

THE CHASER

SPJ

May 1999

Fort Worth Chapter / Society of Professional Journalists

*"If it happened in Fort Worth ...
it's news to us!"*

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Scholarship dinner May 4

The editor of the freshest new entry on Cowtown's magazine scene has a word for SPJ scholarship winners.

Several, actually.

Prepare. Persevere. Roll with the punches. Play your hand.

C.C. Risenhoover, the man behind the content at Fort Worth, Texas, magazine, will keynote the May 4 scholarship dinner at Shady Oaks Country Club.

He may have been out of control at times as a standout high school baseball pitcher (his own assessment, and the scouts', too), but Risenhoover has always been in control when it comes to writing. He has written 13 novels, edited and/or published several maga-

where: Shady Oaks Country Club, 320 Roaring Springs Road
when: Tuesday, May 4; mingling (cash bar) 6:30, dinner 7:15
cost: \$20 members, \$25 others
menu: Boston lettuce rose salad, breast of chicken "California," baked stuffed potato, green beans almondine, broiled tomato parmesan, cheesecake with raspberry sauce
RSVP 877-1171 by Friday, April 30

zines and won awards as a reporter at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

"I know of no one who has written successfully in as many areas," said his colleague David McHam. "C.C. has talent. The rest of us try hard."

The top students are Sarah Baker, UTA, Staley and Beverly McBrayer Scholarship; Michael Hines, UTA, Donna

Darovich Scholarship; Anabelle Garay-Stephenson, Tarrant County College, Jerry Flemmons Scholarship; Christy Wilkie, UTA, Jack Tinsley Scholarship, and Casey Cornett, UNT, Joe Holstead Scholarship. Phuong-Vi Vi Hoang and Stephani Carter, both of UT Austin, and Matt Stiles, UTA, won Texas Gridiron Scholarships.

Tribute honors Arlington high school journalism teacher

More than \$10,000 has been collected or pledged for the SPJ Lina Davis Scholarship, named for the longtime journalism educator at Sam Houston and Arlington high schools. Lina died March 31 after a brief illness. She was 53.

"Her students will continue to meet and tell Lina Davis stories," said retired UTA Student Publications director Dorothy Estes. "Her spirit was too great and too good to be stuck in the ground and forgotten."

Although Lina received the Edith Fox King Award and the Columbia Gold Key for outstanding service to

high school journalism, her great joy was the hundreds of awards her students and their publications won. She was removed from life-support the night before UIL bidistrict competition. In her honor, her students went ahead and competed, and they took first place.

"She taught me responsibility and deadlines," said Star-Telegram staff writer Kristin Sullivan. "She invested herself in us and made us better people."

Donations to the scholarship, which are tax-deductible, may be mailed to Gridiron Scholarships, P.O. Box 16885, Fort Worth, TX 76162.

Been there, done that and have the T-shirt to prove it? Then this June spectacular is for you ...

GRIDIRON REUNION



This is it, troops, and it's been a blast

As I write this, I'm practically en route to the SPJ regional meeting in Oklahoma. The redoubtable **Kay Pirtle** and I will share a flight out. Fort Worth SPJ member **Linda Swift** will be there, as will chapter board members **Jan Gary** and **David McHam**. You can expect a report, but you probably won't get one.

Not a lot of time to reflect on the SPJ year, other than this:

Hasn't it been a fun run. Declaration, not question.

We've found new, used and totally bizarre reasons to toss a party, and we've done so with gusto. We gave a short ton of children's books to Cook Children's Medical Center. We've been entertained by **Annie Golightly**, **Randy Galloway**, **Dale Hansen**, **Dan Jenkins**, the JFK Quartet and madcap **Alex Burton** and his herd of delightfully demented authors.

Not to mention Ribs by **Ronnie**.

Along the way, the creative geniuses at Witherspoon produced one invitation and inspired another that made us look smarter than we are. The announcement for our season-opening party — a mini-stylebook sendoff of the Associated Press real thing, complete with nifty little binder — sizzled with creativity. Then to herald "An Evening with Dan Jenkins," an accordion-fold work of art built cleverly to the what, when, where. Thanks to these talented people.

The May 4 scholarship dinner is detailed elsewhere, so I'll close with a word on what began as a Spring Fling but has progressed to the Summer Hummer, a Gridiron reunion and frolic under the stars, scheduled for early June. There will be exotic food and exotic beverages. If you miss it, you die!

— Mike Cochran

SPJ
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