

Report to the Membership of the 2008–2009 Year Presented on April 28, 2009

MIPA has had another successful year. Membership stands at 187 schools, with 255 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 2008 MIPA Spring Conference was held April 21, at the Lansing Center. Nearly 1,300 students and teachers were on hand for the awards and on-site contests.

Elected to the MIPA Board as trustee was Pam Bunka. Tim Morley was re-elected as trustee. Lynn Strause was elected first vice president.

For the first time ever, MIPA hosted an up-north conference in Traverse City at Northwestern Michigan College. We had 10 schools attend with about 120 people. Students could attend sessions during the day, including a keynote by Betsy Rau and a welcome from the news editor at the Record-Eagle, Mike Tyree.

For 15 years in a row, the summer workshop has been under the guidance of Betsy Pollard Rau, and this past year she did another wonderful job. Attendance was at 480, up about 50 students from the previous year. Rau continues to hire excellent staff members from Michigan as well as from around the country. The theme for this year is "Black and White and Red" and the dates are Aug. 2-6.

MIPA collaborated with the Michigan Press Association Foundation to sponsor internships for teachers who would like the opportunity to work at a newspaper for four weeks during the summer. The MPA Foundation is supplying the salary for these teachers. Last summer three MIPA member teachers— Ben Harwood, Stacy Hicks and Brian Wilson—worked at newspapers. We plan to continue this exciting opportunity, and we are thankful to the MPA Foundation for making it possible. Participants are also able to receive credit from MSU if they wish to enroll. The application deadline will always be March 20 of the year of the internship.

On Sept. 17, MIPA sponsored an event called " Student Voices: Celebrating the First Amendment, held on the steps of the Capitol Building in Lansing. Some students were selected to read essays on "What My Voice

Means to Me." A highlight Please see the information in your program today or visit the MIPA Web site for more information.

The Fall Conference was held on Oct. 23, and attendance was at 2,000, which was down about 450 students compared to the year before. There were four learning sessions for students and advisers throughout the day and more than 65 presentations available.

MIPA hosted its sixth Middle School Conference on Nov. 6. The half-day conference was held at the MSU Union and attendees could choose four different sessions. A carry-in contest was held for the second year and awards were given out during the last 15 minutes of the conference. 484 students and teachers, 30 more than last year, attended the half-day event.

J-Ideas chose MIPA to co-sponsor an event entitled Scholastic Partnership for the First Amendment. Teachers, students and administrators attended the Dec. 12 event and walked away with a better understanding of the importance of the First Amendment as it applies to young people.

MIPA hosted a one-day InDesign/Photoshop/Final Cut Pro and Dreamweaver workshop on Feb. 27. 58 people participated in the classes, which were taught at the MSU School of Journalism.

MIPA's newspaper, yearbook and video production Judging Day was held on March 7, and 4,235 entries were judged. It's always a fun day and very well organized, thanks to Julie Price, Lynn Strause and Diane Herder. We had more than 4,400 entries combined and 70 wonderful judges. If you've never been to the judging day event, we highly recommend it! Thanks to all of those who gave up a Saturday to help!

Statistical breakdowns for all the individual contests your students entered are in your packet today.

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 on March 31 for Detroit high school journalists at the Cranbrook Institute. More than 200 students attended the event, which was titled

"Bats, Bone and Bodies: Journalism and the Environment." Students had a chance to meet Detroit media personalities as well as work with journalists from the Detroit Free Press and MSU.

Many thanks to Rod Satterthwaite for continuing the MIPA Mentorship program. This was an idea that Rod came up with for an independent study several summers ago. This year we had six pairs of mentors and mentees. If you are interested in having or being a mentor for the 2009–2010 school year, please contact Rod.

As you know we unveiled our new Web design this morning, and we hope to continue to make changes to make it a more interactive site for students and teachers. We want to rely on this more heavily than 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.mipamsu.org. Please encourage your students to upload photos of MIPA events, their pages, etc.

Day-to-day bookkeeping is being handled by Cheryl Pell, with the treasurer, Brian Wilson, and the director of the School of Journalism, Jane Briggs-Bunting, overseeing the operation.

The MIPA office is staffed by three wonderful students. They are Amy Brandt, Jonathan Vereecke and Jayna Salk. Amy and Jon are graduating this year, and they will both be missed very much.

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
- Jeremy Van Hof, president, DeWitt HS