

# NINA

NORTHERN ILLINOIS NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS WIN NINA SCHOLARSHIPS  
SEE PAGE 3



The fact that the newspaper Web site audience is growing at almost double the rate of the Internet audience as a whole validates the industry's investment in digital innovation.



John F. Sturm  
President,  
Newspaper Association  
of America  
May 2007



Denise Renckens, executive editor of the Daily Journal in Kankakee, explains to workshop attendees how to produce an audio slideshow. The workshop was hosted by The Observer.

## An eye to the future

### Multimedia workshop sparks conversation

By Jim Killam

Rockford – Call it the first of potentially many conversations in the coming months and years.

On June 14, about 40 journalists attended NINA's "Multimedia Storytelling" workshop.

Mike Weiler of the Northwest NewsGroup, along with NINA board members Denise Renckens of the Daily Journal in Kankakee and myself (of NIU), presented sessions on audio/video production, audio slideshows and blogging, respectively.

Most attendees said they found the workshop useful. A few comments from evaluation sheets:

- "It opened my eyes to new possibilities and expectations for my career."
- "This gives me a lot of ideas to bring back to my bosses."
- "I learned how to think outside the box on ways to tell a story differently and uniquely through slide shows, videos, audio, etc., and how to really learn what the public thinks by inviting them to blog

#### Come blog with us

To join in the conversation about multimedia, training and the future of our newsrooms, visit NINA's "Digital Ink" blog at:

<http://ninareporter.blogspot.com>

Better yet, subscribe to Digital Ink through a service like Google Reader, and get all updates delivered to your desktop.

or comment."

- "This was great training for those many of us who did not get this in college!"
- "It gave me knowledge and some starting points as a mid-career journalist that I can really use everywhere."

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#### ONLINE RESOURCES FOR JOURNALISTS

[www.northernstar.info/nina](http://www.northernstar.info/nina)

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# There's longevity ... and then there's **OLGA**

*Freeport columnist named  
Illinois Journalist of the Year*

**By Sharon Boehlefeld**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Olga Gize Carlile is a rarity in journalism today: She has worked for The Journal-Standard – and ONLY The Journal-Standard – since she graduated from Indiana University's journalism school after World War II.

She won't freely admit either to her age or to the year she began working in Freeport, but she will admit to being there a long time. Northern Illinois University's journalism program honored Olga on April 27 with its Illinois Journalist of the Year award.

"Several NINA members nominated Olga Carlile for her many years of dedicated service," said Brian Thornton, associate professor of communication and NIU's journalism area coordinator.

"They said she was one of the longest working and hardest working small-town journalists they knew. She still brings a sense of joy and fun to work, even after 50 years on the job. She knows everybody in her town and everybody knows her. And she has done everything in a newsroom from copy editing to writing hard news stories to features and writing a cooking column. She is the epitome of community journalism at its best."

In 2000, Carlile was recognized by the National Federation of Press Women as one of 27 Women of the Millennium. In a press release about the honor, NFPW President Vivien Sadowski said, "Olga Gize Carlile ... started her 50-year career in journalism at a time when few married women were in the professional workforce, working as a managing editor when there almost no women in that position. ..."

"Carlile is described as one of that 'unrecognized cadre of women who bring identity and definition through their



PHOTO BY KAREN GRUBB / NIU

**Olga Gize Carlile was honored at this year's  
NIU Journalism Banquet.**

commitment, energy, and active caring. She has contributed to the advancement of women in the media profession and in her community, state, and nation."

Olga began her career in the days when women were almost uniformly relegated to features sections of newspapers, but she has been happy to make food, fashion and family the focus of her career.

In her column, "Around the Table," which she began in 1992, she has written about "a collection of characters, chiefs and consorts" and signs off inviting readers to share "ideas or happenings to pass on, or humorous incidents - past or present - please feel free to join in. We'll pull up a chair for you 'Around the Table.'"

She has interviewed Pearl Buck, Martha Stewart, Vincent Price, Sally Jesse Raphael, Mickey Gilley, Chicago's Archie Lieberman and many other celebrities, including Julia Child and most of the emerging chefs. She has also written two cookbooks ("Heritage Cook Book of Northwest Illinois" and "In the Kitchen with Olga") which have sold thousands of copies each.

She might have gone on to bigger papers, but she met a young man – Bob Carlile – who opened an accounting firm in Freeport, married him and "bloomed where she was planted."

**More at [www.northernstar.info/nina](http://www.northernstar.info/nina)**

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# Winners reflect best in H.S. journalism

NINA honored five talented student journalists this spring in its annual scholarship competition.

A total of \$2,900 in scholarships was awarded, including, \$1,200 from NINA, \$1,000 from The Daily Herald, \$400 from The Naperville Sun, \$200 from The Beacon News and \$100 from The Northwest Herald.

Judges selected the scholarship winners from among 36 applications submitted by high school seniors throughout northern Illinois. The purpose of the scholarship program is

to recognize outstanding achievement by high school students in the field of print and/or online journalism.

"Our association is pleased to honor these five outstanding students with these scholarships," said the Ledger-Sentinel's John Etheredge, NINA scholarship coordinator. "Their talent and passion for journalism was evident in their portfolios. Each wants to continue their journalism education at the college level and our association members look forward to the day when they bring their talents to our

newsrooms."

NINA and its member papers have awarded \$13,100 in scholarships in the 10 years since the association established the program.

The scholarship committee extends its thanks to the NINA Board and Northern Illinois University's Department of Communication staff for their continued support of the program, along with the contributions from The Daily Herald, The Naperville Sun, The Beacon-News and The Northwest Herald.



**First Place**  
**Tara Grimes**

~

**Huntley**  
**High School**

In selecting Tara Grimes as our first place winner, NINA judges took note of the professional quality of Tara's writing for The Voice, the Huntley High School student newspaper.

The judges found Grimes' editorial writing to be issued-oriented, persuasive and effective. They were especially impressed with the imagery in Grimes' many feature stories and the empathy she showed for her subjects.

Judges also took note of Grimes' ability to observe people and events and then describe them in compelling fashion in her articles.

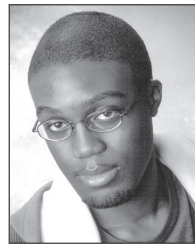
Grimes' passion to pursue

a career in journalism was also apparent in the autobiographical essay she submitted as part of her portfolio.

She wrote, "I will work to be a journalist and author and no obstacles will stop me. I have a desire to learn and to hear other stories. I have always been told I'm a dreamer, but now time to make those dreams come true."

Grimes will attend the University of Missouri at Columbia this fall.

As first-place winner, she will receive \$600 from NINA, \$400 from the Daily Herald; and \$100 from the Northwest Herald.



**Third Place**  
**Vincent E.**  
**Dixon, Jr.**

~

**Gwendolyn**  
**Brooks College**  
**Preparatory**  
**Academy,**  
**Chicago**

Judges took note of the superior quality of Vincent Dixon's work as an intern for the Chicago Sun-Times, a writer, editor and copy editor for Chicago's New Expression Teen Magazine, and as editor for his school's paper, The Pinnacle.

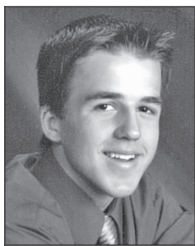
During his 10-week internship with the Sun-

Times, Dixon had several articles published in the paper's Showcase feature section.

In recommending Dixon for the NINA Scholarship, Avis Weathersbee, deputy features editor at the Sun-Times, noted how the intern helped veteran reporters in covering breaking news stories and was invaluable in contributing multiple stories to a summer series.

Weathersbee concluded, "Vincent's writing and reporting shows much promise and I look forward to following his career in the years to come."

For third place, Dixon will receive \$200 from NINA and \$200 from the Sun-Times News Group.



**Second Place**  
**Alex**  
**Ruppenthal**

~

**Naperville**  
**Central**  
**High School**

Judges were impressed with the professional quality of Alex Ruppenthal's work as the managing editor, sports editor and sports columnist for the Central Times.

In his autobiographical essay, Ruppenthal described his acceptance on the Central Times staff as the best thing that has ever happened to him. He explained, "I've become fascinated with the art of journalism. Creating a newspaper is an exciting process. I love searching for the perfect story, assembling every piece of the article and turning it into an exciting piece for readers to explore."

The judges also took note of a recommendation from Linda Kane, adviser to the Central Times, Naperville Central's nationally acclaimed student newspaper. Kane wrote, "I have been an educator for 31 years, and during those years I have been blessed with some pretty incredible students. But Alex isn't just incredible, he's the BEST."

Ruppenthal plans to continue his journalism education at the University of Missouri at Columbia this fall.

For second place, he receives \$400 from NINA, \$400 from The Naperville Sun and \$200 from The Daily Herald.

See back page  
for honorable  
mention winners

Almost 100 northern-Illinois journalists have taken part in NINA workshops so far in 2007.

We've offered:

- A news writing workshop taught by Denise Crosby, managing editor of the Beacon News in Aurora.

- A storytelling workshop featuring Dirk Johnson, formerly of the New York Times and Newsweek.

- And our multimedia workshop featured in this issue.

Stay tuned for details on our next workshop, Sept. 13: Alternative beats and story forms for the 21st century.

## Multimedia workshop

FROM PAGE 1

Almost everyone in attendance added a plea: "Give us more." More as in: more hands-on training, longer sessions on individual topics and more philosophical discussion about how multimedia should fit into newsrooms.

Examples:

- "I think we should host a philosophical meeting/workshop about online content. Which is the primary product: the paper or the Web site? If it's the Web site, how do you change an ingrained newspaper culture, especially without spending a mint? Do you break stories online, allowing other papers to catch up, or do you hold information for the print product? How do you maintain both products at a high level of quality without driving your staff

to drink?"

- "How do I blog, videotape, post updates and still do some actual reporting. I'm at a smaller but busy paper. ... How do reporters do two or three times as much work in the same hours? I only heard about piling on work, with less quality output. Not everything is better because it's on the Web."

We hear you. This summer and fall, the NINA board will be planning future workshops – taking special note of the suggestions we've heard and will continue to receive from members.



Jim Killam is adviser for the Northern Star, the daily student media at Northern Illinois University. He serves as NINA's communications coordinator. Contact him at [jkillam@niu.edu](mailto:jkillam@niu.edu), or 815-753-4239.

## CALENDAR

**Friday, Sept. 7**  
NINA Board meeting.  
10 a.m., Northern Star,  
NIU-DeKalb.

**Thursday, Sept. 13**  
NINA workshop:  
Alternative beats and  
story forms for the  
21st century. Time and  
place TBA.

**Thursday, Oct. 25**  
NINA Board dinner.  
Time and place to be  
announced.

**Friday, Oct. 26**  
NINA Fall Conference  
and Awards Luncheon,  
NIU-DeKalb.

**Oct. 27-28**  
Flying Short Course,  
sponsored by the  
National Press Photog-  
raphers Association.  
Chicago suburbs. Ten-  
tative. Details soon..

**Friday, Dec. 7**  
NINA Board meeting.  
10 a.m. Northern Star,  
NIU-DeKalb.

## Scholarship honorable mentions

FROM PAGE 3

### Mary Kenkel, Kaneland High School.

Kenkel will receive \$100 from The Beacon-News.

Judges were impressed with Kenkel's work as a teen columnist for both The Beacon-News and The Daily Herald and as an editor for her school's award winning newspaper, the Kaneland Krier.

Laurie Erdmann, journalism instructor at Kaneland, described Kenkel as "one the brightest, most talented students" she has worked with during her many years teaching journalism at Kaneland.

"I have high goals for myself, but I know I can accomplish them if I put my whole heart into it," Kenkel wrote in her autobiographical essay.

### Tara Knott, Geneva High School.

Knott was selected for an award based in part on her work as a teen columnist with The Beacon-News. Knott will continue her education at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism this fall.

In her autobiographical essay, Knott said she



**Tara Grimes of Huntley High School receives her first-place plaque from NINA President Greg Rivara.**

has "plunged into the world of print journalism full speed ahead."

Knott will receive \$100 from The Beacon-News.