**2014 Edward Nell Scholarship Winner**

**Name:** Amanda Weisbrod

**High School:** Lakota East HS, Liberty Township, OH

**College:** Ohio University

I had no idea that journalism was even an option for me until my sophomore year when my adviser, Dean Hume, basically forced me to get involved in the program. Since then, I realized how important telling stories really is.

In 2013, I earned two Gold Keys from Quill and Scroll for In-depth Reporting, and Feature Writing. My feature story, titled “Fifty Gallons of Tea,” went on to win the Sweepstakes Award for Feature Writing, and it also won an Excellent rating at OSMA (Ohio Scholastic Media Association) that year.

This story, about a boy who lost his father to lung cancer, opened my eyes to the world of reporting. I knew that being a storyteller, of happy and sad stories alike, is what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

Since then, I have been published in various mediums, including the local newspaper, *The Pulse Journal*, for a column I wrote about the bombing in Boston, and a book, titled *Girls Who Stare at Yogurt;* and for another column I wrote about the hardships of having divorced parents.

But perhaps the most incredible publication that I have been a part of is my own high school paper—the monthly, 88-page, Pacemaker and Gold Crown winning newsmagazine, *Spark*.