



The Bee

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60 YEARS OF CARING

Nov. 5 banquet brings to mind fond memories

Sixty years ago, a group of enterprising journalists saw the need for an outlet where they could come together to share experiences and help each other grow in the field of journalism.

Originally the Florida Women's Press Club, the organization expanded and changed, and so, the Florida Press Club's Excellence in Journalism Banquet was born. To announce the annual banquet and keep members informed, the group's original newsletter, "The Bee" began circulating. Today, officers decided to bring The Bee back into publication.

"The Florida Press Club is



Florida Press Club President Sherry Mims, left, enjoys a previous banquet with Club Treasurer Megan Stokes.

all about relationships," Club President Sherry Mims said. "Each member has a relationship to the reader and to colleagues, of course, but the banquet is where everyone meets up.

"It's a perfect place to go up to a journalist one admires and start a conversation."

Conversation is Mims' favorite part of the banquet. She

enjoys hearing about fellow members' experiences from the last year and meeting the people behind the award-winning entries the club gets during its Excellence in Journalism contest.

"The talent is just outstanding, and the fierce competition that comes from living in a state like ours only makes

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ST. AUGUSTINE BECKONS

Mark your calendar for a weekend filled with the two best things about this profession: journalism that makes a difference and the energizing companionship of your fellow colleagues.

The Florida Press Club's 60th annual Excellence in Journalism banquet will be at 7 p.m., Nov. 5 at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort and Convention Center in

St. Augustine that's equipped with enough amenities so you can also pretend to be working in a better-paying profession.

On-site or just steps away, you'll find shopping, a luxury spa and golf -- and not just any run-of-the-mill golf. These courses are world-class, including one that Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus collaborated to create.

There's an IMAX theater, as

well, that boasts the Southeast's largest 3-D digital screen.

Rick Wilber, a journalism professor at the University of South Florida in Tampa, will be the keynote speaker at the banquet. He is also a writer who has published two novels, several short-story collections, a memoir, and several college textbooks about writing and

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MEET THE BOARD



President Sherry Mims

Mims works as a copy editor, page designer and journalist for The Daytona Beach News-Journal.

She is the former interim features editor of The Daily Commercial in Leesburg.

Her writing has appeared in publications throughout Central and South-

west Florida, including Lake & Sumter Style magazine, La Gaceta, The Tampa Tribune and the late Tampa Bay Illustrated.

She keeps a website at sherrymims.com and can be found on Twitter (@sherrymims), LinkedIn and Google+.

Vice President Trisha Cormeny

Cormeny is a former copy editor and page designer for The St. Augustine Record.

She began her journalism career as a summer reporter for The Palatka Daily News in 2000 before graduating with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Communica-

tions from Jacksonville University in 2004.

She has held the positions of reporter, photographer, news editor, interim managing editor and special sections editor at publications across North and Central Florida.



Treasurer Megan Stokes

Stokes is the associate editor of the East Orlando Sun.

She attended the Perley Isaac Reed School of Journalism at West Virginia University. During her four years there, she acquired six internships at various newspapers including the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review and worked as a staff

reporter for WVU's student-run newspaper The Daily Atheneum — a top ranking student newspaper.

Following graduation, she worked as the government reporter for The Daily Commercial in Leesburg, Fla., and then moved on to become a member of The East Orlando Sun.

Want to join the board?

Applications are now being accepted to join the 2012 Florida Press Club Board of Directors. For information, email fpcpresident@gmail.com. Please put FPC Board Application in the subject line and include a telephone number. Votes will be taken and applicants notified by Dec. 31, 2011. All applicants must be associated with a press-related organization based in the state of Florida.

REMEMBER WHEN...

*Memories of
banquets past are
still alive today*



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Melanie Wiesen, 21, is a senior and magazine journalism major at the University of South Florida. She is currently a Bright Future's Scholar and Florida Medallion Scholar, and she is on the USF Dean's List.

By her sophomore year of high school, Wiesen had cultivated a love and knowledge of music and writing. She decided to meld the two together, and pursue a career as a music journalist. This was fueled by her affection for print media and her fascination with the tangibility of newspapers and magazines.

After graduating from Oviedo High School in 2008 with a 4.25 GPA, Wiesen began attending the University of South Florida. In 2010, she co-created and co-hosted a one-hour music program on *Bulls Radio*, Florida's top-ranked college radio station. Within two weeks, she was asked to guest on the station's flagship program,



Florida Press Club 2011 Scholarship winner Melanie Wiesen is a senior magazine major from the University of South Florida.

Good Morning USF! After a month, she became the show's news reporter, writing and delivering the news segment each morning for the remainder of the year.

In the summer of 2011, Wiesen worked as an intern for the weekly alternative publication *Creative Loafing Tampa*. She wrote for the Arts & Entertainment section, publishing numerous features, contributing to the Daily Loaf blog

and creating Listings for events in the Bay Area. She considers her time with *Creative Loafing* the most rewarding and valuable professional experience she has had.

That summer, Wiesen also served as the singular writer for the Montage section of *The Oracle*, USF's newspaper.

During her time at both publications, Wiesen had the opportunity to interview comedians Tom Green and Dom Irrera, the Goo Goo Dolls, artist Deville Cohen and the head engineer at Busch Gardens, Mark Rose.

After completing the bulk of her journalism courses at USF and working for area publications, Wiesen has developed a deep affection for journalistic writing and news.

She hopes to work as a full-time journalist after she receives her undergraduate degree.

MEMORIES from Page 1

us better," Mims said. "It gives us more for which to strive."

Vice President Trisha Cormeny was attracted to the club because of its ability to bring experts from all backgrounds together for one goal: to share ideas on how to grow in journalism and to help support each other.

"The Florida Press Club is like a big family," Cormeny said. "Everyone is there to help celebrate each other's triumphs and to share ideas on how to make us better. We support each other's creativeness and walk away from each banquet with new experiences."

Treasurer Megan Stokes also enjoys the camaraderie the club offers.

"I was attracted to the Florida Press Club because it's much more intimate and inviting than other press organizations," Stokes said. "The members know each other, look forward to seeing each other at the banquet and respect one another's work. I love seeing the same faces each year."

Mims encourages all to get involved with the club and to attend its banquet in St. Augustine on Nov. 5.

"After speaking to someone through email for months, it's refreshing to put a face with a name. It's nice to see people share tables with competitors and talk about the

similarities and differences in their jobs. I love how our members cheer and applaud for each other — no matter the winner."

Stokes couldn't agree more.

"While attending another awards banquet for journalists earlier this year, I overheard another member say that the Florida Press Club's award ceremony is so much more fun because we cheer for each other, take photos with each other and even stay after the ceremony to socialize into the wee hours,"

Stokes said. "I love that getting together is not a chore for our membership — it's an opportunity to celebrate each other and good journalism."

Stokes' fondest memory was at-

tending a workshop the club hosted with long-time member and journalism pioneer Lucy Morgan in 2009.

"It was an informal event, so we were able to have a candid conversation about investigative journalism, techniques and standards in the industry," Stokes said. "It was a truly inspiring experience that I'll never forget."

Mims encourages all to attend the banquet and share their memories of the club with its officers and fellow FPC members.

"Relationships matter, and by building them during an event where we honor excellence, we are continuing a long journalistic tradition of working hard and playing harder," she said.

'Relationships matter, and by building them during an event where we honor excellence, we are continuing a long journalistic tradition of working hard and playing harder.'

— Sherry Mims, Florida Press Club President

BECKONS from Page 1

editing for some of the world's largest publishers.

A 1 p.m. workshop with Wilber on how to turn article ideas into books will also take place. FPC members who wish to only participate in the workshop may do so for free. Nonmembers may gain entry for \$5.

Admission into the banquet is \$45. One may pay for either the banquet or workshop by going to floridapressclub.org and clicking on Online Payments. Those who wish to pay by check are asked to email fpcbanquet@gmail.com. All participants are asked to email reservations to the address above and include the number of guests, newspaper and food preferences.

Members may check out the accommodations at the host hotel by going to www.world-golfrenaissance.com/. Rooms start at \$119. Those who reserve accommodations online are asked to put "Florida Press Club" in the comments box.

Food options

The following menu options are available. Please list preference with reservation.

⇒ **Grilled Flank Steak:** Southwestern marinated skirt steak with chipotle demi glaze;

⇒ **Chicken Castillo:** Served with pan sauce and topped with jumbo lump crab meat and grilled asparagus;

⇒ **Vegetable Lasagna:** Layers of pasta filled with seasonal vegetables, topped with a marinara sauce.

⇒ A vegan option is available on advance request.

And the finalists are...

The judges have made their selections and awarded finalists in the following categories. Finalists are not listed in the order for which they received an award and final results will be announced at the Nov. 5 banquet. Due to rising shipping costs, those who do not attend the banquet will be asked to pay to have their awards shipped to them. If awards are not claimed by Nov. 30, they will be recycled.



Public Safety

Jim Schoettler
Florida Times-Union
John Torres
Florida Today
Will Hobson
Daytona Beach News-Journal

Mary Ann DeSantis
Writing with Style
John Torres
Florida Today
Randal Yakey
Panama City News Herald
Shemir Wiles
Citrus County Chronicle
Ken Willis
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Mark Woods
Florida Times-Union

Palatka Daily News
Michelle Bearden
Tampa Tribune
Ron Hayes
The Coastal Star
Dave Breitenstein
The News-Press
Mark Lane
Daytona Beach News-Journal

General News

Jim Schoettler
Florida Times-Union
John Torres
Florida Today
Shemir Wiles
Citrus County Chronicle
Richard Bilbao
Orlando Business Journal
Tim O'Meilie
The Coastal Star
Francisco Alvarado
Miami New Times
Bridget Murphy
Florida Times-Union
Nirvi Shah
The Miami Herald

Government News

Will Hobson
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Jose Pagliery
Daily Business Review
Steve Plunkett
The Coastal Star
Julie Kay
Daily Business Review
Matt Dixon
Florida Times-Union
Tim Elfrink
Miami New Times

Community News

Jason Parsley
South Florida Gay News
Randal Yakey
Panama City News Herald
John Sotomayor
Sotomayor Media Creations
LLC (Messenger)
J.R. Duren
Villages Daily Sun

Environmental

Greg Martin
Charlotte Sun
Dinah Voyles Pulver
Daytona Beach News Journal
Paul A. Brinkmann
South Florida Business Journal
Susan Hoffman
The Arcadian
Michael E. Miller
Miami News Times

Breaking News

Jim Schoettler
The Florida Times Union
Pat Beall, Jennifer Sorentrue,
Andrew Abramson & Andrew
Marra, Palm Beach Post
Chris Devitto
Palatka Daily News
Larry Sullivan
Palatka Daily News
Brady Calhoun & Daniel Carson
Panama City News Herald
Anjali Fluker, Richard Bilbao,
Abraham Aboraya & Bill Orben
Orlando Business Journal

Minority Reporting

Dave Breitenstein
The News-Press
Lisa Rab
New Times
Livi Stanford
The Villages
John A. Torres
Florida Today
Jason Parsley
South Florida Gay News
Kaustuv Basu
Florida Today
B. Hanif
The Coastal Star

Religion Writing

Michele Dargan
Palm Beach Daily News
John Sotomayor
Sotomayor Media
Creations LLC
Jill Sherman
Villages Daily Sun
Mona M. Moore
Northwest Florida Daily News
Michael E. Miller
Miami New Times
Michelle Bearden
Tampa Tribune

Business Writing

Lisa Rab
New Times Broward - Palm
Beach
Josh Salman
Sun Coast Media Group
Kevin Turner
Florida Times-Union
David Corder
The Villages Daily Sun
Gail Liberman
Palm Beach Daily News
Julie Kay
Daily Business Review
Melanie Stawicki Azam
& Bill Orben
Orlando Business Journal
Tim Elfrink
Miami New Times

Serious Feature Writing

Bridget Murphy
Florida Times-Union
Michael E. Miller
Miami New Times
Gerald Ensley
Tallahassee Democrat
Trisha Murphy
Palatka Daily News
John Nelander
Palm Beach Daily News
Nick Sortal
South Florida Sun Sentinel

Light Feature Writing

Mary Ann DeSantis
Writing with Style
John Coscia
Citrus County Chronicle
Nick Sortal
South Florida Sun Sentinel
Jessica Greene
Villages Daily Sun
Emily J. Minor
The Coastal Star
Kristin Chambers

Health Writing

Carolyn Susman
Palm Beach Daily News
Anne Geggis
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Kimberly Morrison
Jacksonville Business Journal

Education News

Dave Breitenstein
The News-Press
Mary Kelli Palka
Florida Times-Union
Deborah Circelli
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Julie Martin
Palatka Daily News

See **FINALISTS** on Page 6

NOTE: Judges had the right to remove entries from consideration or combine classes, per the official rules of the Excellence in Journalism contest. If your name and/or organization is misspelled, please notify us immediately.

FINALISTS from Page 5*Sports Feature Writing*

Gary Corsair
The Villages Daily Sun
Michael J. Mooney, New Times
Broward- Palm Beach
Gus Garcia Roberts
Miami New Times
Jason Shoot
Panama City News-Herald

Sports Writing

Patrick Obley
Sun Coast Media Group
Lee Anderson
Sun Coast Media Group
Curt Hills
The Villages Daily Sun

Sports Column

Ken Willis, Daytona Beach
News-Journal
Pat McCann
Panama City News-Herald
Mark Blumenthal
Palatka Daily News
Steve Trivett
The Villages Daily Sun

Opinion Writing

John Burr
Jacksonville Business Journal
Carol Carnevale
Palm Beach Daily News
Scott Kent
Panama City News Herald

Commentary Writing

Gerald Ensley
Tallahassee Democrat
Michelle Bearden
Tampa Tribune
Mark Lane
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Denise O'Toole Kelly
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Steven Solomon
Tampa Tribune
Brian Thompson
St. Augustine Record
Trisha Murphy
Palatka Daily News
Mike Cazalas
Panama City News Herald
Mary Ann DeSantis
Writing with Style
Chuck Strouse
Miami New Times

Best Headline

John Coscia
Citrus Chronicle
Carol Carnevale

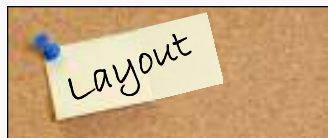
Palm Beach Daily News
Adam Rogers
The Villages Daily Sun

*Lucy Morgan Award
for In-Depth Reporting*

Kate Howard & Paul Pinkham
Florida Times-Union
Staff, Florida Times-Union
Michael LaForgia
Palm Beach Post
Julie Kay & Vala Lopez
Daily Business Review
Julie Kay
Daily Business Review
Bill Orben, Anjali Fluker, Richard Bilbao & Melanie Stawicki Azam, Orlando
Business Journal



Accent Staff, Daytona Beach
News Journal
Bruce Moore, Eliot Kleinberg & Staff, Palm Beach Post
Staff, Daytona Beach
News-Journal
Staff, Villages Daily Sun
Staff, Palm Beach Daily News
DBR Staff, Daily
Business Review
Staff, Villages Daily Sun
Staff, Jacksonville
Business Journal
Staff, Orlando Business Journal

*Front Page Design*

Jennifer Bradford
Florida Times-Union
Brad Tennant
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Pam Shavalier
Miami New Times

*Local/Business
Page Design*

Ruth Oneufer
Daytona Beach News-Journal

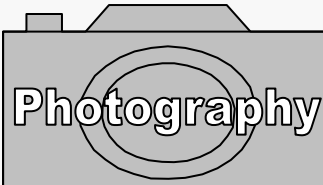
Monty Zickuhr
Florida Times-Union
Kyle Gallimore
Sun Coast Media Group
Kristilee Adler & Natalie Kennedy
Jacksonville Business Journal

Feature Page Design

Deirdra Funcheon
New Times Broward-Palm
Beach
Denise M. Reagan
Florida Times-Union
Mike Orton
The Villages Daily Sun
Marie Merchant
Suncoast Media Group
Sue Pearson
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Monty Zickuhr
Florida Times-Union
Mike Washuta
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Betty Nelander
Palm Beach Daily News
Carolyn Consider
Orlando Business Journal
Kristilee Adler & Natalie Kennedy
Jacksonville Business Journal
Pam Shavalier
Miami New Times
Danielle Provencher
Palm Beach Post

Sports Page Design

John Coscia
Citrus County Chronicle
Jeff Wilen
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Casey Meinberg
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Adam Rogers
The Villages Daily Sun

*Features*

Craig Rubadoux
Florida Today
Will Dickey
Florida Times-Union
Bob Self
Florida Times-Union
Andrew Wardlow
Panama City News Herald
Bruce Ackerman
Ocala Star Banner
Jim Tiller
Daytona Beach News-Journal

Nigel Cook
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Bruce Lipsky
Florida Times-Union
Devon Ravine
Northwest Florida Daily News
Terry Barner
Panama City News Herald
Mary Ann DeSantis
Writing with Style
Tim Stepien
The Coastal Star

Breaking News

Bruce Ackerman
Ocala Star-Banner
Andrew Wardlow
News Herald Photographer
Will Dickey
Florida Times-Union
Patrick C. Leonard
Palatka Daily News
Craig Rubadoux
Florida Today

General News

Will Dickey
Florida Times-Union
Bruce Ackerman
Ocala Star-Banner
Sean McNeil
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Bob Self
Florida Times-Union
Jim Carchidi
Orlando Business Journal
Patrick C. Leonard
Palatka Daily News
Andrew Wardlow
Panama City News Herald
Meghan McCarthy
Palm Beach Daily News

Sports Action

Nick Tomecek
Northwest Florida Daily News
Bob Self
Florida Times-Union
Jon M. Fletcher
Florida Times-Union
Jim Tiller
Daytona Beach News-Journal
Bruce Ackerman
Ocala Star-Banner
Terry Barner
Northwest Florida Daily News
Patrick C. Leonard
Palatka Daily News

Sports Feature

Will Dickey
Florida Times-Union
Bruce Lipsky
Florida Times-Union

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PROFESSOR SHARES SECRETS

Dr. Rick Wilber holds publishing workshop

Dr. Rick Wilber, a journalism professor at the University of South Florida, has written thousands of magazine and newspaper articles, essays, reviews and short stories.

His books include "New Media," which was just released, "Rum Point," "The Cold Road," "My Father's Game" "To Leuchars" and "Where Garagiola



Waits and Other Baseball Stories" (that won the prestigious 1999 Dave Moore Award).

Wilber organizes the University of South Florida Irish Summer School in Contemporary Writing in

Ireland every July and is in charge of the Dell Magazines Award (formerly the Isaac Asimov Award for Undergraduate Excellence in Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing).

Wilber will hold a workshop at 1 p.m.

Nov. 5 at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort and Convention Center to help journalists find the secrets to turning article ideas into award-winning novels.

Entry into his workshop is included in the \$45 banquet fee for the Excellence in Journalism. FPC members who wish to attend the workshop only may do so for free. Nonmembers may gain entry for \$5.

For information about Wilber, go to rickwilber.net. To reserve a spot at the workshop, email fpcbanquet@gmail.com. Include Workshop Reservation in the subject line.

FINALISTS from Page 6

Bruce Ackerman
Ocala Star-Banner
James Crichlow
Jacksonville Business Journal
Bob Self
Florida Times-Union
Patrick C. Leonard
Palatka Daily News

Portrait/Personality

Will Dickey
Florida Times-Union
Craig Rubadoux
Florida Today
Bruce Ackerman
Ocala Star-Banner
Meghan McCarthy
Palm Beach Daily News
Patrick C. Leonard
Palatka Daily News
James Crichlow
Jacksonville Journal
Tim Stepien
The Coastal Star
Jon M. Fletcher
Florida Times-Union
Bruce Lipsky
Florida Times-Union
Jim Carchidi
Orlando Business Journal

Photo Illustration

Jon M. Fletcher
Florida Times-Union
John Coscia
Citrus County Chronicle
Jim Carchidi
& **Carolyn Consider**
Orlando Business Journal

Feature Photo Essay

Jon M. Fletcher
Florida Times-Union
Bob Self
Florida Times Union
Jim Carchidi
Orlando Business Journal
Patrick C. Leonard
Palatka Daily News
Bruce Ackerman
Ocala Star-Banner



Info-Graphic Presentation

Annie Liao
Florida Times-Union
Kristilee Adler
& **Natalie Kennedy**
Jacksonville Business Journal
Mike Orton
Villages Daily Sun

Editorial Cartooning

Chan Lowe
South Florida Sun Sentinel
David Willson
Palm Beach Daily News

Artist Illustration

Annie Liao
Florida Times-Union
Kristilee Adler

& **Natalie Kennedy**
Jacksonville Business Journal
Kyle Bente
Florida Times-Union



Best Online Publication

Staff, Orlando Business Journal
Staff, New Times Broward-Palm Beach
Staff, Daytona Beach News-Journal

Best Multimedia

Staff, Florida Times-Union
Robert Janjigian,
Palm Beach Daily News
Staff, Florida Times-Union
J. Albert Diaz, John Hernandez
& **Jose Pagliery**
Daily Business Review

Blog Writing

Dave Breitenstein
The News-Press
Chan Lowe
South Florida Sun Sentinel
Richard Bilbao
& **Susan Lundine**
Orlando Business Journal
John Nelander

Palm Beach Daily News
Peter Mallory
NSB News LLC
Brian Bandell
South Florida Business Journal



Freedom of Information Award

Anne Geggis
Daytona Beach News-Journal

Frances DeVore Award for Public Service

Bill Orben
Orlando Business Journal
Michael LaForgia
The Palm Beach Post
Anne Geggis
Daytona Beach News-Journal

Congratulations, finalists. We hope to see you at the banquet!

— Florida Press Club officers Sherry Mims, Trisha Cormeny and Megan Stokes