

# The Reporter



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*The Nation's Oldest National Honorary Collegiate Journalism Organization*

## SCJ Convention '06

By Frank Barnas  
Valdosta State University

Every two years, we collective SCJ members and advisers gather to exchange ideas, do the business that makes SCJ work, and honor the best journalism our students have to offer.

In this edition of *The Reporter*, you'll see information about the upcoming Biennial Convention. As an overview, here are some of the highlights!

**A Panel Discussion** on the difference between print and broadcast news writing styles. Far too often, students are confused about style, usage, and grammar. This informative discussion will address those issues for both students and advisers.

**A Panel Discussion** on how to cover crime and police procedure. As crime is, unfortunately, a frequent topic of journalism today, this panel will include both SCJ advisers and representatives from law enforcement to discuss what is permissible and what is forbidden in covering crime scenes.

**Business Meetings and Elections.** While the National Headquarters has moved to Virginia Wesleyan and some faces have changed on the National Commit-

tee, the work of SCJ continues as strong and dedicated as ever! Our biennial meetings are the only time we get together to discuss how to keep SCJ the premiere student journalism association.

**The National Awards Ceremony.** What would our convention be without honoring those students who have created exemplary work? Come to see the best in student journalism in all categories!

Most importantly, the SCJ Biennial Convention is the perfect time to energize yourself in the field of journalism! Too often, the hours are long, your student press is underfunded, and frankly, your work is underappreciated. At the SCJ Convention, you can talk about strategies with your colleagues, gain new ideas for the classroom, and remain on the cutting edge of student journalism.

If you only take one trip this year to hone your craft, this is the convention to attend! Please take a moment to review the materials mailed with this edition of *The Reporter*. You'll find the registration form, logistical data, and an agenda that



Valdosta State University.  
(Photo courtesy of Valdosta State University)

details what the convention will offer this year.

Remember – this convention will continue our tradition of successful meetings from the past, which have spanned fine institutions such as Wartburg College, Virginia Wesleyan, Lock Haven University and Southeastern Louisiana University (just to name a few)! We're honored to host the 2006 SCJ Biennial Convention here at Valdosta State University. We look forward to seeing you here!

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# Notes from the Executive Director

## Keep On Keeping On



We're having a Biennial Convention in Valdosta, Ga., March 2-4, and you need to come! Frank Barnas has the details in this issue.

But I want to tell you about our latest proof SCJ members make a difference where they are. Here at Virginia Wesleyan College SCJ headquarters, our student newspaper, *The Marlin Chronicle*, had been publishing with a small printer steadily for over a decade. Recently that small printer was taken over by a larger one. We got less attention and higher charges.

And the larger operation became the only game in town.

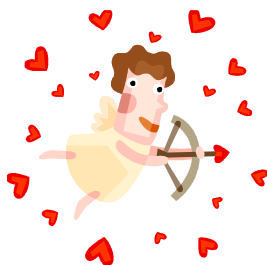
*Chronicle* News Editor Laura Dudley, who is also the president of our SCJ chapter, said "enough already!" and she started looking around. She found a less expensive and more attentive printer in Williamsburg, Va., which is some distance away from us – but they will deliver. She and Editor in Chief Megan Zirkle – another SCJ member – talked in person to folks in charge there who had the same warm and efficient qualities we had once been used to. So *The Marlin Chronicle* switched printers and will move ahead under budget and on deadline.

There's another example of our credo: smaller can be better. And that's a big deal. Remember: SCJ makes a difference, and so do you.

## SCJ Chapter Notes and News

### Congratulations to our newest members at:

Elizabethtown College, PA—6 new members;  
Virginia Wesleyan College, VA—19 new members.



Remember to check out the latest legal news at **The Student Press Law Center** online, [www.splc.org](http://www.splc.org).

### The SCJ Reporter

The SCJ newsletter is published once a month during the fall and spring semesters in accordance with the Clarion University of Pennsylvania academic calendar. It is created on an Optique computer using Microsoft Publisher 2000.

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