

SCHOLASTIC Source

March 2005

Research, panels and tacos

AEJMC heads south for annual convention

By John Hudnall
Kansas

It may not be Margaritaville, but it's darn close. The 2005 AEJMC national convention will convene Tuesday, Aug. 9 through Saturday, Aug. 13 in San Antonio. To obtain convention and hotel information, check the AEJMC web site (aejmc.org).

The following are sessions the Scholastic Journalism Division will either sponsor or co-sponsor.

Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2005

SJD Teach-In

High school and middle school students from the San Antonio area will be invited to participate in the Scholastic Journalism Division's fifth annual Teach-In.

Co-sponsored with AEJMC and ASNE, speakers will be invited from the SJD ranks along with other area high school journalism teachers. The sessions will run from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Marriott Rivercenter Hotel.

Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2005

8:15-9:45

SJD sole-sponsored research session.

10-11:30

Strengthening Scholastic Journalism through Journalism Missionaries

As ASNE's intensive training program for high school journalism advisers completes its fifth summer, what are the lessons learned by participants? What obstacles do advisers face when they get back to school? Does the local media lend a helping hand? What has tracking of more than 800 graduates shown?

3:15-4:45

GIFT: Great Ideas for Teachers (CCJA co-sponsor)

The sixth annual Great Ideas for Teachers program will be held as a mega-poster session in San Antonio and

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Hawthorne to deliver Honors Lecture

By Beth Dickey
South Carolina

Bobby Hawthorne, author of "The Radical Write" and director of academic competitions for the University Interscholastic League (UIL) in Texas, will give the Scholastic Journalism Division Honors Lecture at the AEJMC meeting in August in San Antonio.

Prior to becoming director of UIL in 1999, Bobby directed the University Interscholastic Press Association for 20 years. "I'm not so sure my boss ever expected me to become quite as involved in scholastic journalism as I

did," Bobby said, "but he never discouraged me either. I certainly found my calling in the student press, and I was fortunate to have such fabulous mentors as Jim Paschal, Chuck Savedge, Gloria Shields, Bruce Watterson, Ben Van Zante, Howard Spanogle and John Butler, just to name a few.

"I was also fortunate to have been a member of a young, talented, ambitious group of advisers who'd come onto the scene at about the same time, people like John Cutsinger, John Hudnall, Sherri Taylor, Bob Button, Terry Nelson, David Knight and Bruce Konkle."

"We in Texas call Bobby the Godfather of Scholastic Journalism,"



Hawthorne

Lori Oglesbee, adviser at McKinney High School in Dallas, said, "Texas scholastic journalism is what it is because of him.

For 22 years he's been the beacon of guidance and we've been drawn to the light. Even if you aren't into journalism, you know who Bobby Hawthorne is." In the academic world they say his name with reverence. He's kind of business-like with them, but he's

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Head Lines

SJD Web site:
grove.ufl.edu/~sjdaejmc

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Censorship alive and well in high school journalism

1. Censorship and the systematic lack of freedom to engage in open, responsible journalism characterize high school journalism. Unconstitutional and arbitrary restraints are so deeply embedded in high school journalism as to overshadow its achievements, as well as its other problems.

2. Censorship of journalism is a matter of school policy—stated or implied—in all areas of the country, although in isolated schools students enjoy a relatively free press.

3. Censorship persists even when litigation or administrative action has destroyed the legal foundation of censorship; such decisions are either ignored or interpreted in such a way as to continue the censorship policy.

4. Repressed policies are used against school-oriented media published off campus as well as within schools; many of the several hundred alternate or “underground” papers that have sprung up in recent years have been actively opposed by school officials.

5. Although substantive and investigative journalism and controversial or image-damaging information are most



John Hudnall

severely censored, policies of censorship apply regardless of whether the material is substantive or controversial.

6. Even advisers or journalism teachers who in private favor a free student press often succumb to bureaucratic and community pressures to censor school newspapers.

7. As part of the day-to-day operation of high school journalism, censorship generally is accepted by students, teachers and administrators as a routine part of the school process. This has developed into the most pervasive kind of censorship, that imposed by students upon themselves.

8. Self-censorship, the result of years of unconstitutional administrative and faculty censorship, has created passivity among students and made them cynical

about the guarantees of a free press under the First Amendment.

9. Fear of reprisals and unpleasantness, as well as the lack of a tradition of an independent high school press, remain the basic forces behind self-censorship.

10. Censorship is a fundamental cause of the triviality, innocuousness and uniformity that characterize the high school press. It has created a high school press that in most places is no more than a house organ for the school administration.

11. Where a free, vigorous student press does exist, there is a healthy ferment of ideas and opinions, with no indication of disruption or negative side effects on the educational experience of the school.

12. The professional news media does not take seriously the First Amendment problems of high school journalists and does little to help protect the free press rights of students.

You probably think these 12 points were an indication of the state of the scholastic journalism press today. However, these 12 points were the result of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial

Foundation's inquiry into scholastic journalism conducted in 1973.

It's amazing how the first 11 points still hang over us today more than 30 years later. On top of this, the recent Knight Foundation report presents us with even more alarming results. The statistic I find most alarming, among others, is the fact that only 51 percent of students think newspapers should be allowed to publish stories without government approval. So much for the old watchdog theory.

Mark Goodman, executive director of the Student Press Law Center, an outgrowth of the Kennedy Foundation, continually reports that freedom in the high school press is deteriorating at an alarming pace. That should not be news to any of us working in the scholastic journalism ranks.

Perhaps it is time to reconvene a Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation commission. We could start with the above 12 points. The results would not be startling; however, they could serve as an impetus for future change.

It is vital that we preserve First Amendment freedoms for our high school students. This nation's future depends upon it.



Julie Dodd presents Paul Pohlman with a Journalism Education Association Media Citation Award Saturday at the Scholastic Journalism Division mid-winter meeting in January. Dodd and other Division members nominated Pohlman for hosting the Division's January meetings for eight years.

JEA honors Pohlman, Poynter

Paul Pohlman was presented the Journalism Education Association's Media Citation Award at the Scholastic Journalism Division's mid-winter meeting at the Poynter Institute in January.

JEA gives this award to professional journalists or professional media outlets which have made significant contributions to scholastic journalism. Pohlman, senior faculty and adviser to Poynter's president, and the Poynter Institute were nominated by members of the Scholastic Journalism Division.

The award was in recognition of the support Pohlman and the Poynter Institute faculty have provided by hosting the division's

mid-winter meeting for eight years.

The award was presented at the JEA convention in Atlanta in November and received by Wendy Wallace, director of Poynter's High School Program. Wallace kept the award plaque tucked away in her office until the presentation to Pohlman at the division's meeting.

Julie Dodd, one of the division members who nominated Pohlman and the Poynter Institute for the award, made the presentation during the division's luncheon.

She said that Pohlman was "a joy to work with" in terms of planning the division's mid-meeting. Pohlman works with the vice-head each year to plan a workshop session conducted by Poynter faculty.

Over the years, the division has been fortunate to have sessions with: Roy Peter Clark, Karen Dunlap, Tom French, Kenny Irby, Kelly McBride, Monica Moses, Chip Scanlan, Al Tompkins and Keith Woods.

Pohlman also works with Joyce Barrett at Poynter to arrange a reception for the division, the Saturday luncheon and even the nametags.

"Not only does the Poynter Institute provide excellent programming for the division," Dodd said, "but their financial support allows the division to use its funds for a gift to the Student Press Law Center and for cash awards for research papers."

Innovative Outreach entries due by April 1

By Julie E. Dodd
Florida

The AEJMC Scholastic Journalism Division is holding its third annual Innovative Outreach to Scholastic Journalism competition and is calling for papers describing innovative programs offered by colleges or departments that are targeted to high school, middle school or elementary school journalism students or teachers.

The deadline is a postmark deadline of no later than April 1.

The purposes of this competition are to:

- Identify successful programs that promote interest and training in scholastic journalism at the secondary and pre-secondary level (K-12).

- Provide models of innovative programs that higher education media programs could replicate. The ability to replicate the outreach program is a factor in the selection of the top programs.

- Provide a forum for discussion of successful programs and an opportunity for colleges and universities

without outreach programs to gather information about possible programs.

The top three papers will be presented at a panel session at the AEJMC convention in San Antonio. Each presenter will receive an award plaque. A summary of the program will be posted on the Scholastic Journalism Division's Web site – <http://grove.ufl.edu/~sjdaeimc>



University of Alabama journalism professor Gerald Jordan talks with students from the Minority Journalism Project. Patsy Watkins submitted the Minority High School Journalism Workshop paper to the Innovative Outreach program last year and won.

To be eligible:

1. The outreach program must focus on students and/or teachers in high school, middle school and/or elementary school media programs.
2. The outreach program has been conducted at least once.
3. The program must have been in existence for five or fewer years.
4. The outreach program may be a face-to-face meeting or conducted through an alternative delivery method, such as broadcast or the Web.
5. The person submitting the program must have been directly involved with the outreach effort.
6. A program that has won previously may enter if the program reflects a new component.

Cover page:

- Name of the outreach program
- Name of the sponsoring institution and other partners (commercial newspapers, grant sponsors, etc.)
- Individual submitting the paper and contact information

The paper format: – double-spaced, 8 pages maximum for paper, plus the appendices:

- Origin of the program, including any models that were used in designing your program
- Goal(s) for the program
- Target audience
- Structure of the program (1-day workshop, after-school meetings, etc.)
- Number of participants (students and teachers)
- Faculty involved with the program
- Describe any involvement of the commercial media
- Explain the assessment process for the program
- Budget for the program – general income and expenditures. Be sure to indicate financial support or support in kind from

commercial media outlets, grants, etc.

Appendices – must include but not limited to:

- A letter of support from the administrator of the author's department/division, addressing the value of the program.

- Two handouts from the outreach initiative (i.e., recruitment letter, printout from a Web site, brochure, program).

- 1-page handout that would be distributed at the panel presentation or that could be posted on the Scholastic Journalism Division Web site.

Send three copies of the paper and appendices to: Dr. Julie E. Dodd, Innovative Outreach Competition, University of Florida, College of Journalism and Communications, PO Box 118400, Gainesville, FL 32611-8400.

Congratulations to the 2004 winners

The winning programs for 2004 and 2003 are posted on the Division Web site – <http://grove.ufl.edu/~sjdaeimc>

Minority High School Journalism Workshop

Lemke Department of Journalism, University of Arkansas
Patsy G. Watkins – University of Arkansas

News from around the World

Communications Department at Northern Kentucky University and the Gifted/Talented program at Highlands Middle School, Fort Thomas, Ky.

Scholastic Newspaper Improvement Project

University of Alabama and the Alabama Press Association Journalism Foundation
Kimberly Bissell and George Daniels – University of Alabama

HAWTHORNE, cont. from page 1

done for those competitions what he did for scholastic journalism.”

The UIL, the largest program for academic contests in the United States, located at the University of Texas in Austin, is the umbrella organization for the Interscholastic League Press Conference and 40 other activities for elementary through high school students including speech and debate, drama, math and science, business and computer science, social studies and language arts. It also handles competitions for band and athletics.

After years of reading poorly written scholastic journalism prose, Bobby wrote “The Radical Write.” He used wit and humor to make young people want to read. “You have to make stories so interesting, so colorful, so dramatic, so compelling that they’d go to school sick rather than miss a single issue of the newspaper,” he wrote on the cover of the book first published in 1994 and now in its second edition.

He’s a popular speaker on the scholastic journalism “circuit,” and often finds himself on the auction block at convention fundraisers. People pay hundreds of dollars to bring Bobby to their schools for a day of training. “It upsets me that they’re paying for my mind,” Bobby said. “God, I wish someone once would pay me for my body.”

He took time to answer some questions.

Q. How did you develop your public speaking style?

A. Well first, I love comedy, especially satire and sarcasm. Basically, I’m irreverent, a smart-ass, a cynic and an iconoclast. I’m as willing to make fun of bad stuff as I am to delight over good stuff. I never poke fun at a specific person or publication. I’m very careful about that, but I use both ends of the spectrum to help students find a happy medium. Plus I want people to enjoy themselves, to see that this can all be fun. There’s nothing worse than sitting through a session in which the instructor treats feature writing like it’s brain surgery. I want to have fun teaching, and I want my students to have fun learning.

Q. What are some of your favorite things, and why?

A. Book (fiction) “A Prayer for Owen Meany,” by John Irving. An amazing character and a heartbreaking, hilarious story. The best recent novel I’ve read is “The Lovely Bones” by Alice Sebold. An amazing tone that she continues first page to last. The ending is breathtaking. (non fiction) “And the Band Played On” by Randy Shilts. It uses small stories to humanize the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s.

Movie: “The Godfather I and II” (I consider them a single movie). I disappear in this film. It’s almost like watching a documentary. Brando. Pacino. DeNiro. Has there ever been a more talented cast?

I’m also a huge fan of “Casablanca.” I’ve seen it probably 50 times. Ingrid Bergman is the most beautiful actress of all time, and I love Bogart’s tongue-in-cheek cynicism that hides a broken heart. “Of all the gin joints in all the towns in the world, she walks into mine.”

Recording artist: I grew up with the Beatles and their music was the soundtrack of my youth. I discovered Frank Sinatra immediately after he’d died, and I listened to his 1950s Capitol songbook during a particularly profound experience I had teaching in Romania and Hungary in the summer of 1997. I can’t hear “I’ve got you under my skin” without thinking of Bucharest, Romania and the fabulous kids I met there.

Q. What’s the greatest thing you’ve accomplished to far?

A. I’ve been a good dad. A few years ago, I had a chance to pursue a Ph.D. and opted instead to coach my daughter’s kickball team. She was in third grade at the time. I did that for six years, and we have the most wonderful memories. I wouldn’t trade them for a Pulitzer Prize.”



Bobby Hawthorne works with Tricia Bobeda from Haslett H.S. at the 2004 Michigan Interscholastic Press Association Summer Journalism Workshop. Hawthorne teaches at numerous workshops around the country.

Q. How did you get your start in scholastic journalism?

A. I was too dumb to take physics and too scared to take shop, so I enrolled in journalism. The thugs hung out in the shop class, and they had equipment down there that cut or burned holes in things. I didn’t want to provide them an easy target.

I’ve always had an interest in and knack for writing. Plus, all cute girls were in journalism. I was the only boy in the class. Plus, my journalism teacher, Vera Porter, was (and still is) fabulous. She created a place where I wanted to be, and I spent as much time as possible in the journalism room. Though I attended a small school and was involved in sports, student council and half a dozen other activities, my best memories of high school revolve around the publications room and the friends I had there.

Q. Do you have any thoughts on the future of scholastic journalism?

A. I worry that all of journalism, scholastic and professional, will suffer as writing and thinking skills deteriorate. Free speech is irrelevant to those who have nothing to say or who lack the skills to analyze, interpret, synthesize and then express themselves clearly and precisely. That’s true for media practitioners and consumers.

On the scholastic level, the greatest threat to high-quality journalism is standardized testing. Schools that don’t allow students to explore, experiment, question and discover, that are mostly interested in shoving data down students’ throats so they can choke it back up over a high-stakes test will produce a generation of citizens incapable of dealing with the complexities of today’s society. The cynic in me tells me that’s exactly what they (whoever “they” are) have in mind.

Q. Anything else you want the readers of the SJD newsletter to know?

A. I’ve been paid handsomely to be an administrator for almost 30 years, but the best moments of my career with the UIL have been as a teacher. There’s nothing more satisfying than working one-on-one with a kid to help him or her find a voice, untangle a sentence, say something from the heart that they’ll read again in 30 years and it’ll give them a lump in their throats. I’m retiring from the UIL at the end of this school year, and I plan to spend much more of my time in the future doing just that.



AEJMC, continued from page 1

will feature several innovative teaching tips—just in time for the academic year. A panel of judges will select 25 GIFTS to be displayed at the convention and included in a souvenir publication.

5-6:30 SJD sole-sponsored research session

Thursday, Aug. 11, 2005

8:15-9:45 Revisiting the Hazelwood Decision (MDIG co-sponsor)

A federal court in Michigan has confirmed what many press freedom advocates have long maintained; the Hazelwood decision does not give high school administrators unlimited authority to censor student journalists. Panelists will discuss what advisers and outside supporters of high school journalism can do to create forums for student expression with strong First Amendment protections.

3:15-4:45 Targeting Latinos (Council of Affiliates co-sponsor)

The National Association of Hispanic Journalists launched the Parity Project, part of a five-year plan, to increase the employment of Latino journalists. The association is working with the news industry to increase the number of Latinos at English-speaking TV stations and to double the percentage of Latinos employed by daily newspapers. NAHJ's Parity Project targets cities where Latinos comprise a significant portion of the population, but are underrepresented in the newsroom.

6:45-8:15 Members' Meeting

8:30-10 Honors Lecture
Bobby Hawthorne, Texas

Friday, Aug. 12, 2005

8:15-9:45 Regulation of Religious Speech on Campus (RMIG co-sponsor)

U.S. Department of Education in February 2003 issued new guidelines whereby public schools that do not recognize students' rights to religious expression risk losing federal funds under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Since then, students at Westfield High in Massachusetts have been suspended for distributing candy canes with religious messages, and a student at Dupo High in Illinois was suspended for signing off his radio program by saying, "God bless." A federal judge ruled that the Westfield suspensions were unconstitutional and the Dupo School Board reinstated the high school student. The panel will examine these and other issues related to religious speech on high school and college campuses.

11:45-1:15 Luncheon (MAC co-sponsor)
1:30-3 The Basic News Writing Course and General Knowledge (MDIG co-sponsor)

Panelists will discuss methods they use in their classes and course requirements to enhance the students' general knowledge and current events knowledge while in the basic Newswriting course. The panelists all participated in a similar session at the 2004 Toronto Convention. This will be an extension of that discussion.

3:15-4:45 Innovative Outreach to Scholastic Journalism (SJD sole-sponsored)

The Scholastic Journalism Division sponsors this session which calls for papers describing an innovative program offered by a college or university that is targeted to high school, middle school or elementary school students and/or teachers.

6:45-8:15 Role of the Media Adviser: Ensuring First Amendment Rights While Protecting Student Press Freedoms (Law co-sponsor)

Recent conflicts at colleges and universities around the country have illustrated the complexity of the college media adviser's role. How can a school promote quality advising without infringing on the First Amendment rights of student editors by punishing an adviser for content decisions students make? How is the adviser protected by law?

Saturday, Aug. 13, 2005

10-11:30 Promoting Diversity vs. Defending Press Freedom (GLBT co-sponsor)

The First Amendment protects the rights of young journalists to express unpopular views or reject coverage models that smack of political correctness. How can educators encourage respect for all while avoiding support for censorship? This session seeks to explain the importance of balancing the First Amendment and fostering "freedom of expression" in high school and collegiate student media while also attempting to cover issues of diversity involving race, gender, and sexual orientation from all points of view.

Mid-Winter MEMORIES

St. Petersburg, Florida ■ January 7–8, 2005

Photos by David Stedwell, Julie Dodd and Cheryl Pell



Keith Woods, dean of the faculty at the Poynter Institute, shared his thoughts on diversity and led a discussion with SJD members at the Friday afternoon session.



Yumi Wilson "confiscates" a prize during the Friday night exchange.



Kim Lauffer looks on as H.L. Hall, Linda Puntney and Kathryn White talk about workshop liability at the Saturday session with guest attorneys, Steven Prevaux from the University of South Florida and Samantha Hill from Alston and Bird.



Kenny Irby, Poynter visual journalism group leader, presented a session.



Peter Bobkowski, Vanessa Shelton and Sharon Springer share a moment at dinner on Saturday evening.



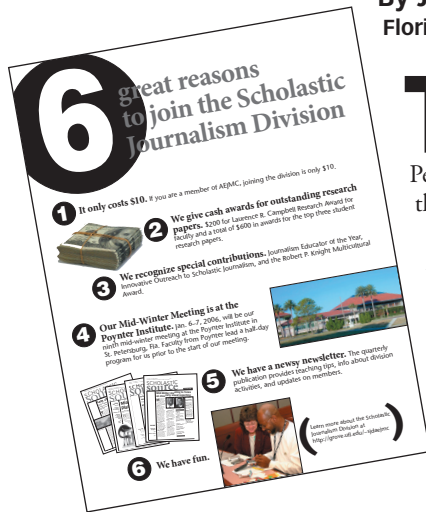
Kim Lauffer, Towson, was elected Vice Head of the Division.



Kathy Forde, UNC, will be the Division's new secretary/newsletter editor.

Finding ways to promote SJD membership

By Julie Dodd
Florida



That was the goal of the ten division members who met during the division's mid-winter meeting in St. Petersburg to discuss the long-term goals of the division.

We could do a better job of recruiting members for the division.

We agreed to take action by contacting graduate program directors and organizations whose members share a common interest in scholastic journalism:

Here's the action taken so far:

Cheryl Pell developed a flier that you can e-mail or print and give

to a colleague. You can obtain a copy of the flier by contacting Pell or from the SJD Web site – <http://grove.ufl.edu/~sjdaeimc>.

Candace Perkins Bowen contacted Diana Mitsu Klos at ASNE, who agreed to use ASNE funds to pay for the SJD membership of the directors of the ASNE institute directors.

Monica Hill sent a letter to the directors of graduate communications programs explaining the division's student paper competition.

Julie Dodd sent a letter to all the directors and deans of accredited communications programs explaining the division's Innovative Outreach to Scholastic Journalism competition and asking these administrators to identify individuals in their programs to encourage to join the division.

Steve O'Donoghue compiled a list of all the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund summer workshop directors.

Scholastic Journalism Division Call for Papers for the 2005 AEJMC Convention

All papers must be sent first class or priority mail and postmarked by April 1, 2005. Send them to: Dr. Tom Dickson, Department of Media, Journalism & Film, Southwest Missouri State University, 901 S. National Ave., Springfield, MO 65804. If questions, you may contact him at: Tel.: 417-836-5423, Fax: 417-836-4637 or E-mail: TomDickson@smsu.edu

The Scholastic Journalism Division invites papers that involve any area of mass communication research that can be applied to secondary school journalism. Faculty will compete for the Laurence R. Campbell Award. Student papers will compete for top student paper. Student authors should identify themselves as students. Cash awards of \$300, \$200 and \$100 will go to the top three accepted student papers not co-authored by faculty members.

Send six copies of the paper in double-spaced format in typed or computer-printed form. You should use APA or Chicago style. The name and affiliation of all authors as well as faculty or student status including the name, address, e-mail address and telephone number of the principal author should appear on the cover sheet of one copy. Please do not include your name on the cover sheets of the other copies or on any other pages because papers will be blind-judged.

The title should be printed on the

title page as well as on the first page of the text on all copies and on running heads on each page of text. Attach an abstract of no more than 75 words behind the title page on each copy. Also, include a separate sheet with an abstract, your name and affiliation and the title of the paper. In addition, include a signed reproduction permission form available on the AEJMC Web site at www.aejmc.org and include a note listing any AV needs.

If prepared on computer, the main author should include a Macintosh or IBM-compatible computer disk (3½ inches) containing the paper in digital form, preferably in low-level ASCII in a non-proportional font such as Courier in a line length of 65 characters or less or in a standard word-processing format. The completed paper should be in one file containing the title page, body, tables, references, etc. If you do not submit a disk with the submission or when you are notified that the paper is accepted, you will be required to send 40 rather

than 20 copies of the paper to the convention site.

Authors will be advised whether their paper has been accepted and receive a copy of the reviewer's comments by May 15. Authors of selected papers are expected to present them at the AEJMC convention is Aug. 10-13 in San Antonio. Authors desiring to make changes to their paper after it has been submitted should notify the research chair as soon as possible after being notified of the paper's selection. The main author will need to provide a revised copy of the paper to the research chair and to the respondent no less than one month before the convention begins.

Papers accepted for the AEJMC convention should not have been presented to other conventions or published in scholarly or trade journalism prior to presentation at the convention. At least one author must attend the convention to present the paper. If student authors cannot be present, they must make arrangements for the paper to be presented.

Scholastic Journalism Division

Jan. 7, 2005 ■ Business Meeting Minutes ■ St. Petersburg, Fla. ■ Mid-Winter Meeting

Attendees

David Adams, Peter Bobkowski, Candace Perkins Bowen, John Bowen, Dennis Cripe, Beth Dickey, Julie Dodd, Jack Dvorak, Karen Flowers, Kathy Roberts Forde, Tom Gayda, Diana Hadley, Calvin Hall, H.L. Hall, Martha Herring, Monica Hill, John Hudnall, Bruce Konkle, Kim Lauffer, Steve O'Donoghue, Cheryl Pell, Judy Robinson, Vanessa Shelton, Irma Simpson, David Stedwell, Sharon Stringer, Leigh Unterspan, Warren Watson, Yumi Wilson, Sandy Woodcock

Call to Order

Head John Hudnall called the meeting to order at 6:22 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Hudnall asked for a motion to approve minutes from the Toronto convention meeting. H.L. Hall asked for correction of his name. Hall moved. Steve O'Donoghue seconded. Motion approved.

Financial Report

Hudnall presented the budget report. Current balance at the time of the meeting was \$3,544.82 and \$3,558.37 in the Laurence Campbell fund. Asked for approval. Dave Stedwell moved. Hall seconded. Financial report approved.

Division Head's report

Hudnall reported he and Vice Head Monica Hill attended the Council of Division meeting in San Antonio in December. Said location for summer convention is very nice with excellent cuisine. Compared to last year, there was no discussion of our low membership as there had been the year before. John thanked folks for sending in information for the annual report. John also mentioned the future convention sites.

Vice Head Report

Hill talked about the Saturday activities and said events will start at 9 a.m. in the Amphitheater. She said 38 people registered for the Mid-Winter meeting, representing 18 states. She thanked people for involvement in the Teach-In in

Toronto last summer. Ten advisers attended the Teach-In and were very appreciative. Next year's Teach-In will be on Aug. 9 and folks from the Interscholastic League Press Conference will be assisting with the sessions. The goal will be to target new teachers. Hudnall said that AEJMC looks favorably on the Teach-In and gives \$1,500 toward the event. ASNE contributed \$500.

Newsletter Report

Cheryl Pell thanked those who contributed to the newsletter during the past year and asked for volunteers for the next issue's My Turn. Warren Watson said he would write one. Deadline for the next issue is Feb. 15.

Committee Reports

Research—No report.
Teaching Standards—Karen Flowers passed out a handout and said she wanted to simplify the Educator of the Year process. Jack Dvorak moved to accept the changes. Seconded by Candace Perkins Bowen. Approved.

Professional Freedom and Responsibility—Dave Adams said that SPLC was appreciative of the Division's \$1,500 contribution. He reported on the \$4 million endowment campaign, and said the campaign will be announced in mid-March. They have met 50 percent of the goal. Adams said the climate for the First Amendment is worse than it has been in some time. He said a San Antonio session about first amendment and protection it gives to advisers will be presented.

Multicultural Recruitment Award—Diana Mitsu Klos took \$100 she was given last summer for receiving the award and gave it and another \$100 back to put toward the next award.

Membership—No report

Web—Judy Robinson asked for ideas of what folks would like up on the Web site. Bruce Konkle suggested putting up the archives.

Division Archives—Konkle passed out a handout listing items that should be saved for archives. He also said he needs more Division newsletters dated before 1977.

Old Business

Julie Dodd talked about the task force that was going to meet Saturday morning at 7:30 and invited everyone interested to attend. She noted that eight new people were in attendance at the business meeting and added that we are not in crisis mode, adding we need to be strong and hold our own. What is our vision for the Division? We are one of the few groups that deal with teaching, and that maybe we need to look beyond scholastic journalism. Should we get others involved in the group or would that change the group focus? These are concerns of the task force.

Dodd also talked about the Innovative Outreach award that recognizes people for putting on scholastic journalism programs and events. This will be the fourth year. She passed out the call for the contest. Linda Puntney mentioned putting it out to the state press association director list. Julie said she has sent a letter to state directors.

Hudnall talked about the sessions at AEJMC in San Antonio and presented a handout. He is looking for moderators and asked people to let him know if they would like to be involved in some way.

New Business

Dodd said Judy Steverson, director of Florida Scholastic Press Association, is planning to retire. Administrators are seeking a graduate student, perhaps a Ph.D. candidate to take over the program. Some discussion ensued about whether this might be a trend in universities as a cost-saving measure.

Hudnall opened the floor for the nomination of the Honors Lecture speaker. Beth Dickey nominated

Bobby Hawthorne. Hawthorne selected by acclamation.

Hudnall opened the floor for the nomination of officers. Vice head—Karen Flowers nominated Kim Lauffer. No other nominations. Nomination accepted.

Secretary—Steve O'Donoghue nominated Vanessa Shelton, who declined. Calvin Hall nominated Kathy Forde. Forde accepted. No other nominations. Nomination accepted.

Announcements

Warren Watson talked about J-Ideas and how it is working on a First Amendment task force, researching the state the young journalists and the First Amendment. He invited people to visit the J-Ideas Web site and that the task force may want to do something in San Antonio in conjunction with JEA and AEJMC.

O'Donoghue talked about a program he is involved with called Prime Mover, which is pairing an experienced journalist with rising star. The experienced journalist would work as a mentor in a high school. San Jose Mercury News journalists are working at a local high school. So far 32 journalists have signed up to go into the schools.

Candace Perkins Bowen said the JEA board has appointed a committee to create an evaluation tool to be used in evaluating media advisers, both scholastic and collegiate. This has come about in light of Kansas State University's newspaper adviser who lost his job. Perkins Bowen handed out a rubric and is looking for feedback.

Kim Lauffer said she is on a diversity task force that is creating a list of scholarships, and the list will be on the AEJMC Web site.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Member News

Thanks to each of you who has shared what's going on in your life! If you're an SJD member, take a few minutes to e-mail Cheryl Pell at pell@msu.edu. We want to know your news and what you're doing.

David Bulla is adviser of Iowa State's SPJ chapter, and he's helping college students do outreach work with Ames High School and its student newspaper. They are teaching the basics, providing feedback and doing missionary work on the First Amendment.

Julie Dodd, Florida, was named as one of the nine representatives on the College of Journalism and Communications Shared Governance Committee. The committee is following the initiative of University of Florida President Bernie Machen to create shared governance on campus. Dodd is interested in knowing if any division members are on faculties who either have a shared governance model or are discussing this issue. Please contact her at jdodd@jou.ufl.edu. Julie is also chairing two searches for the Journalism Department and serving on the College's newly-established Shared Governance Committee.

Division members **Julie Dodd**, John Hudnall, Kansas; **Cheryl Pell**, Michigan State; and **Vanessa Shelton**, Iowa, just completed their third term serving on the Journalism Education Association's Nominations Committee.

Calvin Hall, Appalachian State, was selected for the 2005 ASNE Institute for Journalism Excellence. The Institute provides educators with the chance to update their knowledge of newspaper journalism. The Institute is an intensive seven-week program that includes a stipend plus money

for travel and housing. It includes a week-long industry update seminar and a six-week work residency at a host newspaper.

Bruce Konkle, South Carolina, is judging newspapers for NOSPA and judging Harvey Awards for IHSPA. He had an article in the Dec./Jan. 2005 Quill and Scroll. He's also planning to do two sessions at the SIPA convention in Early March.

In his "spare" time, Bruce produced a newsletter and a brochure for Hand in Hand International Adoption's Assistance Fund, which is an organization that helps those wanting to adopt internationally with expenses—up to \$5,000.

Judy Robinson, Florida, and **Julie Dodd** published "Basic Applications of Handheld Computers" in the December/January 2005 issue of Quill & Scroll.

Vanessa Shelton reports a collaborative effort between members of the AEJMC Scholastic Journalism Division and the Journalism Education Association, gave a big boost to the Iowa High School Press Association Adviser Retreat in February. Around 30 teachers from Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska attended the "Winter Thaw" retreat held Feb. 18 and 19 in Davenport, Iowa. Among the presenters were Division members **Richard Johns**, Iowa, and **David Stedwell**, Franciscan. Vanessa was also a presenter.



IOWA'S WINTER THAW RETREAT

Pictured sitting left to right: Richard Johns, director of Quill and Scroll, Bob Bair, JEA Regional Director from Nebraska, and Vanessa Shelton, director of the Iowa High School Press Association. Standing, David Stedwell, communications faculty at The Franciscan University; Ann Visser, president of JEA and Pella HS, Iowa, teacher; Deb Buttleman Malcolm, retreat organizer, IHSPA vice president for special projects and teacher at Davenport Central HS; Susan Hathaway Tantillo, JEA secretary.

My Turn

First Amendment BLUES

By Warren Watson
Ball State

So, the report says that our high schools are leaving the First Amendment behind. It says an alarmingly high percentage of them have little knowledge of freedom of speech—unless, of course, it comes to the racy lyrics on their iPods welded to their ears. It says that we're growing a generation of Americans who actually welcome censorship of our media.

What gives!

Is this a genuine problem or just a generational hiccup.

I've asked myself that question for two weeks now, ever since our organization was part of a national release of a \$1 million study of the First Amendment attitudes of 112,000 high school students and more than 8,500 teachers, principals and administrators.

My answer: yes, the First Amendment is in sorry shape when it comes to our next generation of journalists and citizens. Our schools have left the First Amendment behind, and our kids don't seem to mind.

If you missed the headlines, the study commissioned by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and conducted by researchers at the University of Connecticut shows that young Americans have a shocking lack of knowledge about the nation's basic freedoms, even at a time when tens of thousands of their peers are risking their lives for freedom in the desert wastes and cities in Iraq and Afghanistan. Makes you wonder what they think freedom is.

Consider:

- 73 percent of students polled say they don't know how they feel about the First Amendment or take their rights for granted.

- 7 More than 30 percent would welcome press censorship and think the First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees.

- 4 percent incorrectly believe that flag-burning is illegal.

- 50 percent incorrectly think the government can restrict indecent material on the Internet.

"These results are not disturbing, they are dangerous," says Hodding Carter, the president and CEO of the Knight Foundation. "Ignorance about the basics of this free society is a danger to our nation's future."

In some ways, we shouldn't be surprised.

We've regimented this new generation, controlling their every move – from soccer practices to music lessons to the kind of algebra they take as 9th graders. Maybe our kids haven't yet learned to think for themselves.

We've sat by idly, as schools have eliminated civics education. Today, only 29 percent of our high schools offer some kind of civics or government curriculum, according to the Institute for Civic Education.

We've been quiet as schools have silenced student media, dismissing youth voices as a nuisance. Parents have been silent as principals operate their high schools as personal dictatorships, not the democracies that would prepare their students to understand their rights as future citizens.

We journalists have abandoned our responsibility to develop and

nurture the next generation of reporters and editors.

Dennis Ryerson, editor of *The Indianapolis Star*, has been a strong voice in shining attention on this problem in the last two weeks as dozens of newspapers have latched onto the issue.

"Keep the students compliant, and they will grow up to be compliant adults," he wrote in a column last week. "Continue to erode appreciation for the First Amendment, and just maybe that nettlesome provision someday will go away. Life then could be free of conflict and easier to manage. Like it was, say, in Afghanistan under the Taliban, or in Iraq under Saddam Hussein."

In a new book, "Tuned Out: Why Americans Under 40 Don't Follow the News," author David Mindich talks about the slide toward ignorance among post-Baby Boomers. Mindich, a university professor, argues that there is a shocking amount of news illiteracy in both Generations X and Y.

Mindich points out that tomorrow's leaders have become as passive as ever and have little appreciation for current events or quality journalism.

We have to act—on a broad front.

We must encourage our schools, school boards and administrators to make the First Amendment the first priority. Bring civics back. Change the curriculum. After all, isn't knowledge of citizenship and our democracy as important as

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Warren Watson is director of J-Ideas at Ball State University. The program is dedicated to the improving high school journalism and First Amendment awareness.

Educator of the Year Award

Members of the AEJMC Scholastic Division are encouraged to nominate a deserving member for the Journalism Educator of the Year Award.

This award, given annually during the association's summer convention, recognizes a deserving division member for his/her outstanding performance in the college/university classroom and in scholastic journalism workshops and conferences.

Nominees must have been members of the Scholastic Division for the previous three years.

Nominating letters should identify various ways the nominee has made significant contributions to journalism in the secondary schools through his/her work in journalism and mass communication in higher education.

Nominations shall consist of the following:

- a letter of recommendation
- one or two letters of support
- a vitae

Nominating letters may be sent via e-mail with hard copy following; letters of support may be made via e-mail.

DEADLINE: April 1 (received by)

Send hard copies to:

Karen Flowers
College of Mass Communications
& Information Studies
600 Assembly St.
University of South Carolina
Columbia, SC 29208
E-mail:: flowersk@gwm.sc.edu

Past winners:

1998 Julie E. Dodd, University of Florida
1999 Linda Puntney, Kansas State University
2000 Marilyn Weaver, Ball State University
2001 Jack Dvorak, Indiana University
2002 Richard P. Johns, University of Iowa
2003 Thomas Eveslage, Temple University
2004 David L. Adams, Indiana University

The award will be presented at the national AEJMC convention in San Antonio.

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MY TURN, cont. from page 11

the standards tests that the Bush Administration is pushing for math and science?

Principals must back off and consider our basic freedoms as much a priority as good public relations and safety. Listen to student voices. Encourage expression. Make students a part of the running of a school.

Parents have to speak out. Do they really want to raise a new generation of compliant, docile

kids?

College educators must reach out and work with high schools. They must also look to scholastic journalism and the First Amendment as areas of scholarly research.

Local newspapers must mentor students in their communities. Show the First Amendment in action. Point out the great heritage and value of a free and responsible press. Help schools start

newspapers and other media.

And yes, our high schoolers have to be part of the solution.

Put down your iPod for a minute. Turn off "Fear Factor" for an instant and embrace real life. Remember that Jon Stewart is a comedian, not a journalist.

Unless or course, you want to continue to be left behind!

For more information, consult the project web site at www.firstamendmentfuture.org/