

Nominate your adviser for the 2009 Golden Pen Award

For some high school publication editors and staffs, daily interactions with advisers consist of “Why does the computer keep making that sound?” and “If you don’t make Heather turn in her column, I’m going to quit being the editor” and the occasional “Have you seen my notebook?” Secretly, though, some editors and staffs think their advisers are just outstanding.

Some advisers, whose daily interactions with high school publication editors and staffs may lead them to believe that years of effort to educate and inspire young journalists are under-appreciated, deserve some recognition.

Each year MIPA presents the Golden Pen Award to an outstanding adviser of a scholastic publication. To win the award, an adviser is judged according to documentation and evidence—in portfolio form—provided by students.

A Golden Pen Award nominee must be currently teaching/ advising at a junior/ senior high school. The number of years of service to publication staffs as well as consistent excellence of a newspaper, yearbook or magazine advised by the candidate will be considered. Also a factor is the contribution to scholastic journalism beyond the school. Receiving a Golden Pen is similar to being named “Coach of the Year.”

To nominate an adviser for this award, the students must submit a portfolio to the MIPA office which includes the enclosed form plus:

1. A letter of nomination from the editor of the student publication (newspaper, yearbook or magazine) which includes reasons for the nomination and a description of the nominee’s responsibilities for staff(s) and/or classes.
2. Documentation to promote the nominee which includes a) listing of staff and publication awards, honors — state, national, regional; b) a listing of the adviser’s honors and level of involvement in related state and national professional organizations; c) citations of leadership and example set (these could be testimony from former students majoring in college journalism or former students who are professional journalists); d) description of the adviser’s role in the development and/or advancement of the present journalism program at your school.
3. Letters of support from administrators, fellow teachers, former students, other advisers and knowledgeable parties.
4. A picture of your adviser. You may e-mail this photo to mipa@msu.edu. Clearly label e-mail with adviser’s name.

Winning the award gives credibility to the school’s journalism program and recognizes excellence in your school. It is a prestigious honor, reflecting an adviser’s long-term commitment to the highest standards of scholastic journalism.

Nominations and supporting documentation will be delivered to the judging committee of previous Golden Pen winners. They will select the winner(s) based on the available evidence. The recipient and all of those nominated will be announced at the Spring Conference on Tuesday, April 28, 2009.

All nominees will be recognized at the Spring Conference, and it is an exciting moment when your adviser realizes you have put so much work into creating this portfolio!

Editors, get your staff organized to create a portfolio to honor your adviser.

Postmark deadline is Feb. 20, 2009.

**What to do to
nominate your
adviser
for the
Golden Pen**

- Prepare a notebook/portfolios that includes the form (on back) on top, a nomination letter, documentation that promotes nominee, support letters and a photo—in that precise order.
- All portfolios must have a Feb. 20, 2009, postmark deadline.
- Questions? E-mail Gloria Olman at gaolman@comcast.net.
- Address the portfolio to:

Golden Pen, MIPA Office, 305 Communication Arts Bldg., Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48824-1212.

Turn over for application form

Entry Form • 2009 Golden Pen Award Nomination

Name of adviser _____

School _____

School phone () _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

ZIP _____

Years advising: _____

Publication(s) advised: yearbook newspaper broadcast literary magazine online _____

Name of editor/staff member making the nomination: _____

Editor's home phone () _____

Editor's e-mail (if used regularly) _____

Check list of items to include in an organized notebook or portfolio:

- _____ This form as the cover page
 - _____ A nomination letter by staff
 - _____ Documentation supporting the nomination (see list on other page)
 - _____ Letters of support
 - _____ A photo of the adviser (can include photo on a disk or e-mail to mipa@msu.edu)
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