



# Illinois Journalism Education Association

All the news about high school journalism in Illinois that fits!

## The Adviser

news notes Spring 2008

### Note from the president

#### Challenges.

Each year the challenges seem to grow for many of us whether of a professional or personal nature. On a professional level it may be looming deadlines for issues of the media we advise, students who do not have the same scholastic goals that we wish they had, administrators who don't respect our ideas of no censorship, set backs in losing journalism classes we have fought so hard to get, or dwindling dollars that we need so desperately in order to produce quality publications.

On a personal level it may be serious illnesses or accidents that members of our families or we as individuals face, even untimely deaths of those we love so dearly, strife between individuals or groups were we admire them all and want to work with them and hope the disagreements can be mutually worked out, not enough time in the day to handle everything we want to do or that is required of us to do, or mother nature hits us with flash flooding or excessive snow fall. The list of challenges and difficulties of tasks and situations seems to grow.

And yet, we continue to persevere, keep going and hold on. It isn't always easy. Sometimes we have to change our schedules and priorities, step aside to take that extra breath or moment to regroup or rethink the challenges



Sarah Doerner

at hand and change the direction we are heading.

In IJEA we are currently planning the celebration of the 20 years of its existence with a celebration for our members and colleagues on **Sept. 20, 2008 in Charleston, Ill.**

We are thankful that as an organization it has persevered and is going the distance. During those 20 years, journalism advisers and teachers have been faced with challenges such as these mentioned here and many more. Yet, the success of a student in writing, taking photos, doing a publication layout, receiving recognition for his or her work, (and sometimes not receiving the rewards one thinks they should have, but knowing in one's heart as an adviser that the student deserves) is one of the plus sides we get as advisers and teachers when we face those professional and personal challenges. To have a student say "thank you" someday or to see his or her success in later life is a reward we cherish.

As IJEA moves ahead

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### All-State Team, IJOY to be honored at June 14 banquet

#### Congratulations to the 2008 All-State Team

Name	High School	Adviser
Jimmy Hibsich	Rolling Meadows	Stan Zoller
Kimi Lillig	Lake Community	Kellie Doyle
Sarah Parkinson	Coulterville	Herman Albers
Allison Peters	Deerfield	Buffy Sallee
Annie Pittman	Herrin	Jim Starnes
Lena Shapiro	Hersey	Janet Levin
Emily Smoucha	Prospect	Jason Block
Jackie Wallentin	Fremd	Jennifer Meils
Liwen Xu	Uni-Chicago	Wayne Brasler
Matthew Yardley	Belvidere North	Mike Doyle

**Illinois Journalist of the Year:** Jared Goltz of Deerfield H.S.

Adviser: Charlotte Titcomb

**IJOY runners-up:** Lena Shapiro & Trupti Rami, Hersey

Adviser: Janet Levin

### Former IJOY: Journalism unpredictable, rewarding

By Erin Wood  
IJOY 2005

Since being named the Illinois Journalism Education Association High School Journalist of the Year in 2005, I have kept busy in the world of journalism.

When I received the award at the end of my senior year of high school, I had already been accepted into the University of Missouri School of Journalism. As planned, I started there in fall after graduation and started writing for the student publication, the Maneater.

Toward the end of the semester, I began questioning if Mizzou was where I wanted to pursue my journalism career. From day one, journalism professors said only four of every 10 students in my freshman class would graduate with a journalism degree from that school. It was a competitive, cutthroat program, and the department told us that up front. ...

After careful thought, I decided Missouri wasn't

where I wanted to be. While it's a premiere journalism school with a beautiful campus, it was five hours from Peoria, my hometown, and it ultimately wasn't the school I wanted to attend.

I decided to ... start at Bradley University my sophomore year. I immediately began taking journalism classes of about 10 people and got to know my professors right off the bat. I applied to be on staff of the student newspaper and got the job.

During my sophomore year, I was reassured that I had made the right decision. I was getting hands-on experience in a more personal setting, all in the comfort of my hometown.

Toward the end of my sophomore year, the student newspaper staff was rehiring for opening positions. After having been a reporter and assistant layout editor my sophomore year, I thought I was ready for more responsibility. I applied for managing editor, the second highest position, and I got the job.



Erin Wood

During that summer, I worked as an intern reporter for the Peoria Times-Observer, North Peoria's weekly newspaper. At the end of the summer, the editor of Bradley's paper, the Scout, told me she wasn't going to return as editor, so I had three weeks to prepare myself to step into the position. A few panic attacks later, I was running the student newspaper, having made a jump basically from the bottom of the hierarchy to the top.

In the first couple weeks of school, my graphics editor

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## Students illustrate censorship in posters

Nearly 100 students from 40 Illinois schools entered this year's poster contest sponsored by the Illinois First Amendment Center and the Illinois Press Foundation.

Jon Larson, a Woodstock High School freshman, said he thinks the First Amendment is "definitely taken for granted." Larson was the first-place winner in the contest and received a \$1,000 cash prize, part of which may buy a new computer, he said.

This year's theme for the contest was "censorship." Larson's poster uses a George Washington quote: "If the freedom of speech is taken away then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter."

"This contest is one of the best things we can do to encourage kids to really think about what the First Amendment means to them," said Dave Bennett, executive director of the Illinois Press Association.

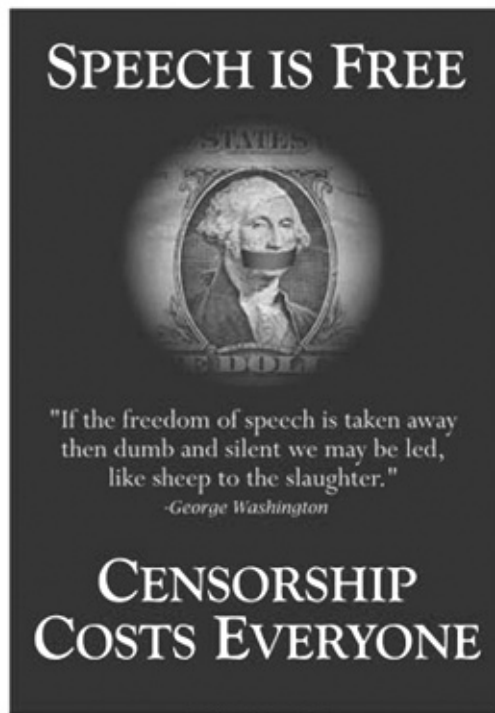
The second-place winner, with a \$750 prize, is Pamela Torres of Reavis High School in Burbank.

Third place, winning \$500, is Seth Kasky of Richwoods High School in Peoria.

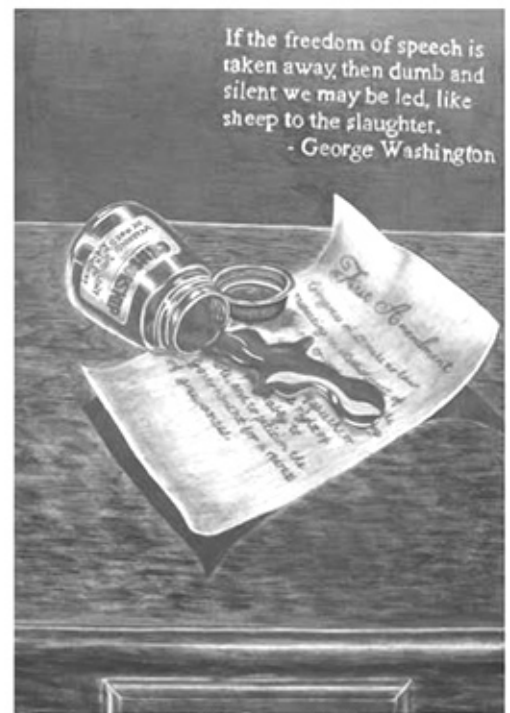
Fourth place and \$400 goes to Devon Hill of Olympia High School in Stanford.

Three honorable mentions were awarded \$100 each.

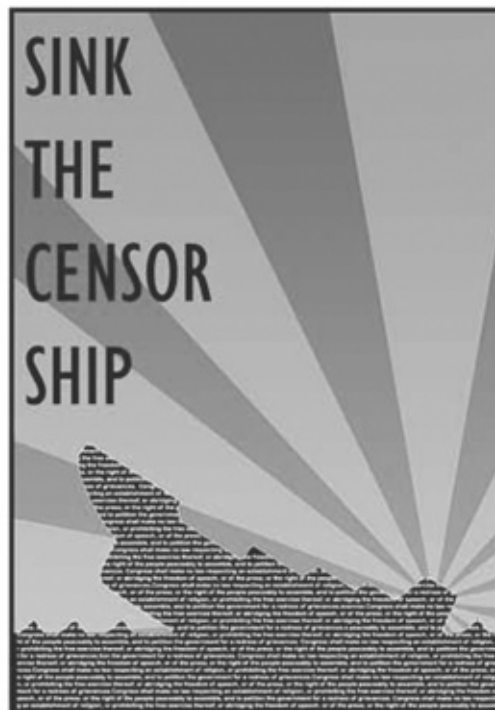
Winning posters are on display at the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum in Chicago until June 1.



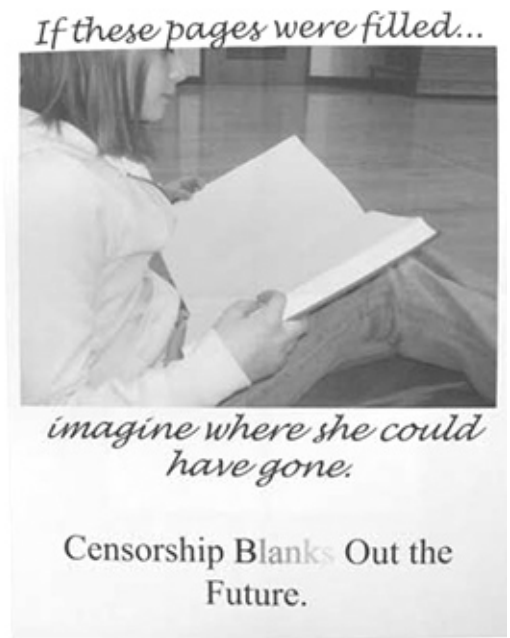
FIRST PLACE  
Jon Larson, Woodstock High School



SECOND PLACE  
Pamela Torres, Reavis High School, Burbank



THIRD PLACE  
Seth Kasky, Richwoods High School, Peoria



FOURTH PLACE  
Devon Hill, Olympia High School, Stanford

## Note from the president from Page 1

into its next 20 years, it looks forward to caring about you as an individual and as a professional. With the help of the outstanding officers and board members of this organization, we will continue to strive to add additional areas of help, offer assistance in problem solving, recognize you and your students for your achievements,

and understand that through it all you are being faced with challenges and attempts to meet them. This makes you an individual we admire, and to whom we are happy to say, "that to us, as an IJEA member, you are a special colleague and friend."

Sincerely,  
Sarah Doerner, IJEA president

## Former IJOY from Page 1

I redesigned the paper, moved pages around and changed the entire look and feel. As the semester progressed, my staff and I heard a lot of feedback about the new and improved Scout.

Toward the end of last semester, I was wondering what I was going to do with six weeks of Winter Break. I contacted the local daily newspaper, the Journal Star, and asked if they needed help while their other interns

returned home for break. I ended up working there for during the break, writing a handful of stories every week on the cops beat and on general assignment.

I'm back as editor of the Scout this semester, but I hope to return to the Journal Star this summer. While I've moved from school to school and paper to paper, I'm getting great experience, and all my jumps and moves have so far turned out for the