



Report to the Membership April 25, 2006

MIPA has had another successful year. Membership stands at 181 schools, with 261 advisers. 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 2005 MIPA Spring Conference was held April 22, at the Lansing Center. Nearly 1,500 students and teachers were on hand for the awards and on-site contests.

For 12 years in a row, the summer workshop has been under the guidance of Betsy Pollard Rau, and this past year she did another incredible job. Nearly 550 students attended. For this summer, MIPA's 23rd 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 "jWorld!"

Close to 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 third Junior High Conference on Nov. 3. The half-day conference was held at the MSU Union and attendees could choose four different sessions. An on-site contest was also held.

In conjunction with the Detroit Free Press and the Knight Center for Environmental Journalism at the MSU School of Journalism, MIPA sponsored a one-day workshop for Detroit high school journalists at the Detroit Science Center. Close to 200 students attended the event, which was titled "Lipstick, Rockets and Jumpshots: Journalism and the Environment." Students had a chance to meet Detroit media personalities as well as work with journalists from the Detroit Free Press.

MIPA hosted its second InDesign and Photoshop workshop on Feb. 25. The event was once again very popular. A satellite workshop was held at Dexter HS

as well, with Rod Satterthwaite hosting and teaching. Instructors at the MSU site included Ike Lea, Brian Roberts, Brian Wilson and Jeremy Van Hof.

MIPA's newspaper, yearbook and video production Judging Day was held on March 4. 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 continues to gain popularity. Yearbook advisers will find the statistical breakdown of entries and divisions in their awards packets. This information will be on the Web as well.

Likewise, the video journalism individual contest sustained last year's growth with 17 schools again, and this year had a record 154 entries.

Many thanks to Rod Satterthwaite for continuing the MIPA Mentorship program. This was an idea that Rod came up with for an independent study three summers ago. This year we had 17 pairs of mentors and mentees. If you are interested in having or being a mentor for the 2006-2007 school year, please contact Rod.

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.

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.

As you know, MIPA had a difficult year because of the embezzlement by its longtime bookkeeper of \$51,000, which

was discovered in early June. This person also took money that belonged to the School of Journalism. The money that was taken from MIPA's checking account was actually supposed to be used to pay for goods and services on campus. Restitution has been made by the person who committed the crime, and we will be issuing a check to the School of Journalism for \$45,000 before the end of our fiscal year, which is June 30. We appreciated your patience and understanding as this event progressed from discovery to sentencing to restitution. We also owe a debt of gratitude to Jane Briggs-Bunting, who initially discovered discrepancies in records.

In addition, we hired a CPA, who has applied for MIPA to be a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt organization with the IRS. We have also hired an attorney, who has completed the paperwork and filing and we are now a Michigan non-profit corporation.

Bookkeeping currently is being handled by Cheryl Pell, with board members and the director of the School of Journalism, Jane Briggs-Bunting, overseeing the operation.

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

Nationally, Michigan and MIPA are recognized as leaders in scholastic journalism. Our workshop is considered one of the best in the country. Many of our student publications win national awards as noted in today's program.

The MIPA executive director, board and office staff 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.