Claire Douglass, Fayetteville Christian (’16), knows better than to write about alcohol use or gay marriage in her Christian school’s yearbook.

“For us, it’s pretty clear what we’re supposed to talk about and what we’re not supposed to talk about,” said Douglas, who is the incoming editor of the yearbook at Fayetteville Christian School. “Which at public school, you get viewpoints of different people but I guess at our school we’re not to fully cover things.”

But Frank LoMonte, executive director of the Student Press Law Center, said high school censorship happens in public and private school newsrooms. And when it does, it usually happens to a female editor.

That’s why the SPLC is launching a new campaign called Active Voice, designed to empower and support female editors in high school and college newsrooms.

“I don’t think that schools purposefully set out to target young women but I think that young women do bare the brunt of it,” LoMonte said. “They bare the brunt of it because they’re the ones who most want to talk about sensitive social issues.”

For the 2015 NCSMA Summer Institute, girls outnumbered boys 195 to 44.

Starting with a website, theactivevoice.org, the Active Voice campaign aims to inform young women of their legal rights to print their words and initiate reform of school policies that obstruct discussion of important issues. The website also hopes to link female editors to other students and women for the times they need support, LoMonte said.

“One of our great hopes is to build an online mentoring community for the young woman that feels like she's alone and ostracized in her school because of the opinions that she holds,” LoMonte said. “We’re hoping to get young women of all kinds, even young women who are not journalists to take ownership of their free speech rights and to say to schools that enough is enough.”

There are a couple reasons why girls face more censorship, LoMonte said.

Girls account for an overwhelming majority of the students enrolled in high school journalism programs. At this year's Summer Institute, there are 195 female students and 44 male students, said Monica Hill, director of the NCSMA.

And boys and girls often come into journalism with different interests, LoMonte said.

“When a guy joins the journalism program, half the time he's doing it to write about sports. When a girl joins the journalism program, most of the time she's doing it because she actually wants to comment on issues of social or political concern,” LoMonte said. “She wants to make the school better in some way. She wants to advocate for change. And that's the kind of journalism that's getting censored. The sports stories are not.”

Students learn best when they are allowed to make their own choices, said Mechelle Hankerson, a community reporter at the News & Observer in Raleigh who spoke at the Summer Institute's opening panel.

It’s important for students to figure out on their own where their readers are comfortable and where they’re not, and I think censorship has a chilling effect on students and student efforts,” Hankerson said. “It’s important to learn and make mistakes to learn what’s appropriate and what’s not.”

While Active Voice may have its roots in journalism, it’s also about developing and building strong women leaders in all areas, LoMonte said.

“And we're hoping to reach out to allies in the business community, in the legal community, in politics, who care about leadership opportunities for young women,” he said. “I think that's really the key. There are not enough people who are passionate about journalism to make change but there are certainly people who are passionate about the opportunity of young people to develop as leaders, especially women.”
Journalism educators honored by NCSMA

SPLC’s Frank LoMonte wins service award

Most high school and college journalists know who to call if they face censorship: Frank LoMonte.

The executive director of the Student Press Law Center is a familiar face at state and national journalism conventions and a welcoming voice on the phone.

LoMonte was honored with the NCSMA Kay Phillips Distinguished Service Award at the advisers lunch on Tuesday for his service to NCSMA and his work protecting student press freedoms.

LoMonte’s path to the SPLC had stops in journalism and law. He uses this experience to advise high school and college journalists about censorship and press freedom.

LoMonte has also worked closely with UNC-Chapel Hill and NCSMA on a variety of projects, including a law symposium marking the 25th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier.

“He was the person who pitched the idea of the Hazelwood Symposium,” said Monica Hill, director of NCSMA. “It was a tremendous honor for the law school, for the journalism school and for NCSMA to be involved in it.”

Hill appreciates the LoMonte’s work. “We are very fortunate in North Carolina that he travels down every year for the Institute to teach sessions. It’s a wonderful thing for students at our Institute to experience.”

Cape Fear High’s Jan Reid honored for service

It takes a real love of teaching to come out of retirement after a 28-year career.

That’s exactly what Jan Reid did. Reid is the publications adviser for the Upper School at Cape Fear Academy in Wilmington. She is being honored by the North Carolina Scholastic Media Association with the Kay Phillips Distinguished Service Award for her 37 years of service as a journalism educator.

Robert Judge ’16, a rising senior at Cape Fear, enjoys Reid’s class. “She puts a ridiculous amount of time into all our publications,” Judge said. “She also makes sure we have all the technology we need to get work done.”

Reid joined the Cape Fear in 2006 after serving as a journalism teacher at Hoggard High School. She has also served as a summer workshop faculty member for NCSMA, Taylor Jones and Herff Jones.

“She has been a faithful supporter of NCSMA for many many years,” NCSMA Director Monica Hill said. “She has story after story about students who have gone on to do great things.” Hill said Judge said Reid deserves the award. “Even though she may prefer the yearbook or the newspaper more she never shows it,” Judge said. “Mrs. Reid is probably one of the best teachers we’ve ever had.”

Hugh McManus named Principal of the Year

Encouraging. Enthusiastic. Sensitive.

These are words used to describe Hugh McManus, the Upper School Director of Cape Fear Academy. McManus is the winner of the NCSMA Principal of the Year Award.

Jan Reid, the publications adviser at Cape Fear, wrote a letter recommending McManus. “While he offers advice he does not command and has backed me every time something controversial has appeared in our newspaper or yearbook,” she wrote.

McManus has been at Cape Fear since 2006, when he moved from Topsail High School in Hampstead. McManus was also the principal at Hoggard High School in Wilmington from 1988 to 1997.

“He is my advocate in so many ways, encouraging students to enroll in the course, to attend summer camps, to submit publications for evaluation and finding ways to fund our attendance,” Reid wrote.

Current student Robert Judge said McManus is involved in the class. “We have a joint class with both newspaper and yearbook and whenever we publish a newspaper he sends out an email,” Judge said. “He makes sure everyone at school knows who’s working on it and who the editors are, and makes sure everyone knows how hard the adviser is working.”

Meet your 2015-16 NCSMA student officers

**PRESIDENT**

Samantha Claypoole

Providence High

Class of 2016

925samian@gmail.com

“I love writing, and I love the student body, and I want all of us to be equally represented and all of our creative voices to be heard in some way.”

**VICE PRESIDENT NEWSPAPER**

Zila Sanchez

East Mecklenburg

Class of 2017

“My advice for journalism students is for them to stay committed, stay focused and encourage themselves. Remain collected during interviews.”

**VICE PRESIDENT VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Caitlyn Simmons

Hickory Grove Christian

Class of 2016

“(My favorite thing was) seeing other people’s designs and ideas and how we can incorporate that into our own literary magazine.”

**VICE PRESIDENT YEARBOOK**

Claire Douglass

Fayetteville Christian

Class of 2016

cbdouglass126@aol.com

“It was my first year this year and my teacher had said I had done pretty well in the class, so she talked about an officer position.”

**VICE PRESIDENT LITERARY MAGAZINE**

Ayana Edwards

Community School of Davidson

Class of 2017

ayedwards@student.csd-spartans.org

“I think next year it will be fun for me to try to think differently and maybe trying something new.”

**VICE PRESIDENT ELECTRONICS**

Molly Horak

T.C. Roberson

Class of 2016

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Trends in scholastic media emerge

By Alexis Smith
Northern Guilford High

From the use of news magazine style print to the integration of multimedia aspects, the world of high school journalism is constantly evolving. These trends are growing and are being shown even in yearbooks with the emergence of elements such as interactive QR codes. But how do these trends come about? And where does this lead high school journalism?

What is the most significant influence in the multimedia aspect of high school journalism?

Technology has a great impact on the world and with new generations growing up in the digital age, it’s no surprise that multimedia elements will be involved in high school journalism.

Alex Blackwell, Vice President of Marketing and Communications of Walsworth yearbook publications, said audiences drive changes.

“The consumers are (in charge). (Students) prefer a book that merges social media and print.”

So, with the growing interest in the digital media from high school students, the more multimedia elements are involved in high school journalism to grab the attention of their consumers.

Where is the future of journalism headed?

It’s becoming more apparent that the use of print media is declining. This raises a lot of concerns for some people that there will be a loss of reliable journalism because people are providing information very quickly and might not be accurate, but for Michael Hernandez — former National Broadcast Adviser of the year — that statement couldn’t be more false.

“If you look at the history of people communicating with each other, we had an oral tradition,” Hernandez said. “As soon as people invented a way to write down things and publish books there were a lot of people that were up and arms over it, and concerned that people would be kind of dumb because they wouldn’t memorize anything. But now we take print for granted… I see that transformation happening… it’s the same cry we hear from some people about the fall of print journalism.”

More people are getting their news digitally because more people are attached to technology. As people begin to rely on the convenience of devices such as phones and computers, journalism is moving to more digital formats to engage their audience.

What are the disadvantages of multimedia in journalism?

The media provides convenience to the public when it comes news and reporting. But Monica Hill, executive director of NCSMA, said it can be a bit overwhelming for journalists in this tech savvy generation.

“I think it’s an exciting time for them, it’s also very fast-paced,” Hill said. “But as long as journalists are aware of the pace of what they’re doing and always … transmitting correct information and making certain they’re communicating correct information and not just the quickest information then that will speak or all the changes.”

Today’s journalists have to deliver their information to the public extremely quickly without jeopardizing the quality of work. This can be stressful for journalists, but also presents new opportunities to increase transparency and interaction with audiences.

What role does technology and social media play in journalism?

Technology and social media has become an innovative tool that has prompted a boom in the accessibility of information. People are able to communicate faster than ever which makes it much easier to provide information to the audience. Even high school journalism is becoming more competitive due to this.

Journalists have the urge to get information quicker and are constantly on deadline. The easy access to communicating digitally to the public has increased the amount of information and news outlets overall.

What are some qualities in traditional journalism should be kept in digital journalism?

Traditional journalism has provided the foundation of the way modern journalists do their jobs today. While many aspects have changed, there are some qualities that shouldn’t be forgotten during this transition to digital journalism.

Kayla Debbs, yearbook staff member at Trinity High ‘16, said people shouldn’t lose sight of the value of good reporting.

“I try to provide accurate information and believe that’s key in journalism.”

Tips for building a digital JOY portfolio

For 2015, the Journalism Education Association changed the National Student Journalist of the Year competition to digital-only submissions. The rules for the coming year will be released in the fall, but indications are that it will continue to be a digital competition. The requirements for the North Carolina competition will be set at the fall board meeting of the N.C. Scholastic Media Advisers Association.

If you are a rising senior who is planning to enter the competition, here are some tips to consider as you create and submit your digital portfolio:

- Do not include personal information in your online portfolio.
- Include work samples that show your progress as a journalist.
- Include broadcast/video examples that are less than 15 minutes long.
- Organize your online portfolio according to Design, Editing, Entrepreneurship, Law and Ethics, Leadership and Team Building, Multimedia Broadcast, News Gathering, News Literacy, Photojournalism, Web, and Writing.
- Label each work sample with the appropriate category.
- Choose a design concept for your portfolio.
In February 2015, Sam Doughton was selected to receive the 2015 Rachel Rivers-Coffey Journalist of the Year Award from the N.C. Press Foundation. Doughton, the editor-in-chief of R.J. Reynolds High School’s newspaper for the 2014-15 school year, was on the newspaper staff for three years. He will be a freshman at UNC-Chapel Hill this fall and plans to study journalism. He spoke with Rush reporter Jazmine Hedgepeth about the application process and the viral column that he believes helped him win.

WHAT DID YOU FEEL WHEN WINNING THIS AWARD?
SD: My adviser believed our staff had a lot of qualified applicants, so I just said ‘Well hey, let me apply and try this out.’ Because I would love to continue journalism after college, and I thought it would be a cool thing to do. Turned in my portfolio, and surprisingly got a word back sometime in February that I won.

WHAT MADE YOUR PORTFOLIO STAND OUT FROM THE OTHER APPLICANTS?
SD: I think the main thing that made me stand out from other qualified candidates was that I wrote a story on an alumni from my school, Stuart Scott. He died late January, and the very next day, I wrote a column on Scott’s death and his impact on my life. It got a lot of play, it was viewed about 10,000 times on our website alone, got tweeted out by ESPN’s College Basketball, even members of the Scott family commented on the online article. That was really cool and somewhat was my hook to the award, saying ‘Hey look, I’m a student journalist whose piece was broadcasted nationally.’

OTHER THAN THE STUART SCOTT STORY, WHAT ELSE?
SD: I believe I had a strong, all-around portfolio. I was a solid student journalist, throughout my three years working on my school’s newspaper staff, and even interned at my local paper. I had a strong portfolio with a lot of diverse work that made me a strong candidate.

WHAT DROVE YOU TO WRITE THE STUART SCOTT STORY?
SD: When the news first came down to me, I found out about it on Twitter that morning on ESPN. I got to school the next day and sat down during my lunch period. Thirty-five minutes later, 600 words about Stuart Scott, and other impacts he made, I had my column. It was definitely the most powerful writing I’ve ever done, because I just typed from the heart.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR FUTURE SENIORS WANTING TO APPLY FOR THE JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD?
SD: Just go for it. A lot of it starts when you first join the staff. One thing that’s really helped me out is asking your editors questions. I know a lot of the editors ahead of me gave me really great advice on other things like that. Lean on your advisor as well. He or she is there to help you out. Three tips: Start preparing your portfolio early, commit to doing journalistic work now, no matter if you start your freshman, sophomore, or junior year, just start as soon as you can to create the best portfolio. Lean on your advisors, editors, and all of the supporting staff that you have around you.
New technology is great, but experts agree that critical thinking, curiosity and adaptability are key to the modern journalist. Journalism educators and professionals agreed in a 2014 study that curiosity and the ability to sort information accurately were the top two skills they look for in journalists.

"Curiosity is a huge aspect of journalism… you have to be willing to delve into the story and want to know more."
- Huntley Paton, Executive Editor of Bizjournals.com

Journalists must be great communicators, which starts with listening. They must be able to listen to people and understand their point of view, and make connections between pieces of information. The ability to network and build sources is also key. They also need to be able to take large amounts of information and synthesize it efficiently and coherently.

"Just be a good listener and listen to what people are saying… I think it’s the most important thing that a journalist needs. It’s good as a person and as a reporter… if people are being rude you need to know where they’re coming from."
- Sarah Vassello, Arts & Culture Editor at The Daily Tar Heel

Teamwork is essential in newsrooms. Journalists need to work well with other reporters, editors and photographers and be willing to get their hands dirty with whatever job needs to get done.

Old-school tools are great for when batteries die and recordings get deleted. Paper, pens and pencils let you take information given to you and write it down and tell a story.

"I would say that the things you really need are a pad and pencil… to expand on that, a phone for recording. That’s all you really need to get the job done."
- Tyler Dukes, Public Records Reporter at WRAL.com

Computer skills expand what a journalist can do. Internet access brings them the world for background information and fact-checking. Also useful for editing photos, manipulating data sets, coding multimedia projects, blogging or producing a journalism website.

"In this day and age you need to be technologically adventurous… (to refine your skills) get as much experience as you can… don’t be afraid to ask for advice."
- Jay Eubank, Director of Career Services at UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication

For the online version, scan this code.
Getting social helps staffs increase readers

BY BYRDE WELLS
First Flight High School

Kelsey Weekman’s job at The Daily Tar Heel this year sounded simple: To find an audience for the stories, photos and editorials produced by the student newspaper’s staff.

But it’s not as simple as it sounds. Fewer students want to pick up a printed newspaper than in past years. And they don’t just go to dailytarheel.com home page every morning, either.

Finding and building an audience is a struggle news organizations are facing from high school to the pros. The answer — at least so far — seems to be a combination of smart social media strategy and a relentless focus on the kinds of stories that appeal to readers, Weekman said.

“Social media is very important to the DTH; it’s how we get our stories out to our audience,” Weekman said. “Today, people don’t visit websites to get news. News is obtained through social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.”

While an audience may be hard to attract, it’s easier than ever to quantify. Publications can find out exactly what an audience responds to by finding common patterns in their online analytics. Analytics track page views, visitors and other data for web sites.

“Analytics work best when used in an experimental environment,” said Ryan Thornburg, an associate professor at UNC’s School of Journalism and Mass Communication. “The hypothesis you’re trying to test can be measured by analytics. For example, you could try and see if a sports story on the top of a page will get more views than a story on the bottom of a page.”

So what do high school students want to read about? Pop culture, opinion and profiles, or POP, said Brenda Gorsuch, a yearbook and newspaper adviser at West Henderson High School.

POP was developed by UNC professor Penny Abernathy, who has researched what high school students want to read about, Gorsuch said. And she said she has seen this research backed up by personal stories in the newspaper she advises, Wingspan.

“Stories that tell the audience about people and their character habits have always been very popular,” Gorsuch said. “For example, we did a story about a freshman this year who no one in the school really knew. He actually won a national cup-stacking championship. How does he end up in South Korea for a national cup-stacking competition? How did he start cup stacking?”

College readers are no different. Based on what she found in her research, Weekman said college students also like to read personal stories.

“In general, people like people, and most profiles and opinion columns are often highly viewed on the The Daily Tar Heel,” Weekman said.

Publications exist to provide news to an audience. That means covering news they care about but also building loyalty through accurate reporting and good ethical decision-making. There’s more to a story than just page views.

“A loyal audience is checking out a publication day in and day out, to help you out and recommend stories to others,” Thornburg said. “When I was at USnews.com, I promoted people to share stories instead of raw pageviews, as I view these as compliments and endorsements to a website.”

Tips for engagement @ERICAPEREL, The Daily Tar Heel

Put a premium on exclusive news. What can you cover that no one else offers?

Ban boring. Headlines should sparkle, ledes should get to the point.

Invest in good storytellers. Help your best staffers develop great stories and present them well. Continue to promote that content long after it is published.

Be nimble on breaking stories. Move fast and smart.

Give readers context: hyperlinks, boxes, topic tags.

Build trust with readers using accurate stories. Don’t clickbait. Be transparent when you mess up.

Have fun. You aren’t 70 years old! You can experiment with story forms and interactivity. News organizations have always included fun stuff to make the serious news go down easier.

Make it easy. Find the readers where they are — Facebook, Insta, their phones. Inside your story pages, make it easy to find your other stuff.

Go where the readers are. Pay enough attention to the stories that readers respond to, and when they are good stories, do them up.

For more information about these events, visit the NCSMA website at ncsma.unc.edu.
Students question Kane on scandal coverage

BY JAzmine HegDEPETH
Northern Guilford High

Dan Kane said his investigation into the academic-athletic scandal at UNC-Chapel Hill started with him asking questions and making connections between bits of information.

And then he wondered why UNC didn’t seem to be asking the same questions.

Four years later, UNC-Chapel Hill has acknowledged serious problems with irregularly taught classes in which student-athletes were disproportionately enrolled. The NCAA is currently investigating the situation.

In four years of scandal coverage, Kane, an investigative reporter for The (Raleigh) News & Observer, faced his harshest criticism when he began asking questions about the UNC-Chapel Hill basketball team.

“Obviously you’re kind of taken aback,” Kane said. “What you focus on is the facts and trying to get to the truth of the situation.”

Kane spoke at the student press conference at the NCSMA Summer Institute. He answered questions about his experience exposing the ongoing four-year university athletic scandal.

“I’ve gotten nasty feedback from this scandal,” Kane said. “Someone wished I would get bone cancer and die a terrible death. Somebody tweeted me a picture of a noose. Somebody wrote a Wikipedia entry that was a smear, and even Julius Peppers’ agent created a website called DirtyDanKane.com.”

Although he has received negative feedback, Kane said he has also received a lot of positive feedback from UNC alumni who are grateful that there was an investigation on the academics for the university.

Although the questions were mostly about the scandal, some students were just curious about his career and personal life.

“When I was a junior in high school I took one of those occupational tests,” Kane said. “As I’m filling out the answers, I’m telling myself, ‘You know what, journalism’s going to come out on top.’”

He decided journalism might be for him because he enjoyed reading and writing.

“That following year my English teacher started a school paper, recognized I had an interest, and I learned a lot working on that paper, and it gave me even more of a desire to pursue this career.”

UNC-CH makes switch to Media and Journalism

BY ARI SEN
West Henderson High

Susan King wanted a change.

King, dean of the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Journalism and Mass Communication, thought her school’s 27-year-old name was starting to feel stale.

Students at the school travel the world to produce award-winning photojournalism. They create public relations campaigns that harness social media. They learn entrepreneurial skills by launching new businesses.

Mass communications just didn’t seem right. The name “School of Media and Journalism” was born.

“One of the biggest reasons we changed the name was because there’s a dynamic and strength of entrepreneurs going on in our school, and our name didn’t reflect that,” King said.

UNC-Chapel Hill will make the official name change on July 1. Students and faculty will celebrate the name change in August with a party, when Carroll Hall will be lit up in Carolina Blue.

Olivia Slagle, an incoming UNC-Chapel Hill student who plans to study journalism, thinks the name change will change how students view the school. “I think media and journalism communicates their purpose better,” Slagle said. “I think it isn’t exactly that mass communications is outdated, media is just updated.”

But Kyle Hodges, a UNC-Chapel Hill photojournalism student and photo editor of The Daily Tar Heel, worries the name change is more for fundraising from donors than for students. “It’s about his career and personal life.

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UNC-Chapel Hill will make the official name change on July 1. Students and faculty will celebrate the name change in August with a party, when Carroll Hall will be lit up in Carolina Blue.

Olivia Slagle, an incoming UNC-Chapel Hill student who plans to study journalism, thinks the name change will change how students view the school. “I think media and journalism communicates their purpose better,” Slagle said. “I think it isn’t exactly that mass communications is outdated, media is just updated.”

But Kyle Hodges, a UNC-Chapel Hill photojournalism student and photo editor of The Daily Tar Heel, worries the name change is more for fundraising from donors than for students. “I think it’s kind of ridiculous that they wanted to change it. I know someone wished I would get bone cancer and die a terrible death. Somebody tweeted me a picture of a noose. Somebody wrote a Wikipedia entry that was a smear, and even Julius Peppers’ agent created a website called DirtyDanKane.com.”

Although he has received negative feedback, Kane said he has also received a lot of positive feedback from UNC alumni who are grateful that there was an investigation on the academics for the university.

Although the questions were mostly about the scandal, some students were just curious about his career and personal life.

“When I was a junior in high school I took one of those occupational tests,” Kane said. “As I’m filling out the answers, I’m telling myself, ‘You know what, journalism’s going to come out on top.’”

He decided journalism might be for him because he enjoyed reading and writing.

“That following year my English teacher started a school paper, recognized I had an interest, and I learned a lot working on that paper, and it gave me even more of a desire to pursue this career.”
Let the celebration begin

BY SARAH DIGIOIA
Wake Forest-Rolesville High

This week NCSMA officially launches its diamond anniversary celebration, marking 75 years of serving, educating and training high school journalists. The organization has changed names, changed with the times and worked to stay relevant in the ever-changing media landscape. Here’s a look at where the organization has been, where it is and where it is headed.

Past: Early organizers recognized need for skills

The organization was originally started by UNC students in 1936 and got its first full-time director in 1994.

One change in particular is the name, from the North Carolina Scholastic Press Association to the North Carolina Scholastic Media Association. This name change occurred in 1995 to acknowledge the inclusion of electronic and digital media sequences in the program.

NCSMA has had eight directors, only two of which have been full-time.

Over the years, NCSMA has been able to teach skills to high school students passionate about journalism. "Journalism is such a real world skill set ... the networking and interviewing and writing, and the social media skills are so important for whatever you’re going to do in life," said Marva Hutchinson, a literary magazine adviser at Providence High School and a teacher at the Summer Institute.

Present: NCSMA continues serving students across variety of platforms

The 2015 NCSMA Summer Institute included 239 students from the state’s coast to its mountains and beyond its borders.

Two of the most popular sequences, television news and online news, embrace digital media, video storytelling and other high-tech techniques. At the same time, students continued developing skills in the traditional fields of reporting, writing, photography and design that the Summer Institute has long been known for.

Beyond the Institute, NCSMA runs contests in six divisions in which schools can win awards for their work. These contests are open to both high schools and middle schools.

In the fall, NCSMA will also host workshops throughout the state for high school journalism students and advisers.

NCSMA and the Summer Institute help introduce students to UNC-Chapel Hill and forge a connection between the Journalism School and the communities where students live, said Monica Hill, director of NCSMA.

“I certainly see the progression of students from high school journalists to college journalists ... and watch them in their field,” Hill said. “This actually happens statewide with students deciding to pursue journalism and media studies all across the state.”

Future: Recognition of legends, special guests highlight plans for 2016

Looking ahead, Disa Perry, president of NCSMAA and a teacher at Fayetteville Christian, believes growth should be a primary focus of the organization.

“We’re a statewide organization, and there’s so many more schools across the state that can be participating,” Perry said. “I think it will get bigger.”

First though, the NCSMA staff and members of NCSMAA want to make sure the previous 75 years are properly commemorated.

Over the next 12 months, the biographies of NSCMA legends will be unveiled. These are the people that have had an impact on and have contributed to the organization, making it what it is today.

NCSMA will also be releasing “Where They Are Now” segments, featuring former participants. Hill is asking that students and advisers contribute to these features. Instructions for submissions will be on the NCSMA website in the coming weeks.

Also, next year’s Summer Institute will include visits from former directors and other special guests.

“We are very fortunate to have people who care about high school journalism. They’ve been really wonderful to the organization for many years and we want to make certain we include all of them,” Hill said.