

Mentees named JEA Rising Stars

Three more mentees joined the ranks of JEA Rising Stars this past spring. The three were recognized for their commitment to journalism education and their interest in seeking professional development. [See photos at right.]

Supported by their mentors, they are already giving back to the professional community and making a difference in their schools with their students.

"Some of my former students led workshops on broadcast journalism," Jody Evans said of the Alabama Scholastic Press Association's Long Weekend. "It was so great to see them teach.

"I'm also trying to set up Journalism Ambassadors from all of the schools in Tuscaloosa so they serve as mentors to new programs or help develop programs in their feeder schools," Evans said.

Evelyn Lauer, CJE, serves on the JEA Digital Media committee and writes a technology column for the Kettle Moraine Press Association's KEMPA Update.

"Receiving the Rising Star award was such an amazing honor," Lauer said. "As journalism advisers, we pour so much of ourselves into our publications, and the Rising Star award is something all new advisers should apply for.

"Standing up in front of my peers in Seattle while Jack Kennedy read my accomplishments and words from my colleagues who wrote recommendations really made the award seem special."

Jessica Young, CJE, has shared her resources on the JEA listserv and in the KEMPA Update. She was recently selected to serve on the Quill and Scroll Board of Trustees. Both she and Lauer brought their resources and insights as mentees to the Mentor Forum last spring.

Former mentees who were 2011 recipients of the Rising Star Award are Melanie Huynh-Duc from Northwest Guilford High School in Greensboro, N.C., [mentor: Martha Rothwell] and Erica Rickard from Newton (Kan.) High School [mentor: Mary Anne McCloud].



Jody Evans, Hillcrest High School, Tuscaloosa, Ala. Mentor: Marie Parsons



Evelyn Lauer, CJE, Niles West High School, Skokie, Ill. Mentor: Randy Swikle



Jessica Young, CJE, Orange Glen High School, Escondido, Calif. Mentor: Konnie Krislock



MENTEES TAKE ON LEADERSHIP

The JEA Mentor Program works to develop competent journalism teachers who not only guide their students to create successful publications, but also are recognized for their own successes and take on leadership roles within the profession.

As more journalism teachers reach retirement age, state scholastic press associations are concerned about the small number of younger, newer journalism teachers serving on their boards and taking leadership positions. The Mentor Program aims to nurture new journalism teachers and groom them for leadership roles in their schools and in professional organizations.

- Former Oregon mentee Kate Moore took on local leadership of JEA's Outreach Academy at the 2010 convention.
- Former mentee Jody Evans is president of the Alabama Scholastic Press Association.
- Mentees Brandy Caton and Greg Keys serve on the board of North Carolina Scholastic Media Association.
- Mentee Bridget Freuler is on the board of Pennsylvania School Press Association and runs the newspaper contest.
- Wisconsin mentee Rachel Rauch is on the board of the Kettle Moraine Press Association.
- Former mentee Melanie Huynh-Duc serves on the SIPA Endowment Committee.

Additionally, many mentees are attending JEA/NSPA conventions, with or without their staffs. Some are now presenting sessions, growing in skills and confidence.





Lake Norman High School seniors Whitley Marshall, Madison Davis and Becca Dewoskey attended the delegate breakfast at the Democratic National Convention where they interviewed North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine Marshall. *Photo: Greg Keys*

THE CONVENTION EXPERIENCE HELPED THIS STUDENT DECIDE ON JOURNALISM AS HER CAREER CHOICE.

“NEXT YEAR WHEN I GO TO COLLEGE, IT’S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT TO DO.”

REBECCA DEWOSKEY, LAKE NORMAN HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR

STUDENTS OF MENTEES MAKE THEIR MARK

STUDENT JOURNALISTS COVER DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Mentoring Matters asked the students of mentee Greg Keys to tell us about their experience at the convention.

Q. How did you manage to get admittance to the Democratic National Convention?

A. *Becca Dewoskey:* Madison Davis’ father is a retired senator and was generous enough to get us access into the delegates’ breakfast. We were required to write a formal letter to Sen. Davis requesting our presence at the breakfast, and thankfully, our request was accepted.

Q. What did you find most interesting about the experience?

A. *Whitley Marshall:* Seeing how all of the officials interacted with the media. When you watch an interview on TV, you never see all of the work that goes into making that interview happen.

A. *Becca:* The most interesting aspect of the attending the DNC was the fact that such respected politicians were taking personal time to talk to us.

Q. In what way has this experience made you a better reporter?

A. *Becca:* Attending the DNC gave me an exclusive look into the political world to educate me on the topic. As a reporter, I was able to understand the interviewing process and the value of quotes.

A. *Whitley:* I had to become more assertive. If you wanted to speak

with someone, you really had to make yourself heard and get in the middle of the action.

Q. What kind of stories did you write about the experience?

A. *Whitley:* I asked multiple officials their views on public education, both at the state level and the national level. My article was the compilation of all of the officials’ answers.

A. *Becca:* I wrote an editorial concerning my personal ideal of the politician’s behavior and my personal thoughts on attending the DNC.

Q. What were the politicians like? What about the delegates?

A. *Becca:* The politicians were approachable and friendly as the interviews were personal conversations rather than professional repartee. The officials took general interest in our questions and the politicians explained in depth how the Democratic Party seeks to benefit American youth. Their professional and stern demeanor while answering questions from the national press adjusted to smiling face and they were open to conversation when speaking to us.

A. *Whitley:* All of the politicians we interviewed were very personable and friendly. They answered all of our questions with in-depth answers and didn’t ‘dumb them down’ so to speak.

Q. What did you learn from this experience?



Greg Keys is the adviser of the Lake Norman Script in Mooresville, N.C. His mentor is Martha Rothwell, CJE.

A. *Whitley:* I understood how much work goes into running the country. Before the event, I also didn’t realize how many people were involved in making the event happen.

A. *Becca:* The opportunity to attend the Democratic National Convention was a tremendous learning experience. I was able to have discussions with respected politicians and was able to witness a true journalism coverage project. The interviews I was given access to have improved my education on politics and also demonstrated the interviewing process to me as growing reporter.

Q. Is there anything else you want to add?

A. *Whitley:* I feel really grateful that I was able to experience the DNC on such a personal level. It was a privilege to be able to talk and interview the people that, in a sense, run the nation.



Mollie Cook

Homestead High School, Mequon, Wis.
Adviser: Rachel Rauch
Rachel's JEA mentor: Linda Barrington, MJE



"I am so honored and humbled to be chosen as the Wisconsin representative for this conference. Mrs. Rauch has inspired me to take risks and go for it even if it doesn't work out 100 percent of the time: some of the risks are worth it, whether it be in design, writing or life in general. I find this award to be a way for me to fulfill my obligation as a journalist to inform the public...and to continue my success in my future endeavors."

Logan Ulrich

South Iredell High School, Statesville, N.C.
Adviser: Leah Baisden
Leah's JEA mentor: Martha Rothwell, CJE



"The second day of the conference, we stood on the street corner across from the 75-foot-tall plaque of the First Amendment engraved into the side of the Newseum and recited it to everyone within earshot. While in D.C., I learned just how critical the First Amendment was, not only for protecting our ability to carry out our jobs as journalists, but for protecting our ability to impact the country as a whole."

Molly Zwiebel

Pottsville Area High School, Pottsville, Penn.
Adviser: Bridget Freiler
Bridget's JEA mentor: Kathy Zwiebel, CJE.



"My desire is to do nothing more but to tell stories with my images and to allow the world to see what I see. Being selected as Pennsylvania's Free Spirit winner is a blessing and an honor that I will value for the rest of my life....My dream is to share my eyes, thoughts and explorations with everyone I encounter — to be a journalist."

STUDENTS OF MENTEES: AL NEUHARTH FREE SPIRIT WINNERS

Being named your state's representative for the Al Neuharth Free Spirit and Journalism Conference is a humbling experience, according to Mollie Cook (Wis.), Logan Ulrich (N.C.) and Molly Zwiebel (Penn.). The three of them are students of JEA mentees who learned about the program from their mentors.

"This is actually the second year in a row that a Pottsville student has gone to this conference," Molly Zwiebel's adviser, Bridget Freiler, said. "I couldn't be prouder of Molly for achieving [this]."

Molly Z. plans on majoring in journalism and communications. She is the multimedia editor and director for five publications at Pottsville Area High School, including Hi-S-Potts yearbook, ETC literary magazine and Tide Lines print edition.

"I enjoyed every activity with 50 other best friends from across the nation. One of the best things was being with 50 other people who were just as passionate about telling stories, changing the world, curious and more," Molly Z. said.

Logan said he was impressed with what he learned about the responsibility of journalists.

"Knowledge is power, and, as journalists, we distribute much of the knowledge in this country," he said. "It's a heavy responsibility, and abuse of this power...has given journalists a bad reputation in the eyes of many. But at the conference, each of us learned what journalism done right can do."

Mollie Cook said that when she applied for the scholarship, "the award just seemed like a good experience and a good way to fine-tune my skills. Upon further investigation, I found that the mission of the Freedom Forum and Al Neuharth is everything that I pride myself on embodying."

Each of the winners was awarded \$1,000 in scholarship money to continue their education, and the trip was fully



Molly Zwiebel shoots photos during her week in Washington, D.C. "We learned more about multi-media and the changing world of journalism," she said.

Photo: provided by Kathy Zwiebel

sponsored by the Freedom Forum.

Molly Z. said she learned more about both her rights and politics, changing the world of journalism and about individuals her age across the United States.

"I learned the factors that hold us all together, our interests, our loves, our personalities," she said. She credited this experience with encouraging her to continue pursuing journalism.

"It made me civically aware and even more interested in the future of my generation and America," Molly Z. said.



TELLING HER STORY

Watch the video of Molly Zwiebel and her adviser Bridget Freiler on YouTube.

http://youtu.be/qzss_dn42rY



Mentors, Mentees

- Since the fall of 2007, JEA mentors have worked with 263 mentees, including the 95 current mentees listed here.
- Some mentors are part-time, so they have fewer mentees.
- Mentors are still signing up mentees so this listing isn't yet complete.



Linda Barrington, MJE
Wisconsin

Kristin Burkemper, Whitefish Bay HS, Whitefish Bay
Katie Larson, Wauwatosa East HS, Wauwatosa
Cassie Medved, Whitefish Bay HS, Whitefish Bay
Rachel Rauch, Homestead HS, Mequon
Aaron Ramponi, Appleton North HS, Appleton



Ron Bonadonna, CJE
New Jersey

Mentees pending



Marilyn Chapman, CJE
South Carolina

Jennifer Erxleben, South Florence HS, Florence
Alma Grantham, South Florence HS, Florence
Gina Lee, West Florence HS, Florence



Georgina Dunn & Wayne Dunn, CJE
Ohio

Brandi Calton, Amelia HS, Amelia
Josh Davis, Beachwood HS, Beachwood
Rebecca Granata, Olentangy Liberty HS, Powell
Stephanie Stewart, Amelia MS/HS, Amelia
Erin Wise, Beachwood HS, Beachwood
Rebekah Yzenski, Sheridan HS



Babs Erickson
Illinois

Daniel Bingley, Guilford HS, Rockford
Kelly Engler, Harlem HS, Machesney Park
Rachel Rice, Lutheran HS, Rockford



Susan Everett, MJE
New Jersey

Randi Metsch-Ampel, Cedar Grove HS, Cedar Grove



Bill Flechtner, MJE
Oregon

Tricia Constantino, Galeno HS, Reno, Nev.
Paul Frederick, Reynolds HS, Troutdale
Mike Mlynski, Forest Grove HS, Forest Grove
Jami Wray, Lake Oswego HS, Lake Oswego



Katy Gray, CJE
Colorado

Abbie Rittmiller, Eagle Valley HS, Gypsum



Jo Ann Hagood
Alabama

Ashlie Flowers, Clark County HS, Grove Hill
April McGuff, Theodore HS, Theodore



Cornelia Harris
North Carolina

Brandy Caton, Hickory Grove Christian School, Charlotte
Sean Lark-Weiss, Charlotte Latin School, Charlotte



Janice Hatfield, CJE
Pennsylvania

Naomi Beres, Jefferson HS, Jefferson Hills
Christopher Foster, Elizabeth Forward HS, Elizabeth
Jennifer Huhn, Spring Grove HS, Spring Grove
Lena Russell, Lower Dauphin HS, Hummelstown



Sandy Jacoby
Wisconsin

Allison Caswick, Warren Township HS, Gurnee, Ill.
Leigh-Ann Mondrawickas-Boncher, Warren Township HS, Gurnee, Ill.
Angela Olson, St. Francis HS, St. Francis
Annette Wetherbee, Bradford HS, Kenosha



Ellen Kersey, CJE
Oregon

Beth Kruzicki, Sutherlin HS, Sutherlin
Eric Mirsetassi, Sprague HS, Salem



Konnie Krislock
California

Maria Nadal, El Toro HS, El Toro
Danielle Ryan, Carlsbad HS, San Diego
Suzi Van Steenbergen, La Costa Canyon HS, Carlsbad



Gary Lindsay, MJE
Iowa

Nichole Hoskins, Mount Pleasant HS, Mount Pleasant
Samantha Moore, Springville HS, Springville
Muesewick, Dan, English Valley Jr/Sr HS, North English
Natalie Niemeyer, East HS, Des Moines
Justin Sharp, Chariton HS, Chariton



Kay Locey
Washington

Lydia Brooks, Skyview HS, Vancouver



Mary Anne McCloud
Kansas

Kelly Glasscock, Derby HS, Derby
Spencer O'Daniel, Wichita West HS, Wichita
Jennifer Shadle, Campus HS, Hays
Monica Schmidt, Moundridge HS, Moundridge



Casey Nichols, CJE
California

Alecia Brown, Oakmont HS, Roseville
Wyatt Covich, Colfax HS, Colfax
Kelly Gastman, Woodcreek HS, Roseville
Jodi Weverka, Piedmont HS, Piedmont



Marie Parsons
Alabama

Tyrone Jones, Central HS, Tuscaloosa
Jillian Thomas, Hoover HS, Hoover



Joe Pfeiff
Arizona

Lyn Cannaday, Greenway HS, Phoenix
Heather Jancoski, Desert Sands MS, Phoenix
Jennifer Reidy, Willow Canyon HS, Surprise
Michelle Salazar, Valley Vista HS, Surprise
Shawna Shelton, Sunrise Mountain HS, Peoria



Martha Rothwell, CJE
North Carolina

June Ashby, Glenn HS, Kernersville
Steve Hanf, RJ Reynolds HS, Winston-Salem
Greg Keyes, Lake Norman HS, Mooresville
Kelli Shelf, AC Reynolds HS, Asheville



Kathy Schrier, MJE
Washington

Michael Ko, T.E.C. HS, Seattle
Alexanne Madison, Health Sciences and Human Services HS, Seattle



Carol Smith
Illinois

Sue Fuller, Heritage HS, Broadlands
Stephanie Mitchell, Arthur-Lovington HS, Arthur



Nora Stephens
Alabama

Neena Davis and Nicole Schwartz, Huntsville HS, Huntsville
Robert Mills, Academy for Academics and Arts, Huntsville
Michelle Sisson, Lee HS, Huntsville



Carol Strauss
California

Brianna Rapp, Woodbridge HS, Irvine
Cathy Teliczan, Los Amigos HS, Fountain Valley



Katharine Swan
California

Cathy Innis, Lowell HS, San Francisco
Carolyn Nickels, Lowell HS, San Francisco
Kim Vinh, Sequoia HS, Redwood City



Randy Swikle, CJE
Illinois

Tamela Chambers, Chicago Vocational Career Academy, Chicago
Katie Comeford, Phoenix Military Academy, Chicago
Evelyn Lauer, Niles West HS, Skokie
Mary Anne Pysson, West Alcott Campus, Chicago



Patty Turley
Oregon

Sarah Blount, Crescent Valley HS, Corvallis
Bob Frazier, Bandon HS, Bandon
Diane Michael, Lebanon HS, Lebanon
Kristina Passadore, Pacific HS, Port Orford



Dave Wallner
Wisconsin

Jane Brewer, Fort Atkinson HS, Fort Atkinson
Donna Kennedy, La Follette HS, Madison



Carmen Wendt, CJE
Arizona

Alex Harmon, Camelback HS, Phoenix
Tegan Madson, Camelback HS, Phoenix
Kristal Norman, Lake Havasu HS, Lake Havasu City
Lindsey Tillman, Basha HS, Chandler
Kathleen Wallin, Coronado HS, Scottsdale



Kay Windsor
North Carolina

Amber Bryant, Ronald Reagan HS, Pfafftown



Kathy Zwiebel, CJE
Pennsylvania

Bridget Freiler, Pottsville Area HS, Pottsville
Cathy Podolak, Wyoming Valley West HS, Plymouth

SCHOOL FOCUS



Five Talon staff members from Sandra Day O'Connor High School, Phoenix, Ariz., won awards in the Arizona Interscholastic Press Association's spring contest. Adviser Chad Renning is at left with senior editor-in-chief Jessie DiTomasso, senior copy chief Taylor Cole, sophomore features editor Marissa Arnold, junior opinions editor Erica Rovelli and junior arts and entertainment editor Kiersten Stidnick.

Chad's mentor is Joe Pfeiff, CJE.

TRANSPARENCY

FUNDER COMMUNICATION ESSENTIAL

Chad Renning (pictured above with his staff last spring) knows how important the Mentor Program is to him.

"I'm not sure how I would have done this without him [Joe Pfeiff]," Renning said. "He was a great mentor to listen and give feedback because he'd been there before."

The model for the mentor program – based on the New Teacher Center – has been an excellent structure, with recruitment of top veteran teachers like Pfeiff, training for the new mentors and Mentor Forums to provide on-going training and the opportunity to meet the other mentors.

The program has succeeded, first of all, because of the expertise and support

of the mentors and also because of the financial support of JEA, the Yellow Chair Foundation and 17 other state funders, mostly scholastic press associations.

These grassroots organizations provide and/or find the funding to pay the mentors a stipend for their time and travel to mentees' schools, sometimes on the other side of their state.

Now that the program has been in place for five years, the Mentor Committee has realized that with the changing make-up of press association boards, there were a number of new board members who might be unclear about how funding for the program works.

The Mentor Committee is addressing this concern in two ways. At the start of each school year, each funder now receives a comprehensive summary of its financial support for the mentors in its state. By examining its history of Mentor Program support, board

members can understand better how its funding may complement that of other funders in the state.

In addition, the Mentor Committee would like to discuss funding with funders whenever possible. Starting with the San Antonio convention, funders or their representatives are invited to attend a meeting at each spring and fall JEA/NSPA convention with the Mentor Committee to talk about the program, its operation and funding, and to share ideas for other sources of financial support.

The meeting will always be on Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. At the San Antonio convention, the meeting will be in room 204B.

Mentor also provide their funders with end-of-semester and end-of-year reports on the progress of mentees in their state.



Mentees' perspectives:

WHAT HAVING A JEA MENTOR MEANS TO US



Maria Nadal
El Toro High School
El Toro, California
“Having Konnie [Krislock] as a mentor is like having a lifeboat ready. I know she’s there and

I feel more confident. I’ve emailed her many times with thoughts, worries, questions. She responds with reassuring words or answers to my questions. Her visits to my class are fabulous. She’s so fired up. She’s like a cheerleader for journalism. I feel very lucky to have Konnie as a mentor. With cuts here, there, everywhere, it feels like a luxury to have this mentoring program. I’ve been teaching for 11 years but as we know, this class, this subject is like no other. So many things to master, so many things to teach, personalities to deal with, motivating everyone to do their best and then to go help someone else do their best.”



Alisa Eich
Liberty High School
Hillsboro, Oregon
“I would have been at a substantial disadvantage without the help of my mentor. I was starting

with no knowledge or training at all. I am very grateful for the program and made use of the online resources. Ellen [Kersey] was very, very helpful and accommodating. I am very happy with the program. Thank you! “



Anna Kearns
Spring Hill School
Spring Hill, Kansas
“Mary Anne [McCloud] was someone who knew, if not a direct answer, a way to find it or

an objective way to approach a question. She was always there to help me see that



Cindy Renaud
Harborside Academy
Kenosha, Wisconsin
“As a new yearbook adviser with no previous experience, I struggled with always knowing

what was acceptable as far as design and layout, and knowing how to develop a theme throughout the book. I learned a lot about what my mentor, Sandy Jacoby, called ‘same but different’ when it comes to design elements. I felt the JEA mentor program was extremely helpful in developing my knowledge about

yearbook publications and about being an adviser.”



Alyssa Hansen
Clear Creek Amana High School
Tiffin, Iowa
“[Gary Lindsay] has always just been there for me when I needed

advice and guidance. It was so wonderful knowing that I had an advocate during this most challenging time. These first two years can be quite chaotic if you do not have support; luckily my administration is incredible, but having a mentor makes things a lot more streamline. I feel much more confident in my abilities as an adviser because of what my mentor Gary has given me: support and endless encouragement.”

“ Dave Wallner has been a great resource. When I was given the assignment of publications adviser, I didn’t even know what I didn’t know. He has ‘talked me off the ledge’ a number of times and provided a wealth of advice and helpful resources. It’s been great fun helping my students to expand their intellectual curiosity and pursue topics and stories that they feel driven to tell. ”

Mike Dahlman, Wisconsin Heights High School, Mazomanie, Wis.



situations, no matter how hard, could be handled and that many others had dealt with similar issues. She was also so incredibly supportive and encouraging, helping me to see what I did well and what I could continue to practice.”



Bob Frazier
Bandon High School
Bandon, Oregon
“Located in an isolated area of Oregon’s Southern coast, I haven’t

had the opportunity for much collegial interaction as an adviser. Retired teacher and journalism pro Patty Turley has been a real help to our yearbook program. Her mentorship has assisted us in making the transformation away from the big yearbook companies toward being our own publisher. Her support is invaluable because it helps just to have someone knowledgeable to talk with. Students said she’s helped make our book awesome...”





OHIO MENTORS



At the Region 5 conference at Otterbein University in Columbus, Georgia Dunn discusses the mentoring program with Jess Roads from Olentangy High School, Julieanne McClain from Delaware Hayes High School, Amanda Leahy from Dublin Scioto High School and Tracey Ward from Olentangy Liberty High School. Amanda and Julieanne presented workshop sessions at the event.

Photo by Wayne Dunn

FOCUS ON TEACHER RETENTION, TEACHER LEADERSHIP

by Georgia and Wayne Dunn, CJE

As members of the first set of mentors, we have had the privilege of working with 18 beginning advisers – some for two years and some for three. All but one of those mentees are still in education. Two others are not currently advising because their programs were discontinued.

We have been so excited and proud to see our mentees move on in the profession. This year Kari Phillips' staff at The Courier (Olentangy Orange High School in Lewis Center) are finalists in the NSPA feature story of the year contest.

Many others are currently serving on the Ohio Scholastic Media Association board (the state organization). Julieanne

McClain of Delaware Hayes High School in Delaware is the secretary.

Many brought their staffs to OSMA's fall workshops. It is exhilarating as mentors to see these fresh faces become leaders in their profession.



“ I CAN SEE WHAT A DIFFERENCE THIS PROGRAM HAS MADE IN OHIO. NOT ONLY HAS IT HELPED INDIVIDUAL TEACHERS IN THEIR CLASSROOMS, BUT IT HAS GIVEN A BOOST TO OUR STATE ORGANIZATION. OUR MENTORS HAVE OBVIOUSLY ENCOURAGED THEIR MENTEES TO USE THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS BECAUSE WE HAVE FOUR NOW ON OUR OSMA BOARD. SUCH ENGAGEMENT IS ALSO A GOOD WAY TO KEEP NEWER ADVISERS IN THE PROFESSION. ”



~ CANDACE PERKINS BOWEN, OHIO SCHOLASTIC MEDIA ASSOCIATION, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ABOUT US

www.jea.org jeamentoring.org



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Vice-president: Sarah Nichols
Secretary: Lori Oglesbee-Petter
Past President: Jack Kennedy
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