turn them into good reads that rise well above a typical high school newspaper story."

"The most important aspect of scholastic journalism," Kubetin wrote in her application, is the chance "it provides to educate other students. Each one of my stories seeks to leave readers more knowledgeable about compelling issues that affect their lives."

After high school, Kubetin wrote that she plans to get a graduate degree in journalism, and to earn a bachelor's degree in history. "If journalism is the first draft of history," Kubetin explains, "a reporter must know the past 10,000 pages of the work to which she is adding."

Kubetin received her award at the Editorial Awards luncheon, a part of the

Annual Awards Conference held at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Md. She received a \$1,500 award from the MDDC Press Foundation, the contest's sponsor.

Applications for the award are mailed to area high schools in the fall and are due in January. Applicants are asked to submit five samples of work, a letter of recommendation from the nominee's advisor, a brief autobiography and a paragraph or two on the most important aspect of scholastic journalism.

A review of the most recent Powell High School Journalist Award winners is available on MDDC's Web site at www.mddcpress.com/Foundation/hswinner.htm.

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Adviser

Advisories

NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.studentpress.org/nspa/conventions.html>

NSPA Summer Journalism Workshops
Univ. of Minnesota. Date: July 21-25, 2007.

JEA/NSPA Fall National High School
Journalism Convention

Philadelphia. Date: November 8-11, 2007.

JEA/NSPA Spring National High School
Journalism Convention

Denver. Date: April 12-15, 2007.

Future conventions: Spring 2008, Anaheim/
Fall 2008 St. Louis/Spring 2009, Phoenix

ASSOCIATED COLLEGIATE PRESS

<http://www.studentpress.org/ACP/ACP/CMA National College Media Convention>

Washington, DC. Date: October 24-28, 2007.

COLUMBIA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/cspa/docs/conventions-and-workshops/index.html>

CSPA Fall Convention. Columbia

University. Date: November 5, 2007.

CSPA Annual Convention. Columbia

University. Date: March 19-21, 2008.

(Deadline for early registration: February 18,
2008).

SOUTHERN INTERSCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.sc.edu/cmciis/so/sipa/con.html>

SIPA First Amendment Convention. Date:

February 29-March 2, 2008.

ASIAN AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

http://www.aaja.org/programs/for_students/

Annual National Convention. Miami,

Florida. Date: August 1-4, 2007.

About 40 student are selected to attend and
work in four projects (radio, television,
newspaper and New Media). AAJA
subsidizes some expenses. Check on winter
2007-2008 for next application deadline.

ALABAMA PRESS SCHOLASTIC ASSOCIATION

<http://www.aspa.ua.edu/about.htm>

Annual Convention. Date: Feb. 29-March 1.

FLORIDA PRESS SCHOLASTIC ASSOCIATION

<http://www.jou.ufl.edu/fspa/>

Spring Convention. Tampa, Florida. Date:
April 17-19, 2008.

GARDEN STATE SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.gsspa.org/>

Fall Press Day. Busch Campus of Rutgers
University. Date: October 29, 2007.

ILLINOIS STATE HIGH SCHOOL PRESS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.comm.uiuc.edu/ishspa/>

Annual Conference. University of Illinois at
Urbana-Champaign. Date: Friday, Sept. 14,
2007

KANSAS SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.kspa.ku.edu/>

Fall Conference. Fort Hays State

University, September 24, 2007.

Fall Conference. Kansas State University,
September 25, 2007.

Fall Conference. University of Kansas,

September 26, 2007.

MICHIGAN INTERSCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

<http://mipa.jrn.msu.edu/events/conference/index.php>

MIPA Spring Awards and On Site Contest
Conference. MSU School of Journalism.

Date: April 17, 2007.

NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL PRESS ASSOCIATION

<http://marian.creighton.edu/~nhspa/>

Fall Convention. University of Nebraska-
Lincoln. Date: Oct. 15, 2007.

NORTHERN INTERSCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.und.edu/org/nipa/workshops.html>

Spring 2007 Conference. University of
North Dakota. Date: April 22-23..

OKLAHOMA INTERSCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

<http://jmc.ou.edu/osm-oipa/confe.htm>

Fall Media Monday. Oklahoma Memorial
Union, University of Oklahoma. November
12, 2007.

Spring Media Monday. Oklahoma
Memorial Union, University of Oklahoma.
April 7, 2008.

SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOLASTIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.sc.edu/cmciis/so/scspa/conf.html>

Fall Conference. USC School of Journalism
and Mass Communication. Date: April 30,
2007.

TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF JOURNALISM EDUCATORS

<http://taje.org/>

TAJE Fall Fiesta. San Antonio, Texas. Date:
October 27-29, 2007.

WASHINGTON JOURNALISM EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

<http://www.wjea.net/>

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