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Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer to present convention keynote address

David Leeson, Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer for the Dallas Morning News, will be the keynote speaker at the 2004 Fall Fiesta convention in San Antonio.

In 2003, Leeson was an embedded journalist in the U. S. lead Iraq invasion. He traveled with the Third Infantry Division, Third Brigade Combat Team, Task Force 2-69 Armored (Fort Benning, GA) and was at the frontline, under fire from enemy troops for 21-days, the length of the war.

In 2004, Leeson was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News Photography along with colleague Cheryl Diaz Meyer for their 2003 work in Iraq. Two of his documentaries from the war have won honors. "War Stories" (2003) won a National Headliners award for Best Television Documentary and a national Edward R. Murrow Award. "Dust to Dust" (2004) was named a finalist for best short film at the USA Film Festival.

"It's not every day that you get to hear from a Pulitzer Prize winner and see his work up close and personally," president Peggy Miller said. "TAJE is honored that David Leeson was willing to give up some of his time to share his expert photography skills with our students."

In the fall of 2000, Leeson began shooting video for The Dallas Morning News, making him one of the first staff photographers in the nation shooting video for a newspaper on a full-time basis. Since then he has completed more than 70 short features and seven documentaries.

Leeson has been a staff photographer for The Dallas Morning News since 1984. He has also worked for the Abilene Reporter News (1977-82) and The Times-Picayune/The States-Item in New Orleans (1982-84).

His assignments have included coverage of the FDN "Freedom Fighters" in their war against the former Marxist Sandinista government in Nicaragua. Other Central and South American assignments have included: El Salvador presidential elections (1984 and 1988), civil unrest in Panama (1988), Peru (1989) and coverage of Colombia's drug wars (1989).

In 1985 Leeson was a finalist for the Pulitzer for his photo coverage of apartheid in South Africa. He made two more trips to South Africa in the following years culminating with South Africa's first non-racial presidential election in 1994.

In 1986 he lived on the streets of Dallas with the homeless for two months. The photos, published in a 24-page special section by The Dallas Morning

News, won a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for Outstanding Coverage of the Problems of the Disadvantaged.

In 1991, Leeson arrived in Kuwait City with the 1st Marine Division and was among the first journalists to photograph in the city following Iraq's withdrawal during the Gulf War. The following year he returned to the gulf and gave readers an exclusive look inside war-torn Baghdad.

In 1994, he covered civil war in Angola, earning him a second Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award. In the same year, a photograph Leeson made of a family evacuating floodwaters in southeast Texas was named a finalist for the Pulitzer.

For more than 14-months, 1996 thru 1997, he worked on an essay about death row in the United States. Following that assignment, Leeson completed stories in China, Bosnia, the 1999 earthquake in Turkey and civil war in Sudan.



David Leeson

Enthusiam can lead advisers through new year

Back to work and eager to face deadlines.

Yeah, sure, in another lifetime.

The lazy days of summer are behind us, and it's time to get into the swing of things once again. Time to memorize 100 new names and struggle to remember the 50 or so returning ones. Then, of course, I have to dig to remember the J1's who have passed through and didn't qualify for staff. A few always drop by and whine about how much they liked my class and still think it's unfair they didn't get on staff. "But I passed," is usually their line which I follow with "just barely." I certainly wouldn't want to deal with those attitudes and IQs at first deadline.

Then there are the ones I wish were still here, the seniors who knew so much about the computer programs and picked up so quickly on the switch to digital. At workshop this summer, I heard advisers complaining about how their seniors had abandoned them at the end and became useless. Fortunately, I gave in four years ago and began printing a spring delivery book. Thus the end of worthless seniors and the realization that year-book advisers can get the summer off. Seniors are finished with pages in February and proofs by the end of March, so it's fine for them to do nothing for the last eight weeks but plan for Prom and Graduation. They've paid their dues and so have we.

A new bunch of staffers are ready to take over and make 2004-2005 have the most awesome publications ever. I hope their enthusiasm is catching. Enthusiasm was at the top of the list of ways to help your students excel in an article published in the Hous-

ton Chronicle July 21. The source was teacher and author Ron Clark, from his book *The Excellent 11*, and I found his list quite appropriate for publication advisers.

After *enthusiasm* followed *adventure* and *creativity*. Every day, the quest to sell advertising is a new adventure for our students, and the volumes of magazines they tear through searching for ideas and hot colors is a true test to let their creativity flow.

Reflection and *balance* come next, and how appropriate when we strive not to make the same mistakes as last year while preparing to give fair coverage to all in the new publications. *Compassion*, *confidence* and *humor* make up the next three ways to help

students excel, and these are key elements we experience before the first deadline. **S t r u g g l i n g** through two or three rewrites before a piece of copy is acceptable for putting on the page and still making the writer feel

worthwhile is always a challenge. Laughing about the drastic change in quality from first draft to final is always good medicine.

Common sense comes next, and this is something I have to work on with my AP kids who think they can make all deadlines and function in school with no sleep. *Appreciation* and *resilience* are the last on Clark's list of ways to help our students. When those first pages go to press, it's time to commend staffers for a job well done and give an optimistic look at future deadlines. We must remain resilient for the months ahead and pass that strength

on to our staffers.

As the new school year begins, keep in mind that you are the one who makes a big difference in the lives of your students. Think about those who have told you so, or even shown you in some little way. At the June Executive Board meeting, officers talked about starting a new column in the

newsletter, one that tells short tales of experiences that advisers have had with their students. It can simply be a paragraph or two or more depending on the incident. We all love to tell stories; it's in our blood. I'll share a short one.

The last bell rang for finals to end, and I gave hugs to a few who were hesitant to run out into the chaos of the hallways. Turning around, I noticed a small envelope on my desk, so I picked it up and read,

Dear Mrs. Miller,

I want to thank you for helping me write better this year. You were kind to me and did not make fun that I cannot speak good English. All the work I did in here helped me pass the TAAS test and now I can graduate.

Your student,

Tien

I can't remember Tien ever saying a word aloud in my class. I would bleed on her assignments, and every story seemed to have fewer and fewer mistakes. By the end of the first semester, I remember complementing her on the great job she did with an interview story. She would only blush and smile, but never uttered a word.

I encourage you to send anecdotes to Rhonda Moore for future newsletters and remember that the November newsletter will be online. It will recap the convention, which I hope all of you will attend in San Antonio Oct. 23-25. Good luck with your new crop of students and have a great year. I feel the enthusiasm growing...

From the President

Peggy Miller
Alief Hastings High School
TAJE President

As the new school year begins, keep in mind that you are the one who makes a big difference in the lives of your students.

Everyone counts

It's not just the numbers. It's the *numbers* those numbers represent.

Last year, TAJE topped out at 293 members, just seven short of a whopping 300. That's close to 300 representatives of scholastic journalism in Texas. While some advised high school yearbooks or newspapers or both, others sponsored newsmagazines or taught photo classes; still others coached UIL journalism or sponsored a junior high student publication. And while the figures didn't include every journalism program in Texas junior high and high schools, they outnumbered memberships of similar state organizations throughout the nation. TAJE was—and is—the largest state organization of journalism educators.

Imagine the ramifications. If each member averaged 20 journalism students, then at least 6,000 young Texans tasted both the freedom—and the responsibility—of the press last year. And 293 journalism educators considered their positions weighty enough to join the organization whose purpose is to strengthen scholastic journalism in Texas.

"I first heard of TAJE during my student teaching in 1990," TAJE board member Cindy Todd said. "My supervising teacher talked about how much fun it was to take kids to San Antonio for the fall convention and casually mentioned I might want to go sometime. What an understatement that turned out to be."

As a beginning yearbook and newspaper adviser, Todd said she sat through sessions soaking up everything the speakers said. She went on to successfully campaign for TAJE president and is now serving a two-year term as past president.

"TAJE has meant so much to my personal development as an educator," she said. "The association has provided guidance, an opportunity for my students to succeed in competition, scholarships for deserving staffers and a unique camaraderie that we all enjoy because all too often we're the only ones like us in our building. Even more importantly, TAJE gives this job legitimacy. We're not just publications advisers, we are educators. I truly believe there's a direct correlation between the growth of TAJE and the advancement in status of journalism education in Texas."

Originally christened in the late 1960s as the Texas Association of Journalism Directors with only a handful of members, the organization conducted its first convention in Dallas in 1979 but didn't create its first functioning board until 1983 when "Directors" was changed to "Educators." For the first few years the convention was moved from city to city, meeting in San Antonio then Fort Worth, again in San Antonio, then Houston, then Corpus, then Lubbock

Large number of members keeps organization strong

and back to San Antonio, the city that now provides a permanent convention home.

TAJE's five major aims and objectives have evolved through the years:

1. To develop a state organization of journalism educators in the state.

2. To assist in gaining and imparting to others an appreciation of the contributions of journalism to educational institutions and to our democratic society.

3. To impart an understanding of the development and purpose of journalism in our schools.

4. To provide its members with experiences and information to develop the qualities and attributes basic to successful teaching of journalism and directing of publications.

5. To provide information on new developments, trends, practices and standards in order to raise the level of school publications.

Each year, TAJE board members examine the objectives in an attempt to find even better ways to accomplish them. TAJE's Web site and listserv were recent results of that self-examination as were the implementation of regional

adviser workshops and a mentorship program for novice advisers. TAJE has led the campaign for AP credit for journalism, and as the voice of Texas journalism educators with TEA, TAJE has served as a powerful advocate for free expression and the highest journalistic standards.

But it doesn't end at the Red River. Because TAJE is affiliated with the Journalism Education Association, its members benefit from the strength of a nationwide organization whose ideals reflect those of TAJE: protection and application of the First Amendment.

One of TAJE's goals for the new school year is to hit or surpass that magic 300, but not just for the sake of numbers. Texas journalism students deserve the best training from the best-equipped teachers. For \$20, no organization can offer its members—and their students—more.

State Director's Report

Neva Hand
Henderson High School
TAJE State Director

Texas journalism students deserve the best training from the best-equipped teachers. For \$20, no organization can offer its members—and their students—more.

Out-of-state speakers to present sessions at Fall Fiesta

Sandy Woodcock, Linda Puntney and Jack Kennedy are some of the out-of-state speakers scheduled to present sessions at the TAJE Fall Fiesta.

Woodcock directs youth readership programs for the Newspaper Association of America Foundation.

Prior to joining NAAF, she taught high school journalism, photojournalism, newspaper and yearbook and advised award-winning high school newspapers and yearbooks. Publications and students under her guidance were recognized at the local, state and national levels for excellence in scholastic journalism.

Woodcock last taught and advised at Massaponax High School in

Fredericksburg, Virginia, where the yearbook received a CSPA Crown. She serves as a publication's judge for state and national scholastic press organizations and is a frequent presenter at workshops and state and national conventions.

JEA executive director Linda Puntney and JEA vice president Jack Kennedy will also present sessions. Puntney advises the yearbook at Kansas State University. Kennedy, former adviser of the Little Hawk newspaper at City High in Iowa City, now advises newspaper at a new high school in Colorado. He was the 1993 Dow Jones Newspaper Fund National Journalism Teacher of the Year.

UIL to host conferences

UIL will host four Student Activities Conferences to introduce students and advisers to UIL contests.

The conferences will begin at 9 a.m. and end by 1:30 p.m. with no lunch break. Registration is not required, and attendance is free.

The dates and locations are as follows:

Sept. 11: Tyler Junior College - Tyler

Sept. 18: West Texas A&M University - Canyon

Oct. 9: University of Texas at Austin

Nov. 6: Texas A&M University Kingsville - Kingsville

More convention news...

Hotel changes to Crowne Plaza

The TAJE Fall Fiesta will return to the same hotel, but it will have a different name.

As of July 8, the Adam's Mark San Antonio Hotel converted to the Crowne Plaza, a franchise of Inter-Continental Hotels Group. Everything about the hotel will stay the same. The hotel still has the same facilities, the same sleeping rooms, and the same location close to the Riverwalk.

In the past, TAJE has had an overflow hotel. Because attendance at the 2003 convention was low and to insure that all the sleeping rooms we booked at the Crowne Plaza are used, we have not contracted for an overflow hotel. Members who wish to book sleeping rooms at another facility must make those arrangements themselves.

Inter-Continental Hotels Group

offers a rewards program call Priority Club Rewards. Those who sign up for this program can earn points that could be used for stays at other Inter-Continental Hotels such as Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza., Staybridge or Candlewood Suites.

This could be a way to keep cost down for national conventions or summer workshops. Check out the Web site at <http://www.ichotelsgroup.com> for more information.

Members asked to be sure bookkeepers have correct TAJE address

Members are urged to check with their bookkeepers to make sure the school uses the correct address when sending registrations and checks to TAJE.

Problems have occurred because items were sent to the old address and

were never received.

The correct TAJE address is
TAJE

P. O. Box 5554

Austin, TX 78763

When convention registrations are received, an e-mail will be sent to advisers. If you do not receive an e-mail informing you that your registration material has been received, please contact executive director Rhonda Moore at rmoore512@sbcglobal.net.

On-site digital photo contest added

A digital photo contest has been added to the on-site contests.

Schools will be allowed to enter three students in this contest and three students in the color print contest. Students must provide a camera with a removable media card.

For more information about the contest, turn to page six in the convention booklet.

TAJE to host 7 regional workshops for advisers

TAJE will host seven workshops for advisers this fall. The workshops are free, and lunch will be provided. Both members and non-members are welcome to attend.

West Texas

The West Texas workshop will be held Aug. 28 at Abilene Christian University. Featured speakers include Mark Murray, Wayna Polk and Dr. Merlin Mann. Sessions will include Changing to InDesign, Coaching Writers and Design Trends in Yearbook and Newspaper. For more information, contact Leland Mallett at lmallett@bsisd.esc18.net.

North Texas

Media Mania will be Sept. 9 at Amarillo College from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Scheduled sessions include copy writing and design sessions with Betsy Rau from Michigan for newspaper and Gary Lundgren from Jostens for yearbook. Other sessions are scheduled for video production, digital photography, Yearbook Avenue and InDesign. Local author Jason Boyett will also talk about his experiences as a writer.

For more information, contact Luinda Verden from Caprock High School at (806) 371-5520 or luinda.verden@amaisd.org or Lana Jackson from Amarillo College at (806) 371-5292 or jackson-lc@actx.edu.

East Texas

The East Texas Regional Workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 14 at Pine Tree High School, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. National yearbook consultant Paul Ender will speak in the morning, and two sessions in the afternoon will be led by local advisers. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Susan Duncan at sduncan@mail.pinetree.esc7.net.

Far West Texas

The Far West Texas workshop is scheduled for mid-September. It will include a hands on workshop where teachers and students can bring equipment or use available equipment to produce Illustrator, InDesign, Pagemaker and Photoshop ideas.

For more information, contact Peggy Ligner at PLigner@aol.com.

Southeast Texas

The Southeast Texas workshop is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 2 at Lamar High School in Houston. Sessions will be available for yearbook, newspaper and photojournalism advisers. For more information, contact Kim Hocott at khocott@dpisd.org or 832-668-7225 (school) for time and schedule and additional information.

South Texas

The South Texas workshop is scheduled for Sept. 21. TAJE executive director Rhonda Moore will present sessions. For more information, call Gay Vaughn at 361-853-0151, extension 228, between noon and 4 p.m.

Central Texas

The TAJE Central Regional Workshop took place Friday August 6, at Winston Churchill High School in San Antonio. The theme was Back to the Basics: The ABC's and 123's of Journalism. The purpose behind this workshop was to educate new teachers and refresh experienced teachers on the fundamentals of newspaper and yearbook production.

Kathi Hopkins of Taylor Publishing offered pointers and information on budget and deadlines. Walsworth yearbook rep Julie Marshall taught a session filled with handouts and suggested lesson plans for advisers. MacArthur photojournalism teacher Pat Gathright provided tips for teaching photography. Kelli Ramatowski of Moving Pictures provided digital photo tips. Terry Scott Bertling of the San Antonio Express-News spoke on the Teen Team and the ASNE High School Journalism Program. The workshop ended with a session, The Writing Process, given by Sue Jett.

A TAJE workshop for elementary and middle school yearbook advisers is being planned for late September or early October. Please encourage teachers, parents and PTA members who are involved with production of these books to attend. Those who would like more information, would like to help or may have suggestions should contact Sue Jett at 210-442-0800 ext. 262, 210-497-2240, suecnett@yahoo.com or sjett003@neisd.net.

Members to elect new officers in February

Officer elections will be held in February. Members will vote for president-elect, secretary, treasurer and state director.

Anyone interested in running for office should contact Mitzi Neely at mneely@springhill.esc7.net.

Newsletters to be available online

TAJE members will access newsletters from the TAJE Web site beginning this year.

The August newsletter, which contains convention information, will still be mailed to schools, but the other three newsletters will be available only on the Web site. Members will be notified when the newsletters are on the Web site.

Anyone who has trouble downloading the newsletters should contact executive director Rhonda Moore at rmoore512@sbcglobal.net.

TAJE Executive Board meets in June

The TAJE Executive Board met in June in New Braunfels. The following items were discussed.

Executive director Rhonda Moore distributed the financial report for the year. TAJE has \$47,880 in Funds for Institution and approximately \$9,600 in checking.

AP information

Austin ISD administrator Michael Hydak suggested the Board contact the AP College Board's regional representatives.

JEA past president H.L. Hall had 200 people to respond to his e-mail about AP Journalism. The question is whether the course should be writing or Mass Communications. The issue needs to be what colleges will actually accept. State director Neva Hand volunteered to approach major Texas colleges to see what they want. President Peggy Miller suggested creating a five-question survey to send to the heads of communication departments at major colleges to give us feedback on what they want. Board members brainstormed survey questions and decided to try to get this together by November for JEA in Atlanta.

Webmaster's Report

TAJE currently has 94 members on the listserv. Webmaster Dianne Smith said we need to boost the membership, and she suggested automatically adding people when they register for membership. Moore said some people just don't want to be on listservs, and Smith said she could remove them if they request.

A problem with the listserv is that school filters are making the listserv inaccessible to many members. Smith asked for suggestions if anyone knows another place for groups without all the ads.

Smith will move handouts from jteacher.com to TAJE within the next month or so.

Convention

- Sue Blackmon and Bradley Froebel will write convention contests. Sue Jett will be in charge of the live contests. Brenda Slatton will be in charge of the video contests.

- Secretary Lori Herbst will contact RTND and STN to see if they would like to present sessions and judge at the convention.

- JEA president Ann Visser won't attend the convention; JEA vice president Jack Kennedy will be there in her place.

- Board members discussed the new digital photo contest and what the requirements would be for the contest.

- Moore will send e-mails acknowledging receipt of convention registrations from members.

- Out-of-state speakers: Linda Puntney, Jack Kennedy, Sandy Woodcock.

- The Breakfast with a Pro list was condensed.

- Jostens will host an adviser breakfast. Taylor Publish-

ing will host a luncheon and provide adviser bags. We will ask Herff-Jones to sponsor the food for the contest judges.

- Keynote speaker is David Leeson.
- Pat will e-mail to confirm speakers.

Committee Reports

- Nominating—President-elect Mitzi Neely will contact people to run for office in the February election.

- Mentorship—Regional representatives were asked to work on mentorship in their areas of the state. State director Neva Hand will be the contact

- Awards—Trailblazer Awards will be given to Dixie McGrath of Hill Country Middle School and Pam Smith, retired from East Central High School. Friend of Journalism Awards will be given to Kathi Hopkins of Taylor Publishing and Ben Carter of Herff Jones Publishing.

- First Amendment—Smith said Mark Goodman of the Student Press Law Center talked to Randy Vonderheid about getting a student free press law in place for the state. Smith has all the wording from states that have passed it and from those who haven't. She's researching it.

Other news

- Cindy Berry and Rochelle Palmberg have agreed to oversee the clip contest.

- UIL judges—Hand will keep updating the list and get it to Smith for the Web site.

- On-line newsletter will begin in November.

- Long-term goals are to increase membership to 300 and work towards national AP status.

- Regional representatives need to let principals know about regional workshops so that new advisers can attend.

- JEA has asked states to determine the definition of a highly-qualified journalism teacher because of No Child Left Behind.

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