

In 1987 the Indiana High School Press Association hired Jonna M. Kane as its first, full-time executive director. The decision to create the position sprang from the perception of a growing need for continuity of leadership within the IHSPA. Equally important was creating an office focused on enhancing member services to high school journalism departments operating in an increasingly complex publishing environment.

The director's position has, from its inception, also entailed professorial duties at the Pulliam School of Journalism, Franklin College. In the spring of 1990, Jonna Kane left Franklin College and the IHSPA to accept an assistant dean's position with the IU School of Law in Indianapolis. Since that time, there have been two more full-time Executive Directors, beginning with Terry VanderHeyden, who served for two years, and our current director, Dennis Cripe, who assumed the position after Terry's untimely passing in 1992.

The flexibility and consistency of efforts permitted by the full-time directorship has allowed the IHSPA to offer a series of "firsts" over the intervening years. In 1988 the IHSPA and Franklin College co-hosted their first Summer Workshop for High School Newspaper Editors on the Franklin College Campus. The focus of the workshop, which has since become an annual event, is to help new editors at the high school level to learn the nuts and bolts of creating a publication. Sessions cover such areas as writing, layout and staff management issues, as well as the broader and potentially more volatile legal issues inherent in publishing.

The "Hoosier Star Awards," honoring outstanding achievements by high school journalists from throughout Indiana, was also created during this time period.

One of the watershed moments (although some might call it a low water mark) for high school journalism departments, and therefore the IHSPA, came in 1988 when the U.S. Supreme Court rendered its decision in what has become a landmark First Amendment case, *Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier*. *Hazelwood* derived from a suit by a high school newspaper's student editor against a Missouri school district. The student editor's suit challenged the action of the high school's administration, claiming that by acting unilaterally to eliminate two pages of the student newspaper, (which it deemed too controversial) it had unconstitutionally abridged the students' right to free expression under the First Amendment to the Constitution. The Supreme Court stated in brief that high school administrators are imbued with the authority to conduct "prior review" of the content of student press publications. *Hazelwood* thus established the precedent for legal limitations imposed by high schools upon student writers and editors in composing the content of student publications.

After *Hazelwood*, high school journalism faculty and students were faced with the new challenge of how to live within the framework of the decision. This required that journalism faculty acquire a good grasp of the court's decision so as to best understand the "limits" as well as to

know how to react when a school's administration exercised its powers to limit content within the *Hazelwood* framework.

The IHSPA conducted several post-*Hazelwood* workshops at its subsequent state conventions, to which both high school journalism faculty members and their student editors and writers were invited. During these sessions the participants were able to hear from journalism faculty members from other schools throughout Indiana who shared their insights and experiences in dealing with the fallout from the *Hazelwood* decision. All who attended were provided with detailed, explanatory materials designed to focus upon and clarify the issues embodied in the court's opinion as well as provide a handy, quick reference for review should situations arise at a later time. The programs were received quite well and participants indicated that they found them to be valuable in grasping the potential impact of the *Hazelwood* decision upon their programs.

The IHSPA has also played host to nationally known journalists. For example, the 1987 convention, held on the Franklin College campus, showcased well-known *Rolling Stone* feature writer and reporter Anthony DeCurtis as its keynote speaker. Mr. DeCurtis' presence was secured through the considerable efforts of Columbus East High School's Publication Adviser, Dan Niles, who served as the president of the IHSPA during the 1987-88 calendar year.

While we who belong to the IHSPA may look back with considerable pride at the accomplishments of the past, we must also continue to look toward the future and our responsibilities to the Indiana high school journalism community. Each year, it seems, brings a new challenge and, by necessity, a new focus to some aspect of our work. Each time we apply ourselves with renewed vigor to the task appointed us. We must continue to provide a guiding beacon for those young writers and editors who will one day fill the rolls of journalists throughout our land -- and our world -- and upon whose shoulders the duty of extolling the virtue of truth shall ultimately lie.