

Herald editors win awards second year in a row at Southeast Journalism Conference

HERALD STAFF

REPORT

Editors of the student-run newspaper, The Herald, won six awards in Best of the South and on-site competitions at the Southeast Journalism Conference (SEJC) held at Troy University in Troy, Alabama Feb. 23-25.

This is the second year in a row The Herald has won awards at SEJC.

“I’m very proud of my staff for coming to this conference and doing so well,” said The Herald editor-in-chief Rachel Rudd, a junior creative media production major from Beebe, Arkansas. “To see us go up against much bigger schools and staff and do so great was such a rewarding experience.”

The winners for the Best of the South categories are:

- **First Place Best Opinion**
Writer: Elijah Templeton
- **Second Place Best Page Designer:** Rebecca Robinson, former Herald editor-in-chief
- **Third Place Best News Writer:** Rachel Rudd
- **Fifth Place Best Photographer:** Rachel Rudd
- The winners for on-site competitions are:
- **First Place Opinion Writing:** Elijah Templeton
- **Second Place Page Design:** Anna Cox

“Being recognized for your work is an extremely gratifying feeling,” said Templeton, a junior creative media production



Photo by Sandra Combs | The Herald Adviser

(From left) Elijah Templeton and Anna Cox posing with their on-site competition awards. Templeton placed first in on-site

major from Jonesboro and The Herald opinion editor. “It was a great experience and I am excited to go again next year.”

SEJC is a yearly conference where schools from across the southeast compete in Best of the South categories and on-site competitions. Students also attend seminars to learn more about journalism and hear from working professionals.

SEJC has more than 35 member colleges and universities from states including Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

“My biggest takeaway

from SEJC was learning how to report on a deadline. For the on-site competition, I had to turn around a story in about two hours, which is an insanely short amount of time for someone who doesn’t have a lot of experience with deadline reporting,” said The Herald news editor Jerry Don Burton, a sophomore multimedia journalism major from Wynne.

Anna Cox, The Herald sports editor and a junior English major from Paragould, said the SEJC speakers helped her learn more about sports journalism.

“They provided so much valuable feedback such as how



Photo by Sandra Combs | The Herald Adviser

(From left): Anna Cox, Herald sports editor; Jerry Don Burton, Herald news editor, Elijah Templeton, Herald opinion editor, Caroline Averitt, Herald life editor; and Rachel Rudd, Herald editor-in-chief posing with their Best of the South awards. Templeton won first place for best opinion writing, Rebecca Robinson (former editor-in-chief, not pictured) won second place for best page designer and Rudd won third place for best news writer and fifth place for best photographer.

to make better connections with coaches, players, sports information directors and how those connections will help me when I need to cover something quick,” Cox said.

The conference featured keynote speakers Tom Foreman, an award-winning CNN broadcast journalist, and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Ashley Remkus, investigative editor for AL.com.

“You’re not here because you want to do most professions. You’re here because you want

to have a front row to history and to what happens in our world. It’s glorious. It is the most interesting thing in the world,” Foreman said.

Burton and The Herald life editor Caroline Averitt, a senior multimedia journalism major from Jonesboro, met with Foreman after his presentation. Averitt said Foreman encouraged them to

continue writing and wished them luck in their careers.

In addition to being a keynote speaker, Remkus led

a seminar on her investigative journalism and how students could get involved.

“I’ve been fortunate to work on other investigative projects. But the one thing that I would say is that people I’ve met a while working here said they got their lives back,” Remkus said. “That was the most impactful part. It was people saying that they got their lives back, that somebody believed.”

The next SEJC will be held at Mississippi State University Starkville,

THIS WEEK'S PUZZLE

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LEGENDS, CONTINUED

Ian Buchanan, staff senate president and chair of the Living Legends committee, said it’s important to recognize individuals who have made a lasting impact, even after they are gone when

presenting the Legacy Awards. “These people have stories to tell. It is important that we honor our legends because they so often are overlooked,” said Buchanan. “It is important that we not only do the Living

Legends, but now the Legacy Award for those who would if they were still alive, they would probably be deemed as a living legend. So we want to make sure that their stories are not lost.”

CAMPUS CRIME, CONTINUED

Barnett asked Suspect One if he had been drinking to which he admitted to two drinks. Barnett asked Suspect One to exit the vehicle and was given consent to check him for weapons.

Barnett conducted assessments to determine if Suspect One was under the influence of alcohol.

Suspect One demonstrated a lack of smooth pursuit in both eyes and distinct and sustained uncontrollable eye movements. Suspect One had to be reminded to keep his arms at his side during the assessments and swayed from side to side throughout.

During the walk-and-turn portion of the assessment,

Suspect One failed to maintain the start position and had trouble maintaining balance during the instruction period. Suspect One took the incorrect number of steps, taking 11 instead of the instructed nine on the first pass. Suspect One turned incorrectly, on the return walk he stepped off line on the second step and third step and stopped walking after regaining his balance.

Barnett then instructed him to continue the assessment at which point he started again and completed the assessment.

During the one-leg stand, Suspect One lost his balance in the first four seconds and continued to sway during the

duration of the assessment.

Suspect One was placed under arrest and secured with double-locked handcuffs,

Suspect One was transported to the Jonesboro justice complex to complete the blood alcohol level (BAC) test. The BAC was consented to by Suspect One and delivered a result of BAC .22.

Suspect One was again placed in the back of the marked patrol unit and transported to Craighead County Jail where he was turned over into their custody. The rear of the patrol vehicle was checked by Barnett for contraband. Nothing was found.

DRAG SHOW, CONTINUED

“I decided at the end I needed to do something to balance out me not knowing the words, so I did the fall-down knee slide and hurt my knee,” Davis said. “But it won, I got a Musketeer! It was worth it, maybe.”

Davis said she loved seeing local and Arkansas performers get together to spread positivity and highlight queer art.

“Events like this will open more doors for queer youth and spread education on queer

culture and bring representation to the main stage,” Davis said.

Griffin said the process for planning the pride event was lengthy and the event didn’t go exactly as planned.

“I reached out to my drag family and friends and originally we had a different cast and last minute we had to change that,” Griffin said. “However, the performers came out and showed out, it was great.”

Griffin said GSA worked

with the Women and Gender Studies program to organize the event. She said the program provided funding for the \$500 food expenses and promoted the event via flyers and social media.

“It helps build a sense of pride and community with other students because they see things like this,” Griffin said. “They see people openly expressing themselves and it gives them the confidence to do that as well.”