

The Fall 2009 FORMAT

The official publication of the Nebraska High School Press Association

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Schultz named Distinguished Adviser

Being the publications adviser at Gering High School is more than just a job for Janelle Schultz, it is what she lives for. She can be seen at nearly every event that takes place at GHS, whether it is working in the concession stand, spending time behind a camera taking pictures, or sitting in the stands cheering for the team. Schultz was named the Nebraska High School Press Association's 2009 Distinguished Adviser and was awarded that honor at the state competition in May.

Schultz joined the faculty of Gering High School nine years ago. She has taught all levels of English including Creative Writing, Applied Communications, and many different literature classes. She advises the school yearbook, The Kennel, and the school newspaper, Blue Prints. Involved in many activities inside as well as outside of school, she currently serves as the English Department Chair at the high school, is a member of the Student Assistance Team, a junior class sponsor, the concessions coordinator, co-sponsor of the prom committee, and is the President of the Nebraska High School Press Association.

In addition to her most recent award, Schultz's yearbook staff has won three Cornhusker awards. Last year her publications staff was the Class A-2 runner-up. Previous yearbooks have also been awarded the Award of Excellence by Walsworth Publishing and have been shown by the publisher across the country.

"It's more than just awards. One of my biggest accomplish-



Mrs. Janelle Schultz, the 2009 NHSPA Distinguished Adviser, works with a staff member in the Gering High School publications room. Schultz advises both the yearbook and newspaper.

ments has been building up the program here at Gering and bringing the classes into the digital era. Since I took over the program, we have moved to all digital photography and virtually all of our publications are electronic now." Schultz said. "It is a different way of doing things than the way I learned in high school."

In 2002, Schultz worked to establish a partnership with the local newspaper, the Gering Courier, to allow high school

journalism students an opportunity to experience journalism on a real-life basis. "We started the partnership as a means of getting more students involved in all aspects of newspaper - from writing to layout to photography," Schultz said. "Each year we have an average of five to six students who write for the Courier and get paid for their experience."

Schultz married her college

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Nebraska High School Press Association Executive Board



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Jim Angele
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In many ways, they are typical teens. They're busy with demanding classes, school activities, and part-time jobs.

Oh, yes, and working on their school publications. On any given day, you can find members of either the yearbook staff or the newspaper staff walking the sidelines with camera in hand, or hunched over a computer during their lunch time with a sandwich in one hand as the other hand strikes keys on the keyboard.

They work tirelessly writing, editing, designing and laying out pages that will eventually find their way into the hands of discerning, and often critical readers.

Right or wrong, these young people are following their convictions and they are learning a lot - about the world and themselves.

Few of my students will become professional journalists; but just the other day I had a student ask for help on an application and when I asked her what she wanted to do in life she simply relied, "I want to be you. I want to teach journalism and yearbook."

Okay, once I got past the whole feeling special and honored thing, I thought "Oh NO! Really?"

Not such a far stretch especially this time of year when I, like many other advisers, am burdened with deadlines, paperwork, fundraising, grading, computer crashes, long hours, low pay, administrators and lack of family time. I couldn't believe this young college-bound senior really wanted to become a journalism educator.

Then I asked myself, well why not become a journalism educator? After all, I really do love my job and it's about time I encouraged my students to pursue this career every chance I get.

So why is this the best job on earth?

1. The kids. We get to teach the most creative, caring and motivated students in school. They may not all be geniuses, but when it comes

down to it, they are some of the most dedicated students in the building. They are willing to take the risks, to step on toes and to tackle the hard issues. They know just when to buy you a diet coke or offer you a chocolate bar, too.

2. The ability to provide a 'place' for everybody. Many times kids who can't find their niche often end up as part of the j-team. A few years ago I had a young man on my newspaper staff who was legally blind. He was able to write stories on the computer and even got pretty good at layout just by zooming in on the screen. Anything is possible.

3. The creative outlet. We start every year fresh. New themes, new designs, new trends, new story ideas, even new students. Every year I wonder how we will ever get everything done, but somehow it always happens. And, then the day comes when the publications arrive for distribution. Whether it is the newspaper or the yearbook, I love sitting back and watching the expressions on their faces as they open the pages and look over their handiwork and realize all their hard work has come to fruition. Really, is there anything like it?

4. Summer. Three months off - woohoo! Who really gets three full months off anymore? After all there are workshops, and judging, and reading, and searching for new materials. Seriously though, summer is a time to recharge, a time to take care of you.

5. Other journalism teachers and advisers. The support and camaraderie among those in this profession is what keeps most of us going. Some of the best people I know are journalism teachers. We are lucky to have each other to lean on and to call for advice or an understanding shoulder to cry on. We have these wonderful tools called "e-mail" and "listservs" to stay in touch with our counterparts across the state. Now we are just a click away, and there are many of us willing to open our arms to new journalism teachers - if only they will give us a chance.

*From the
NHSPA
President*



JEA/NSPA Fall National High School Journalism Convention



Washington, D.C.

Red, White & TRUE

Nov. 12-15, 2009 • Marriott Wardman Park

Convention Highlights

- Keynote addresses by some of the nation's top newsmakers and reporters
- More than 200 learning sessions in newspaper, yearbook, magazine, broadcast, online, advising, press law and more
- Special pre-convention workshops and issue seminars
- Media and sight-seeing tours to top attractions and publications
- On-site critiques and competitions, including NSPA Best of Show and JEA Write-offs
- Swap Shop and Break with a Pro events for sharing experience and information
- A wide array of products, services and educational opportunities at the trade show

Registration Fees

JEA or NSPA members

- \$85 if received by Oct. 22, 2009
- \$95 when received Oct. 23, 2009 or later

Nonmembers

- \$105 if received by Oct. 22, 2009
- \$115 when received Oct. 23, 2009 or later

Nonmember professionals (not students or advisers): \$150

Save money by registering early and by joining JEA and NSPA.

National Scholastic Press Association
2221 University Ave. SE
Suite 121
Minneapolis, MN 55414
tel: 612-625-8335

Journalism Education Association
Kansas State University
103 Kedzie Hall
Manhattan, KS 66506
tel: 866-532-5532

Visit us on the Web:

www.jea.org
nspa.studentpress.org

JEA/NSPA Spring National High School Journalism Convention

portland. current.



April 15-18, 2010 • Oregon Convention Center

Convention Highlights

- Keynote addresses by some of the nation's top newsmakers and reporters
- More than 200 learning sessions in newspaper, yearbook, magazine, broadcast, online, advising, press law and more
- Special pre-convention workshops and issue seminars
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Registration Fees

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- \$85 if received by March 25, 2010
- \$95 when received March 26, 2010, or later

Nonmembers

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Headley honored for work with students

Jim Headley, publisher/editor of the Gering Courier has been recognized by NHSPA as 2009 Friend of Journalism, an award which recognized his hard work, persistence and dedication to journalism.

Headley began his journalism career while in his twenties working as a freelance photographer. In 1992, while working at The Sidney Telegraph, he was awarded the Best News Photo by the Nebraska Press Association.

Eventually Headley took a temporary job at the Wyoming State Tribune and Eagle, but earned a full time position. While he began writing agriculture and education stories, he was promoted to an investigative crime reporter, his passion.

Over the following years, Headley moved throughout Wyo-Braska working as the editor of the Lusk Herald, Atchison Daily Globe, and then the state editor of the Casper Star-Tribune.



Mr. Jim Headley, publisher/editor of the Gering Courier, has been named a Friend of Journalism by NHSPA. Headley was nominated by Gering adviser Janelle Schultz.

It was during his tenure in Casper that Headley broke the Matthew Shepherd story. Almost fired for it, Headley was persistent in getting the story. His dedication to finding the story paid off earning his a deal with Time Magazine to sell his photos of Shepherd.

After traveling in Europe for a period of time, Headley moved back to work for

the Sidney Telegraph where he broke the Richie Thompson story. That story landed Headley a six-week talk show circuit with Fox News and CNN. Although the story caused some disunity in the community, he was dedicated to it sending it national.

In 2006, Headley came to the Gering Courier. He worked to reinstate a partnership with Gering High School students where he helped train student journalists and published their work in the weekly paper.

“Jim always goes above and beyond where young journalists are concerned. In addition to hiring four or five students each year to write and photograph for the weekly newspaper, Jim can always be found on the sidelines or courtside of the various sporting events coaching my student photographers and helping them find the right shot.” GHS journalism adviser Janelle Schultz said.

Mike Edgecombe NHSPA's Friend of Journalism

Mike Edgecombe has been publisher of the Hebron Journal-Register since his family's purchase in 2000. Mike is the fifth generation of Edgecombe's to publish Nebraska newspapers.

He has been in the newspaper industry all of his life, working along side his father (John, Jr.) and grandfather (John, Sr.) at their 116 year family owned newspaper (Nebraska Signal) in Geneva. Prior to Hebron, Mike and his brother Jim moved to Minden to publish the Minden Courier, a newspaper that Jim continues to operate. Mike also worked at the Crete News for a



Mr. Mike Edgecombe

year while his wife finished her degree at Doane College.

Mike is married to Allyson and have two children, Lauren and Shaun.

Diane Schutt of Fairbury nominated Mike for the award.

Camp draws 118 students

The Nebraska High School Press Association once again held its summer workshop at UNL this summer. There were 118 students who attended the workshops from July 20-23. The workshops were taught using the Journalism and Mass Communications facilities in Andersen Hall.

Campers could choose between six workshop tracks this year: Journalistic Writing, Newspaper Production, Photography, Yearbook Production, Broadcasting and Editorial Leadership. The Sunday InDesign and Editorial Leadership one-day workshops were not held this year in order to make room for the full Editorial Leadership track.

All of last year's speakers returned to teach workshops this year: Duane Roberson, Scott Winter, Marsha Kalkowski, Jeff Bowen, Spencer Tirey,

Margaret Sorrows, Lori Oglesbee, Matt Rasgorshek and Dean Hume.

The 2009 camp also piloted a convergence project this year with students from Papillion-LaVista South, Omaha Marian and Omaha Westside.

Groups from these three schools completed a convergence project during the week that included story, photos, video and web site. There are tentative plans to make this a permanent addition to the summer workshop.

You can find links to the convergence projects, broadcasting projects and additional slideshows from the workshops at the NHSPA web site: <http://marian.creighton.edu/~nhspa>.

The dates for the 2010 NHSPA Summer Workshop are July 29-Aug. 1. The scholarship deadline is May 21 with a registration deadline of June 4.

Students awarded in St. Louis, Phoenix

Awarded in St. Louis

Newswriting

Ali Hodge, Omaha Central,
Excellent

Literary Magazine: Illustration

Anita Hodge, Omaha Central,
Honorable Mention

Editorial Writing

Alyssa Amen, Millard North,
Superior

Sports Writing

Scott Wexler, Millard North,
Superior

Review Writing

Gabby Peterson, Millard North,
Honorable Mention

Grant Sisley, Elkhorn High
School, Superior

Commentary Writing

Asha Anchan, Millard North,
Honorable Mention

Kristin Beal, Marian, Honorable
Mention

YB Copy/Caption: Clubs

Katie Bojan, Papillion-La Vista
South, HM

Nate Schaaf, Millard North, Hon-
orable Mention

Hannah Latka, Marian, Honorable
Mention

Broadcast Newswriting

Kassi Nelson, Millard North, Hon-
orable Mention

Feature Writing

Andrea Kimball, Omaha North,
Honorable Mention

Copy Editing/Headline/Caption

Bridget McQuillan, Marian,
Excellent

Computer Design: Infographics

Hannah Higgins, Marian, Honorable
Mention

Computer Design/Art Illustration

Sam Koralski, Marian, Honorable
Mention

Broadcast Video Feature Package

Kara Mlnarik, Marian, Honorable
Mention

Grace Thiesen, Marian, Honorable
Mention

YB Layout: Inside Pages

Amy McConnell, Papillion-La Vista
South, Honorable Mention

YB Cover/Endsheets

Brean Jahn, Papillion-La Vista
South, Honorable Mention

YB Copy/Caption: Student Life

Elisabeth Loeck, Westside, Su-
perior

Broadcast Commercial/PSA

Claire Pedersen, Westside, Honorable
Mention

In-Camera Feature

Katie Luther, Westside, Honorable
Mention

Kailey Hansen, Westside, Honorable
Mention

Videography

Hannah Langdon, Westside,
Excellent

Best of Show Winners

• Xanadu, Westside, 2nd place in

Literary Magazine

• Titan View, Papillion-La Vista
South, third place in Broadcast
Program

• Warrior Television (WTV), sev-
enth place in Broadcast Program

• South Star, Papillion-La Vista
South, tenth place in Yearbooks
225-274 pages

Awarded in Phoenix

Feature Writing

Mary Susman, Westside, Honorable
Mention

Sports Writing

Jordan Giese, Fremont, Excellent

YB Copy/Caption: Student Life
Hailey Gould, Westside, Excel-
lent

YB Layout: Theme

Danielle Kallesen, Fremont, Hon-
orable Mention

Photography Portfolio Kait-
lyn Moeller, Fremont, Honorable
Mention

Schultz named Distinguished Adviser

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sweetheart 27 years ago and they are happy to call Western Nebraska their home. Her husband Mark co-owns Western Sleep Medicine and Western C-Pap Supply.

They are active members in their church and serve as life group leaders. Daughters Brittany and Kortany both attend Chadron State College where Brittany is a senior and Kortany is a junior.

Brittany will begin medical school in the fall at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Kortany will follow the next year. Both girls were part of the journalism staff at Scottsbluff High School, where Brittany served as editor-in-chief of The Echoes her senior year and won awards at the state journalism competition. Both wrote for the Gering Courier as well, winning state awards for their writing.

"I love the creativity of yearbook and journalism," Schultz said. "I also love the challenge of getting journalism students to think out of the box and tackle tough issues. It's so much fun to see students stretch themselves and grow. More importantly though, I cherish the bonds that we are able to build with our students. There's nothing like the experiences you get in the j-room."

Important Dates

Monday, Oct. 19, 2010

- NHSPA state convention, UNL

Nov. 12-15, 2009

- JEA/NSPA national convention in Washington, D.C.

Nov. 30, 2009

- Postmark deadline for State JEA Contest

Feb. 12-13, 2010 (tentative)

- Iowa High School Press Association (IHSPA) winter seminar

Feb. 15, 2010

- Student Journalist of the Year entries due

Feb. 20, 2010

- Iowa High School Press Association (IHSPA) Winter Thaw advisers retreat in Des Moines

March 5, 2010

- Spring contest entries postmark deadline

March 5-6, 2010

- Kettle-Moraine Press Association (KEMPA) winter seminar with John Cutsinger at Geneva, Wisc.

March 17-19, 2010

- Columbia Scholastic Press Association Convention, New York

March 26, 2010

- Deadline for Creighton's Byline Awards contest

April 15-18, 2010

- JEA/NSPA national convention in Portland

April 16, 2010

- Spring contest results posted

April 30, 2010

- Spring contest verifications due

May 10, 2010

- NHSPA/NSAA State Journalism Contest

May 21, 2010

- Summer Workshop scholarship applications due

June 4, 2010

- Summer workshop registrations due

June 7, 2010

- Postmark deadline for newspapers, spring delivery yearbooks and registration payment

July 29-Aug. 1, 2010

- Summer Workshop at UNL

Aug. 23, 2010

- Postmark deadline for fall delivery yearbooks

Nov. 11-14, 2010

- JEA/NSPA national convention in Kansas City

April 14-17, 2011

- JEA/NSPA national convention in Anaheim

Nov. 17-20, 2011

- JEA/NSPA national convention in Minneapolis (2012 conventions in Seattle and San Antonio; 2013 conventions in Boston and San Francisco)