

Students and staff travel to Gettysburg for yearbook training

Gettysburg offered more than Civil War history and ghosts for 12 Trumbull High School students this past summer. The juniors and seniors joined yearbook advisers Susan Berescik and Jordan Miller, and about 750 other students from Virginia to Maine, for a week of intensive training by Herff Jones Publishing Co. representatives at Gettysburg College.

Attendees included seniors Timothy Enos, Hillary Nigrosh, Stephanie Squires and Benjamin Woessner; and juniors Jessica McIntyre, Kevin Meeson, Samantha Mott, Emma Ryder, Diana Santella, Amisha Sisodiya and Michael Smith.

Living in the college dorms and studying on campus, the students and teachers took classes in yearbook journalism that ranged from designing layouts to mastering photographic techniques such as freezing sports action, to crafting graphic elements to marketing. Several focused specifically on writing to assure accurate reporting and expanded coverage as

editors plan the 2010 yearbook, the 49th edition of Trillium.

In addition, about 15 hours of theme-group planning time over the course of the five days allowed the Trumbull contingent a chance to design a mock-up of the 2010 Trillium and prepare a ladder plan of its contents. During the closing ceremony, the Trillium 2010 mock-up, titled "Dig It," was awarded "Excellence in Theme Development" of the more than 150 schools represented at the conference.

"Selecting a theme typically begins in April," explained Berescik, "when those who will be returning as editors get together and brainstorm overall ideas for the school year ahead, even though the previous book has not been distributed and the supplement is still in production."

"We got the students' wheels spinning and then in May met with the principal [Robert Tremaglio] for some direction," added Miller. "He

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Members of the Trumbull High yearbook staff celebrate the five awards that Trillium won at the Gettysburg College Yearbook Camp. (Submitted photo)

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talked about his vision for the upcoming school year and the big issues that might dominate in 2009-2010."

The yearbook editors chose a construction-oriented theme, knowing that the construction of the auditorium at the front of Trumbull High, which was initiated in July after the asbestos abatement, will seriously affect the operation of the school in the coming year. But they also recognize the potentials that lie ahead as Trumbull educators prepare for the future. "Dig It" will reflect that pride and school spirit.

Berescik chuckled. "We all dig THS. It's a great place to learn and work," she said.

In addition, the Gettysburg attendees learned that true scholastic journalism means

getting the whole story, digging for the details and uncovering all the facts. Hence, "Dig It" presents the history of THS for all students and faculty, not just for seniors. With a "Best Theme Development" award from the Gettysburg Yearbook Experience conference, editors have a jump-start on 2010 training and production, as they maintain the Trillium tradition of excellence.

Timothy and Kevin won "I Want You on My Staff" recognition plaques in their two different classes about concept and coverage. Timothy also was invited to return as a director's assistant next summer. Emma was named "Best in Journalistic Design" in her Intensive Design Fast Track class, and Squires took the "Excellence in Class Participation" award in Editorial Leadership. Berescik and Miller met with advisers from more than 15 states all

over the East Coast to discuss trends in design, production and sales.

Besides the classes in Concept and Coverage, Editorial Leadership, Journalistic Writing, Design Focus II, Intensive Design and Introduction to Digital Photography; and adviser classes in Yearbook Design, Methods, Mapping and Coverage, and Advertising, the group also toured the Herff Jones printing plant in Gettysburg, where the 2009 supplement was being processed.

"This year Herff Jones is taking over some of our sales so we can focus more on training of new students and production of the book," explained Berescik. "We're growing, and we dig it!"

"We have an executive board of 16 top level editors who have jumped right in on 'Dig It,'" said Miller, "with another

45 excited to get started and help us turn out a top-notch book. This year fits every definition of construction."

Pre-orders of "Dig It" are available on the secure Web site, yearbookordercenter.com, and will be available at Trumbull High School for the lowest price of \$72 at Back to School Night. Further information will be given out in homerooms during the October Sales Campaign. Copies of the 2009 yearbook, "All We Are," are still available for \$75 by calling the yearbook office (452-4524) or checking in the main office.