



**All-State Journalism Team
&
Journalist of the Year
CELEBRATION**

Presented by
**Illinois Journalism Education Association
& Illinois Press Foundation**

June 5, 2021

**All-State Journalism Team
&
Journalist of the Year
Celebration**

Welcome

- John Gonczy: *Illinois Journalism Education Association president*
- Jeff Rogers: *Illinois Press Foundation director*

Presentation of Awards

- Katie Fernandez: *JEA state director*

Illinois Journalist of the Year Awards

- Members of the IJEA Board of Directors

2021 IJEA All-State Journalism Team

- John Gonczy: Congratulations



Illinois Journalist of the Year

SAM BULL, Downers Grove North High School
Adviser: Elizabeth Levin

Sam Bull on journalism:

A particularly enlightening moment for me was interviewing legendary students' rights activist Mary Beth Tinker [pictured above].

Tinker's words made me realize that, again, this is more than just a class. This is an opportunity to give a voice to those who can't be heard and to convey the truth in a controversy-filled world. Also, it's an opportunity for myself and my fellow staff members to grow as people. Through journalism, we become better people, focused less on personal gain and more on the benefit of the community and the people as a whole. And that is priceless.



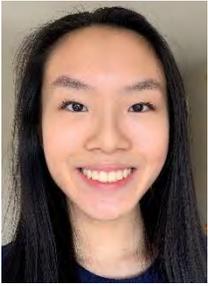
Runner-up Illinois Journalist of the Year

ELIZABETH KEANE, Prospect High School
Adviser: Jason Block

Elizabeth Keane on journalism:

I grew up believing that being against racism was synonymous with being "colorblind." I know now that being anti-racist is much more than that. In my personal life, it is about making a conscious effort to challenge biases ... In my writing, it is about giving all students at Prospect a platform to share their experiences — no matter how taboo the subject may be. Although our school's population is 75% white and 88% of the teachers are white, students of color still deserve to have their stories heard and told.

IJEА's 2021 All-State Journalism Team



Junior Victoria Feng is news editor of web for The Statesman newspaper of Adlai E. Stevenson High School in Lincolnshire. In this role, she facilitated story ideas to executive editors and provided guidance to staff writers and also edited half of all news articles. In her upcoming role as managing editor of web, she will publish stories to the Statesman website, edit stories for web publication and curate content. Her adviser is Dean Bradshaw.

Junior Caroline Hohner is arts co-editor for the U-High Midway newspaper at University of Chicago Laboratory High School in Chicago, where her duties included developing and managing coverage of arts and artists in the school and in the city as well as writing for all sections in the newspaper and website. Her adviser is Logan Aimone.



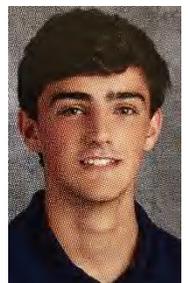
Senior Sydney Laput is photo editor of both The Voice newspaper and Harmony yearbook at Huntley High School in Huntley. In addition to shooting and editing photos, she took over organization of the entire photo effort, organizing the photo equipment, determining what was needed, training the new crop of photographers and overseeing their work. Her adviser is Dennis Brown.

Senior Jenna Lin is editor-in-chief and social media manager of the Kaneland Krier at Kaneland High School in Kane County. She oversaw production, led staff meetings, mapped out production cycles, managed social media accounts, assisted with advertising and marketing efforts, taught first-year journalism students, mentored second-year editors and helped web-editors-in-chief with upkeep of website. Her adviser is Dominic Bruno.



Senior Caroline Look is editor-in-chief of The Stargazer online newspaper at St. Charles North High School in St. Charles. She guided this year's transition from print to digital while also organizing staff meetings, editing, posting in various sections and overseeing editorial and design decision. Her adviser is Alice Froemling.

Senior Rick Lytle is editor-in-chief of The Prospector at Prospect High School in Mount Prospect and oversees the paper's web site. He wrote multiple stories each issue, designed pages, edited stories, ran daily staff meetings and made content decisions. His adviser is Jason Block.





Senior Ella Marsden is editor-in-chief of Drops of Ink newsmagazine at Libertyville High School in Libertyville. As leader of the staff, she edited content and oversaw the issue process and also led story idea discussions, prepared the budget for each magazine and website cycle, and completed her own assignments. Her adviser is Michael Gluskin.

Senior Isabella Mendoza is editor-in-chief of Wolf's Eye yearbook at Oswego East High School in Kendall County. She coached writers, designed pages, provided design instruction, collaborated with section editors, led class discussion and developed and oversaw theme. Her adviser is Colleen Calvey.



Senior Olivia Plangger is co-editor-in-chief of the print and online Inkspot at Normal Community High School. In addition to writing and reporting, she shared the job of overseeing the newspaper staff's organization, operation and content. She also proofed articles, assisted in layout and design, made final decisions on all content and controversial issues or matters brought to the editorial board, coordinated social media posts and content and organized livestreams. Her adviser is Brad Bovenkerk.

Senior Tricia Rennegarbe is editor-in-chief of Timepiece yearbook at Okawville High School in Washington County. She developed the theme and overall design of yearbook, gave final approval of spreads and layouts, communicated with staff members and answered their questions, and generally picked up any slack when needed. Her adviser is Dana Donovan.



Senior Emma Snyder is news editor of the McHenry Messenger at McHenry High School. She helped manage pitches and assigned stories to writers on the staff, and during this unusual school year (half full-remote, half hybrid), has worked to clean up news stories for the paper before publication, making recommendations and corrections — and occasionally adding to stories. Her adviser is Dane Erbach.

What is the All-State Journalism Team?

The All-State Journalism Team recognizes students who have proven themselves indispensable to their school media, including yearbook, print or online newspaper or newsmagazine, broadcast or other journalist media.

IJEA began the All-State Journalism Team as a way to recognize those students who are “most valuable players” — students whose leadership, energy, dedication and expertise make their publications possible but whose main contributions often occur behind the scenes.

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