

New York School Public Relations Association

> 28TH Annual

Communications Awards

Luncheon
October 26, 2007

A Celebration of Excellence in Educational Communications

NYSPRA

AWARDS LUNCHEON

October 26, 2007 Manhattan Ballroom Sheraton Manhattan New York, New York

Program



Welcome and Introductions

James S. Van Develde NYSPRA President Director of Public Relations Lakeland Central School District



Guest Speaker

Ronald Thorpe
Vice President and Director of Education at
Thirteen/WNET New York



Presentation of the 28th Annual NYSPRA Awards

Presentation of the 2007 Golden Empire Award

Stephanie Gouss Contest Coordinator Public Information Coordinator Rockland BOCES

James S. Van Develde Contest Chair Director of Public Relations Lakeland Central School District





Avon Central School District

Merit

Calendar

ACSD Calendar & District Guide

Kyle Adamczak, Public Information Coordinator Genesee Valley BOCES

Babylon Village School District

Merit

Excellence in Writing
Class of 47 to Attend 07 Graduation
Nancy Lenz, Writer

Bethlehem Central School District

Excellence

Special Purpose Publication Handbook for Students and Parents

Jessica Scheckton, Communications Program Manager

Excellence

Budget/Bond Newsletter Highlights Newsletter, Budget Edition

Jessica Scheckton, Communications Program Manager

Merit

Community Newsletter
Highlights Newsletter, Winter 2006-2007
Audrey Hendricks, Communications Specialist

Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central Schools

All awards to Christine Multer, Public Information Specialist

Excellence

Excellence in Writing
Is My Child Safe at School?

Merit

Budget/Bond Newsletter An Investment in Value

Canandaguia City School District

All awards to Andrew Thomas, Community Relations Coordinator

Honor

Community Newsletter
Digest-Winds of Change, November 2006

Merit

PR/Marketing Campaign Canandaguia Reads

Carmel Central School District

All awards to Susan Dieck, Public Information Coordinator

Honor

Special Purpose Publication
Carmel Schools Welcome Brochure & Stationery

Merit

Excellence in Writing
Ancient and Modern Worlds Cross Paths at GFMS

Merit

Excellence in Writing School Nurse: Take this Job and Love it

Chautauqua Lake Central School District

All awards to Wendy Westwood, Director, Community Relations

Excellence

Photograph Band Practice

Excellence

Photograph Original Children's Books

Honor

Photograph Invented Instruments

Honor

Photograph
Seeds of Learning

Clarkstown Central School District

Merit

Special Purpose Publication Recruitment Brochure

Marko Promotions

Elise Markowitz, PR/Marketing Consultant

David Margolis, Designer

Merit

Overall Graphics & Design

Recruitment Brochure

Marko Promotions

Elise Markowitz, PR/Marketing Consultant

David Margolis, Designer

Cortland City School District

All awards to Jeremy Boylan, School Information Officer

Honor

Community Newsletter Tiger's Paw, February 2007

Merit

Excellence in Writing
Smith Second Graders Learning the Ropes

Dobbs Ferry Union Free Schools

Honor

Calendar
PTSA District Calendar
Flizabeth Hausman

East Aurora Union Free School District

Honor

Photograph
Wall Climbers
Kristine Ward, Community Relations

East Irondequoit Central School District

Excellence

Budget/Bond Newsletter Special Vote - Excel Renovation Project Lee Steinfeldt, Director of Communications

Honor

PSA/CD/DVD/Video
Durand Eastman School - Immigration: A Look Back
Ronald Mix, Ron Mix Image

Merit

In-House Production - Color Ink
Thoroughly Modern Millie Poster
Lee Steinfeldt, Director of Communications

East Rochester School District

Excellence

Photograph

Marble Run Contest

Doreen DiNardo, Communications Director

Honor

Photograph

First Day of Pre-School Hug

Doreen DiNardo, Communications Director

Honor

Website

ERHS Instructional Music Website

Mark Gowman

Merit

Photograph

Italian Dance Lesson

Doreen DiNardo, Communications Director

East Syracuse - Minoa Central School District

Excellence

Excellence in Writing

Helping Katrina Victims Opens Eyes of Seniors

Marcia Kelley, School Information Officer

Ellenville Central Schools

All awards to Ulster BOCES Community Relations Team

Excellence

Community Newsletter

Winter 2006, Newsletter

Excellence

Overall Graphics & Design

Winter 2006, Newsletter

Merit

Community Newsletter

Spring 2007, Newsletter

Enlarged City School District of Middletown

Excellence

Special Purpose Publication

Maintaining/ Improving our Schools Referendum

Melissa Cortellini, Public Information Specialist

Freeport Public Schools

Merit

Budget/Bond Newsletter Freeport Pride/Special Budget Edition

Nassau BOCES Public Relations Service

Frontier Central Schools

Honor

Calendar

2006-2007 Calendar & Back to School Guide, August 2006

Elizabeth Angelbeck, Director of Public Relations and Strategic Planning

Genesse Valley BOCES

Excellence

Special Purpose Publication
Career & Technical Program Folder/Guide

Andrea Walton, Public Relations Coordinator

Renee Kelly, Graphic Designer

Excellence

Internal Newsletter

The Pinnacle, Issue 9

Andrea Walton, Public Relations Coordinator

Merit

Excellence in Writing

Walter Price, Champion of Education

Andrea Walton, Public Relations Coordinator

Great Neck Public Schools

Excellence

Photograph

Poetry Fun

Jessica K. Vega, Office of Community Services

Greece Central School District

Excellence

PR/Marketing Campaign 2007-2008 Budget Campaign

Laurel Heiden, Community Relations Manager

Excellence

Calendar

2006-2007 School Calendar & Handbook, August 2006

Tammy Nucci, Communications Assistant

Excellence

Photograph

Hands on Learning

Tammy Nucci, Communications Assistant

Honor

Annual Report

Annual Report, July 2006

Laurel Heiden, Community Relations Manager

Merit

Budget/Bond Newsletter

Greece Budget Newsletter 2007

Laurel Heiden, Community Relations Manager

Merit

Community Newsletter

The Connection, April 2007

Laurel Heiden, Community Relations Manager

Merit

Photograph

Cute Couple

Tammy Nucci, Communications Assistant

Holley Central School District

Merit

Special Purpose Publication

Holley School District Brochure

Grace Griffee, Communications Specialist

Jericho Union Free School District

All awards to Mary Marks, Director of Public Information and Community Relations

Excellence

Photograph

Changing Lives/Changing Classrooms

Honor

Community Newsletter

Jericho School News, January 2007

Honor

Community Newsletter

Jericho School News, March 2007

Honor

Photograph

Homecoming Highlight

Merit

Calendar

2006-2007 District Calendar & School Guide

Merit

Photograph

Slip-Sliding Away

Merit

Photograph

Music Brings Us Together

Merit

Photograph

Schoolyard Friends

Kingston City Schools

Merit

PR/Marketing Campaign

Kington EXCEL Aid Campaign

Ulster BOCES Community Relations Team

Lakeland Central School District

Honor

Photograph

Reading

James Van Develde, Director of Communications

Lancaster Central Schools

Excellence

Website

www.lancasterschools.org

Patricia Burgio, APR

Website Manager

Lindenhurst Schools

Honor

Community Newsletter

Community Newsletter, April/May 2007

Carol Hauser, Public Information Coordinator

Mohanasen Central School District

All awards to Erin McNulty, Communications Specialist Capital Region BOCES

Excellence

Calendar

2006-2007 District Calendar

Merit

Website

Mohonasen Central School District Website

Monroe #1 BOCES

All awards to John R. Walker

Merit

Internal Newsletter

The Communicator, Staff Newsletter

Merit

Special Purpose Publication

New Visions Medical Careers Brochure

Monroe 2-Orleans BOCES

All awards to Mark Ball, Communications Group Manager

Honor

PR/Marketing Campaign

Wellness Poster Campaign

Merit

Overall Graphics & Design

ESP Science Time

Mount Pleasant Central School District

All awards to Eileen Farrell, Public Relations Coordinator

Excellence

Excellence in Writing

Veggietales: Trio Lobbies for More Varied Lunch Menu

Excellence

Photograph

Learn as They Grow

Honor

Calendar

Mount Pleasant Central School District Calendar

Nassau BOCES

Excellence

Calendar

2006-2007 Master Calendar

Nassau BOCES Public Relations Service

New Paltz Central Schools

All awards to Ulster BOCES Communications Team

Excellence

Community Newsletter April 2007 Newsletter

Excellence

Community Newsletter Winter 2007 Newsletter

Honor

Budget/Bond Newsletter New Paltz EXCEL Aid 2007 Newsletter

Honor

Budget/Bond Newsletter New Paltz 2007 Budget Newsletter

Honor

Overall Graphics & Design New Paltz April 2007 Newsletter

Honor

Overall Graphics & Design New Paltz Winter 2007 Newsletter

Nyack Public Schools

Excellence

Calendar

Nyack Public Schools 06-07 Calendar

Gail Fleur, Director of Communications

NYSSBA

Excellence

Excellence in Writing Choking Games

Sheila Carmody, NYSSBA Senior Writer

Onteora Central Schools

All awards to Ulster BOCES Communications Team

Excellence

Budget/Bond Newsletter Onteora 2007 Budget Newsletter

Excellence

Overall Graphics

History in the Making 2006-2007 School Calendar

Merit

Calendar

History in the Making 2006-2007 School Calendar

Merit

Community Newsletter Onteora Fall 2006 Newsletter

Pelham Union Free Schools

Honor

Community Newsletter Winter Newsletter, 2007

Angela Iadavaia-Cox, Public Information Officer

Penfield Central School District

Merit

Photograph

Windy Halloween

Nancy Bradstreet, Director of Information

Perry Central Schools

Merit

Budget/Bond Newsletter

The Perry Buzz/ January 2007

Kyle Adamczak, Public Information Coordinator Genesee Valley BOCES

Pittsford Central School District

All awards to Nancy Wayman, Director of Public Information

Excellence

Annual Report

Pittsford Annual Report

Merit

Calendar

Calendar, July 2006

Pocantico Hills Central School District

Merit

Annual Report

Pocantico Hills Central School District 2005-06 Annual Report

Dr. Thomas Elliott, Superintendent

Ravena Coeymans Selkirk Central School District

All awards to Michael McCagg, Communications Coordinator

Excellence

Calendar

RCS 2006-2007 Calendar, August 2006

Honor

Community Newsletter

RCS Chalkboard, April 2007

Rochester City School District

All awards to Tom Petronio

Honor

PR/Marketing Campaign Kindergarten Recruitment Campaign

Merit

Community Newsletter Students First Newsletter April 2007

Merit

PSA/CD/DVD/Video

Students First TV Show Video Segments

Rockland BOCES

All awards to Rockland BOCES Public Information Office

Excellence

Annual Report

Rockland BOCES 2005-2006 Annual Report

Excellence

PR/Marketing Campaign Ask Me About Rockland BOCES

Merit

Special Purpose Publication Grandparents Tribute

Rush-Henrietta Central School District

All awards to Office of Community Relations

Excellence

Community Newsletter Community Newsletter, Fall 2006

Excellence

Community Newsletter Community Newsletter, Winter 2007

Honor

Calendar

2006-2007 School Calendar

Honor

Photograph

Open House Hug

Special Purpose Publication 2007 Summer Learning Guide

Honor

PSA/CD/DVD/Video

Celebrating 60 Years

continued

Honor

Website www.rhnet.org

Merit

Community Newsletter
Community Newsletter, Summer 2006

Merit

Special Purpose Publication
Power of Parent Involvement Brochure

Saugerties Central School District

All awards to Ulster BOCES Community Relations Team

Excellence

Community Newsletter Saugerties Fall 2006 Newsletter

Excellence

Community Newsletter Saugerties Winter 2006 Newsletter

Merit

Overall Graphics & Design Saugerties Winter 2007 Newsletter

Schalmont Central School District

Honor

Special Purpose Publication

Adult Education Program Guide

Mellissa Sweeney, Communications Specialist

Schuylerville Central Schools

All awards to Kim Smithgall, Communications Coordinator

Excellence

PSA/CD/DVD/Video Schuylerville Elementary School Open House

Honor

Special Purpose Publication
Looking Glass Art/ Literary Journal

Merit

PSA/CD/DVD/Video 2007 DARE DVD

Merit

Overall Graphics & Design Looking Glass Art Literary Journal

Ulster BOCES

Excellence

Calendar

Living & Learning in the Hudson Valley School Calendar

Ulster BOCES Community Relations Team

Honor

Excellence in Writing

Vincent Delgado Success Story

Dorothy Wills-Raftery, Community Relations Specialist II

Honor

Excellence in Writing

Ty Kropp Success Story

Dorothy Wills-Raftery, Community Relations Specialist II

Merit

Excellence in Writing

Josh Ruben Success Story

Kate Heidecker, Community Relations Specialist II

Utica City Schools

Honor

Internal Newsletter

The Corridors, Proctor High School June 12, 2007

Andrea James, Public Relations Assistant

Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES

Vestal Central Schools

Excellence

Community Newsletter

Look At Us, Community Newsletter, March 2007

Regina Felice, Communications Coordinator

Wayne Central Schools

Merit

Community Newsletter

Community Newsletter, March 2007

Amy Gebhardt, Public Relations Specialist

West Islip School District

Excellence

PSA/CD/DVD/Video

CSI:WI

Author: Superintendent Dr. Beth Blau

Videographer: John Simeone Photographer: Nancy Lenz

Williamsville Central School District

Excellence

In House Production - Color Ink

Ballot Proposition Brochure

Rita Wolff, APR

Director of Communications

Honor

In House Production - Color Ink

Power Project Brochure

Rita Wolff, APR

Director of Communications

Merit

PSA/CD/DVD/Video

Opening Day 2007

Rita Wolff, APR

Director of Communications

Amy Vohwinkel, Videographer

Merit

Calendar

2006-2007 District Calendar, August 2007

Rita Wolff, APR

Director of Communications

Yonkers Public Schools

All awards to Jerilynne Fierstein, Director of Public Information

Excellence

Overall Graphics & Design

2006-2007 School Calendar and Handbook

Excellence

Website

Yonkers Public Schools Website

Merit

PSA/CD/DVD/Video

YPS Stays ConnectED

2007 Golden Empire Award



Susan Starkweather selected as Winner of 2007 Golden Empire Award

Susan Starkweather, Public Relations and Grant Manager for the Albion Central School District, has been selected as the winner of the NYSPRA 2007 Golden Empire Award.

This prestigious award recognizes outstanding professional achievement by an individual in the field of educational public relations. Susan was nominated for the award by her superintendent, Dr. Ada Grabowski. Dr. Grabowski describes Susan as someone who "has been able to craft a public campaign that not only highlights the diverse nature of our small, rural town, but also allows an alternate vision through which success is seen and imparted to the community in multiple forms."

Susan has served the Albion Central School District for 16 years. Earlier this year, she was awarded the Paul Harris Fellow Award from Rotary International for exemplifying the Rotarian motto of "Service Above Self" for her dedication to the school and community. For the last four years, Susan has coordinated the district's NYS Learn and Serve America service learning grant, serving as the liaison connecting classroom teachers with community organizations to complete service programs. Additionally, she acts as the district's liaison with the Albion Business Association and Neighbors: Albion, a community group whose goal is to increase positive interactions between community members and celebrate diversity as strength.

Through the district's community newsletter, LINK, Susan portrays the students not just as agents of achievement, but productive community citizens who achieve multiple successes throughout their education. Whether through the newsletter, brochures or news articles, Susan conscientiously and purposefully represents students of all races, genders and socioeconomic levels, allowing the community to see that success transcends traditional notions of what is held valuable in an education.

It is her commitment to the idea of "Valuing Everyone, Everyday, Everywhere" that makes Susan a role model in the field of school public relations and the embodiment of the spirit of the Golden Empire Award.

2007 NUSPRA Judges

The 28th Annual NYSPRA Communications Contest committee extends sincere gratitude to the 2007 impartial panel of judges. Entries in this year's contest were judged by school communications colleagues from California, along with other marketing and communication experts whose professionalism ensured the competition's long-standing tradition of integrity.

CalSPRA



Similar to NYSPRA, The California School Public Relations Association (CalpSPRA) is an award-winning, nationally recognized organization working to create a climate for better public understanding, commitment and support of public education. National School Public Relations Association has consistently recognized CalSPRA as a Blue Ribbon Chapter for exemplary programs and services to members. Members include public relations professionals, school administrators, and school personnel. Many members come from school districts and county offices of education ranging from the largest urban districts to those located in remote areas of rural California. Some members represent education-related organizations and institutions that also support districts and schools. Still other members are communications professionals with an interest in public education.

Christine Chenevey



Christine Chenevey is the Director of Editorial Services for East Coast Creative Group in White Plains. She brings 20 years of writing, editing, events and PR experience to the NYSPRA competition. In 10 years as Director of Publicity for Westchester Country Club in Rye, New York, Christine created and edited newsletters, magazines, websites and a club history book. Christine's career began in fundraising and marketing for non-profits nationwide including MDA, March of Dimes and the

Leukemia Society. Christine is the immediate past chair of the Putnam County Chapter of the American Red Cross, PR chair for the Kent Elementary Arts in Education Committee and a children's duathlon event called "Do the Du" that raises funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. She is a past president of the Association for Women in Communications in Westchester.

Liz Cranston



For the past six years, Liz has served as the Director of Marketing & Communications for REDC. REDC is a non-profit contract agency of the County of Rockland. The mission of REDC is to promote the economy in Rockland County by fostering the creation and attraction of new business and the retention and expansion of existing business to stimulate job opportunities to improve the quality of life in Rockland County, New York. Liz is responsible for planning, directing and overseeing the marketing

and communications of REDC's programs and services. In this capacity, she works with local officials, the media, and commercial businesses – looking to relocate to Rockland or existing businesses looking to expand. Prior to joining REDC, Liz worked at IBM in various marketing and sales positions for 15 years. She has a B.S. degree in marketing from St. Thomas Aquinas College. She is married with two children and currently resides in New City.

Bunny Crumpacker



Bunny Crumpacker has worked as a school public relations professional for two school districts, and has also had her own public relations agency, specializing in school districts and non-profit organizations. She is the co-founder and former president of the Rockland School Public Relations Association, held several offices in NYSPRA, and was a workshop presenter for NYSPRA and NSPRA. She is also a former coordinator of the NYSPRA publications contest, and has won many awards for

her work at both the state and national levels. Since leaving school district work, she has had six books published – including one for children (*Alexander's Pretending Day*, published by Dutton), and, most recently, *The Sex Life of Food* and *Perfect Figures*, both published by St. Martin's Press. She has reviewed several books for *The Washington Post Book World*. Crumpacker and her husband, a record producer, live in the Hudson River Valley region just north of New York City.

Lisa Earley



Lisa Earley is the senior graphic designer for the New York State School Boards Association in Latham, New York. She is responsible for the layout and design of NYSSBA's print publications and marketing materials, including *On Board*, NYSSBA's award-winning biweekly newspaper. She has been with NYSSBA for six years. Earley, who has been a graphic designer for the past 15 years, has extensive experience in print pre-production as well as an extensive knowledge of graphic arts-related computer

hardware and software packages. Earley holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts from Syracuse University.

Gene Gouss



After many years as a staff photographer in the corporate world, Gene Gouss established Gene Gouss Photography Inc. in Suffern, New York to provide expert imaging services to businesses and organizations in the metropolitan New York area. Shooting products, people, facilities and events, Gene designs his images to portray his client's message and add impact to their communications. Gene and his wife, Stephanie, live in Warwick, New York enjoy hiking and the beauty of nature, good food and good music, and an occasional phone call from their errant children.

Lorraine Harner



Lorraine Harner is closely connected to current trends in education. She has been a teacher, an administrator, an education writer, an editor and a reviewer of scholarly publications. Harner received her B.A. in English from Barnard College in New York City, an M.A. in Early Childhood Education From New York University and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from NYU. She has been on staff at Bank Street College, Brooklyn College, and Teachers College. Harner has

written innumerable publications on early childhood education and has been awarded just as many educational grants, including the "Teacher Opportunity Corps," funded by the New York State Department of Education and a "Christopher Columbus Consortium," a collaborative project with Marine Park Junior High School, Brooklyn College, Adult and Continuing Education, and Apple Computer. The project was designed to help urban at-risk students become skilled in computers and to encourage the development of appropriate computer assisted learning materials. Ms. Harner is a frequent presenter at national and local conferences and is a New York State licensed psychologist. She currently resides in Westchester County, New York.

Michael Kitt



Michael Kitt is the President of M-Tech Printing, Inc., a full service printing resource company located in Rockland County, New York. Prior to founding M-Tech, Michael held various positions in the printing industry. He holds a B.S. in Printing Management from West Virginia Institute of Technology. He began his career as a production assistant for a Manhattan-based ad agency, Allied Graphics. There he worked on catalogs for Associated Dry Goods, Dillards, Lane Bryant and

Ethan Allen. He then joined Intergraphic Technology, Inc., a division of Bowne Inc., the oldest printer in the US, where he handled various Fortune 500 accounts such as IBM, NYNEX and Bell Atlantic. After working in the industry for 12 years, he started his own business, M-Tech Printing, Inc. At M-Tech, he oversees projects in the commercial and non-profit sectors, specializing in brochures, catalogs, direct mail and marketing collateral materials. His clients include international corporations, school districts, museums, ad agencies and non-profit agencies. Michael is an active member in the Rockland Business Association and a past president of the Advertising Club of Westchester.

Carl Pagano



Carl Pagano has worked in the television and film industry since 1991 on hundreds of productions with credits on commercials, documentaries and celebrity interviews. As a writer/producer, cinematographer and editor he has won numerous industry awards. He has worked with media shops WGBH, WCBS News, C-Span and RAS Films, and also lectures for the industry publication *Videomaker*. In addition, he currently teaches at a Westchester County High School and has developed a New York State school

curriculum for television production. Carl has been working as the head of Westchester County's multimedia department for the past six-and-a-half years where he regularly produces programming on a variety of topics.

Rosanne Schloss



Rosanne Schloss is the proprietor of Pro Production which was established in 1990. Schloss' company provides their clients with expert knowledge in Quark Express, InDesign, Photoshop, and Illustrator, to create digital media for print and web. They combine skills in Digital Media, Photography, and Videography. Clients benefit from many years of experience as well as our varying services. Clients include advertising agencies, designers, marketing directors, book and magazine publishers, printers, and non-profit organizations.

Guest Speaker

RONALD THORPE

Ronald Thorpe is Vice President and Director of Education at Thirteen/WNET New York. A former secondary school teacher, administrator, and foundation executive, he is especially interested in professional development of teachers and the use of digital media in teaching and learning. He is the author of numerous articles on education, technology, and philanthropy, and is the editor of *The First Year As Principal* (Heinemann, 1995).

NYSPRA

Celebrating 28 years of Excellence in Educational Communications



Congratulations

Congratulations to all recipients of Excellence, Honor and Merit awards in the 28th Annual NYSPRA Communications Contest. With 400 entries in 16 categories, this year's contest was a closely drawn competition and continues to be one of the largest in the nation.

This is your time to shine!

Just over one-third of all entries submitted in this year's contest were award-winning. As a professional organization, it is an honor and pleasure for NYSPRA to recognize award recipients for outstanding achievement and excellence in educational communications.

With continued support from your Board of Education and district administration, may each of you continue to enrich education and support student success through effective communication.

NYSPRA

New York School Public Relations Association

The New York School Public Relations Association [NYSPRA] is a chapter of the National School Public Relations Association. It is a statewide group dedicated to the development and dissemination of educational communications that engage parents, staff, community residents, partners in education and other stakeholders. NYSPRA is nationally recognized as a group of committed school public relations professionals. Together, members support student achievement and school improvement initiatives.

Since the 1970s, NYSPRA has connected individuals with a professional network to share ideas and information and provided support regarding all aspects of school public relations. NYSPRA offers dynamic speakers, stimulating workshops and conferences and a host of professional development opportunities. The organization enables members to broaden their networking base by interacting with some of the best and most talented communicators in the state and beyond. NYSPRA helps members to better balance day-to-day demands placed on their time and talent.

To learn more about NYSPRA, visit our website at www.nyspra.org.

To become a member contact:

Marcia Kelley
East Syracuse-Minoa Central School District
116 East Irving St.
East Syracuse, NY 13057
(315) 463-2128



2007 NYSPRA Officers

James S. Van Develde, President Lakeland Central School District

Marcia Kelley, President-Elect *East Syracuse-Minoa Central School District*

Susan Dieck, Treasurer Carmel Central School District

Barbara Bradley, CAE, Secretary New York State School Boards Association

Stephanie Gouss, Past President Rockland BOCES