

# ***MOMENTUM***

**GSPA FALL CONFERENCE  
OCT. 24, 2023  
UGA TATE CENTER  
ATHENS, GEORGIA**

**#GSPA23  
@GSPAUGA**

# Thank you

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Grady College of  
Journalism and Mass  
Communication
- Walsworth

Special thanks to GSPA Student Ambassadors, Grady College Ambassadors, Grady College External Relations and Anna Parel, GSPA Graduate Assistant.



# Welcome to the Fall Conference—FAQ

## **Q: Where is registration?**

A: Registration is in the lobby of Grand Hall on the Fifth Floor of the Tate Student Center starting at 8 a.m.

## **Q: Where do sessions take place?**

A: Most sessions will take place on the Fifth Floor. A few sessions will be on the Fourth Floor. Advisers' work areas are also located on the Fourth Floor. Please refer to the maps provided.

## **Q: I brought copies of my publication to share. Where should I put them?**

A: Please leave publications to share at the registration tables.

## **Q: How do I get an on-site critique?**

A: On-site critiques are limited to newspapers, newsmagazine and news websites. Critiques will be 20 minutes per publication. No more than four students can participate and an adviser or school chaperone must be present. A critique sign-up is available online and only advisers may register at [www.ugagspa.org/news](http://www.ugagspa.org/news).

## **Q: How do I enter the On-the-Spot Photo contest?**

A: The photo contest theme will be announced 24 hours ahead of the Fall Conference on GSPA social media channels and on the website. **Students will have until 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 24** to shoot their interpretation of the photo theme. Photos must be taken on location, either in the Tate Student Center, on campus or in downtown Athens during the lunch break. Students will email a JPEG of their photo, a full caption, their full name, year in school and publication name to [gspa@uga.edu](mailto:gspa@uga.edu). Winners will be announced on GSPA's social media channels and on the website. Only one photo per student will be accepted. There is no entry fee. Prizes include bragging rights and premium swag (will be mailed).

## **Q: How do I enter the On-the-Spot Social Media contest?**

A: Share your experience on social during the conference! On X, Threads or Instagram, **tag @gspauga and use the hashtag #GSPA23**. Judges will consider media posts only. Media can be a designed meme (must be appropriate), video clip, photo, photo gallery, Story, created GIF, Reel, etc. Be creative but tasteful! Posts and content must be original. Posts can be made from a publication's account or a personal account. **Posts after 1:30 p.m. on Oct. 24 will not be considered** by the judges for the contest. There is no entry fee. Winners will be announced on GSPA's social media channels and on the website. Prizes include bragging rights and premium swag (will be mailed).

## **Q: How do I enter the First Edition Competition for newspapers, newsmagazines or news websites?**

Submit marked pdf copies at the registration table or email links to [gspa@uga.edu](mailto:gspa@uga.edu) by 10 a.m. Categories include cover (news magazines) or front page (newspapers, news websites), feature, news, opinion and sports articles. Only one entry from each school in each category, please. Must be work published in this academic year (late July 2023 at the earliest).

## **Q: When is lunch?**

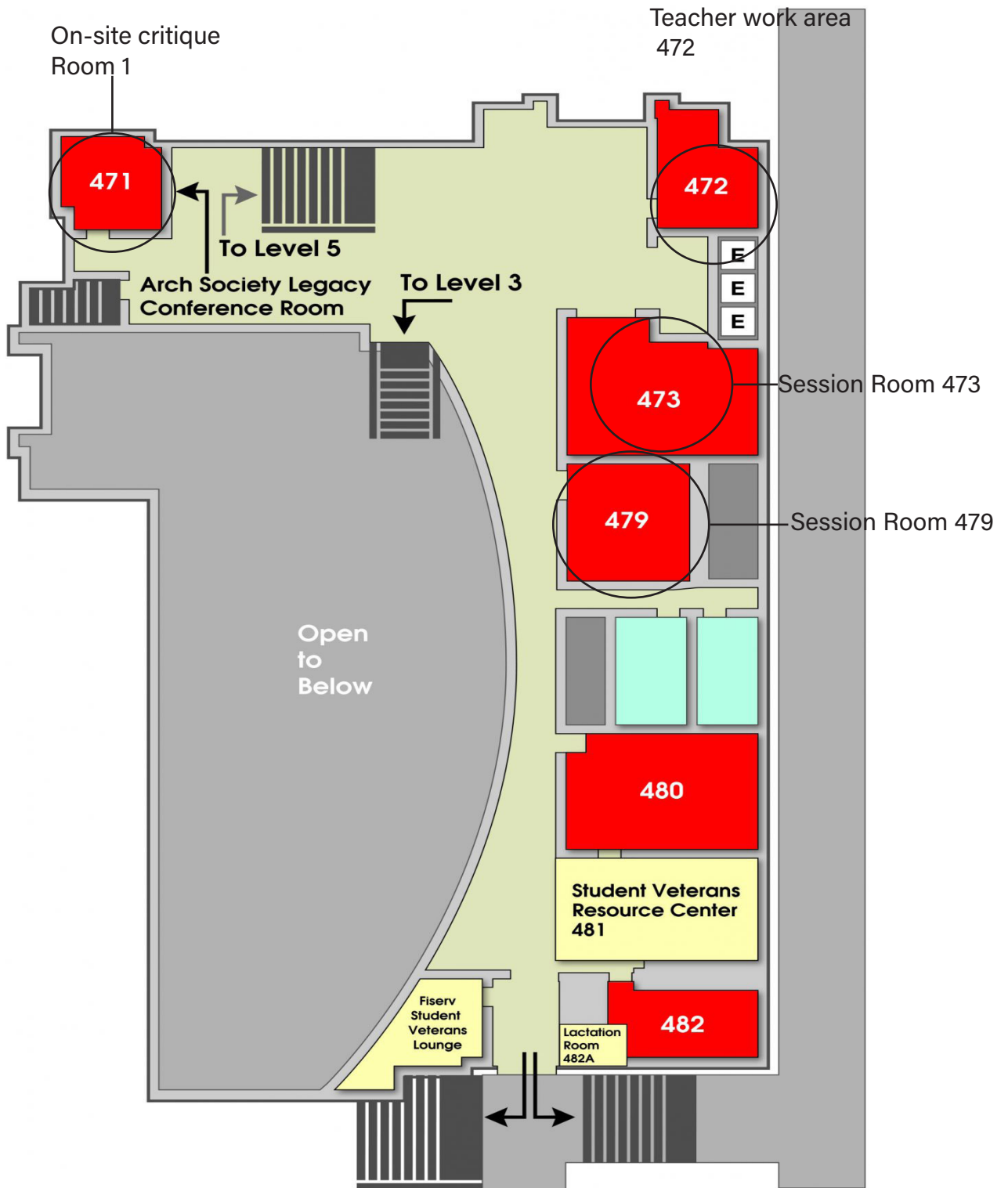
A: Lunch is 11:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. on your own. Please return for Round 4 of the sessions, which begins at 1:15 p.m.

## **Q: What should I eat for lunch?**

A: There are a number of dining options in the Tate Student Center. There are also nearby dining halls and restaurants in downtown Athens. Please refer to the maps at the back of the program. **Please plan your time accordingly in order to be back in sessions by 1:15 p.m.**

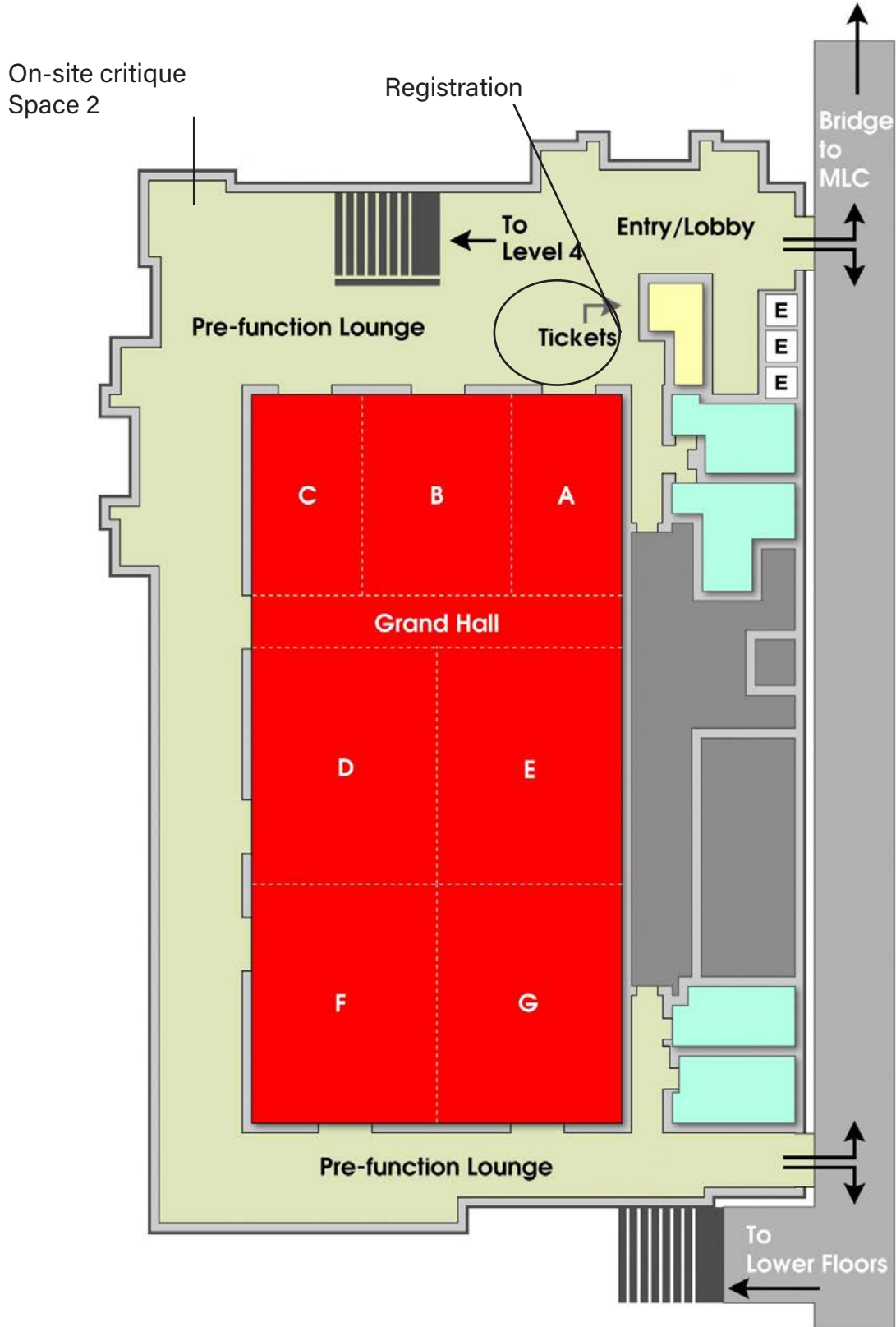
*Conference theme concept by GSPA Ambassador Wesley Harrison, Marietta High School.  
"As journalists, we're constantly moving: toward the next story, toward new mediums, toward new horizons.  
For all this, we need 'Momentum' to keep us moving forward."  
Cover art by GSPA Graduate Assistant Anna Parel*

# Where am I? 4th Floor, Tate Student Center



# Where am I? 5th Floor, Tate Student Center

Most sessions will be held in rooms A, B, C, D, E, F or G of the Grand Hall, which is located on the Fifth Floor of the Tate Student Center. A few sessions will be in Rooms 473 and 479 on the Fourth Floor of the Tate Student Center.





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# Sessions

## 9-9:45 a.m. (Round 1)

### **Capturing Moments: DSLR Mastery with Eli Searcy** **Grand Hall A**

Embark on a visual journey like never before with our immersive hands-on camera class designed to unleash the full potential of your DSLR. Join Eli Searcy, the maestro behind the lens and former editor of the Pandora UGA Yearbook, as he guides you through the art and science of photography. In this unique class, you won't just learn about cameras; you'll experience them. Eli believes in the power of learning by doing, so be prepared to snap, click, and capture your way to mastery. From understanding the basics of composition to mastering advanced techniques, Eli's insights will elevate your photography game. What sets this program apart is the personal touch. Eli believes in fostering a supportive community of budding photographers. Share your work, receive constructive feedback, and witness your skills flourish in a collaborative environment.

*Presenter: Eli Searcy*

### **What Would You Do with \$5k?**

#### **Grand Hall B**

C-SPAN Classroom hosts the C-SPAN Student Cam documentary contest. Learn how documentary storytelling can have an impact and how you can produce stories to give your community a voice and earn cash while doing it.

*Presenter: A.J. Chambers*

### **How to Play a Great Game: Coverage**

#### **Grand Hall C**

Think you're ready to tackle game coverage? Think again. With step-by-step analysis from pregame planning to post-game production, we'll walk you through the details of how to properly cover a game.

*Presenters: Wyatt Meyer and Aza Khan*

### **Media, News and the Future of AI**

#### **Grand Hall D**

The media industry has arrived at an inflection point this year, a time when the large language models of artificial intelligence are poised to remake the media landscape. How will the media, especially the news media, respond to the opportunities and threats presented by AI? How should the news media respond? This session will explain how we got to this point and will explore several scenarios for where AI may lead the news business in the near future.

*Presenter: Dr. Keith Herndon*

### **“What Can I Do with a Major In... ?” | A Grady College Student Panel**

#### **Grand Hall E**

Ever wondered what you could do with a college major in something communications-related? Come hear from a panel of four current Grady College students (including a former GSPA-er!) studying advertising, journalism, public relations, new media and public health. We'll talk about how they decided on their majors, what their campus media experience has been like, internship experiences and more.

*Moderated by Samantha Meyer*

### **The Grammar Slammer**

#### **Grand Hall F**

Bring your smartphones for this Kahoot!-based, interactive session that teaches — and tests your knowledge of — the most common grammar and AP Style rules. Prizes for the winners! Plus, a bonus prize for the first person to notice the error in this description.

*Presenter: Dr. Joe Dennis*

### **The Importance of Photojournalism**

#### **Grand Hall G**

In this presentation we will discuss what is photojournalism and why it is essential to journalism. We will explore a brief history of photojournalism, its components and purpose, and how to create compelling imagery that tells a story.

*Presenters: Jim Bass, Libby Hobbs, Kayla Renie and Elizabeth Rymarev*

### **Creating Powerful Instagram Graphics**

#### **473 (Fourth Floor)**

How do you make sure your Instagram feed gets the attention it deserves? How do you encourage your followers to interact with your posts? And how do you create powerful Instagram graphics? This session will teach you how to present your photos with maximum impact, effectively apply hierarchy, select readable fonts, apply color and contrast, and effectively communicate with your followers.

*Presenter: Prof. Kim Landrum*

### **Advisers meet and greet**

#### **479 (Fourth Floor)**

This will be an opportunity for advisers to network and have an open discussion about their successes or challenges. Share about programs, events, classes and other resources!

*Hosted by GSPA*

# Sessions

## 10-10:45a.m. (Round 2)

### **Grandpa, Spiderman, and Me – Wield Your Yearbook Power Responsibly and Purposefully**

#### **Grand Hall A**

You have great power. You choose topics. You choose stories. You choose photos. Essentially, you choose who's on a page and who's not. That's power to marvel, but not to squander. Get sobered by it. Get ignited by it. Resolve to wield your power responsibly and purposefully to change the world one photo, one caption, and one person at a time.

*Presenter: Gwen Childers*

### **Check Your Facts and Capture Your Audience**

#### **Grand Hall B**

Have you ever seen a comment without a linked statistic in sight? Or seen a pie chart that was boring? In this presentation, we'll teach you how to write a fact-based comment and how to back it up with statistical data. Then, we'll show you step-by-step how to ditch the basic pie charts and create an exciting and informative graphic to go along with your story.

*Presenters: Abby Hyken and Stella Maximuk*

### **Love the Light**

#### **Grand Hall C**

Light is the foundation for every exposure, which makes it the most important ingredient in a photograph. It can also be very frustrating and even downright intimidating! No worries...this session will help you understand how light works and provide you with some solid tips on how to make it work for you.

*Presenter: Jonah Fisher*

### **Using Your Voice for Good: Ethical Considerations for Race and Diverse Topics in the Digital Age**

#### **Grand Hall D**

Responsible reporting starts from the pitch. However, ethical and responsible decision-making does not come naturally to all and could arguably look different to journalists from different backgrounds. In this session, we'll talk through real-world topics connected to race, identity, and power in traditional media and social media. We'll explore how to be better informed when writing about diverse topics in the digital age.

*Presenter: Dr. Denetra Walker*

### **Know Your Rights: A Refresher on Student Speech and Press Freedoms**

#### **Grand Hall E**

Have you or your staff ever been told you can't write a story because it's too controversial? Do you ever stop yourself from pitching a story you think your adviser or administration won't like? These types of censorship are pervasive among student media programs, but knowledge of your rights is a powerful tool in the fight against censorship. This session will review major case law governing student press and speech rights, with a particular focus on prior review and censorship of student media. You will leave with resources and best practices to use to combat censorship at your school.

*Presenter: Leslie Klien*

### **The New Newsroom: Georgia's Emerging Digital Opportunities**

#### **Grand Hall F**

From the coast to the capital, Georgia journalists and newsroom leaders will explore trends in business models, changing reporter workflow expectations, and innovative news products.

*Moderator: Jennifer Grove Camacho*

*Panelists: Nicole Carr, Susan Catron and Keith Pepper*

### **Tips and Tricks to make your video content stand out on YouTube**

#### **Grand Hall G**

While YouTube is a video platform, YouTube marketing incorporates writing, graphic design, social media strategy, and much more. Dayne Young will display the tools he uses that has helped make UGASports.com the most popular YouTube channel that covers the Georgia Bulldogs. And since it is the popular thing to do in football right now, he will also incorporate some Taylor Swift content into the session.

*Presenter: Dayne Young*

### **"Netflix" is Not a Yearbook Theme 473 (Fourth Floor)**

Learn why it isn't. And it's not too late to make some adjustments! You'll leave this session with a solid understanding of the three essential components of a yearbook theme and how to develop them. Get your 2024 yearbook theme clarified before the school year really gets rolling so you and your staff can, and will, tell the story of the year!

*Presenter: Shanon Woolf*

**NewSource and Grady College Tour**  
*Meet in lobby near registration table.*





Photo by Rachel Bingham

# WHY WALSWORTH?

Have you heard about the Walsworth Yearbooks difference? We're a family-owned company committed to providing you with quality resources and industry-leading professional and personal service, all at a great price. The numbers don't lie.

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**31** yearbooks we worked with in 2022 that won a CSPA Crown and/or NSPA/ACP Pacemaker. The most of any publisher!

**25+** workshops across the country to help your staff learn how to create an awesome yearbook

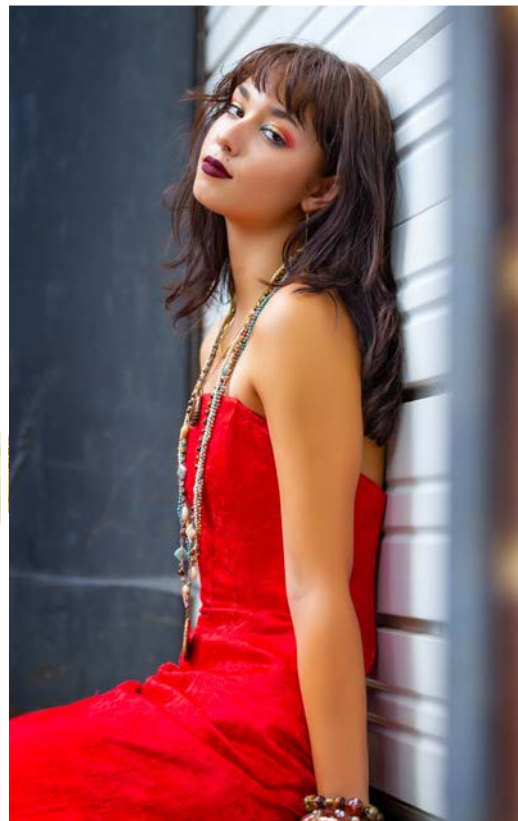
**1** focus – yearbook. Yearbook isn't just another product we offer; it's all we do.

**0** number of times Walsworth has been bought or sold (as a third-generation, family-run company, we like it that way)

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# Sessions

## 11-11:45 am. (Round 3)

### **Honor Your Content Through Good Design**

#### **Grand Hall A**

The principles of good graphic design rise above whatever software you use to design your messages. Let the principles of graphic design and the rules of professional typography support your content and instill faith in your readers that yours is a legit organization. In this active session, we'll look at examples, and you'll leave with resources so that you can learn more on your own.

*Presenter: Prof. Kristen Smith*

### **It's Not the Wand. It's the Wizzard, Harry!**

#### **Grand Hall B**

Good video is good video. It doesn't matter what kind of equipment you have. Hear tips to produce quality videos with low budget options.

*Presenter: A.J. Chambers*

### **Resisting Retaliation: How Hazelwood Gave Schools Permission to Retaliate Against Student Speech**

#### **Grand Hall C**

This presentation will focus on the ways in which the United States Supreme Court's decision in Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier (1988) left high school students' speech susceptible to prior review, censorship, and retaliation. We will examine how Hazelwood applies to school-sponsored media as well as the laws and strategies used to ensure student press freedoms.

*Presenters: Mona Abboud, Katie Davis and Ashley Fox*

### **Covering the 2023 Women's World Cup: UGA Students Working Alongside the Pros**

#### **Grand Hall D**

Last summer, 17 students from UGA's Carmical Sports Media Institute and visual journalism program traveled to Australia to cover the Women's World Cup for The Associated Press. A panel of those students will share stories of how they navigated the professional media spaces at a major international sports event.

*Presenters: Savannah Hernandez, Katie Tucker and Clay Witt  
Moderators: Prof. Vicki Michaelis and Prof. Carlo Finlay*

### **Build a Brand**

#### **Grand Hall E**

You take thousands of photos and less than 10% make it into your publications. Learn some ways to use your photos to build a brand for your publication program. We will cover everything from creating processes to brainstorming

innovative ways to engage your audience in your work to encourage readership and sales!

*Presenter: Samantha Jo Berry*

### **Before Was was was, Was was is.**

#### **Grand Hall F**

Writing for broadcast is very different from writing for a yearbook or the newspaper. In this session, you will discover why you need to "fire the English teacher in your head" and "write for Jerry." You will walk away with tools to create concise scripts that have a major impact on your viewer.

*Presenter: Tom White*

### **Reporting on Mental and Behavioral Health**

#### **Grand Hall G**

This segment promises to equip attendees with essential skills and knowledge, emphasizing the critical role of journalists in addressing and reporting on mental and behavioral health, suicide, and substance use disorders with sensitivity, accuracy and care. Your journey to becoming an adept, compassionate and influential journalist begins here.

*Presenter: Dave Huddleston*

### **Putting the Band Back Together: Building Trust, Teamwork, and Best Practices with your Literary Magazine and Publications Staff**

#### **473 (Fourth Floor)**

There are never enough hours to do all of the things you'd like in any teaching day, but how do you do it and manage a staff that can grow into something solid? Learn tips, tricks, and processes for building trust, creating workflow, holding members accountable, and creating quality work, while balancing grades and having fun doing it!

*Presenters: Nicole Motahari and Adam Throne*

### **"Hi, I'm New Here."**

#### **479 (Fourth Floor)**

This isn't just another adviser session; it's your backstage pass to unlocking the world of yearbook project management! Whether you're a seasoned pro or just finding your feet, our yearbook experts are here to guide you through the cadence of the year complete with timely tasks, pro tips, and energizing best practices. As a bonus, each attendee will walk away with their own Yearbook Playbook.

*Presenter: Andrea Avery*

### **NewSource and Grady College Tour**

*Meet in lobby near registration table.*

# Sessions

## 1:15- 2 p.m. (Round 4)

### **Precise Writing**

#### **Grand Hall A**

Do people really read yearbook copy? Is it that people don't read yearbook copy or that they do not read bad yearbook copy? Every sports team "leaves it all out on the field" and "comes together as a band of brothers." "A good time was had by all" at every school dance and every homecoming queen thinks "it was cool" to hear their name called. If you find these quotes in your copy, you need to come to Precise Writing and learn tips on how to get your yearbook feature stories read!

*Presenter: Kris Killough*

### **Who Are We Covering? Who Is On Staff? Who Cares?**

#### **Grand Hall B**

In this session, members of the ODYSSEY Media Group and their adviser will share how they seek to address representation in stories, on staff and why it matters. Engage in conversations surrounding representation, and walk away with tools to audit your publications, and a network to support you.

*Presenters: Aza Khan, David Ragsdale and Cadence Schapker*

### **Let it SNO!**

#### **Grand Hall C**

Whether you're a new online news editor or adviser, or if you've had some experience, join us and learn how we've used the new features SNO rolled out over the summer, and some of the tips, tricks, and hot takes our staff uses with the platform.

*Presenters: Rebekah Bushmire and Shanon Woolf*

### **Nobody's Business: How to Keep Your Data Private and Yourself Safe**

#### **Grand Hall D**

No matter what your beat, protecting your identity and limiting exposure to potentially hostile actors, is more important than ever. This session will equip you with the strategies and tools you need to report safely online and in the field.

*Presenter: Dr. Karin Assmann*

### **The Power of Story**

#### **Grand Hall E**

Human beings have always communicated with one another through stories. They help us to understand others and they can evoke empathy for those with different life experiences. In this session, we'll discuss how you can narrow the lens to

produce compelling and memorable stories that break down complex issues of the day. And how you can take an ordinary news feature and transform it into literature of fact.

*Presenter: Prof. Moni Basu*

### **What the Business School Can Teach Newsrooms**

#### **Grand Hall F**

Project Management is a fancy phrase for how to get stuff done. We will walk through how to adapt the business concept to your newsroom, making it more efficient and accountable.

*Presenter: Prof. Mark Johnson*

### **AI: Use it, Don't Abuse It**

#### **Grand Hall G**

Artificial Intelligence is going to solve all of our publishing problems! Or is it? New opportunities and responsibilities are emerging for student journalists with the rise of AI. Defamation, intellectual property and privacy rights all come into play and this talk stresses vigilance with research, writing and publishing when considering the use of AI.

*Presenter: Gary Green*

### **TSwift, Beyoncé and Barbie – The Power of Branding 473 (Fourth Floor)**

Dive into the ultimate Canva integration masterclass and revolutionize your program's image. Discover game-changing tips and tricks to elevate your yearbook, from stunning modules to eye-popping cutouts, vibrant gradient backgrounds to jaw-dropping graphics. Get ready to transform that Blank Space into a canvas of limitless possibilities!

*Presenters: Lauren Nicholson and Suzanne Ross*

### **Editors Table Talk**

#### **479 (Fourth Floor)**

You've got questions? We've got answers and resources. With a combined 25+ years in high school journalism, Kacie and Natalie invite you to pull up a chair and ask whatever is on your mind. Need help with staff motivation? How to handle difficult conversations? How to break up the division of labor? We are here for all of it. Plus, meet like-minded editors from other schools as well who share your passion and maybe even frustrations. We want you to leave inspired and on fire to meet your deadlines and tell the stories in your school worth telling. Yearbook-focused, but others are welcome. *Presenters: Kacie Kerkhof and Natalie White*

### **NewSource and Grady College Tour**

*Meet in lobby near registration table.*



THE ANSWER IS

**YES.**

**YES, WE CAN HELP YOU**

*win awards.*

**YES, WE CAN HELP YOU**

*sell out.*

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DON'T FEEL SEEN, HEARD AND LOVED.

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WE'RE ABOUT  
*the kids.*

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# Sessions

## 2:15- 3 p.m. (Round 5)

### **Marketing Memories - How to Draw More Attention to your School's Yearbook**

#### **Grand Hall A**

Learn more about the processes of creating a yearbook while practicing ways to market to potential audiences. Social media, outreach, and advertisement are all ways to engage with your community and draw more attention to your book. Also, we will talk about ways to channel your creative expression and transfer your high school skills to a collegiate yearbook!

*Presenter: Brecklyn Brown*

### **Let It Bleed: How to Craft Engaging Designs Like a Pro**

#### **Grand Hall B**

What kind of designer do you want to be? How can your publication step up your layouts? In this session, you will learn how to create quality spreads, how to successfully engage your audience through design, and how to find your own personal design style.

*Presenters: Molly Harwell and Janie Ripps*

### **Small Change, Big Impact**

#### **Grand Hall C**

You need to create photos that grab attention. In this session, we're going to highlight some small changes that you can make right now to help your photos have a BIG impact. These are things that any photographer of any skill level can grab hold of and tuck into their tool belt to help them create stronger images.

*Presenter: Jonah Fisher*

### **The Eyes Have It! Top Ten Tips for Producing Visual News Content**

#### **Grand Hall D**

Video consumption around the world is growing exponentially. The latest numbers on increases in cellular data consumption illustrate that video is the primary driver of this growth. With Tik-Tok and You Tube leading the way, tomorrow's journalists need to learn how to use these popular platforms to deliver news and information.

*Presenter: Prof. Dodie Cantrell-Bickley*

### **Basics of Privacy and Libel Law**

#### **Grand Hall E**

Student journalists can get in legal trouble if they carelessly gather and publish private or false information about a per-

son or organization. Understanding the basics of privacy and libel law will help you avoid such trouble.

*Presenter: Dr. Jon Peters*

### **Storytelling in Sustainability**

#### **Grand Hall F**

Sustainability is often locked in jargon, distanced from reality, and framed in doomsday scenarios. This session will show you how to tell stories that matter to real people. See the four steps to Sustainable storytelling: connections to life, simple language, multiple media formats and checking for solutions.

*Presenter: Prof. Ralitsa Vassileva*

### **Transforming Your Bright Idea into a Business Opportunity**

#### **Grand Hall G**

We all see social media influencers on TikTok, Insta and other platforms, but what does it take to create a media business? From coming up with an idea to figuring out how to make money, we'll walk through the steps entrepreneurs take when building a business. This session will use brainstorming activities and the stories of real media businesses (many created by high school and college-aged people) to help students think about bringing their ideas to life.

*Presenter: Prof. Tanya Ott*

### **Becoming a National News Guru for Your High School Paper**

#### **473 (Fourth Floor)**

Georgia is the center of a lot of national news this year—bring it to life in your papers! In this presentation, we will share angles for high school papers to uniquely add value for their community. We will specifically discuss the pursuit of local connections, youth perspectives, and community involvement.

*Presenter: Sierra Pape*

### **Insights into University and College Admissions**

#### **479 (Fourth Floor)**

Learn about what it takes to get into UGA and the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. You will learn about the different majors that Grady College offers, certificates, organizations and opportunities within the college.

*Presenters: Melinda W. DeMaria, Marcella Genut, Helen Mahany and Melinda W. DeMaria*

# GSPA Calendar

## Spring Competitions

- First Amendment Essay Contest: Dec. 1- Jan. 31
- General Excellence and Individual Award entries for Broadcast, Newsmagazine, Newspaper and News Website: Dec.1, 2023- Feb. 15, 2024. Nominations for Achievement Awards (all publication types) due Feb. 15.
- Journalist of the Year and Junior JOY due Jan. 21, 2024

## Spring Workshop and Awards

Monday, March 25, 2024, at the University of Georgia's Center for Continuing Education and Hotel in Athens

## Summer Advisers Workshop

Slated for early June. Details TBD.

## Summer Media Academy

- Several camps will be offered in summer 2024: AdPR, Broadcast, EMST and Multimedia Journalism.
- Register at [www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/youth/summer-academy](http://www.georgiacenter.uga.edu/youth/summer-academy) in February 2024.
- Limited need-based scholarship applications will be available at [www.ugagspa.org/academy](http://www.ugagspa.org/academy) in early January.

## Summer Competitions

General Excellence and Individual Award entries for Yearbooks and Literary Magazines accepted May-August

# EDITMENTOR

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# GSPA Student Ambassadors



TOP ROW: WYATT MEYER, WES HARRISON, TAYLOR PETROFSKI  
MIDDLE ROW: REBEKAH BUSHMIRE, ALEX TAYLOR, TISHA KAUR  
BOTTOM ROW: LILY RACHWALSKI, HENLEY DAVIS, SYDNEY MARTINEZ

Nine members serve in the 2023-24 class of GSPA Student Ambassadors. They are:

- Rebekah Bushmire, McIntosh High School, The McIntosh Trail news website and The Legend Yearbook
- Henley Davis, Wesleyan School, The Green and Gold newspaper
- Wesley Harrison, Marietta High School, The Pitchfork news website and Blue Devil News broadcast station
- Tisha Kaur, South Forsyth High School, The Bird Feed news website
- Sydney Martinez, Marietta High School, Pitchfork newspaper and Persephone literary magazine
- Wyatt Meyer, Clarke Central High School, Odyssey Media Group and Odyssey newsmagazine
- Taylor Petrofski, Lambert High School, The Lambert Post newspaper, newsmagazine and news website
- Lily Rachwalski, Midtown High School, the Southerner newspaper, newsmagazine and news website
- Alex Taylor, Union Grove High School, Wolverscenes Yearbook

Ambassadors promote GSPA in their schools and communities, serve as liaisons who strengthen communication between their high school media programs and GSPA, and act as leaders who bring new ideas to scholastic media.

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*Practical ... in impact*



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TELL A BETTER

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# Presenters

**Mona Abboud** is a second-year law student at the University of Georgia and a student attorney at the Law School's First Amendment Clinic. Abboud graduated from the University of Georgia Honors College with degrees in International Affairs and Communication Studies and a Spanish minor.

**Dr. Karin Assmann** teaches video journalism, multimedia production, reporting and storytelling, as well as graduate courses on journalism and mass communication theory at UGA. She studies the sociology and business of news production as well as rural and local news consumption and production in the U.S. and in Germany.

**Andrea Avery** serves Atlanta's schools through Jostens. As a former high school teacher and yearbook adviser, Andrea brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her customers. Andrea believes that each school and student should be celebrated in a unique and meaningful way.

**Jim Bass**, a senior journalism major at UGA from Newnan, Georgia, is the fall 2023 digital managing editor for The Red & Black. This is his second year working for The Red & Black.

**Prof. Moni Basu** teaches feature and narrative nonfiction writing at the University of Georgia. She is the director of the low-residency MFA in Narrative Nonfiction and the Charlayne Hunter-Gault writer in residence.

**Samantha Jo Berry** is the Director of Education and Curriculum for CADY. She is passionate about journalism education and helping students find courage in creativity. She channeled this passion into helping students create award-winning publications during her 12 year career as a journalism teacher. Her students earned national recognition with CSPA Crown and NSPA Pacemaker nominations and awards as well as numerous state and national individual awards. She is the former president-elect for the Texas Association of Journalism Educators and a JEA Rising Star, TAJE Pathfinder and ILPC Edith Fox King awards winner.

**Brecklyn Brown** is a third-year student at the University of Georgia studying Social Studies Education. She is serving as the Editor-in-Chief of UGA's Pandora Yearbook for the 2023-2024 academic year. She has high school and collegiate yearbook experience with a focus on public relations and marketing.

**Rebekah Bushmire** has been on The McIntosh Trail staff for four years and serves as the editor-in-chief for the 2023-2024 school year, as well as the managing editor for the Legend Yearbook, a program she has been a part of for four years. She is in her second year serving as a GSPA Ambassador.

**Jennifer Grove Camacho** is a proud Polk County-raised, Atlanta resident. The former Manager of Community Affairs for WSB-TV spent a decade working at small-, medium-, and large-market television stations. Jennifer is an Atlanta Business Chronicle 40

under 40 awardee and LEAD Atlanta graduate. Jennifer now leans on her previous experience to help organizations create content that connects with their audiences. In 2020, Jennifer launched PLOT My Story, a media creation & PR consulting company that helps put stories "on the map".

**Prof. Dodie Cantrell-Bickley** joined the Grady College faculty as a lecturer after more than thirty years in various television news positions including anchor, investigative reporter, executive producer and news director. As News Director, she launched one of the first local news websites in the United States. She led CBS, NBC and ABC stations as president/GM for seven years.

**Nicole Carr** is an award-winning investigative journalist, professor, and speaker based in Atlanta, GA. Carr joined ProPublica in June 2021 as a reporter covering the criminal justice system and racial inequity in the South. Carr is the recipient of four Southeast Regional Emmy awards, including two for her investigative and COVID-related coverage in 2020 and 2021 while reporting for WSB-TV.

**Susan Catron**, managing editor of The Current, has more than two decades of experience in Georgia newspapers. Susan served as executive editor of the Savannah Morning News from 2005-2020. A native of North Carolina, she came to Georgia in 1998 as managing editor for the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer. She is an adjunct instructor at Savannah State University, a board member of the Georgia Press Educational Foundation, and loves to kayak the marshes and rivers along the coast.

**AJ Chambers, MJE**, is a middle and high school teacher at Horse Creek Academy, a public charter school in Aiken, SC. He teaches Digital Arts, Film & TV, and Journalism. Chambers was named the 2021 JEA Broadcast Adviser of the Year and serves as the JEA Broadcast Competition Coordinator.. His students are state, regionally and nationally recognized scholastic journalists.

**Gwen Childers** is a Certified Journalism Educator who fell in love with yearbooking nearly 40 years ago as a middle school yearbook staff member, and she's been working on yearbooks ever since. She taught a variety of classes for ten years and has been serving as a Herff Jones yearbook representative for more than 15 years.

**Katie Davis** is a third-year law student at the University of Georgia and a student attorney at the Law School's First Amendment Clinic. Davis graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in International Affairs. She enjoys working to protect the First Amendment rights of citizens in her community through the Clinic, and she strives to continue community-involved work after Law School.

**Melinda W. DeMaria** is the Associate Director of University of Georgia Admissions for Marketing and Recruitment.

# SUMMER MEDIA ACADEMY



**JUNE 2024**

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# Presenters

**Dr. Joe Dennis** is co-chair of the mass communications department and associate professor of mass communications at Piedmont University. His experience in professional media includes serving as the news editor of The Walton Tribune (Monroe, Georgia), covering sports for several suburban Chicago newspapers, serving as sports information director for North Central College, hosting a nightly radio show on WPUP-FM (Bogart, Georgia) and as public address announcer for the UGA club hockey team.

**Jonah Fisher** is the former adviser of the award-winning Teleios yearbook at Mount Paran Christian School (Kennesaw, GA). He is a seasoned photographer and educator with over 15 years of experience behind the camera and in front of students and is the creator of yearbookphotomentor.com and the Yearbook Photo Mentorship, where he devotes his time to helping advisers and students develop their skills, hone their creative eye, streamline their photographic process, and tell more powerful stories with their images.

**Ashley Fox** is a lawyer and legal fellow with the University of Georgia's First Amendment Clinic. Fox graduated in May 2021 with a J.D. from the University of North Carolina School of Law and an M.A. in Mass Communication from the University of North Carolina Hussman School of Journalism and Media. Her passion for the First Amendment began as a member of her high school's yearbook staff.

**Marcella Genut** joined the academic advising team in January 2022. Prior to serving Grady College as the prospective student academic advisor, she worked for the CDC and nonprofit Extra Special People in a variety of communications roles. Genut is a University of Georgia alumna, having earned a B.A. in PR.

**Gary Green** is the executive director of the Student Press Law Center. Prior to joining SPLC, Green served as executive director of the Center for Sustainable Journalism at Kennesaw State University and senior lecturer of communication for the School of Communication and Media. From 2014-2020 Green was the digital director of University of Florida's Innovation News Center and deputy news director for WUFT, the NPR and PBS affiliate for north central Florida, housed in UF's College of Journalism and Communication. For nearly 20 years he previously worked as a photojournalist and multimedia producer for several newspapers in Ohio and Florida. Green received his bachelor's degree from Ohio University and MAMC from the University of Florida.

**Molly Harwell** is a senior at Clarke Central High School in Athens, Georgia, and the Editor-in-Chief for the ODYSSEY News-magazine. She hopes to learn about leadership and create strong connections with her peers.

**Savannah Hernandez** is a third-year Foundation Fellow at the University of Georgia, majoring in Journalism with a Sports Media Certificate and Spanish minor.

**Dr. Keith Herndon** is the William S. Morris Chair in News Strategy and Management, Director of the James M. Cox Jr. Institute and Professor of Practice in Journalism at UGA's Grady College.

**Libby Hobbs**, a junior journalism major from Warner Robins, Georgia, is the fall 2023 news editor for The Red & Black. This is her second year working for The Red & Black.

**Dave Huddleston** is a partner at Lexicon Strategies where he focuses on media, messaging, and strategic communication. Huddleston has been covering news stories from around the country for more than 30 years as a television anchor and reporter. He has won several Emmy awards including best anchor, continuing coverage and special reports. He's worked in several news markets including Seattle, Minneapolis, and Philadelphia and Atlanta.

**Abby Hyken** is a senior at Midtown High School and Co-Editor-in-Chief for the Comment Section of the Southerner. She is a third-year staff member. Abby loves to write, especially persuasive pieces, and keeps up with current events all over the world.

**Prof. Mark Johnson** teaches photojournalism, multimedia journalism, video journalism and graphic design courses in addition to serving as Grady College's Chief Technology Officer. He directs the annual Woodall Weekend Workshop that takes advanced photojournalism students into rural Georgia counties to tell their stories. He developed the college's first dedicated online news site and runs VisualJournalism.info.

**Kacie Kerkhof** graduated from Florida State University with a double major in Communications and English, focusing on editing, writing and media. As the Atlanta based partner with Herff Jones yearbooks, she has found that being immersed in school's cultures, and seeing students grow and change lives, is a true blessing.

**Aza Khan**, a senior at Clarke Central High School in Athens, Georgia, works as the Photography Editor and Journalism I Facilitator for the ODYSSEY Media Group. Khan enjoys working as a Journalism I Facilitator and hopes to pursue photojournalism in the future. She has also attended various conferences such as the NSPA while also presenting at GSPA and SIPA.

**Kris Killough** has spent over 15 years working with some of the most talented high school journalists in the country. He serves the greater Atlanta area as a yearbook representative for Walsworth and welcomes the opportunity to work with you and your staff.

**Leslie Klein** is a Ph.D. student in Grady College concentrating in Journalism. Her research explores the intersection of media law and scholastic journalism. She aims to use her research to advocate for student speech and press rights. Before going back to school for her master's, she taught high school English, yearbook, and journalism for four years.

# Presenters

**Prof. Kim Landrum** is a Senior Lecturer in Advertising and Public Relations at UGA's Grady College. She teaches courses in visual communication, social media content and production, and advertising and public relations campaigns. Landrum has a BID in interior design from Auburn University's School of Architecture and an MFA in photography from UGA's School of Art. Her background in spatial relationships and imagery led her to print and web design in the late 90s where she taught photojournalism, information graphics, and newspaper design and layout.

**Helen Mahany** joined the academic advising team in July 2019. She is a proud UGA alumna of 2016. After graduation, she moved to Nashville to work at Vanderbilt University Medical Center as a research coordinator. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Public Administration and Policy.

**Stella Maximuk** is a senior at Midtown High School and Co-Editor-in-Chief for the Comment Section of the Southerner. This is her third year on staff. When she's not writing for the Southerner, she's either playing violin in Midtown's Philharmonic Mastery Orchestra or playing varsity softball. Stella has a passion for public policy and loves to explore it through journalism.

**Samantha Meyer** began her time at UGA as an undergraduate student in Public Relations and Women's Studies, after working her way up her high school's yearbook staff to editor-in-chief. After graduating in May 2013, she attended graduate school at Grady College and started working in the UGA Career Center as the career consultant for Grady students. She now works in Grady College as the Director of Experiential Programs.

**Wyatt Meyer** is a Clarke Central High School junior and the Lead Copy Editor for the ODYSSEY Media Group. Through his work writing, editing, and designing for the program, Meyer hopes to further his abilities as a journalist. Outside of school, Meyer enjoys writing, playing the piano, and playing soccer.

**Stephanie Moreno** is the director of the Georgia Scholastic Press Association. In her other role as scholastic outreach coordinator for UGA's Grady College, she develops unique programming for secondary school visitors, with a focus on serving underrepresented groups. She also directs the Summer Media Academy for high school students and works with other colleges and units on university-level outreach initiatives.

**Nicole Motahari** is the yearbook adviser at North Springs High School.

**Lauren Nicholson, CJE**, currently serves as a Jostens yearbook representative. She is a student journalist turned yearbook fanatic and has been in love with yearbooks for nearly 20 years. Her passions include helping schools improve the journalistic quality of their books, supporting educators with resources that save time and stress, and—most of all—creating connections with kids.

**Tanya Ott** teaches media entrepreneurship at Mercer University and runs her own award-winning podcast production company.

**Sierra Pape** is a junior at Midtown High School in Atlanta, Georgia, and serves as the Managing Editor of the News Section for the Southerner. She is passionate about spreading relevant and truthful news about the Midtown community both through the website and print newspaper.

**Anna Parel** is the GSPA graduate assistant. She is a first-year Graduate Student at UGA, currently pursuing a master's degree in Journalism and Mass Communications with an emphasis in Advertising. Anna holds a bachelor's degree in Integrated Marketing Communications from The University of Mississippi. She loves taking on new challenges and has always aspired to work in a profession that pushes her to think outside-the-box.

**Keith Pepper** became the publisher of Rough Draft Atlanta after acquiring Springs Publishing in December 2020. Pepper has deep roots in the Atlanta community and a 20+ year career working at local and global media organizations.

**Dr. Jonathan Peters** is a media law professor at UGA, with appointments in Grady College and the School of Law. He is also the press freedom correspondent for the Columbia Journalism Review, and occasionally he writes about legal issues for other newspapers and magazines, such as Esquire, The Atlantic, Slate, Wired and The Nation. He is a volunteer First Amendment lawyer for the Student Press Law Center.

**David A. Ragsdale, CJE**, has advised student publications since 2001 at Clarke Central High School in Athens, Georgia, where his duties include advising the Odyssey Newsmagazine, Odyssey Online, ODTV and Iliad Literary-Art magazine. He was the Georgia Scholastic Press Association Adviser of the Year in 2007 and 2020, was named an ASNE Reynolds High School Journalism Fellow in 2014 and was named a Distinguished Adviser by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association in 2019. Ragsdale is the Journalism Education Association State Director for Georgia.

**Kayla Renie** is the newsroom adviser for The Red & Black, where she got her start as a photo editor as an undergrad, and a UGA alumna. Renie has worked as a photojournalist for multiple local newspapers across the country, including most recently The Athens Banner-Herald through Report for America, where she focused on issues of equality, equity, diversity and inclusivity that Athens' minority and marginalized communities faced.

**Janie Ripps** is a junior at Clarke Central High School in Athens, Georgia and is the Variety Editor for the ODYSSEY Media Group. Janie hopes to strengthen her writing and inform readers of the magazine about ongoing topics that play a big role in society.

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# Presenters

**Suzanne Ross** is a seasoned yearbook aficionado with a passion for weaving memories into beautifully crafted pages. Suzanne's journey in the yearbook world began in high school, on the yearbook staff alongside none other than Debra Messing! Suzanne transitioned into the role of a Jostens Yearbook Representative. She is not just a yearbook expert; she's a self-declared Canva enthusiast, always eager to explore new ways of infusing innovation into her projects. Beyond her creative prowess, Suzanne leverages her skills from the business world to assist schools in navigating the intricate process of book planning and smooth distributions.

**Elizabeth Rymarev**, a senior journalism major at UGA from Cumming, Georgia, is the fall 2023 editor-in-chief for The Red & Black. This is her second year working for The Red & Black.

**Cadence Schapker** is a senior at Clarke Central High School in Athens, Georgia and is the Sports Editor for the ODYSSEY Media Group. Schapker has attended GSPA, SIPA and NSPA conferences as well as the EMST and Multimedia Journalism workshops at UGA's Grady College.

**Eli Searcy** began his journalistic career as a freshman on his high school yearbook staff, eventually working to become the Editor in Chief of the prestigious Pandora Yearbook at the University of Georgia. With talents in graphic design and photography, Eli's passion is connecting with other students and helping them improve the quality of their publications.

**Prof. Kristen Smith** is a senior lecturer at UGA's Grady College, where she teaches Graphic Communication, Advanced Graphic Communication and Public Relations Communication.

**Adam Throne** has advised student media at North Springs High School for more than 15 years. Prior to teaching at North Springs, Throne taught in New York, where he also worked as a journalist, promotional writer, and software content project manager.

**Katie Tucker** is a recent University of Georgia and Grady graduate who majored in journalism. She worked for UGA's independent student newspaper as chief photographer and assistant photo editor and The Oglethorpe Echo during her time as a student. She now works for WUGA, Athens' NPR affiliate, and freelances in the Atlanta area.

**Prof. Ralitsa Vassileva** teaches undergraduate Newsource and Multiplatform Newsroom Projects courses. Vassileva has 20+ years of experience as a CNN anchor and correspondent handling daily and breaking news for diverse audiences. Her work helped CNN win awards for covering major international events like the Arab Spring, the Tsunami disaster and Sept. 11, 2001. Vassileva has worked in various media roles including news director, multiplatform writer and consultant.

**Dr. Denetra Walker** is an assistant professor in journalism at UGA specializing in race and media including social justice and activism. Mainly through qualitative methods, her work captures the experiences of marginalized and underrepresented journalists in the digital age, social justice, activism, police shootings, maternal health, and has a growing interest in racialized mis/disinformation.

**Natalie White** began her Yearbook Advising career directly out of college where she was the EIC for the NGCSU (now UNG) newspaper. Then advising students just four years her junior, she quickly had to learn to lead, organize, and motivate a staff with energy, excitement, and a whole lot of whimsy! With her ten years in the classroom, White earned Adviser and Book Accolades from GSPA, CSPA, and NSPA as well as "Teacher of the Year" and "STAR Teacher." White continues to go the extra mile as she was named HJ's "Above and Beyond" Representative in 2020.

**Tom White** recently joined the Amitrace team as the Education and House of Worship Specialist. Prior to that, he served as the broadcast engineer at Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia. White was a high school broadcast teacher for over a decade and was a nationally recognized video teacher winning many awards including TIEGA Teacher Of The Year and NFHS Network Program of the Year.

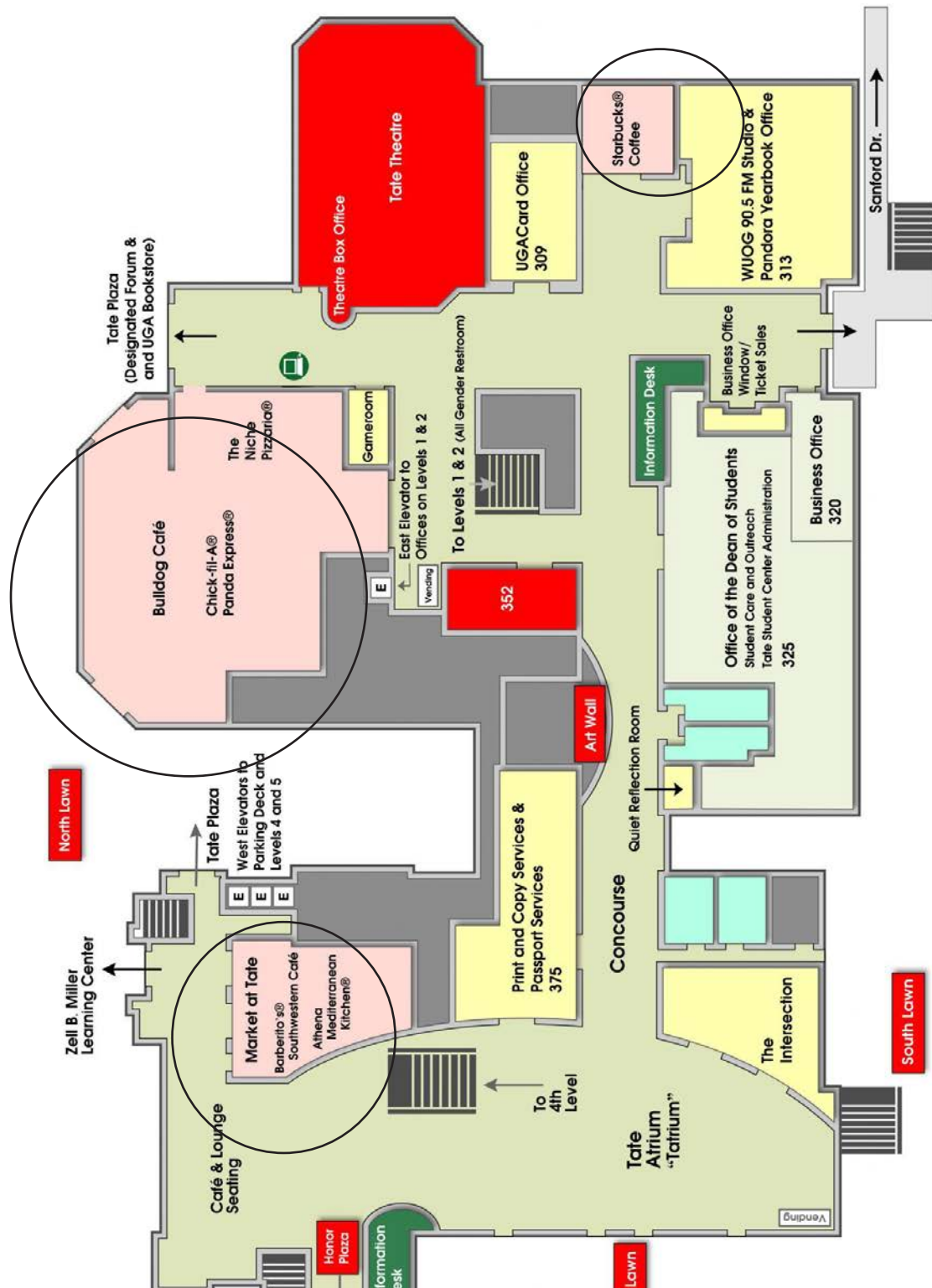
**Clay Witt**, is a UGA senior journalism major, minoring in sports management with a certificate in Sports Media. He has interned with ESPN West Palm, as well as announced soccer games both at FAU and at summer internships in the past, and of course had to pleasure of going to Australia to work for the AP. He is currently the head of the sports department for WUOG, the student radio station at UGA. He hopes one day to be the play-by-play announcer on your television screen when you turn on the big game.

**Shanon Woolf, CJE**, has advised student publications since 2018 at McIntosh High School in Peachtree City, Ga. She advises both the McIntosh Trail Online News Site and the Legend yearbook, which was named a Jostens National Program of Excellence in 2020 and 2021. Woolf was the Georgia Scholastic Press Association's First-Year Adviser of the Year in 2019, GSPA Adviser of the Year in 2022 and was named a JEA Rising Star in 2020.

**Dayne Young** is the program coordinator for the Carmical Sports Media Institute and the New Media Institute, both housed in Grady College. He is also a sports reporter for UGASports.com. He has worked for Grady College's communications team, See. Spark.Go, WRBL-TV and WALB-TV. He has more than a decade of experience in media and communications. Follow him on X @ dayneyoung.

# Where to eat? 3rd floor, Tate Student Center

There are several options for lunch located on the third floor of the Tate Student Center. They include: Chick-fil-A, Panda Express, the Niche Pizzeria, Barberitos and a grab-and-go Market at Tate for sandwiches, soups and salads. There is also a Starbucks.





# Where to eat? Other Options

## Downtown Athens Restaurants

The Tate Student Center is within walking distance to many restaurants in downtown Athens that offer counter service or table service. Visit [www.visitathensga.com/restaurants/](http://www.visitathensga.com/restaurants/) to see options and locations. Be sure to filter your search to “downtown” and “lunch.”

## More On-Campus Dining

There are two dining halls within walking or UGA busing distance: Bolton Dining Commons and Snelling Dining Commons. The current advertised lunch price, according to [dining.uga.edu](http://dining.uga.edu), is \$12.20, including tax. West Side Deli and Einstein Bros. Bagels are other options.

### BOLTON DINING COMMONS



Located in the heart of campus at the intersection of Baxter Street and South Lumpkin, Bolton Dining Commons is the largest dining commons on-campus. Open on the weekends, Bolton offers a wide variety of food seven days a week.

Down the hill from Creswell Hall and just next door to the Hill Community, Bolton is a fan-favorite for its unique offerings including **Lemon Grass Kitchen**, which serves authentic southeast Asian cuisine by Chef Mai Pham, Sunrise Café, which offers a selection of breakfast favorites all day, and a Special Selections line free of the eight most common allergens and gluten.



**Take a 360° tour of Bolton Dining Commons.**

**Location:**  
790 S. Lumpkin St.  
Athens, GA 30602

**Phone Number:** (706) 542-1255

### SNELLING DINING COMMONS



Open 24 hours Monday through Thursday, Snelling Dining Commons sits in the heart of South Campus near the Science Learning Center and Stegeman Coliseum. Enjoy sizzling hot grilled sandwiches and burgers, cheesy pizza, nutritious power bowls, and late-night snacks.

Join the Snellibrate tradition by visiting Snelling with your friends for late-night breakfast from midnight until 7:00 a.m.



**Location:**  
200 W. Green St.  
Athens, GA 30602

**Phone Number:** (706) 542-8412



**Location:**  
UGA Main Library  
320 S. Jackson St.  
Athens, GA 30602

**Phone Number:** (706) 542-3863

#### Menu Highlights:

- Hot / Iced / Blended Coffees
- Hot Tea
- Breakfast Bagels
- Lunch Bagels
- Grab-n-Go Salads
- Fruit & Yogurt Cups

### WEST SIDE DELI



**Location:**  
Amos Hall – Terry College of Business  
620 S. Lumpkin St.  
Athens, GA 30602

# Suicide Warning Signs for Youth



**It's time to take action if you notice these signs in family or friends:**

1. Talking about or making plans for suicide.
2. Expressing hopelessness about the future.
3. Displaying severe/overwhelming emotional pain or distress.
4. Showing worrisome changes in behavior, particularly in combination with the warning signs above, including significant:
  - Withdrawal from or changing social connections/situations.
  - Anger or hostility that seems out of character or out of context.
  - Changes in sleep (increased or decreased).
  - Recent increased agitation or irritability.

**If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available.**

**Call or text 988 or chat [988lifeline.org](https://www.988lifeline.org), or reach out to a mental health professional.**

