

Power of the Press

Staff travels to ILPC, gains new perspectives

Aimee Rodriguez
Copy Editor

They didn't fully understand what they were getting into. They had known about it, but none had experienced it. No one expected to be blown away by the city life or in tears from a simple photograph. They knew about journalism but they didn't know the power of raw footage and the real stories people tell.

Thirteen members of the journalism staff attended the Interscholastic League Press Conference (ILPC) last weekend at UT in Austin. They went to journalism sessions that taught them everything from how to work Photoshop to what it's like to be a photographer in the Iraq war. The staff came back with 83 individual awards for yearbook and newspaper. The 2013-2014 Roughneck won a Bronze Star after being compared with books in different divisions from across the state.

"My view on journalism morphed during the sessions into how much of an effect words can have," freshman Sabrina Smith said. "When someone says something and every syllable sticks with you and really hits a mark, that's what journalism is."

After the sessions were finished, there was enough down time to enjoy the city. They made a late night run to Amy's Ice Cream and saw the sing-along version of Pitch Perfect at the Alamo Draffthouse.

"I had never seen it before, so it was awesome to enjoy the whole experience by mouthing favorite quotes as subtitles appeared on the screen and singing all the songs," senior Mason Malone said. "That experience at Alamo Draffthouse describes my experience for the whole weekend. We had never been to ILPC before and didn't know what to expect, but we decided to dive in and fully immerse ourselves. It was awesome watching everybody do that."

Many students found inspiration in the keynote speaker, John Moore, who has photographed events all across the world including wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"The most important thing I learned from a session was what I'm calling the John Moore/Anderson Cooper principle: 'There is a fine line between being a journalist and being a person,'" senior Madi Borden said. " You have to decide



photo by Nour Hussein

whether to snap a photo or carry a child away from a fire. This life and line of work is harder than people think."

Journalism staffs from all over the state attended ILPC where they accepted their awards for every sort of media they produced. They explored the different ways to get the message across to their audience.

"Most of the what makes a successful journalist is just being a good listener and storyteller," senior Aimee Rodriguez said. "It's being able to challenge people's emotions through words or a photograph. Everyone has a story to tell and most people want someone to hear them out. ILPC attracted people from around the state all for the same reason: their passion for people."

ILPC gave some staffers hope right in the middle of yearbook and newspaper deadlines.

It refreshed their view on journalism and how to make a story interesting.

"After going to ILPC, I feel like I have a better understanding on the importance of getting the right story out there and how being a journalism student can affect what I do in my life," senior Nour Hussein said. "It definitely made me feel so much more motivated and more at ease with finishing the yearbook."

Throughout packed car rides and humid days in Austin, the staff took away more than just high school memories but also lessons that improved their life as a journalist.

"Before I went to ILPC this year, I knew that scholastic journalism had power," Davis said. "But, I did not realize the true impact that it can have inside my program and to my program's audience. The entire conference and watching my kids' reactions to it gave me a revived sense of purpose."

Circled around writer and White Oak alum '71, Bobby Hawthorne, the journalism team listens to new tips for their upcoming regional competition. Hawthorne is usually referred to as "The Godfather" of journalism due to his successful career.



photo by Jeanne Acton

Before leaving their first day at ILPC, the staff posed for a picture on UT Austin's campus. Later that night, they went to the Alamo Draffthouse to watch the sing-along version of Pitch Perfect.

ILPC2015

ROUGHNECK
Overall rating:
Distinguished Merit, Bronze Star

Individual Awards
THEME DEVELOPMENT
1st place: Rachel Horne, Mason Malone
CAPTIONS
1st place: Aimee Rodriguez
HEADLINES
1st place: Rachel Horne, Aimee Rodriguez, Cade Palmer, Nour Hussein
INDEX SPREAD
1st place: Rachel Horne, Aimee Rodriguez, Mason Malone
FEATURE SPREAD
1st place: Aimee Rodriguez
HM:Nour Hussein
STUDENT LIFE SPREAD
2nd place: Aimee Rodriguez
SPORTS SPREAD
1st place: Nour Hussein
3rd place: Leah Bryce
ACADEMIC SPREAD
2nd place: Mason Malone
CLASS SPREAD
1st place: Rachel Horne
2nd place: Rachel Horne
CLUB/ORGANIZATION SPREAD
1st place: Mason Malone

3rd place: Dailon Smith
MULTI-TOPIC SPREAD
3rd place: Jarred Lowman, Mason Malone
STUDENT LIFE FEATURE STORY
2nd place: Aimee Rodriguez
ACADEMIC FEATURE STORY
1st place: Brenna Jennings
2nd place: Leah Bryce
SPORTS FEATURE STORY
1st place: Cade Palmer
CLUB/ORGANIZATION STORY
1st place: Aimee Rodriguez
HM:Mason Malone
PERSONALITY PROFILE
2nd place: Nour Hussein
SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO
3rd place: Madison Faber
ACADEMIC PHOTO
1st place: Dailon Smith
STUDENT LIFE PHOTO
2nd place: Dailon Smith
CLUB/ORGANIZATION PHOTO
1st place: Garrett Gill
PHOTO PORTFOLIO
1st place: Dailon Smith

GAUGER
Overall Rating:
Achievement Newspaper

Individual Awards
NEWS WRITING
2nd place: Sabrina Smith

PORTFOLIO
1st place: Cade Palmer
2nd place: Mason Malone
NEWS/FEATURE STORY
HM: Mason Malone
HM: Cade Palmer
IN-DEPTH NEWS/FEATURE PACKAGE
1st place: Anthony Ramos, Isaac Rodriguez
2nd place: Virginia Mogavero
EDITORIAL CARTOON
1st place: Madi Borden, Hanna Paine
3rd place: Aimee Rodriguez, Hanna Paine
COMIC STRIP
1st place: Hanna Paine
2nd place: Natalie Allen
PAGE ONE DESIGN
1st place: Cade Palmer
2nd place: Cade Palmer
SPORTS PAGE DESIGN
1st place: Austin Iske
3rd place: Cade Palmer
FEATURE/ENTERTAINMENT PAGE DESIGN
1st place: Cade Palmer
3rd place: Dailon Smith
ENTERTAINMENT PAGE/SPREAD DESIGN
2nd place: Aimee Rodriguez, Mason Malone
3rd place: Aimee Rodriguez, Mason Malone
NEWS PAGE/SPREAD DESIGN
1st place: Cade Palmer

HM:Anthony Ramos
NEWS FEATURE
2nd place: Aimee Rodriguez
HM:Anthony Ramos
EDITORIAL WRITING
2nd place: Aimee Rodriguez
HM:Madi Borden
SPORTS ACTION
1st place: Austin Iske
2nd place: Austin Iske
SPORTS FEATURE
HM:Aimee Rodriguez
HM:Nour Hussein
FEATURE WRITING
2nd place: Mason Malone
HM:Michelle Holcomb
ENTERTAINMENT REVIEW
1st place: Anthony Ramos
HM:Mason Malone
PHOTO STORY
1st place: Cade Palmer, Dailon Smith
3rd place: Michelle Holcomb, Maggie Brown
PERSONAL COLUMN
2nd place: Anthony Ramos
HM:Nour Hussein
PERSONAL OPINION COLUMN
2nd place: Cade Palmer
3rd place: Mason Malone
SPORTS COLUMN
3rd place: Austin Iske, Cade Palmer
HM:Josh Hampton, Austin Iske, Cade Palmer, Nick McFarland
OPINION WRITING

3rd place: Cade Palmer
EDITORIAL PAGE/SPREAD DESIGN
1st place: Cade Palmer
3rd place: Aimee Rodriguez, Mason Malone
GENERAL NEWS PHOTO
1st place: Nick McFarland
3rd place: Nour Hussein
FEATURE PHOTO
1st place: Maggie Brown
3rd place: Dailon Smith
ENTERTAINMENT PHOTO
2nd place: Dailon Smith
3rd place: Brayden O'Neal
SPORTS ACTION PHOTO
3rd place: Nour Hussein
HM: Brayden O'Neal
SPORTS FEATURE PHOTO
1st place: Luisa Soto
3rd place: Maggie Brown
PHOTO PORTFOLIO
3rd place: Dailon Smith
HM: Maggie Brown
CAPTIONS
2nd place: Madi Borden, Michelle Holcomb, Anthony Ramos, Aimee Rodriguez, Makenzie Goll
HEADLINES
1st place: Isaac Rodriguez, Madi Borden, Mason Malone, Aimee Rodriguez,
NAMEPLATE/FOLIOS/STANDING HEADS
1st place: Cade Palmer

PAINTING THE TOWN

White Oak community partners with Pink Heals for second annual color run

Lauren White
Staff Writer

With blasts of the rainbow flying through the air and large packs of supporters decked in white with crazy hair and tutu's running along with it, the phrase "painting the town" came into a realistic perspective last year at the Pink Heals Color Run. As citizens gathered to help benefit both the Pink Heals Foundation and two of White Oak ISD's cancer patients, runners came to flaunt their crazy costumes and take a blast of paint with style and purpose.

"The paint makes it more fun, because it relieves all the seriousness of competition running and worrying about your time," junior Taylor Gill said. "With the color run, you're focused on just having fun and it's for a good cause."

The Pink Heals Foundation is a fully non-profit organization created to support women and their families who are struggling

with disease nationwide. The organization makes itself known mostly by volunteers driving in pink fire trucks and police cars while touring from city to city to meet patients and their

benefit to help draw attention," Color Run coordinator Tammy Denfeld said. "We love helping others. We can bring smiles

its own chapter and tours in the unknown pink fire trucks all around the Longview area, some even making stops in White Oak. Last year, Pink Heals paid home

and Mrs. Herrera battled thyroid cancer.

"It was an amazing experience to go out and see all these people run for two teachers," junior Victoria Browning said. "It was very heartwarming and Pink Heals did a fantastic job."

This year however, Pink Heals and the White Oak community have teamed up again to bring more awareness to women fighting disease or cancers. This Saturday, beginning at 8 a.m. at White Oak High School, the organization will be hosting its second annual color run for runners of all ages to help benefit women and their families nationwide.

"The best part about last year was getting to come together and seeing their faces when they saw how many people came and were there to support them. This year, I just want to see the turnout be huge again," sophomore Austin Denfeld said. "Pink Heals isn't about the cause, it's about the people."



families and to provide them with hope and support.

"Pink Heals is able to help those in need by providing support for fundraisers for any disease by bringing out our "rolling memorials" to a

to faces that have been given terrible news and help make their hearts overflow with love."

In the beginning of 2014, Gregg County itself opened

visits and funded a color run to honor two special citizens and White Oak faculty members, third grade teacher Kim Johnson and custodian Maria Herrera. Mrs. Johnson battled stage 4 breast cancer