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JUSTIN DAIGLE

JEA SPECIAL RECOGNITION ADVISER

ADVISER, BRIGHTON (CO) HS



JUSTIN DAIGLE

The people who have known Justin Daigle the longest are not one bit surprised by the paths his life has taken. Daigle, who says he's known he wanted to be a teacher since he was in elementary school, practiced on his younger siblings when he tutored them at an early age.

And it was soon afterward that he realized he loved student publications as well. His seventh grade English teacher was the yearbook adviser at his middle school. Justin enjoyed writing, so it came as no surprise when he accepted an invitation to join the yearbook staff.

After two years of yearbook in middle school, he joined the newspaper staff – and ultimately became EIC – at Adamms City (CO) HS, which is just 10 miles from Brighton HS, where he's been teaching since he graduated from Colorado State in 2004.

"I know one of the reasons I got my job was because I said I'd be willing to do yearbook," said Daigle, whose original duties at Brighton did not include advising. During his second year on campus, he shadowed the adviser as she prepared to move to a different school and became involved with the Colorado HS Press Association as the sweepstakes coordinator.

He took over the yearbook program the following year and he'll complete his term as the state association's president this spring.

Being involved with media students and advisers from other schools has always been a part of Daigle's plan at Brighton. "It's so important for the students to network with others who share their passions," he explained. "Attending conventions and workshops challenges them to be their best; I think they're empowered by the energy and their shared goals."

And the work of his students over the past nine years has continued to pay off. After score of workshop awards, consecutive All-Colorado, All-American, Gold Medalist honors and a 2013 Silver Crown from CSPA, the 2014 volume was named a Pacemaker Finalist by the National Scholastic Press Association. "I love it when others say to the staff that they are making a difference. Our mayor even honored them, citing them for making him personally – and our whole town – proud," he said.

And he's proud of the group, which is an intentionally diverse staff including students of all grades, social groups and abilities. "You can always find them in yearbook," he said. "They are always thinking and they really like each other. For some, it's the reason they come to school." The mix of students also ensures that the yearbook is a more true representation of the students and the moments they want to remember, especially since the staff seeks out those stories that set their subjects apart, he said.

Daigle is quick to add that he believes he also benefits from his staff's off-campus involvement. "As an adviser, there are not many others on campus who understand what you're going through," he said. "But my CHSPA peers and other yearbook friends are always there for me. I'd be lost without them."

In addition to advising the yearbook, teaching AP Language and senior English courses, serving as emcee for campus events, working on numerous campus committees and on the CHSPA Board, Daigle judges for several state associations, presents sessions at state and national conventions and teaches summer workshops nationwide. And, because Colorado is hosting the 2015 JEA/NSPA Spring National HS Journalism Convention, he's been busy preparing for the Write-offs as one of the competition's local co-chairs.

"Yearbook is important now and later. The experience helps students find their voices and teaches lessons that apply in so many other aspects of life," concluded Daigle. "But it's also one of the only things most high school students will still have when they are adults."



BILL CAULTON

JEA RISING STAR

ADVISER, AVON (IN) HS

When college sophomore Bill Caulton was looking for another major at Ball State University and his academic adviser suggested that – because design, teaching, writing and journalism interested him – he might consider journalism education, he remembers thinking, “Wait. That’s a real thing?”

The former architecture major soon found that his adviser’s advice was solid. Caulton had no experience in student media. “I wanted to be on newspaper in high school,” he explained, “but it didn’t fulfill my English requirement. I played soccer and volleyball and was pursuing architecture.”

Now, he says, it really worked out perfectly for him. He remembers instantly liking the coursework and knowing midway through that first year that he’d made the right decision.

In addition to his supervising teacher at Lawrence Central HS in Indianapolis, Caulton has been influenced by a number of Indiana advisers. As an Indiana HS Press Association board member and staffer at Ball State’s Summer Journalism Workshops, he works with many others who share his passions.

“I love so much about student media,” he said. “There’s nothing like a student achieving something he didn’t think he could do. And it’s amazing when you can get excited with the students.” Even the variety of his days is a plus, he says. “It’s about writing and design and visual presentation. There are so many ways to be creative and solve problems.”

In his fifth year teaching, Caulton enjoys the challenge of advising both the newspaper and the yearbook. While both involve reporting and design, planning and teamwork, the processes (and the students) vary. “I like that the newspaper staff can see their finished product more frequently,” he explained, “but the yearbook staff knows their readers will keep their work forever.”

No matter which staff the students work on, Caulton says his goal is the same. “I hope they say that it was challenging and worth it,” he said. “And that they learned lots of things that will be helpful to them later in life.”



ANNIE GORENSTEIN

JEA RISING STAR

ADVISER, ARVADA (CO) WEST HS

Though she had been EIC of her middle school yearbook, Annie Gorenstein concentrated on sports in high school. A three-sport athlete, she went on to play basketball at the University of Wyoming, where she also majored in English.

And, when she became a teacher, she saw her self as a basketball coach... until the incumbent yearbook adviser was ready to surrender the reins. Now in her seventh year teaching, she is advising her fifth book.

And yearbook, she says, has not only quickly become her favorite class to teach, but has also changed the way she teaches her other classes as well. "I learn best when I am challenged to be creative," explained Gorenstein, "so I look for ways to help my students do that too."

Though she began her tenure under adverse conditions (the small staff left out 35 senior portraits and was in the spotlight for the wrong reasons), the tide quickly turned. Gorenstein took a group to a summer workshop where they won Best Theme honors and almost instantly there was a different tone.

Currently secretary of Colorado HS Press Association and on-site critique chair for the 2015 JEA/NSPA National HS Journalism Convention in Denver, she credits the camaraderie of local advisers and the competitive friendships of their staffs for her initiation into student media at a higher level. "The kids from staffs at neighboring schools learn together, they travel together, they text and encourage and support each other and celebrate each other's successes," she explained.

Last summer, Gorenstein had the opportunity to meet and learn with other advisers at an American Society of News Editors workshop at Arizona State. Designed to immerse teachers in specialized skills, such as writing, editing, reporting, multimedia, layout and photojournalism and provide grounding in professional ethics, news literacy, the First Amendment and scholastic press freedom, the seminars, the two-week intensive workshop was one of four nationwide.

"While there were not many yearbook advisers in the mix, it was great to learn more about the value of good journalism," she concluded. "A yearbook is so much more than a book of photos."



STEVE HANF

JEAS RISING STAR

ADVISER, R.J. REYNOLDS HS, WINSTON-SALEM, NC

Because his father had been in the Air Force, Steve Hanf moved a lot as a child. He spent four years in Illinois as a young teen and then graduated from high school in Panama. When it was time to choose a college, he opted for the University of Illinois, where he majored in journalism and worked on the *Daily Illini* newspaper.

After 13 years as a North Carolina sportswriter, Hanf became a teacher – like his wife. In 2010, he learned of an English opening at R.J. Reynolds HS and, by the start of his second year in the classroom, he added an Intro to Journalism class and became the newspaper adviser. Before he knew it, he had an all-journalism schedule. In year four of his second career, he became the yearbook adviser as well.

“I like the fact that it’s a little different every day,” explained Hanf.

“The life of an adviser is very fluid. You never quite know what your day will bring.”

What he can count on, he says, is helping students find their own voices, teaching them the responsibilities of practicing good journalism and the occasional reminder for everyone involved that their work matters. “We’re telling a story that is important and fun in the now, but we never know how meaningful it may become in the future,” Hanf said.

One of those reminders occurred in January when ESPN anchor Stuart Scott died of cancer, Hanf’s newspaper editor culled photos of Scott, a 1983 alum of Reynolds, from the *Black and Gold* yearbook and shared them with the community alongside a tribute to Scott. To see Sam Doughton’s piece in *Pine Whispers*, go to <http://bit.ly/ybksottrue>

Though he’s in just his fourth year advising, Hanf has 50 students in his program who have been with him for four years. “I am at a great school to be an adviser,” he said. “There’s such a history here. There’s a natural interest in taking journalism classes and the faculty and administration are supportive.”

Hanf’s work with student media extends beyond campus. He’s on the executive board of Southern Interscholastic Press Association and the advisory council of North Carolina Student Media Association, and he presents at workshops and conventions.