



Report to the Membership of the 2009–2010 Year Presented on April 30, 2010

MIPA has had another successful year. Membership stands at 160 schools, with 238 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 2009 MIPA Spring Conference was held April 28, at the Lansing Center. Nearly 1,220 students and teachers were on hand for the awards and on-site contests.

Re-elected to the MIPA Board as second vice president was C.E. Sikkenga. Kim Kozian was re-elected secretary, and Brian Wilson was re-elected treasurer. Retaining her trustee position was Sue Spalding.

MIPA hosted its second annual up-north conference in Traverse City at Northwestern Michigan College on May 14. We had 137 students and teachers attending and for the first time, we offered a carry-in contest for students and an awards ceremony at the very end of the day. We are going back for this same event on May 12.

For 16 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 423, which was down about 60 students from 2008. The theme for this year is "MIPA J-Cation" and the dates are Aug. 1–5. We continue to work to keep the cost down.

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 MIPA Foundation is supplying the salary for these teachers. Last summer six teachers took part. We plan to continue this exciting opportunity, and we are thankful to the MIPA 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.

The Fall Conference was held on Oct. 19, and attendance was at 1,642, the lowest attendance in several years for a fall conference. There were four learning sessions for students and advisers throughout the day and more than 65 presentations available.

MIPA hosted its seventh Middle School Conference on Nov. 5. 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 third year and awards were given out during the last 15 minutes of the conference. Numbers for this conference were down 180 from the year before with 301 in attendance.

MIPA had a poster contest to help spread the good word about journalism in the school curriculum, and a student at Edsel Ford High School in Dearborn won the challenge. The poster was sent out to all members this spring.

In January, the MIPA board had a retreat, which was run by MIPA president Jeremy Van Hof. Some board members were reassigned to better fit the needs of the organization. An explanation of this is on the MIPA website, and Jeremy or Cheryl will be glad to share details with anyone who is interested. A new committee structure was created as well, and the board invites members to get involved in a committee.

MIPA hosted a one-day workshop and offered InDesign/Photoshop/Final Cut Pro and Illustrator. Redesign clinics in newspaper and yearbook were offered for the first time this year as well. The event was held on Friday, Feb. 26. Attendance was up for this event with 141 participating, compared to last year's 58! All classes were taught at the College of Communication Arts & Sciences Building.

MIPA's newspaper, yearbook and video production Judging Day was held on March 6, and 4,474 entries were judged by 75 judges. It's always a fun day and very well organized, thanks to Julie Price, Lynn Strause and Diane Herder. 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!

In a move to create a cleaner environment, we have put lists of all winners on the MIPA website. Please go to <http://mipamsu.org/springconference2010/> to see all of the individual category contest winners as well as Spartan contest results.

A statistical breakdown for all the individual contests your students entered is 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 23 for Detroit high school journalists at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Nearly 200 students attended the event, which was titled "Trash Talk & Tomatoes: Journalism & 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 2010–2011 school year, please contact Rod.

We continue to make changes to the MIPA website, which was unveiled a year ago. A website is like a house. You have to live in it for a time to know what changes you'd like to make. Aaron Olson, a journalism major, plans to do a bit more tinkering on the site this summer. Watch for some changes! Please remember to use this as a source of information about all of MIPA's activities: www.mipamsu.org. And please let us know if you have suggestions to improve the site.

Day-to-day bookkeeping is being handled by Cheryl Pell. The treasurer, Lynn Strause, is overseeing the operation and taking a more hands-on approach from what we have had in the past.

The MIPA office is staffed by two wonderful students. They are Jayna Salk and Christina Miteff. Cheryl is thrilled that neither of them is graduating this year.

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.

Respectfully submitted,
• Cheryl Pell, MIPA executive director
• Jeremy Van Hof, president, DeWitt HS