



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SCHOOL PRESS ASSOCIATION

Spring Conference—Monday, April 19 Categories added to On-Site Contest; Mail-in yearbook competition updated

The 54th Annual Spring Conference is set for Monday, April 19, at the Student Center on the campus of SIU Carbondale. The conference is endorsed by the School of Journalism.

The times of the Spring Conference will follow past formats. Registration will run from 8 to 9 a.m. The main program will begin at 9 a.m.

Time is often short, so advisers are urged to arrive early.

The Conference is scheduled to be completed by 2 p.m.

Plans are currently underway for the workshop sessions at the Spring Conference for both yearbook and newspaper.

A possible change for these sessions is to try to make some of the offerings lab-type classes where students would learn about a topic then try it themselves. The presenter then would look at what the students create and critique their work.

Herman Albers is in charge of recruiting session leaders for the conference. If SISPA advisers would like to volunteer for any session they should contact him at albers@htc.net

or 618-758-2338.

On-Site

To begin aligning to the proposed IHSA Journalism State Competition categories, two new offerings will be part of the On-Site Contest this spring.

The first completely new category is Photography. Students who enter this contest will have to bring their own digital camera and the capability to download their photos to a computer without special software.

The contestants will be given an assignment which they complete in the Student Center. When they finish taking photos, they will go to a computer lab where they can download photos and, using Photoshop 7.0, edit five photos to be turned in.

The second new category will replace Yearbook Cover Design and will be a team event. It will be called Yearbook Theme Development.

Each school may enter one team up to five students. The team will be given a theme and will need to

develop a cover, title page, folios and a double page spread. The competition will not be done on computer but drawn out. Entries will be judged on basic design principles and creativity.

YB Contest

SISPA this year will also try to update and expand the 2004 mail-in Yearbook Contest.

In the past, three categories from the current book have been photography, sports copy block and features copy block.

In hopes of attracting more entries, instead of copy block entries, schools can submit Student Life Spreads, Sports Spreads and Academics Spreads. The Photography contest will remain the same.

This change should make it easier for a yearbook staff to enter. Staffs would simply pick three spreads from each category, print them off, attach an entry form to each and put all in the mail.

Details about these changes can be found later in this issue of *The Editor*.

JOIN THE FUN BY JOINING SISPA TODAY!

On-Site Contests expand

The On-Site Writing Contest will once again be a feature of the Spring Conference to provide another avenue of competition and learning.

There will be eleven different areas of competition. Member schools may enter two students in each category except for Yearbook Theme Development. A school may enter one team of up to five students in this contest. A student may enter only one contest.

Registration for the contest will take place the morning of the conference.

There will be a \$2 fee per student. Entry fees will be collected at registration.

Unless otherwise specified in the contest description, students are to bring only paper and a writing utensil. No typewriters, word processors or computers will be permitted. Also, no tape recorders will be allowed.

Although each contest is geared toward newspaper or yearbook processes, none are exclusively limited to particular staff members.

Descriptions of each of the contests is as follows:

1. News Writing- Students will be given a fact sheet from which to draw information. Students will then compose a news story from information provided.

2. Editorial Writing- Students will be given a fact sheet from which to draw information. After reading the material, students will write an editorial on the topic using their ideas to support or oppose a position.

3. Caption Writing- This contest is designed for both newspaper and yearbook staffs. Students will be

given several photographs and will write captions. The captions must tell a complete story but not exceed 40 words in length.

4. Yearbook Feature Copy Block- A fact sheet will be provided for those entered to write a typical feature copy block.

5. Yearbook Sports Copy Block- A fact sheet will be provided for those entered to write a typical sports copy block.

6. Yearbook Theme Development- A team of up to five students will be asked to develop a cover, title page, folios and double page spread based on a theme given to them. Students may bring layout sheets, color pencils, markers etc.

7. Editing- Students will be asked to proofread a story checking for good journalistic style.

8. Sports Writing- Students will be given a fact sheet from which to draw information. They will write a sports newspaper story based on those facts.

9. Advertising Design- Students will be given three business informa-

tion sheets. They will be asked to design ads to fit certain sizes. Students may bring a ruler and any type of pen or pencil. Artistic ability is not necessary as ads will be judged on overall design and areas may be simply marked for art work.

10. Review Writing- Students will watch a short video-taped performance. They will write a review commenting on the performance.

11. Photography- Using a digital camera, students will complete a photo assignment on a given topic. After completing their assignment, students will go to a computer lab where they will download and enhance their five best photos for judging. Only cameras that do not require special software for downloading may be used in the contest.

12. Senior Interview- Seniors will interview a noted figure from the Southern Illinois area and compose a feature story from the information gathered during the interview. Students will be provided a biography sheet on the interviewee for background information.

QUICK LOOK AT DATES

March 10 BLUE BANNER

March 17 NEWSPAPER BEST STORY CONTEST
2004 YEARBOOK CONTEST

March 24 ADVISERS OF THE YEAR

April 19 SPRING CONFERENCE at SIUC

Blue Banner deadline set for March 10

Recognizing overall excellence, the Blue Banner Contest will again be a part of SISPA's spring activities.

Schools must be a SISPA member to participate. There is an \$10 fee to participate in this contest.

The criteria for receiving the Blue Banner has not changed. This contest will continue to recognize those publications that show overall excellence.

Newspapers are judged within three separate categories according to size.

To enter, choose three issues, staff choice, which were printed during the 2003-2004 school year.

Please send two (2) copies of each of the three issues sent in.

Complete the entry blank contained in this newsletter and send with papers and entry fee to:

Laurie Bielong, Belleville West High School, 4063 Frank Scott Parkway West, Belleville, IL 62223.

Entries must be postmarked by Wednesday, March 10.

The winners will be announced at the Spring Conference during the beginning assembly. Recipients will receive a specially designed plaque.

Any questions, contact Laurie Bielong at Belleville West High School at 618/222-7623 or lbielong@stclair.k12.il.us

Blue Banner Entry Form

Include two (2) copies of three issues of your publication from the 2003-2004 school year.

School _____

Newspaper _____

Enrollment _____ Number of Issues Planned in 2003-04 _____
Categories

- I. Printed Illinois newspaper, school enrollment of 700 or more
II. Printed Illinois newspapers, school enrollment under 700
III. All newspapers regardless of reproduction process from schools under 300

Category _____

Please Answer the Following:

- How is your newspaper produced? _____
- Who sets the type? _____
- Who sets the headlines? _____
- Who does paste up? _____
- Where is it printed? By whom? _____
- Do you use desktop publishing? YES NO What type of hardware and software? _____
- How large is the staff? _____ Do you have a journalism class? _____
- How is your publication financed? _____
- Please explain any problems, set backs, or circumstances beyond your control that would be helpful in evaluating your publication.

Entry Fee Enclosed _____ (\$10 - Make check payable to SISPA)

SISPA Member Yes _____ or Enclosed _____ (\$15.00 - Make check payable to SISPA)

Adviser _____ Editor(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

DEADLINE: POSTMARKED BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Send To: Laurie Bielong, Belleville West H.S., 4063 Frank Scott Parkway West, Belleville, IL 62223 Questions: 618/222-7623

Fax 235 2484

Deadline for stories set for March 17

SISPA member newspaper staffs have the opportunity to compete in 20 different categories in the Best Story Contest.

All entries for the Best Story competition must be **postmarked March 17, 2004.**

As in the past, a school must be a member of SISPA to compete. There is no fee for individuals to enter the Best Story Contest.

Entries should be sent to: SISPA, School of Journalism, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901-6601. Award winners will be named at the Spring Conference, April 19.

Each publication is limited to a maximum of **3 entries per category except front page layout and overall layout. Only send 1 entry for each of these categories.** All entries must have been published during the 2003-2004 school year.

NEW SYSTEM TO SUBMIT ENTRIES

To make entering the many categories simpler for staffs, this year, staffs should use a tear sheet for each entry, attaching a completed entry form to each.

The entry form may be duplicated as many times necessary to complete all entries.

Enter each article in the appropriate category. Category descriptions are listed to the right.

Best Story Categories

There are a total of 20 categories in the Best Story Contest. Each publication may enter a total of **three entries per division except front page and overall layout.** They are:

Best Original Advertisement

A published ad that is conceived and designed by the student. Ad slicks or ads designed by the advertised company are not eligible.

Best Computer Produced Graphic

Graphic used in lieu of photographs with the intent to enhance any news, feature, or sports article or to aid in the graphic look of the publication. All graphics must be computer produced or enhanced by student.

Best Original Art

Artwork used in lieu of photographs with the intent to enhance any news, feature, or sports article or to aid in the graphic look of the publication. All art work in this category must be hand drawn by a student.

Best Original Cartoon

A cartoon entry may be editorial or comic. It may be a single frame or multiple frames. Computer produced cartoons are acceptable as long as they are student produced and generated.

Best News Story

An article of a news event that presents new information or an angle on already published information or past events.

Best Editorial

An article written as a statement or opinion on an issue by the staff. It should not be bylined. It may seek to encourage critical thinking, to mold opinion, or sometimes to promote action.

Best Review

An opinion piece that reviews movies, music, plays, concerts, book, exhibits, performances, or other works available to the public or students. Article may be column work or an individual piece.

Best In-depth Story

Article should be issue-oriented coverage with emphasis on research, interviewing and analysis. It should be a minimum of 12 column inches.

Cub Division

Any type of article written by a freshman or sophomore on staff. Guidelines will vary depending on type of article entered. Refer to appropriate category.

Best Interview Story

Article is dependent on the use of extensive quotes. Quotations should make up at least 60 percent of the article.

Best Feature Story

An article that entertains through material that is interesting but not necessarily important. Emphasis should be on rich detail and liberal use of quotes. It should focus on human interest.

Best Featurette

An article that contains the elements of a feature story but is shorter. Length should not exceed 6 columns inches.

Best Sports Feature

A sports feature is on a sport-related topics. It would contain the same elements and guidelines of a feature article.

Best Photograph with Caption

Photograph can be a news, feature, or sports subject. Along with published picture and caption, if possible, send original photograph so that printing errors can be accounted for.

Best Humorous Column

An article under a permanent title written regularly and giving expression to the writer's opinion. It would have a lighter tone either through writing style and/or subject matter.

Best Editorial Column

An article under a permanent title written regularly and giving expression to the writer's own opinion. The editorial column should be of a serious nature.

Best Sports Column

Like the editorial and humorous column, the sports column differs only in that its subject deals with sports.

Best Sports Story

A news article that emphasizes timely action, including coverage of sporting events. It may be an advance, follow-up, summary, or combination story.

Best Front Page Layout

Enter one front page tearsheet.

Best Overall Layout

Enter one complete issue.



STEP #1: Choose story/art/photo to enter.



STEP #2: Rip out a full tear sheet which includes story/art/photo.



STEP #3: Fill out entry form duplicated from form below.



STEP #4: Attach filled out entry form to tear sheet. This entry is now ready to submit. Each school may enter up to the three items per category except for Front Page Layout and Overall Layout. These categories are limited to one entry each.

4 easy steps to submitting Best Story Contest entries

BEST STORY CONTEST ENTRY FORM



CHECK CATEGORY ENTERED

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertisement | <input type="checkbox"/> Featurette |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer-Produced Graphic | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Story |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Feature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cartoon | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Column |
| <input type="checkbox"/> News Story | <input type="checkbox"/> Humorous Column |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Editorial | <input type="checkbox"/> Editorial Column |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review | <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph With Caption |
| <input type="checkbox"/> In-depth Story | <input type="checkbox"/> Front Page Layout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cub Division | <input type="checkbox"/> Overall Layout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Story | <input type="checkbox"/> Overall Layout |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feature Story | <input type="checkbox"/> Overall Layout |

1 entry

1 entry

STUDENT NAME _____

HEADLINE/CAPTION OF ITEM ENTERED _____

Please Be SPECIFIC

NAME OF NEWSPAPER _____

SCHOOL'S NAME _____

DATE OF PUBLICATION _____

Adviser of the Year nominations wanted

SISPA honors one newspaper adviser and one yearbook adviser at its Spring Conference annually. It is time now to nominate this year's possible recipients.

The award is called the Manion Rice Adviser of the Year in honor of the longtime SISPA director.

Nominations can be made in two ways. First, an adviser can nominate a candidate for each category.

Secondly, nominations can be made by students who would like to nominate their newspaper or yearbook adviser. Each staff can make one nomination.

Nominations are reviewed in committee, and a final winner is then determined.

At the Spring Conference, the winners are announced at the beginning assembly and receive a plaque.

Send nominations using the form provided by March 24, 2004.

Mail the form to:

**Herman Albers
Coulterville High School
101 W. Grant
Coulterville, IL 62237.**

You may also email the information to albers@htc.net by March 24. Please follow form below so nomination is complete.

SISPA Adviser of the Year Nomination Form

Nominee Name _____

School _____

Adviser of: Newspaper Yearbook

Briefly describe the nominee's accomplishments and qualifications to receive this honor.

attach additional sheets if necessary

Nomination submitted by: (please include school)

Name _____

School _____

Phone number _____

Mail nominations by MARCH 24, 2004 to: Herman Albers, Coulterville High School, 101 W. Grant, Coulterville, IL 62237; or email nominations to albers@htc.net.

JUST DO IT AND ENTER

2004 Yearbook Contest entries sought

The Golden Dozen Award recognizes last year's yearbook and staff. Many of those members have graduated and are gone. The 2004 Yearbook Mail-In Contest recognizes efforts of this year's staffs.

There will be four categories of competition in the 2004 Contest: Photography, Student Life Spread, Sports Spread and Academics Spread.

A school must be a member of SISPA to compete. Each school may submit three entries per category.

The Photography Contest includes photos which have been taken, developed and printed by a staff member or developed and printed by professionals or some other group.

The Spreads are a new category this year. These contests will look at double page spreads from three separate areas of the 2004 book: Student Life, Sports and Academics.

Entries will be judged on good use of and variety of sizes and shapes of all elements, a design that is appro-

priate for the theme and audience, use of dominant element and readability of text.

The copy blocks on each spread should be well-written and organized copy. The judge will look for details and proper style and mechanics.

To enter the double page spreads, fill out an entry form duplicated from the one provided below, print out a double page spread, and attach an entry form.

For the photography contest, secure photos to a piece of typing paper and attach a filled-out entry form.

Entries must be verified by the adviser that they will appear in the 2004 yearbook.

All the entries must be **postmarked no later than March 17, 2004** to be sure they arrive at the Journalism Department at SIUC in time for judging.

Address entries to:

SISPA, School of Journalism, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901.

2004 YEARBOOK CONTEST ENTRY FORM



CHECK CATEGORY ENTERED

- Photography
- Student Life
Double Page Spread
- Academics
Double Page Spread
- Sports
Double Page Spread

STUDENT NAME OR STAFF

YEARBOOK

SCHOOL'S NAME

THEME OF BOOK

SISPA Membership Form

School Name _____

School Street Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

School Phone _____ Enrollment _____

Newspaper Name _____

Adviser _____ email _____

YearbookName _____

Adviser _____ email _____

Send this form with \$15 membership dues per school to:
 Laurie Bielong, Belleville West High School, 4063 Frank Scott Parkway West,
 Belleville, IL 62223

Questions: 618 • 222-7623 or lbielong@stclair.k12.il.us

SISPA

Southern Illinois School Press Association
 School of Journalism
 Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
 Carbondale, IL 62901-6601

Herman Albers
 Coulterville High School
 Box 386
 Coulterville, IL 62237

• PLEASE FORWARD TO THE APPROPRIATE PUBLICATION ADVISER •