



## **Saint Viator High School Student Newspaper Earns National Award**

May 24, 2010



Callie Romenesko working on a CD review.  
(photo by Chris Santucci)

The Viator Voice, which comes out monthly at Saint Viator High School in Arlington Heights, was one of only six student newspapers nationwide --- from parochial schools with an enrollment between 1,000 and 1,700 --- to receive first place designation from the American Scholastic Press Association.

The New York-based ASPA reviews 2,000 student editions each year to come up with their list of top scoring newspapers.

Viator Voice staff members learned of their award at the same time they received a second place award from the Northern Illinois School Press Association.

“This is especially impressive considering that students do not receive course credit for their work on the Viator Voice, as some student journalists do,” says English teacher Chris Paoelli, who serves as moderator for the newspaper. “Our students are not being graded on their efforts, and they still produced superior work.”

Individual staff members also won awards from the Northern Illinois School Press Association.

Senior co-editor, Janice Guzon of Hoffman Estates earned a Blue Ribbon in Editorial Writing, while junior Danielle Di Silvestro of Inverness, also won a Blue Ribbon for advertisement design.

Several more students earned honorable mention status, including senior Michael Benson of Rolling Meadows for review writing, senior Brooke Bonk of Des Plaines for opinion/column writing, senior co-editor Clare Dussman of Arlington Heights in photography, and senior Martha Ryzner of Rolling Meadows in artwork.

The staff had little time to bask in their glory, since they were busy trying to get out their highly anticipated senior edition.

When it came out May 7, the 54-page paper featured responses from 179 seniors who had responded to their online survey, on everything from favorite memories, advice to underclassmen, to the ever-popular “senior wills.”

“All in all, we spent almost three straight weeks designing the April and senior issues for back-to-back release, which represents a Herculean effort on the part of the staff,” Paoelli adds. “The sophomores and juniors really stepped up, spending hours checking names, editing graphics, and learning to use the design software. It was largely thanks to their tireless assistance that our senior editors managed to produce so many pages so quickly.”