



PHOTO | GLENNIS SIEGFRIED

Almost 500 students, advisers and speakers were part of OSMA 2009. Registration filled the lower lobby of Franklin Hall April 3, but students quickly found their sessions and contest rooms by 2 p.m.

## Statewide annual convention continues to grow in scholastic journalism organization's second year

By **Alex Westerh**  
Streetsboro High School

Ohio's student journalists have come together for a second straight year on April 4 and 5 to take part in the Ohio Scholastic Media Association's second statewide convention held annually at Kent State University's Franklin Hall.

With this being OSMA's second year as an organization of student media across Ohio, planners such as Ms. Candace Perkins Bowen, who is the Executive Director of OSMA, believe the convention is growing.

The convention had 395 students who registered with a total of 37 schools expected to take part in the two-day event.

"We have more people, we're growing at a moderate rate," said Mr. Trevor Ivan, who is a Graduate Assistant at the Center for Scholastic Journalism.

The event featured over 50 seminars ranging from design to journalism ethics and included

broadcast events as well. An awards banquet was also hosted at the event where the 37 schools were awarded with individual and overall publication awards, which were pre-judged.

"The pre-entered stuff is the most important because of the feedback you're going to get," said OSMA board member and Journalism Educators Association's state director, Ms. Georgia Dunn.

While the competition has grown in the past two years, OSMA faces challenges such as its location and time. Dunn said she would like OSMA to become more of a centralized event taking place around Columbus, but said Ohio State is no longer

interested in the organization.

"Ohio State is no longer interested in working with students," said Dunn.

She said Otterbein College, which is located in Westerville, Ohio, has had interest but has a limited amount of space for the event.

In the coming months OSMA will partner with the Ohio High School Athletic Association to gather a list of all schools with journalism and newspaper programs.

Despite the obstacles facing OSMA, planners hope to grow upon the progress made this year at the event.

"With an exception of a few snags, things have gone over pretty well," said Ivan. ●

We have more people, we're growing at a moderate rate.

—TREVOR IVAN, OSMA GRADUATE ASSISTANT

Alex Westerh is a student at Streetsboro High School in Streetsboro, Ohio, and the first place winner of the News Event Category.

## Congratulations to the Day-of-Winners at the 2009 OSMA conference

### DAY-OF NEWS EVENT

- First Place: Alex Westerh, *Streetsboro High School*
- Second Place: Megan Stinn, *Rocky River High School*
- Third Place: John Jackson, *Hoover High School*
- Honorable Mention: Nicole Braccia, *Eastlake North High School*

### DAY-OF COMMENTARY

- First Place: Melissa Taylor, *Eastlake North High School*
- Second Place: Kaitlin Kline, *Hoover High School*
- Third Place: Brian Sell, *Lakota East High School*

### DAY-OF INTERVIEW

- First Place: Brooke Anderson, *Page One*
- Second Place: Kim Maples, *Findlay High School*
- Third Place: Chelsea Patton, *Our Lady of the Elms*
- Honorable Mention: Eden Pecha, *Solon High School*
- Honorable Mention: Aimee Peng, *Lakota East High School*

### DAY-OF NEWSPAPER DESIGN

- First Place: Alissa Guitner, *Centerburg High School*
- Second Place: Nic Hippler, *Dublin Scioto High School*
- Third Place: Kaitlynn Kerley, *Lakota East High School*

### DAY-OF NEWSMAGAZINE DESIGN

- First Place: David Esber, *Hoover High School*
- Second Place: Rohan Kusre, *Lakota East High School*
- Third Place: Alex Kokinov, *Theodore Roosevelt High School*
- Honorable Mention: Shay Colescott, *Streetsboro High School*
- Honorable Mention: Abby Anderer-DiMichele, *Rocky River High School*
- Honorable Mention: Rebecca McKinsey, *Lakewood High School*

### DAY-OF PHOTOGRAPHY

- First Place: Caroline Tompkins, *Lakota East High School*
- Second Place: Collin Fankhauser, *Dublin Scioto High School*
- Third Place: Lindsay Quinn, *Hoover High School*
- Honorable Mention: Lisa Spinelli, *Streetsboro High School*
- Honorable Mention: Caroline Tompkins, *Lakota East High School*
- Honorable Mention: Alisha Riley, *Findlay High School*

### DAY-OF YEARBOOK DESIGN

- First Place: Teresa Giralt and Chris Bellinger, *Our Lady of the Elms*
- Second Place: Kristin Thompson and Gina Pace, *Tallmadge High School*
- Third Place: Rhadika Madhavan and Heidi Yang, *Lakota East High School*

### DAY-OF BROADCAST NEWS UNIVERSITY

- First Place: Lakota East Broadcast Team
- Honorable Mention: Crestwood Broadcast Team



PHOTO | GLENNIS SIEGFRIED

Susan Zake, instructor, and two Kent State students go over design pages students submitted for competition. *Washington Post* A1 page designer Jon Wile also became interested in working on publications at the scholastic level.

## Kent graduate's road to success no accident

By **Brooke Anderson**  
*Page One Teen Section*

To hear Jon Wile, A1 page designer for the *Washington Post*, describe his life, you might think he stumbled upon his path to success by mistake.

However, anyone recognizing Wile's passion and resolve know that his rapid rise to success was not the fluke he might have you believe, but due in most part to his wealth of talent and determination.

His interest in journalism began after becoming involved with his school newspaper during his freshman year at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron. "I had an open seventh period and nothing to do," Wile says of his humble beginnings. He found his niche in sports journalism, a subject he had always been passionate about.

Wile decided to pursue a career in journalism at Kent State University. "I went to Kent because I couldn't go to OU," Wile said. However, his decision soon paid off when he secured a part-time position as a sports clerk at the *Akron Beacon Journal*.

He was then recruited as a clerk by the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*, getting his first real break writing the story of a high school football player who had died on the field. "I hadn't even taken beat reporting yet, and here I was interviewing coaches and parents about this kid who

died. It really is trial by fire," Wile said.

Two years into his stint at the *Plain Dealer*, Wile knew some career changes were in order. "As a sports reporter, I was a dime a dozen," Wile said, describing the difficulty he had using his extensive sports knowledge to craft a story.

He decided to try his hand at page design, recognizing that the *Plain Dealer*, one of the best design papers in the country, was the perfect place to learn. He discovered he possessed an unlikely talent for design and transitioned seamlessly into his new role.

Upon graduation, Wile faced little prospects of finding a job. Continuing his unlikely journey to success, he called the *Detroit Free Press* "on a whim" to inquire about an internship. He was told the position he wanted had already been filled by another young man, to which he replied, "Well, I'm going to be better than him, so it's a shame you're not hiring me." His confidence impressed the editor at the *Detroit Free Press*, and he was offered the internship.

Detroit proved to be the perfect environment to jumpstart his career in page design. Wile worked with top editors to develop his skills, and he later became the first intern to design for page A1 at the *Detroit Free Press*.

After briefly returning to the *Plain Dealer*, Wile was offered a position as a designer

Kent Graduate continued on page 3.

# Don't Stop the Presses

*Recent changes in the media bring challenges for journalists to overcome, but don't count print out just yet*

By **Melissa Taylor**  
Eastlake North High School

It would be an understatement to say that this country has experienced changes in the recent years. The badly beaten economy has forced this nation's newly elected president to implement many new changes in order to salvage the country. News media is no different from the country as a whole; it has experienced its fair share of changes within the last few years as well. In order for print media, such as newspapers, to stay afloat, however, it must also continue to evolve.

With the recent increase in Internet use, old-fashioned newspapers and other forms of print media have experienced a kind of fallout.

"I don't know where print is going to end up. Online views (however) are booming. We get about 8 million views a day," said Jon Wile, a front-page designer for the *Washington Post*.

While it may sound fantastic that so many people are viewing issues of the nation's newspapers on the Internet, the effects are, at this time, not all that positive for the publications themselves. Each person who views an issue of a newspaper online translates into unsold hard copy of that issue. Consequently, many newspapers are losing money.

Do not count newspapers out, however, and consider them a dying industry. The wise have long said that when one door closes, another door opens. Those words of wisdom apply to the print media industry in its current state. While actual hard copy issues of newspapers may in fact be going out of style, the Internet, although currently considered to be a cause of the demise of newspapers, may prove to be a new frontier. Just like thousands of people flocked to California in the 1800s to take part in the Gold Rush, the competing newspapers of today are rushing to develop the best way to use the

Internet to their benefit as well as to make money.

Wile, who is part of the rush to discover the best way to use the Internet to the advantage of the print media industry, refuses to give up.

"We are fighting an uphill battle," he said. "You have to be a bulldog in this business."

Wile is exactly right. Print media will evolve and prevail, just as most industries that have faced significant changes in the past have.

In order for print media to survive, those working in the industry must refuse, just as Wile has, to relent; they must strive each and every day to pull ahead from their competitors in the race to use the Internet to their advantage.

Although it may be true that the circulating of newspapers may cease within the next few decades, it is may also be true that the Internet will prove to be the new frontier of newspapers.

Nothing in this world can ever escape change, and newspapers are no different. The challenge is to embrace the changes and to discover the best way to proceed.

Wile, already a leader in his field, is right on track to leading the way into the future for the print media industry.

"You have to do as much as possible and be open-minded to everything possible," he said.

With people like Wile, this country should have nothing to fear with respect to the print media industry. The industry will evolve, and, soon enough, people will forget what it was even like to have old-fashioned newspapers. ●

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Print media will evolve and prevail, just as most industries that have faced significant changes in the past have.

Melissa Taylor is a student at Eastlake North High School in Eastlake, Ohio, and the first place winner of OSMA's Day-of-Commentary Category.

**Kent Graduate** continued from page 2.

for the *Washington Post*. As one of the top newspapers in the country, the *Washington Post* offered resources that would be difficult to find anywhere else. "It was time to see if I could cut it in this industry," Wile said of what prompted him to accept the position.

For two years, Wile worked on special segments for the *Washington Post*, at which time he was asked to begin designing for A1 heading into the presidential election.

Wile describes designing for A1 when

President Barack Obama was elected as one of the most fulfilling times of his professional career. Top editors gathered around his computer as he designed the page, announcing the results of the election. One editor commented, "They should have erected a grandstand behind your desk, because everyone was watching."

Wile now designs for A1 five days a week. He acknowledges his good fortune in reaching his current position, but also wants aspiring young journalist to be aware of the work involved in such a career. "Start early, young, and often," he says. He also admits how important

it is to network. This business is all about... knowing people. You always want to keep in touch with people and learn from them."

When asked what the future holds for him, Wile cited the financial uncertainty facing the newspaper industry as one of his concerns regarding job stability. While he would like to remain a designer at the *Washington Post*, Wile remarked, "Who knows, maybe there are bigger things out there." ●

Brooke Anderson is a student at Page One, the teen section of the *Warren Tribune Chronicle*, and the first place winner in the Day-of-Interview Category.

# PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



**Honorable Mention**

PHOTO | CAROLINE TOMPKINS

◀ Behind the Van Deusen building at Kent State University, an anatomized toad remains.

▼ Sophomores Kaylee Remington and Ian White embrace while waiting for a bus during the April 3 spring showers.



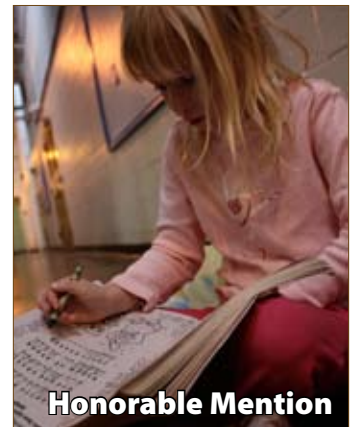
**Honorable Mention**

PHOTO | LISA SPINELLI



**First Place**

PHOTO | CAROLINE TOMPKINS



**Honorable Mention**

PHOTO | ALISHA RILEY



**Second Place**

PHOTO | COLLIN FANKHAUSER



**Third Place**

PHOTO | LINDSAY QUINN

▼ Charles Berg, a 62 year old resident of Kent, Ohio, eats soup alone at Wendy's, a popular fast food chain.

◀ A woman diligently rakes leaves on the Kent State campus, braving the elements to perform a quality job.

▲ Triple Take: Centerburg students Logan Reney (left) and Kyle Bartels experience life behind the desk at the April 3 OSMA convention.

▲▲ A young girl concentrates on her word puzzle in a hallway while waiting on her mom, who is working in the art workshop.