

The Reporter



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The Nation's Oldest National Honorary Collegiate Journalism Organization

SCJ moves headquarters to Virginia Wesleyan College

By Laura Dudley
VWC SCJ Chapter President

Virginia Wesleyan will become the new national headquarters for The Society for Collegiate Journalists, the oldest student honor society for collegiate mass communications, journalism and other media, in spring 2006.

"It's a feather in our cap," said Dr. Billy Greer, president of the college.

The decision was passed Oct. 29 during the national ACP/CMA College Media Convention in Kansas City, MO at the SCJ National Executive Council Meeting. Dr. Bill Ruehlmann, professor of journalism/communications, currently serves as president of the organization. He will become the new executive director in the spring.

"This is great for SCJ, it's great for the college and it's great for our students," Ruehlmann said. "It certainly gives me something to do, too."

For many years, Clarion University of Pennsylvania has served as the national headquarters for SCJ. Dr. Arthur Barlow, a professor at Clarion and the cur-



Sheridan Barker, Bill Ruehlmann, and Art Barlow meet as the SCJ National Council in Kansas City to finalize the move from Pennsylvania to Virginia.

(Photo courtesy of Colleen Peterson, The Marlin Chronicle, Virginia Wesleyan College)

rent executive director, is retiring after 12 years of service to the organization.

"The move is bittersweet for me," he said. "I expect that Virginia Wesleyan will be extremely supportive. I feel very positive about this move."

Virginia Wesleyan will provide the space, budget and facilities that the organization needs to carry on.

"We want to provide the sup-

port necessary in the way of physical space and technology," said Greer. "This administration does everything it can to create an environment where student journalism can flourish."

The official move to Virginia Wesleyan will be effective Jan. 7, 2006.

This story is reprinted with permission of The Marlin Chronicle, Virginia Wesleyan College.

District revises speech code after student editors, advisers express concern

CALIFORNIA — The Riverside Community College District revised the district's speech code yesterday after delaying the adoption of the code to address concerns about the possibility of censorship of the student media.

The board of trustees voted 4-0 in favor of the new revision at a meeting Tuesday night, according to an article in *The Press Enterprise*, a regional newspaper. Unlike the original draft of the revision, the version adopted yesterday includes a footnote specifying that the code does not apply to the student media.

The speech policy revision provoked concern before the footnote was added because it declared that Riverside Community College was not a public forum or limited public forum.

Student editors and advisers in the district, who said they were already worried about the possible effects of the *Hosty v. Carter* decision, felt threatened by the policy revision. In that case, the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals held that a student newspaper must be designated as a public forum for editors to have strong First Amendment protection. The 7th Circuit has jurisdiction in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

"I very much appreciate that the administration took our concerns seriously," said Sharyn Obsatz, adviser to the *Norco Voice*, one of three student publications in the district.

Linda Lacy, vice chancellor of student services, said the revision adopted was "absolutely" agreeable to all par-

ties involved.

"We didn't have any dissent at all, nobody spoke against it," Lacy said.

In addition, administrators have formed a committee to review the school's student publication policy, which has not been revised since 1980, Obsatz said.

Lacy, who chairs the committee, said the group has already had one organizational meeting and she hopes to have a revised student publications policy approved by the board of trustees in April.

Among other goals for the policies revision, Lacy said, "we want to make sure freedoms are upheld."

This story is reprinted with permission of the Student Press Law Center. For more information about the issues of the student press check online at www.splc.org. This story was written by Kim Peterson.

Administrators shut down campus TV station indefinitely

CALIFORNIA — A one-night hiatus for the student-run television station at the University of California at San Diego has turned into an indefinite suspension.

Student government officials, worried the station was planning to air live or unscreened material on Nov. 3 in violation of a recent amendment to the station's charter, asked the university to pull the station off the air for the night, according to *The San Diego Union-Tribune*.

School administrators would not turn the station back on when student government officials asked them to a day later, said student government president Christopher Sweeten.

"This wasn't a situation that the administration needed to step in on," he said. "This was a student issue."

Sweeten said he met with administrators to discuss returning the station to air, but he was told the station would remain off the air until "no harm will come" from the situation.

Station manager Tiffany Rapp said the school was "uncomfortable with the content."

"They just want control," Rapp said.

Rapp, who said the station provided 14 hours of original content a day with



shows encompassing the spectrum from music videos to animation to talk shows, said she believes the school is restricting the station's rights.

"It's completely censorship," said Rapp, adding that students now see this as an issue of free speech. The university also took down the station's Web site, forcing the station to open a new one under its own domain.

"This is not about censorship," school spokeswoman Stacie Spector told *The Union-Tribune*. "This is about ensuring student safety, security and the effective enforcement of rules and regulations."

An altercation occurred between student government representatives and station managers on Nov. 3 that involved students knocking on the door of the television station and station officials refusing to open it, Sweeten said. But he said the administration's claims of a physical altercation are "way out of proportion" and an

"excuse to keep the television station off the air."

Rapp said she agreed that there was no physical altercation. The studio has an access code, she said, and the delegates from the student government did not have the proper code to enter the studio.

Student government leaders stepped in to control the station after explicit sexual content appeared repeatedly on one of its shows, prompting outrage from some students. Explicit material was permissible under the student government charter, but student leaders attempted to ban sex and nudity on the station after a television show broadcast sex between its host and an adult actress.

The television station should not face censorship from the student government or the school, Rapp said.

The station is entirely funded by student activity fees, thereby falling under the jurisdiction of the student government rather than the school, Sweeten said.

No timeline is set for the station's return, Rapp said.

This story is reprinted with permission of the Student Press Law Center. For more information about the issues of the student press check online at www.splc.org. This story was written by Kyle McCarthy.

Former Student Journalist of the Year comments on journalism at VWC initiation

By Julia Greene
Student Journalist of the Year 2004

*The text represents remarks SCJ 2004 Student Journalist of the Year Julia Green made at a recent induction of the VWC Chapter. She had been Editor in Chief of **The Marlin Chronicle**; she graduated in 2004 and became Assistant Director of Communications -- Lead Writer for the college.*

Journalism is a lot of things. First and foremost, it is a responsibility. In a close second, it is a privilege. It is also an art form, a labor, a creative outlet and a voice. And it's a heck of a lot of fun, too.

It has been said that journalism is "the first draft of history." As student journalists, you have a hand in shaping the history of this institution. You are cataloging the

events, the trends and the transformations that are making Virginia Wesleyan what it is. Your eyes are the ones that people will look through to remember Wesleyan during this time period. That is a great responsibility, and I commend you for doing such a fine job.

Through your involvement in journalism and with the Chronicle, you are learning a number of valuable and priceless lessons, but perhaps most importantly, you are finding your voice. That is a something you will carry with you for the rest of your life -- you are learning to find your voice and be heard -- perhaps one of the most important things a person can learn.

Someone once told me, "Speak your mind, even if your voice shakes." This is what you have learned to do, and I hope that you can never be silenced.

As Humphrey Bogart said in



Julia Greene served as Editor of the Marlin Chronicle before becoming the Director of Communications for VWC College. Greene was SCJ Student Journalist of the Year in 2004. (Photo courtesy of SCJ National President Bill Ruehlmann)

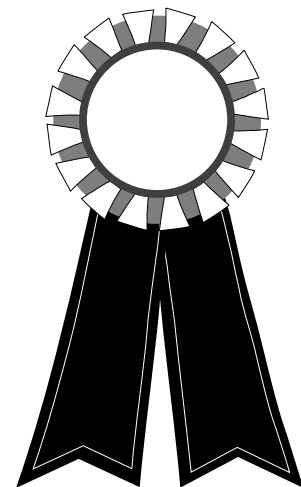
the old movie **Deadline** "About wanting to be a reporter -- don't ever change your mind. It may not be the oldest profession, but it's the best."

REMEMBER

SCJ NATIONAL CONTEST
DEADLINE IS
DECEMBER 15, 2005

Categories for print and broadcast journalism. This is Nation's only National Contest judged exclusively by professional journalists.

Rules are again included with the mailing: be careful, some items have changed.



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Notes from the Executive Director



Well it's official – the National Office of the Society for Collegiate Journalists will be moved to Virginia Wesleyan College, Virginia Beach, Virginia. Dr. William Ruehlmann, President, will be Interim Executive Director starting with the Spring semester 2006.

The move was approved at the SCJ National Council meeting in Kansas City.

I will retire from Clarion University at the end of this Autumn semester.

I'm very pleased to announce this move because, even though Clarion University has been an excellent host for our National Headquarters, I'm confident that Virginia Wesleyan will provide a secure foundation to anchor our organization.

In early September I visited the campus and at a meeting with President Dr. William T. Greer Jr. it was agreed that VWC would follow Clarion's example in providing physical and financial support to maintain the daily operations of our National network.

In a second major item of business, SCJ National Council, after being briefed by Frank Barnas, Chapter Adviser, provided final approval for the 2006 SCJ Biennial Convention. The Convention dates are set: March 2-4, and I am pleased that Frank and his chapter will be hosting our convention.

Valdosta, Georgia is within a reasonable drive of Jacksonville, Florida and/or the Florida Panhandle, and I personally think it will be a lovely place to visit after a long winter. I look forward to working with Frank as we continue the plans for the Convention. I ask **you** to mark your calendars and begin selecting your two official Chapter Delegates. Remember, each ACTIVE SCJ chapter is entitled to send two delegates to the National Convention. They are paid a modest stipend and travel allowance for their committee work, a rare opportunity in any institutional environment.

However, this does not mean that your chapter is limited to only two participants, BUT it is the work performed by the membership of SCJ every two years that creates a blueprint for our organization's future. This is an extremely democratic organization. We look to our membership for direction. It is the National Council and, in particular, the Executive Director who, working from the National Office, maintains the organization on a day-to-day basis.

So, we'll see you in the Spring, but first, let's enjoy the holiday season. Bon Appetit.

SCJ Chapter Notes and News

Congratulations to our newest members at:
Eastern Illinois University, IL – 13 new members;
Midland Lutheran College, NE – 4 new members;
Virginia Wesleyan College, VA – 19 new members.
5 new members
Tennessee Tech, TN
A special welcome to our newly chartered chapter at Barton College, Wilson, NC.



The SCJ Reporter

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