



## Report to the Membership April 22, 2005

**M**IPA has had another successful year. Membership stands at 199 schools, up 12 schools from last year, with 261 advisers, up 1 from last year. We realize there are still more schools, advisers and students in Michigan who would benefit from membership in our organization. Please help us to spread the word about MIPA and its programs.

The 2004 MIPA Spring Conference was held April 23 at the Lansing Center. The keynote speaker was Joe Grimm, who also received the John Field Award for his help in procuring scholarships for high school students to attend the summer workshop and for speaking at numerous MIPA events. Nearly 1,500 students and teachers were on hand for the awards and sessions.

For 11 years in a row, the summer workshop was under the guidance of Betsy Pollard Rau, and she did another incredible job. Nearly 625 students attended. For this summer, MIPA's 22nd workshop, Betsy has lined up staff and is working on all of her many other tasks. Betsy continues to hire excellent staff members from Michigan as well as from around the country. The theme for this year is "Camp MIPA."

More than 2,000 students attended the MIPA Fall Conference at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing on Oct. 5. There were four learning sessions for students and advisers throughout the day and more than 65 presentations available.

MIPA hosted its second Junior High Conference. The half-day conference was held at the MSU Union and attendees could choose three sessions plus the keynote presentation, given by Betsy Pollard Rau.

MIPA hosted an InDesign and Photoshop workshop on Feb. 28. The event, which was taught by Ike Lea,

Brian Wilson and Cheryl Pell, was so popular that many students were turned away. We hope to have another InDesign workshop this spring, but it may be postponed until early fall.

MIPA's newspaper, yearbook and video production Judging Day was held on March 5. Thanks to all of you who came to help. It's always a fun day and very well organized, thanks to Julie Price, Lynn Strause and Diane Herder. Thanks to all of those who give up a Saturday to help!

The yearbook individual contest grew by 32 percent this year. Yearbook advisers will find the statistical breakdown of entries and divisions in their awards packets. This information will be on the Web as well.

The video production individual contest grew from seven schools entering last year to 17 this year. Last year there were 40 entries; this year there were 104.

More thanks to Rod Satterthwaite for continuing the MIPA Mentorship program. This was an idea that Rod came up with for an independent study two summers ago. We now have 23 pairs of mentors and mentees.

We are continuing to expand our Web site so that it becomes a useful tool for you. The more we use the site, the more we hope to become dependent on it and not the US Postal Service. This can mean a great savings in postage and copying for MIPA. We can take that savings and create more scholarships for the workshop or provide other services. Please use this as a source of information about all of MIPA's activities: [www.mipa.jrn.msu.edu](http://www.mipa.jrn.msu.edu).

Currently, we do not have a Junior High/Middle School chair. If you or someone you know might be interested in the position, please let us

know. Chairs are non-elected positions, selected by the MIPA president and board.

Financially, MIPA is doing well. Raye Grill, from the School of Journalism, has been keeping MIPA's books and updates the board every meeting to make sure we are meeting our budget.

The MIPA office is staffed by two wonderful students. They are Penney Aiken, office manager, and Ashley Watkins, membership and contest coordinator.

Michigan continues to make itself known on the national front. Our workshop is considered one of the best in the country. Many of our student publications win Best of Show spots at the JEA/NSPA convention in the fall along with numerous individual awards from national scholastic press organizations. Other top honors include Gold and Silver Crowns, Pacemakers and All-Americans.

Nationally, Michigan and MIPA are recognized as leaders in scholastic journalism. The MIPA executive director and board are here to serve the membership. Please call us for help, offer suggestions and become involved in our efforts to strengthen the organization and scholastic journalism. Both you and the organization will benefit.

Cheryl Pell, MIPA executive director  
MSU School of Journalism

Brian Wilson, MIPA president  
Waterford Kettering H.S.