



**First Amendment Award of Excellence**

**The Clarion-Ledger**

Geoff Pender and the Staff of The  
Clarion-Ledger  
"Public Office, Private Gain"

This in-depth investigation of Mississippi's wide-open campaign finance rules puts on public display how well lawmakers are living on donations made ostensibly for their campaigns ... this is a solid investigation that demonstrates the power of state and local media to dig out facts and create an atmosphere in which change can happen.

**Best of Region - Breaking News**

*First Place*

**WAFB-TV**

"BRPD Officers Ambushed and Killed"  
Staff

Excellent breaking news coverage of the shootings of several police officers. Station did a great job of covering this story as it unfolded.

**Best of Region - Investigative**

*First Place*

**KATC-TV**

"Shots Fired"- Gun Crimes by the  
Numbers"  
Jim Hummel, Justin Terro and Tina  
Macias

Strong investigative content looking into a real problem facing the community. Excellent storytelling.

**Best of the Region – Achievement**

*First Place*

**WCBI-TV**

"Those Boys from State"  
Derek Rogers, MC Sullivan and James  
Parker



**Best of Region - Evening Newscast**

*First Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"8 News at 10PM, February 11th"

Marina Gelpi, Kara Bridges and Staff

Newscast showed a strong commitment to news and covering important stories.

**Best of Region - Daytime Newscast**

*First Place*

**WAFB-TV**

"12pm News Feb 24, 2016"

Heather Phung and Staff

Solid newscast with strong producing. Good job on storm coverage.

**Frank Allen Award**

*First Place*

**The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger**

"Gone: The Felix Vail Saga"

Jerry Mitchell

**C.P. Liter Award**

*First Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

"Parents Weep"

Hilary Scheinuk

**Louisiana Newsperson of the Year***First Place***WDSU-TV**

Travers Mackel

Nice variety of stories, between crime, floods, courts, the governor and Rio. What set him apart was his good work on the bogus parking tickets; this would be of interest to anybody who's ever gotten a parking ticket.

*Second Place***WAFB-TV**

Kiran Chawla

Kiran is obviously a go-getter who handles herself professionally on the scene of breaking news. She had nice follow-up stories with the family of shooting victims. She also showed she isn't afraid to take on tough stories that might require some amount of confrontation.

*Third Place***KNOE-TV**

Aaron Dietrich

Nice human interest pieces related to sports. Appears to have a good connection with viewers.

**Mississippi Newsperson of the Year-TV***First Place***WDAM-TV**

Ryan Moore

**Mississippi Newsperson of the Year-Radio***First Place***WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM**

Breck Riley

**MAPB Hall of Fame**

**WLOX-TV**

Rodney Billingsley

**WJTV-TV**

Melanie Christopher

**WAPT-TV**

David Hartman

**WTVA-TV**

Craig Ford

**NEWSPAPERS DIVISION I**

**Breaking News**

*First Place*

**The Meridian Star**

"Firefighter Dies in Crash"

Whitney Downard, Cheryl Owens and  
Randy Hammons

Good, thorough coverage of a community tragedy. First responders put their lives on the line every day, but this story shows how dangerous just getting to work for fire men and women can be.

*Second Place*

**The Natchez Democrat**

"Flooding Forces Crosby Residents to  
Flee"

Lindsey Shelton

While flooding was a regional story last year, The Democrat's coverage stood out among the numerous entries with good photos and solid reporting.

*Third Place*

**The Vicksburg Post**

"Man Jumps to his Death from  
Interstate 20"

John Surratt

A thoughtful, well-written article covering an apparent suicide -- a tough topic to tackle but the Post's reporting covered the event with compassion and meaningful reporting.

**General News***First Place***Corinth Daily Corinthian**

"Two Schools' Final Chapter"

Zack Steen

Great planned piece to look at the last day for these schools.

*Second Place***The Greenwood Commonwealth**

"Is Greenwood Ready for Fluoridation?"

Tim Kalich

Good advance for a government story to put the pieces of the issue up front to serve the readers.

*Third Place***The Natchez Democrat**

"County Votes to Take State Flag Down"

Vershal Hogan

Invests the reader in a high-profile issue on the local level through solid coverage of a government meeting.

**Features***First Place***Corinth Daily Corinthian**

"Day at the Fair"

Bobby J. Smith

Smith humanizes the carnies, and shows that pride can be a part of that gypsy-like existence. Points for looking behind the scenes at the fair.

*Second Place***The Greenwood Commonwealth**

"Facebook Justice"

Kathryn Eastburn

Eastburn knows how to set a scene and tell a story.

*Third Place***The Vicksburg Post**

"Jeffery's Best Friends"

Terri Frazier

Just a heart-warming piece.

**Business**

*First Place*

**Corinth Daily Corinthian**

"Soda Shop Pops the Top Off  
Nostalgia"  
Kimberly Shelton

Nice page and graphics set of fun feature about a unique business in your community.

*Second Place*

**The Meridian Star**

"450 Jobs"  
Randy Hammons

A good balance of information on the potential aircraft jobs with clever headline (landing jobs) made this story a must read.

*Third Place*

**McComb Enterprise-Journal**

"Deal Doldrums"  
Ernest Herndon

A strong package of stories about businesses struggling with the common head made the reading compelling.

**Continuing Coverage**

*First Place*

**McComb Enterprise-Journal**

"Summit Church Dispute"  
Matt Williamson

This is community journalism at its best.

*Second Place*

**McComb Enterprise-Journal**

"Flood Relief"  
Ernest Herndon

The commitment to first-hand accounts was evident.

*Third Place*

**The Vicksburg Post**

"Murder Suspect Escapes"  
John Surratt, Terri Frazier and Staff

Stories show a solid treatment of breaking and ongoing news of urgent community importance made better by the father's personal account at end of series.

**Investigative/Public Service**

*First Place*

**Jackson Free Press**

"A Hunger to Live: Interrupting  
Violence in Jackson, Miss."

Donna Ladd and Imani Khayyam

An in-depth look at the serious problems of poverty and violence done with compassion and fairness. An outstanding example of what journalism can be for a community.

*Second Place*

**Thibodaux Daily Comet**

"Deadly Standoff"

Maki Somosot and Bridget Mire

A tough topic, suicide, handled in a way that humanizes the victim and the police, very well written and presented.

*Third Place*

**The Vicksburg Post**

"Breast Cancer"

Staff

An interesting and thorough examination of the impact of breast cancer upon the community. The inclusion of all the elements in one issue was an interesting choice.

**Breaking Sports**

*First Place*

**The Vicksburg Post**

"Clinton Knocks WC out of the  
Playoffs with Overtime Win"

Ernest Bowker

Exceptional lead that flows into a game that tells a story instead of a paraphrased play-by-play. This was written ESPN-type coverage for high school and it serves the readers well.

*Second Place*

**Thibodaux Daily Comet**

"Family, Friends Thrilled for Orgeron"

Teddy Renois

Excellent sidebar that captured a lot of regional ties to localize what was a national story, but with what a national wire story cannot accomplish.

*Third Place*

**The Vicksburg Post**

"Vikings' Ride is Over"

Ernest Bowker

A solid lead that draws in the reader and then tells them a story of what happened in the game without writing out a box score.



**Sports Enterprise/Feature**

*First Place*

**The Oxford Eagle** No comments.

"Oxford Man Makes Name for  
Himself in Special Olympics"

Davis Potter

*Second Place*

**The Vicksburg Post** No comments.

"Summer Camps, Social Media Alter  
the Landscape of Football Recruiting"

Ernest Bowker

*Third Place*

**Thibodaux Daily Comet** No comments.

"Game Changer: Local Coaches Offer  
Insight into Pat Summitt's Life,  
Impact"

Kelly McElroy

**Editorials**

*First Place*

**Jackson Free Press**

Gutsy work among many strong contenders.

"State Flag, Voting, Planned  
Parenthood"  
Staff

*Second Place*

**The Meridian Star**

Stances are clear and well-reasoned.

"Flames of the Past burn in  
Mississippi, Clinton Endorsement;  
Arts Center an Opportunity for  
Meridian"  
The Meridian Star

*Third Place*

**The Greenwood Commonwealth**

Strong sense of humanity shining through.

"What Bill is Bryant Reading?; Perkins  
Works Against CVB Again; Huge  
Endorsement for New State Flag"  
Tim Kalich

**Personal Columns**

*First Place*

**The Natchez Democrat**  
Kevin Cooper

The writer goes straight to the heart of a topic, then cuts it out for the benefit of the reader. Great topic choices and tackling local government. Must terrify them, and his publisher.

*Second Place*

**The Oxford Eagle**  
David Magee

Deep and insightful reads with a story-telling ability that draws the reader into the message.

*Third Place*

**The Greenwood Commonwealth**  
"An Addict's Obituary; The Freedom of Forgiveness; Why Would Bryant Stage Photo Like This?"  
Tim Kalich

Gives you all the detail until you're a little uncomfortable, then lets you go.

**Headlines**

*First Place*

**Corinth Daily Corinthian**  
"Cost of Freon Makes AC Units a Hot Topic, Eaves Dropping, KHS Asked to Steer Clear of Texas Logo"  
Staff

"Eaves dropping" is clever while clearly communicating the story.

*Second Place*

**The Vicksburg Post**  
"Crest Easy"  
Tim Reeves

Simple and to the point. Clever without a groan.

*Third Place*

**McComb Enterprise-Journal**  
"Irvin Cooks Rice/Railroad Blvd. Grant Derailed/Sawdust & Splinters Loses Edge"  
Matt Williamson, Mack Spencer and Ernest Herndon

"Irvin cooks Rice" brought a chuckle.

**Layout & Design**

*First Place*

**Thibodaux Daily Comet**  
"DC Layout5"  
Staff

Great packaging and use of space. Keeps clean layout to guide the reader while incorporating multiple elements.

*Second Place*

**Thibodaux Daily Comet**  
"DC Layout4"  
Staff

No comments.

*Third Place*

**The Meridian Star**  
"Staying on Target, Downtown Disorder, Jailed for Mental Illness"  
Bill Graham, Helen Reynolds and Robbie Robertson

The three front pages were strong.

**Photo Breaking News**

*First Place*

**The Natchez Democrat**  
"Early Morning House Fire"  
Ben Hillyer

The fire shouts, "BLAZE" and that's emotional! Seeing the outline of the firefighters just helps dramatize the fight between fire and those who came to fight. The reflection on the pavement, further eye candy for the reader!

*Second Place*

**The Natchez Democrat**  
"Two Men Found Dead in Parish"  
Nicole Hester

The girl on the bottom right AMPLIFIES the scene. Their faces tell the story!

*Third Place*

**The Oxford Eagle**  
"House Fire"  
Bruce Newman

Not real dynamic, but certainly not static; Ethereal, perfectly composed and exposed! Catching the fireman in the window is just a matter of waiting but thinking!

**Photo General News***First Place***The Meridian Star**

A priceless moment.

"Best of The Best"

Bill Graham

*Second Place***The Natchez Democrat**

Colorful shot with a unique perspective.

"Bye, Bye Balloons"

Ben Hillyer

*Third Place***Thibodaux Daily Comet**

Personal and compassionate.

"Finding Home"

Abby Tabor

**Photo Features***First Place***The Oxford Eagle**

Great timing and use of light, this could be 2016 or 1916, truly timeless.

"Walk To School"

Bruce Newman

*Second Place***Thibodaux Daily Comet**

This was a photo that makes the reader stop and look.

"Beauty on the Bayou"

Abby Tabor

*Third Place***McComb Enterprise-Journal**

No comments.

"Dairy Fest Delights"

Matt Williamson

**Multi-Photo**

*First Place*

**The Natchez Democrat**

"Faces of the Flood: Crosby Victims  
Return to Houses"  
Nicole Hester

Several center piece worthy photos in this package that all do a fantastic job capturing the moment. Good mixture and use of lighting to tell story and a great bringing the humans to the front of a natural disaster.

*Second Place*

**The Vicksburg Post**

"Air Show"  
Courtland Wells

Used the advantage of the airplane ride to its fullest to bring the reader into the story and get a solid collection of crowd and I was there moments.

*Third Place*

**McComb Enterprise-Journal**

"Outside the Walls"  
Matt Williamson

Great mixture of high and low perspectives to give readers unique view of what could have been treated as a drive by photo assignment. Nice mixture of changing focal points and drawing in and out.

**Portrait/Personality**

*First Place*

**McComb Enterprise-Journal**

"A March in the Sun"  
Matt Williamson

Unstaged and perfect capture of the subject's personality and passion in one shot.

*Second Place*

**The Vicksburg Post**

"Secret Santa"  
Courtland Wells

Unconventional use of a familiar subject.

*Third Place*

**The Natchez Democrat**

"I Can Beat You"  
Nicole Hester

Editors normally abhor the big shadow but in this instance it works very well to convey the message.

**Photo Sports Action**

*First Place*

**The Vicksburg Post**

Great capture of defining moment.

"The MVP"

Courtland Wells

*Second Place*

**The Oxford Eagle**

This photo tells the reader everything, position on field, ball, location and what's happening.

"Ryan Olenek"

Bruce Newman

*Third Place*

**McComb Enterprise-Journal**

Sometimes the players make the shot and this young man's expression was truly worth a thousand words.

"Parklane Falls to MRA"

Chuck Barnes

**Photo Sports Features**

*First Place*

**The Natchez Democrat**

No comments.

"Love of the Game"

Nicole Hester

*Second Place*

**The Oxford Eagle**

No comments.

"Sugar Rush"

Bruce Newman

*Third Place*

**The Vicksburg Post**

No comments.

"At the End of the Day"

Ernest Bowker

<b>Multimedia Package</b>
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*First Place*

**Thibodaux Daily Comet**

I loved hearing their stories in their voices. Nice.

"The Home Front: Local View of  
World War II"

Ashlee Hill

*Second Place*

**Thibodaux Daily Comet**

Lots to look at here.

"Black Friday Guide"

Ashlee Hill

*Third Place*

**Thibodaux Daily Comet**

No comments.

"Relatives of Thibodaux Massacre  
Victim Gather in Memory"

Kevinisha Walker and Chris Heller

<b>Video</b>
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*First Place*

**Thibodaux Daily Comet**

Good choice of topic for visual and audio. Well blended  
with interviews.

"TARC Bell Choir Plays Houma's Main  
Library"

Chris Heller

*Second Place*

**Thibodaux Daily Comet**

Important topic enhanced with good B-roll.

"Shrimpers See Good Shrimp, Bad  
Prices in Opening Week of Season"

Ashlee Hill

*Third Place*

**Thibodaux Daily Comet**

Good effort.

"Main Stage Lounge Orlando Benefit  
Night"

Ashlee Hill

## NEWSPAPERS DIVISION II

### Breaking News

*First Place*

**The (Monroe) News-Star**

"Region deluged"

Staff

A complete package that not only provided details of the massive flooding, but told readers what to expect in upcoming days and provided guides on where they could go for help as well as safety tips. Staff did a great job getting comments from a wide range of people.

*Second Place*

**The (Lafayette) Advertiser**

"LSU Fires Les Miles"

Guilbeau Glenn

A well-written and reported story on an end of a coaching era at LSU. The lead to the story was especially strong.

*Third Place*

**Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal**

"Shumpert Grand Jury"

Caleb Bedillion and William Moore

Not only thorough and complete coverage, but it captured the emotion of the day.

### General News

*First Place*

**Lake Charles American Press**

"Trump Country"

Emily Fontenot

A great job highlighting a part of Louisiana that voted strongly for Donald Trump. Unbiased, nice details, well-rounded explanation.

*Second Place*

**The (Houma) Courier**

"Gun Control"

Jacob Batte and Maki Somosot

Great job summarizing and condensing such a nuanced topic like gun control. Interesting topic for the community considering how many residents own guns. Good use of statistics and sources.

*Third Place*

**Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal**

"Mississippi Buffering"

Zack Orsborn

Nice, comprehensive piece on lack of high-speed internet in rural communities. The reporter does a good job of talking to residents impacted and explaining why this matters to them and why it should matter to others.

<b>Features</b>
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*First Place*

<b>The (Lafayette) Advertiser</b>	No comments.
"Second Chances"	
Megan Wyatt	

*Second Place*

<b>The (Houma) Courier</b>	No comments.
"A Last Run"	
Kevinisha Walker	

*Third Place*

<b>The (Lafayette) Advertiser</b>	No comments.
"It's Hard to Beat Cajuns Baseball Fans"	
Kristin Askelson	

<b>Business</b>
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*First Place*

<b>Hattiesburg American</b>	Clearly the best of the bunch. I felt I understood the issue entirely after reading this story.
"Working to Buck Financial Trends"	
Haskel Burns	

*Second Place*

<b>Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal</b>	A wonderful piece about loss. It and the first-place winner stood out above the others.
"Hancock Closing"	
Dennis Seid	

*Third Place*

<b>Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal</b>	A well-constructed story that was a joy to read.
"Pure Imagination"	
Derek Russell	

**Continuing Coverage**

*First Place*

**Lake Charles American Press**  
"Trial of Ex-Priest"  
Crystal Stevenson

Disturbing insight into a national issue. Powerful quotes and strong ledes. Story condensed well.

*Second Place*

**The (Lafayette) Advertiser**  
"Acadiana Flooding"  
Staff

Nice coverage of ongoing spot news with nice photos and interviews with residents.

*Third Place*

**Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal**  
"Shumpert Shooting Coverage"  
Caleb Bedillion and William Moore

Important issue with a good progression of facts and information throughout the coverage.

**Investigative/Public Service**

*First Place*

**Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal**  
"Opioid Series"  
Michaela Morris and William Moore

This category was filled with top-notch entries. The Journal's entry stood out for its examination of the national opioid crisis and its impact statewide and locally.

*Second Place*

**The (Houma) Courier**  
"Stuck in Jail"  
Maki Somosot and Bridget Mire

No comments.

*Third Place*

**The (Lafayette) Advertiser**  
"Red Cross Fails Flooding Victims"  
Megan Wyatt

No comments.

**Breaking Sports**

*First Place*

**The (Lafayette) Advertiser**

"LSU to Host Gators, then Play 2  
Straight at Florida"  
Glenn Guilbeau

Strong reporting and online presentation. Discussed all angles of a story, even as it developed.

*Second Place*

**Hattiesburg American**

"Monken Moving On"  
Jason Munz

Strong package that included all angles to the story.

*Third Place*

**The (Monroe) News-Star**

"Tech Names NSU's Brooke Stoehr as  
New Women's Hoops Coach"  
Sean Isabella

Reporter got ahead of this story and delivered strong facts and numbers ahead of the school's official announcement.

**Sports Enterprise/Feature**

*First Place*

**The (Monroe) News-Star**

"The Fobbs Playbook: A Guide to  
Revival"  
Sean Isabella

Extremely impressive, detailed, well-researched multimedia package that shows what sports journalism can be in 2017.

*Second Place*

**Hattiesburg American**

"100 Years of Southern Miss  
Football"  
Staff

Countless hours must've went into this must-read series of stories that offered a variety of perspectives on 100 years of Southern Miss football.

*Third Place*

**The (Houma) Courier**

"Living (not) large: Local man in  
running to grace front of national  
magazine"  
Kelly McElroy

Colorful feature reminds us not all sports stories necessarily take place on a floor or turf.

**Editorials**

*First Place*

**Hattiesburg American**

"Pay Raises for Mayor, Council Excessive; 5 HFD Demotions Raise Questions; Now isn't Time to Tackle Annexation"  
Erin Kosnac

Wonderfully written editorials show the Hattiesburg American takes its watchdog role seriously. Editorials are hard-hitting with a call for action.

*Second Place*

**The (Houma) Courier**

Michael Gorman

Editorials are well reasoned and to the point.

*Third Place*

**Hattiesburg American**

"City Made Right Choice to Back Out of Lamar; Lawsuits, Artists Take Aim at HB 1523; Lawmakers Incapable of Handling our Money"  
Robyn Jackson

The Hattiesburg American provides a clear, unwavering voice for its community.

**Personal Columns**

*First Place*

**The (Lafayette) Advertiser**

Kevin Foote

Long columns but interesting throughout. Very keen insights!

*Second Place*

**Lake Charles American Press**

"Lessons Learned"  
Jim Gazzolo

Wonderful insights and a joy to read.

*Third Place*

**Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal**

Derek Russell

Interesting and well written.

**Headlines**

*First Place*

**The (Houma) Courier**  
"Tragedies"  
Staff

These hard news headlines grab your attention right now.

*Second Place*

**The (Houma) Courier**  
"Headlines: Our Nation"  
Staff

Headlines do a wonderful job playing off photos, making a powerful package.

*Third Place*

**Lake Charles American Press**  
"Orchid Rooted Pawfection"  
Pamela Seal

Fun word play makes your heart smile.

**Layout & Design**

*First Place*

**Lake Charles American Press**  
"Roundabouts Promise Fuel"  
Donna Price

Incredible designs that explain the subjects well. Far and away the best entry.

*Second Place*

**Lake Charles American Press**  
"RV Flow Guillott"  
Nicole Moller

Dynamic designs with lots of entry points.

*Third Place*

**The (Houma) Courier**  
"Tragedies"  
Staff

Well-thought-out designs that has incredible impact.

<b>Photo Breaking News</b>
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*First Place*

**The (Lafayette) Advertiser**

"Baton Rouge Police Shooting"

Scott Clause

Nice coverage of a accelerating event puts the reader right in the middle of the chaos.

*Second Place*

**Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal**

"Going in the Hard Way"

Adam Robison

Something you don't see very often, good spot news.

*Third Place*

**Lake Charles American Press**

"Aftermath"

Rick Hickman

Very creative storytelling image.

<b>Photo General News</b>
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*First Place*

**Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal**

"Veterans Day"

Thomas Wells

No comments.

*Second Place*

**The (Lafayette) Advertiser**

"Officer Matthew Gerald Funeral"

Lee Celano

No comments.

*Third Place*

**The (Lafayette) Advertiser**

"Matthew Gerald Funeral Procession"

Scott Clause

No comments.

**Photo Features***First Place***Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily** Nice feature, colorful.**Journal**

"Bike Rodeo"

Adam Robison

*Second Place***The (Monroe) News-Star** Visually interesting, draws you into reading the caption to see what exactly is going on.

"A Bouncing Good Time"

Hannah Baldwin

*Third Place***Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily** Ingenuity at its best.**Journal**

"Finding Shade"

Thomas Wells

**Multi-Photo***First Place***Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily** Photos tell an interesting story.**Journal**

"Greater Access"

Lauren Wood

*Second Place***Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily** Nice moment of a yearly event.**Journal**

"Graduation Day"

Staff

*Third Place***Lake Charles American Press** Some nice action shots.

"Texas Relays"

Kirk Meche

**Portrait/Personality**

*First Place*

**Lake Charles American Press**                      No comments.  
"Running"  
Rick Hickman

*Second Place*

**Lake Charles American Press**                      No comments.  
"Step Up for Downs"  
Rick Hickman

*Third Place*

**The (Monroe) News-Star**                              No comments.  
"I don't Look Broken, but I have  
Been"  
Bonnie Bolden

**Photo Sports Action**

*First Place*

**Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal**                      Fantastic framing helps this shot, which has a lot of excitement in the foreground and background alike.  
"Hanging on Until Help Arrives!"  
Thomas Wells

*Second Place*

**The (Houma) Courier**                                      This is a truly unique, iconic vantage point of the chase for a loose ball.  
"Tied at the Top"  
Danna Chiasson

*Third Place*

**Lake Charles American Press**                      The tight crop and unique size on this picture really make it stand out from the crowd.  
"Out of Reach"  
Rick Hickman

**Photo Sports Features**

*First Place*

**Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal**  
"Don't Feed the Mascots!"  
Thomas Wells

The most unique photo of the bunch and not something this judge has ever seen before. Way to capture something original!

*Second Place*

**The (Monroe) News-Star**  
"West Monroe Loses Title"  
Hannah Baldwin

Well framed, really shows the emotion of the moment. Different than other post-game photos submitted.

*Third Place*

**Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal**  
"Fall Football"  
Thomas Wells

Captures the spirit of Friday Night Football. Essence of a sports feature photo.

**Multimedia Package**

*First Place*

**The (Monroe) News-Star**  
"The Fobbs Playbook: A Guide to Revival"  
Sean Isabella

This entry truly stood out because of its wonderful use of videos and stories within the flow of the story, adding extra layers to the presentation about what makes a football coach tick.

*Second Place*

**The (Houma) Courier**  
"The Home Front: Local View of World War II"  
Ashlee Hill

These videos are an impressive historic document of the service of these local men.

*Third Place*

**The (Monroe) News-Star**  
"Overwhelmed: Floods Ravage Fragile System"  
Bob Lenox

This is a great use of graphics to thoroughly explain a major weather story.

**Video**

*First Place*

**The (Monroe) News-Star**

"Four Hours to Showtime"

Hannah Baldwin

Very nice shots with nice access to something that one would think would be a very private transformation. Intriguing subject keeps you watching, and the video is a good length.

*Second Place*

**The (Monroe) News-Star**

"Player vs. Reporter: Quarterback"

Brett Hudson and Hannah Baldwin

A nice, different look at what sets apart a trained athlete from us mortals.

*Third Place*

**Tupelo Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal**

"Cliff Wilson Swimming Milestone"

Lauren Wood

Short and sweet. Nice interview with good videography.

**NEWSPAPERS DIVISION III**

**Breaking News**

*First Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**

"The Killing of Will Smith"

Staff

Multiple digital elements from video to photos to updates from the field, keeping readers/community informed of senseless killing of star athlete. The urgency conveyed in coverage updates shows the importance of beat reporting and sourcing.

*Second Place*

**The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger**

"Two Nuns Fatally Stabbed"

Jerry Mitchell

Compelling storytelling both in print, video and digital updates throughout the breaking news cycle.

*Third Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

"Three Officers Killed, Three Wounded in Shootout"

Staff

Impactful journalism with multiple stories, graphics and compelling photographs.

**General News**

*First Place*

**The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger** No comments.  
"Aftermath of Shootings: Unease all  
Around"  
Sarah Fowler and Bracey Harris

*Second Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate** No comments.  
"Call for Unity"  
Ramon Antonio Vargas

*Third Place*

**The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger** No comments.  
"Tupelo Reacts to Police Shootings"  
Anna Wolfe

**Features**

*First Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune** A powerful narrative that put this reader on the island.  
"Isle de Jean Charles - Island in  
Crisis" Colorful descriptive writing, along with the economic  
and geographic details, made the storytelling rich.  
Ted Jackson

*Second Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune** A first-person narrative that used concise, clear wording  
"Shucker for a day: Oysters,  
Immigrants and an Aching Back" to explain a complicated issue involving work-visas,  
migrant workers and the economics of low-paying,  
unskilled jobs. Well done!  
Jed Lipinski

*Third Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate** An unusual story about seeds and agriculture told as  
"Deeply Rooted": LPB Profiles Seed,  
Story Preserver John Coykendall" elegantly and beautifully as Blackberry Farms and  
Louisiana.  
Judy Bergeron

**Business**

*First Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

"La. Ports Miss Boat on \$79 Million"

Richard Thompson

Richard Thompson's investigation into why and how Louisiana ports missed out on \$79 million in federal funding for security upgrades goes in-depth without getting lost in minutia. His report covers the extent of the problem, the ramifications of the missed opportunity and holds officials accountable.

*Second Place*

**Gulfport Sun Herald**

"081016 New OT Regs Mean Stark Changes"

Justin Vicory

Justin Vicory's piece is explanatory journalism at its best. The new federal overtime rules affect many businesses, and his thorough, easy-to-read explanation of the rules and how they would be applied armed his readers with valuable information they would need to comply with the regulations.

*Third Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

"Black Gold, Red Ink"

Ted Griggs

Ted Griggs' detailed postmortem on the collapse of Tuscaloosa Marine Shale is a knowledgeable exploration of the forces that pushed a potential boom into a bust.

**Continuing Coverage***First Place***The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

"The Great Flood of 2016"

Staff

This textbook example of continuing coverage just about has it all – clear narrative, in-depth reporting on almost all of the angles related to the flood, sources through which people in need could get help, compelling human interest, and dramatic photos. The coverage demonstrates a magnificent and quite successful effort by the entire staff – including, one should not overlook, circulation. The spot news narrative was very thorough, but my eye went to the sidebars because this often is where initiative is shown in developing disaster stories. The depth of the also-affected angle coverage was demonstrated in the church news and in the citizen response – notably the Cajun Navy boaters coming to the rescue.

*Second Place***Gulfport Sun Herald****"Transgender Teen Murder"**

Margaret Baker

The first story is quite clearly written with no wasted words and good use of detail. The tight lede presciently sums up the crucial points, on which the rest of the series would expand – the murder, the gang relationship, the issue of the transgender nature of the victim and the relation of the victim to her killer. In the third story, the cruciality of the gang's abhorrence of homosexuality and the killer's desire to hide his relationship through murder become apparent. The lede of the fourth story is a grabber, linking the murder of the victim and the detail that told us about her – tube top, blue jeans shorts, and dirty-blond hair in a ponytail. That it was based on a jailhouse interview underlines that the reporter put a lot of digging time in to get the story. That she knew the details to ask for underlines that she knew what she was doing. And the lede of the last story was the payoff – the historic guilty plea to the first federal hate crime murder of a transgender person. The pictures of the killer – notably the one showing him as he pleaded guilty to the state murder charge – were striking. Had it not been for the Great Flood of 2016 coverage, I would have judged this entry as best because of the digging it took and the dedication to get the news from many sources over time. This is especially the case because, as opposed to the resources that a major newspaper can muster, a single reporter did it all.

*Third Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**  
"A Violent Time in July"  
Staff

This series of reports on the Alton Sterling shooting and the confrontations that followed between police and members of the public displays remarkable thoroughness, accuracy and evenhanded coverage. In this crisis, sensationalism could have injected the media as an actor, but the reporters stuck to evenhanded factual coverage. Hyperlinks in the coverage also provided an excellent example of how newspapers using online can marry video and text narrative so viewers/readers can see the event for themselves. The reporters took the initiative to go a step farther in their coverage by following the spot reporting with the context of history. The Katrina to Alton Sterling story could be considered a necessary source document as people consider the future of relations among police and the African-American community.

<b>Investigative/Public Service</b>
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*First Place*

**The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger**  
"Gone: The Felix Vail Saga"  
Jerry Mitchell

The detailed reporting, paper trail and unrelenting quest to expose the truth about Vail is exemplary. The stories, videos and other digital elements are compelling.

*Second Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**  
"Are Criminals Guarding the Criminals?"  
Gordon Russell and Maya Lau

A massive undertaking to show the family and friends hired by the two most powerful prison officials in the state. Well done!

*Third Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"The New Orleans Gun Pipeline"  
Jonathan Bullington and Richard Webster

Good database reporting with strong interviews to illustrate the trail of stolen guns.

**Breaking Sports**

*First Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**  
"Les Miles Fired"  
Ross Dellenger

Good job of working sources (and having sources) and being ready when the news broke.

*Second Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"Jrue Holiday to Miss Start of Pelicans  
Season as Pregnant Wife Lauren  
Faces Brain Surgery"  
Jeff Duncan

What makes a great breaking news story. One thing is great daily beat coverage. It paid off on this one.

*Third Place*

**The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger**  
"Laremy Tunsil Admits Taking OM  
Money"  
Hugh Kellenberger

Wow, what a tale. New meaning to "stuff happens."  
Good read on this strange story on NFL Draft Day.

**Sports Enterprise/Feature**

*First Place*

**The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger**  
"Refusing to let his Past Beat him"  
Will Sammon

Part of writing is finding a great story and La'Andre Thomas childhood is quite a story, but the writer also got him to tell it. Great read.

*Second Place*

**The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger**  
"Teen Knows Recruiting Secrets"  
Will Sammon

I loved this story. It was about on oddball corner of sports I never knew about and an amazing kid that is making a name for himself in it. Another great example of spotting and coaxing a great story to publication.

*Third Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"Fighting her Way to the Olympics:  
What it's Like to be a 14-Year-Old  
Champion Boxer"  
Diana Samuels

Extremely well-done feature on a girl boxer. The online presentation of this also benefited from a nice video, good photography, inline links and pull quotes. The story also included a lot of context for girls/women in these sports. I came away wanting to read more "The Southern Girls Project" pieces.

<b>Editorials</b>
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*First Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

"Death on Video Becomes a Tragic Loop, Time to Hail Heroes, Advance Healing"

Danny Heitman

Danny Heitman's poignant editorials on the deaths that stunned Baton Rouge in 2016 achieve an admirable balance of sadness, anger, resolve, compassion and resiliency. Certainly readers found comfort and insight in his exemplary work.

*Second Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

"A long march to nowhere, A declaration of incompetence, Stranger than fiction"

Lanny Keller

These editorials by Lanny Keller are a delight to read. Keller wields humor like a sword - a tactic that draws blood from the self-important. Keller's nicely turned phrases and solid reasoning entice and satisfy the reader.

*Third Place*

**The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger**

Sam Hall

Sam Hall of the Clarion Ledger expresses the outrage of regular Mississippians at their hubris-riddled lawmakers. His approach is thorough, detailed and well-reasoned.

**Personal Columns**

*First Place*

**The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger**

Katie Eubanks

Whether telling the backstory of an iconic media personality, hanging out with cigar-smoking women or finding grace through bacon, Katie Eubanks' voice sings off the page. Her subjects are as interesting as her prose is entertaining.

*Second Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**

"Baton Rouge, Summer 2016"

Jarvis DeBerry

Jarvis DeBerry places the death of Alton Sterling at the hands of Baton Rouge police in the context of the department's history of abuse, then reminded readers that the subsequent ambush of police officers is no way to protest brutality. His perspective and reasoning no doubt helped readers navigate an emotionally charged time.

*Third Place*

**Gulfport Sun Herald**

Paul Hampton

Paul Hampton's columns feature inventive language and humor while tackling serious subjects of public interest, yet he also is unafraid to bare his personal feelings. That flexibility leaves the reader looking for the next column.

**Headlines**

*First Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

"Brow-Wow-Wow 1/19, Songs in the Charles Chauff

Great, creative heads that drew me in.

*Second Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

Chris Martin

Another talented headline writer at the Advocate, which seems to be blessed with them.

*Third Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

Phil Womack

No comments.

**Layout & Design***First Place***The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**

Wow. Gorgeous!

"The Elegance of Ferns: Prehistoric  
Plants Add Grace and Beauty to a  
Metairie Backyard"

Susan Langenhennig, Anne  
Webbeking and Ted Jackson

*Second Place***The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

Love the big powerful art on these fronts.

"Godspeed 7/23, The Right Direction  
12/8, Open the Eyes of America  
7/16"

Chris Martin

*Third Place*

Great idea (and execution of the idea).

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**

"Chop Like a Chef: Justin Devillier and  
Other Local Chefs Pick Cutlery that's a  
Cut Above"

Susan Langenhennig, Ann Maloney  
and Adriana Garcia

**Photo Breaking News**

*First Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

"Police Officers Tackle and Arrest Protestors"  
Brianna Paciorka

This image captures a moment of high drama and action that also tells a complete story at a glance. The details are riveting. The photo is beautifully composed in what must have been a confusing scene of chaos.

*Second Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

"Duke Protester at Dillard University"  
Matthew Hinton

This shot is so close to the action the viewer almost wants, feels crushed in. Terrific job of getting to the heart of a breaking news situation.

*Third Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

"Floodwater Rescue"  
Travis Sprading

This picture reaches out and grabs the viewer by the heart. It captures a moment that tells a very human story of suffering, service, disaster and recovery.

**Photo General News**

*First Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

"Parents Weep"  
Hilary Scheinuk

A wrenching image that tells much about loss and love. Readers were brought instantly into the painful moment. Great storytelling quality.

*Second Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**

"Alton Sterling's Funeral in Baton Rouge"  
David Grunfeld

A photo that's tough to look at yet impossible to look away from. It whispers and screams at the same time. A powerful image.

*Third Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**

"Defiant Flood Survivor"  
Ted Jackson

An iconic moment that captures spirit in the face of calamity. Beautiful use of light and composition.

**Photo Features**

*First Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**  
"Angola Rodeo"  
Travis Spradling

Great photo. Loves the way it captures a moment and movement.

*Second Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"Jump"  
Brett Duke

Nice, fun moment.

*Third Place*

**Gulfport Sun Herald**  
"0201 Mardi Gras Kid John Fitzhugh"  
John Fitzhugh

This photo captures a lovely moment. The expressions on the child's face can't help but make you smile.

**Multi-Photo**

*First Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"Louisiana Flooding 2016"  
Ted Jackson

Great variety of images, lots of emotion, moments, intimacy, great use of light and color.

*Second Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"Isle de Jean Charles - Island in Crisis"  
Ted Jackson

Interesting subject, you did a phenomenal job getting into people's homes and capturing those private moments.

*Third Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"Baton Rouge Police Shooting and Protests"  
Chris Granger

A well-rounded collection of images that reflect the conflict, action, danger and raw violence of the protests.

**Portrait/Personality**

*First Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"Brave Young Flooding Survivor"  
Ted Jackson

Interesting moment on a very hectic day, very storytelling.

*Second Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"Barbershop in Central City"  
Chris Granger

Nice photo works very well in black and white.

*Third Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**  
"Seventh Bishop of Lafayette"  
Leslie Westbrook

Working this low angle makes a bishop look larger-than-life.

**Photo Sports Action**

*First Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**  
"Hail Mary Interception"  
Matthew Hinton

A great, tight, image at peak action with clear facial expressions, stellar job!

*Second Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**  
"Losing his Helmet"  
Bill Feig

Great catch of an unusual moment.

*Third Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**  
"High Flying"  
Staff

A nicely framed shot with an uncluttered background.

**Photo Sports Features**

*First Place*

**The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**  
"Taking the Field"  
Leslie Westbrook

Like the unique perspective and sun star.

*Second Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"State Champions"  
Brett Duke

Great moment amidst the chaos of a state championship.

*Third Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"Sack Happy"  
Michael DeMocker

Great reaction with a clear view of his face, clean image.

**Multimedia Package**

*First Place*

**The (Jackson) Clarion-Ledger**  
"Gone: The Felix Vail Saga"  
Jerry Mitchell and Staff

The digital presentation captures the dark nature of Vail while highlighting the video storytelling. The chapter narratives are harrowing and describe the painstaking process the reporter used in reporting this series.

*Second Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"The Southern Girls Project"  
Diana Samuels

The digital elements used to capture Southern girls talking about their lives, hopes and dreams is the perfect package to connect and relate to a younger audience, as well as anyone (especially parents) interested in what young women think.

*Third Place*

**Gulfport Sun Herald**  
"Fostering Secrets"  
Wesley Muller, John Fitzhugh and  
Christopher Bostick

Compelling storytelling in an easy to navigate digital package that shines a spotlight on dysfunction within a state agency that should be protecting children, not harming them.

**Video**

*First Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"Isle de Jean Charles - Island in Crisis"  
Ted Jackson

Good story selection. Lots of views captured here. Nice variety of shot types. Nice mix of stills and video. Beautiful nature scenery. Good utilization of voiceover and natural sound. Nice story telling throughout.

*Second Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"Cajuns Respond to Louisiana Flood of 2016 with Self Reliance"  
Ted Jackson

Fairly tight video that effectively tells the story of the flood rescue efforts in a short amount of time with multiple sources and lots of different shots.

*Third Place*

**The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**  
"Ghost Bikes and their Builders"  
Andrew Boyd

Good storytelling here of a neat story idea. B roll variety keeps the story moving along. Nice use of background music.

**TELEVISION DIVISION I - LOUISIANA**

**Best Franchise Reporting**

*First Place*

**WVUE-TV**  
"FOX 8 Defenders - Home Squatters"  
FOX 8 Defenders

Really interesting investigation. Very thorough and well told.

*Second Place*

**WDSU-TV**  
"Making a Difference"  
Charles Divins and Jeremy Burson

Great stories, great characters, well written.

*Third Place*

**KTBS-TV**  
"Promise Of Hope Series"  
Rick Rowe

Wonderful stories that truly lift you up and show through faith there is hope.

**Best Feature Story***First Place***WWL-TV****"ALS Support Group"**

Thanh Truong and Tom Moore

When a public face is put on the dreaded disease of Alzheimer's, it is usually that of a noted athlete or public figure. With great sensitivity, WWL's Thanh Truong instead introduces us to some courageous Louisiana victims and their family members; people who are bravely living lives of quiet dignity with the help of their unique support group. Reporting at its best, inspirational and informative.

*Second Place***WVUE-TV****"Heart of Louisiana"**

Dave McNamara

In masterful style, WVUE's Dave McNamara tells the stories of people we'd all like to meet and places we'd all like to go. "The Heart of Louisiana" is a rich gumbo of flavors that satisfies every taste.

*Third Place***WAFB-TV****"Santa's Elves"**

Rick Portier

In a beautifully shot and edited piece, WAFB's Rick Portier tells a redemptive Santa story packed full of the spirit of the holiday but with an O. Henry ending that both surprises and delights.

**Best Sports Story***First Place***WDSU-TV**

"Grandfather Chases Wild Dream"  
Fletcher Mackel and Dalton Reinhart

What a unique story! Dog sledding in Louisiana. This is something that you don't see every day, instantly making it a great story idea. Great action shots and sounds right out at the top of the story -- great visuals, use of nat pops to push the story forward and to bring the viewer INTO the story. Creative and well put together. Great job!

*Second Place***KTBS-TV**

"Tre Davious White"  
Rick Rowe

An absolutely fantastic story. LOVED the open. Action up top, then the pause and the HOOK! Making the story and script relatable to any and all viewers immediately. Lets the sound bites push the story forward. Great variety of visual shots and each relevant to the story. The story was given the space and time to b-r-e-a-t-h. Good use of nat pops.

*Third Place***WDSU-TV**

"From Rural Louisiana to Rio"  
Travers Mackel and Megan Mackel

No comments.

**Best Sportscast or Sports Program**

*First Place*

**WDSU-TV**

"Saints 50th Anniversary Special"  
Fletcher Mackel and Sharief Ishaq

Fascinating show. Good story-telling and writing.  
Compelling interviews.

*Second Place*

**WDSU-TV**

"Kentucky Derby Special"  
Fletcher Mackel and Sharief Ishaq

Interesting stories. Great local coverage of a national event. Well put together.

*Third Place*

**WAFB-TV**

Steve Schneider

High energy, fast moving. Good variety. Good Saints package.

**Best News Photography**

*First Place*

**WBRZ-TV**

"Moving Day"  
Chris Sasser and Brittany Weiss

No comments.

*Second Place*

**KTBS-TV**

"Autumn Morning"  
Rick Rowe

No comments.

*Third Place*

**WWL-TV**

"French Quarter Poet for Hire"  
Adam Copus

No comments.

**Best Multimedia Story**

*First Place*

**WWL-TV** No comments.  
"Weeks Later, Lafayette Farm Still  
Surrounded by Flood Water"  
Sam Winstrom

*Second Place*

**WWL-TV** No comments.  
"Photographer's Lens: Witnessing a  
Rescue"  
Brian Lukas

*Third Place*

**WDSU-TV** No comments.  
"360 Café du Monde"  
Mark Chapman and Clint Durrett

**Best Documentary**

*First Place*

**WAFB-TV** Great story highlighting the issue. Interest copy, shots,  
interviews. Follow up with lawmakers had great sound.  
"Kim's Foreshadow"  
Kiran Chawla, Robert Hollins and  
Matt Stanley Third story is haunting and heartbreaking.

*Second Place*

**WDSU-TV** Captivating story. Nice on location special.  
"Steve Gleason: The Journey"  
Scott Walker and Megan Mackel

*Third Place*

**WVUE-TV** Great investigation. Seems to have had a real impact on  
viewers.  
"Medical Waste"  
Lee Zurik, Jon Turnipseed and Tom  
Wright

**Best Public Affairs Reporting**

*First Place*

**WVUE-TV** No comments.  
"Degree of Debt"  
Lee Zurik, Jon Turnipseed and Tom Wright

*Second Place*

**KSLA-TV** No comments.  
"Into the Storm"  
Doug Warner and Clay Ostarly

*Third Place*

**WVUE-TV** No comments.  
"Second Chances"  
Meg Gatto

**Best General News Story**

*First Place*

**WBRZ-TV** Solid investigative news. Very newsy, great camera shots. Told a good story. Long enough, but didn't feel too long. Nice, solid news story. Deserved to be told, and presented in a way that deserves to be watched.  
"The Hunt for Child Predators"  
Chris Nakamoto and Chris sasser

*Second Place*

**WBRZ-TV** Fantastic videography. Nice interesting story. Good information. Liked that you started with the mom and ended with her. Great shots showing her busy life.  
"Sleep Deprivation"  
Brittany Weiss, Chris Sasser and Amanda Stevenson

*Third Place*

**WDSU-TV** This is just a lovely news feature told with whimsy. Great shots, didn't take the subject too seriously, but just enough.  
"Nudist Camp"  
Heath Allen and Dolly Narhi



**Best Breaking News**

*First Place*

**WAFB-TV** No comments.  
"BRPD Officers Ambushed and Killed"  
Staff

*Second Place*

**WVUE-TV** No comments.  
"Convent/Laplace Tornadoes"  
Staff

*Third Place*

**WDSU-TV** No comments.  
"Baton Rouge Police Shootings"  
Staff

**Best Investigative Reporting**

*First Place*

**WBRZ-TV** No comments.  
"Reporter's Unlawful Arrest"  
Chris Nakamoto, Joseph McCoy and  
Michael Shingleton

*Second Place*

**WWL-TV** No comments.  
"Yenni Sexting Investigation"  
T.J. Pipitone and David Hammer

*Third Place*

**WVUE-TV** No comments.  
"Medical Waste"  
Lee Zurik, Jon Turnipseed and Tom  
Wright



**Best Breaking Weather**

*First Place*

**WVUE-TV** No comments.  
"Convent/Laplace Tornadoes"  
Staff

*Second Place*

**WDSU-TV** No comments.  
"Devastating Flooding"  
Staff

*Third Place*

**WDSU-TV** No comments.  
"February Tornadoes"  
Staff

**Best Weathercast**

*First Place*

**WVUE-TV** No comments.  
"Morning Edition"  
Shelby Latino

*Second Place*

**WDSU-TV** No comments.  
"Heat Advisory"  
Margaret Orr

*Third Place*

**WAFB-TV** No comments.  
"5PM Weathercast for August  
11,2016"  
Steve Caparotta

**Best Daytime Newscast**

*First Place*

**WAFB-TV**

"12pm News Feb 24, 2016"  
Heather Phung and Staff

Lots of teasing off the top. Good and creative live shots showing the action. Great job incorporating the met with new wx video. Good met.

*Second Place*

**WVUE-TV**

"News at Noon"  
Joe Rawley, Jannette Zorrilla and Staff

Good jazz fest live shot. Good in studio report/elements. Lots of solid live shots.

*Third Place*

**WBRZ-TV**

"November 18, 2016 - 2une In 5 AM broadcast"  
2une In Staff

Good urgent writing out of heads. Nice live bumps.

**Best Evening Newscast**

*First Place*

**WAFB-TV**

"5PM 2/24/2016"  
Heather Phung and Staff

Strong headlines. Good writing to video and and engaging language on helicopter package. Strong live shots.

*Second Place*

**WVUE-TV**

"at 10pm"  
Dannah Sauer, Rhonda Grzych and Staff

Great lead. Interesting break outs. Interesting news of the day. Clean newscast. Very well-done investigation.

*Third Place*

**WDSU-TV**

"10pm-Joe McKnight Shooting"  
Vanessa Johnson and Jeffery Sanders

Interesting elements/graphics. All around solid newscast.



**Achievement**

*First Place*

**WAFB-TV** No comments.

Staff

*Second Place*

**WVUE-TV** No comments.

"Medical Waste"

Lee Zurik, Jon Turnipseed and Tom Wright

*Third Place*

**WVUE-TV** No comments.

Staff

**TELEVISION DIVISION I - MISSISSIPPI**

**Best Franchise Reporting**

*First Place*

**WAPT-TV** Well done. Very thorough, raw, first hand account of the recruiting process. You could really feel the change they went through as the weeks went on. Well told.  
"Training Day: All Access"  
Allie Ware and Lanis Leggett

*Second Place*

**WDBD-TV** No comments.

"Fox40 Feedback"

Mike Sands

*Third Place*

**WJTV-TV** No comments.

"WJTV Franchise Reporting What's Working"

Andrew Harrison, Justin Burks and Andrew Quinn

**Best Feature Story**

*First Place*

**WJTV-TV** No comments.  
"Museum of Love"  
Danielle Avitable and Justin Burks

*Second Place*

**WLOX-TV** No comments.  
"Mississippi Blues Trail"  
David Elliott

*Third Place*

**WJTV-TV** No comments.  
"Casket Floated Away"  
Natay Holmes

**Best Sports Story**

*First Place*

**WJTV-TV** No comments.  
"Northwest Rankin's Superfan"  
Tyler Greever

*Second Place*

**WLOX-TV** No comments.  
"Resilient Rhodes"  
Tyler Bouldin

*Third Place*

**WJTV-TV** No comments.  
"Holmes Cheerleader"  
TJ Werre

**Best Sportscast or Sports Program**

*First Place*

**WAPT-TV** No comments.

"Blitz 16"

Josh Jackson, Ashley ShahAhmadi and  
Marcus Hunter

*Second Place*

**WAPT-TV** No comments.

"Blitz 16"

Josh Jackson, Ashley ShahAhmadi and  
Marcus Hunter

*Third Place*

**WLBT-TV** No comments.

"The End Zone Opening Drive"

Chris Hudgison, Rachel Richlinski and  
Jeff Barker

**Best News Photography**

*First Place*

**WLBT-TV** No comments.

"Steam Mill"

Walt Grayson

*Second Place*

**WDBD-TV** No comments.

"Garden of Hope"

Mike Evans

*Third Place*

**WJTV-TV** No comments.

Drew Hall

**Best Multimedia Story**

*First Place*

**JSU-TV** No comments.  
"Medical Drones"  
Eric Walker

*Second Place*

**WAPT-TV** No comments.  
  
Angela Williams

*Third Place*

**WLOX-TV** No comments.  
"Unity Rally"  
Staff

**Best Documentary**

*First Place*

**WLBT-TV** No comments.  
"Autograph for the Ages (Parts 1 &  
2)"  
Jerome DeLoach and Howard Ballou

*Second Place*

**WLOX-TV** No comments.  
"Foster Care Crisis"  
Trang Pham-Bui

*Third Place*

**JSU-TV** No comments.  
"Pro Life VS Women's Health"  
Eric Walker

**Best Public Affairs Reporting**

*First Place*

**WLBT-TV** No comments.  
"Flooded and Forgotten"  
Patrice Clark and Karlos Sanders

*Second Place*

**JSU-TV** No comments.  
"Deadly Police Chase"  
Eric Walker

*Third Place*

**MPB-TV** No comments.  
"A Plan to Survive"  
Kathryn Rodenmeyer, Dr. Rick  
deShazo and Teresa Collier

**Best General News Story**

*First Place*

**WLOX-TV** Excellent story. Has an investigative tone. Very well produced and written. Strong video that is highlighted through-out the story. Very well done.  
"D'Juan Holloway"  
Cassie Archebelle and Darren Hosch

*Second Place*

**WAPT-TV** Well written, shot, edited and produced story. Very informative. Does an excellent job of laying out the the pro and con arguments for the AR-15. Well done.  
"Rifles and Rights"  
Ross Adams and Lamonte Brown

*Third Place*

**WAPT-TV** Very well thought-out and produced story. Does a good job of presenting the issues and holding the people responsible accountable.  
"Voter ID Scanners or Not"  
Ross Adams, Alex Adley and James  
Foster

**Best Breaking News***First Place*

**WJTV-TV** No comments.  
"JPD Manhunt LIVE 6"  
Staff

*Second Place*

**WLOX-TV** No comments.  
"6pm DeNardo Death"  
Staff

*Third Place*

**WLOX-TV** No comments.  
"10pm Homicide Vehicle Found"  
Caray Grace

**Best Investigative Reporting***First Place*

**WLOX-TV** No comments.  
"Sewage Issues"  
A.J. Giardina

*Second Place*

**WJTV-TV** No comments.  
"Open Records in MS"  
Beth Alexander and Andrew Nomura

*Third Place*

**WLBT-TV** No comments.  
"Our of Order"  
David Jackson, C. J. Lemaster and  
John Matthews



**Best Breaking Weather**

*First Place*

**WLBT-TV** No comments.

"5pm Report"

Dave Roberts, Michael Haynes and  
Maggie Wade-Dixon

*Second Place*

**WLOX-TV** No comments.

Wesley Williams

**Best Weathercast**

*First Place*

**WLBT-TV** No comments.

Dave Roberts

*Second Place*

**WLOX-TV** No comments.

Andrew Wilson

*Third Place*

**WLBT-TV** No comments.

Dave Roberts

**Best Daytime Newscast**

*First Place*

**WLOX-TV** No comments.

"GMM" Staff

**Best Evening Newscast**

*First Place*

**WDBD-TV** No comments.

"at 9"

Melissa Faith Payne, Mike Sands and  
Daniel Hill

*Second Place*

**WLOX-TV** No comments.

"10pm A block"

Staff

**Achievement**

*First Place*

**WJTV-TV** No comments.

"D.A. Robert Smith Arrested"

Staff

*Second Place*

**WLOX-TV** No comments.

"Keeping You Safe Campaign"

Staff

*Third Place*

**JSU-TV** No comments.

"Jackson Airport Takeover"

Eric Walker, Darrell Lovett and Keith  
Collins

## TELEVISION DIVISION II - LOUISIANA

### Best Franchise Reporting

*First Place*

**KALB-TV** No comments.  
"Down Home Louisiana"  
Mark Klein

*Second Place*

**KNOE-TV** No comments.  
"8 Ways to Care"  
Lacey Sharp, Chris Brown and Pete Sousa

*Third Place*

**KPLC-TV** No comments.  
"Cold Case: 1987 Unsolved Homicide"  
Jillian Corder

### Best Feature Story

*First Place*

**KPLC-TV** Such a great story! Had all elements of a good feature.  
"Angels at McDonald's - A Homeless Woman's Story of Friendship" Terrific writing, well shot, elements of surprise. Loved it!  
Jillian Corder and Antoine Aaron

*Second Place*

**KALB-TV** Great heartwarming feature! This one really hit the mark taking a simple joy of a child and sparking a loving friendship amongst the most unlikely of friends. Well told, well written, well shot.  
"Garbage Man Kid PKG"  
Grace Carson

*Third Place*

**KPLC-TV** Great story! All elements of a good feature are here. The story was well written and came full circle, with an element of hope. Well shot and well written.  
"Overcomers: Luke Burnham"  
Britney Glaser

**Best Sports Story***First Place***KPLC-TV**

Delightful enterprise piece tightly and well told.

"Sports Person of the Week: Hayes  
Fawcett"

Brady Renard

*Second Place***KNOE-TV**

Strong, emotionally tugging story that the reporter recognized could be best told by the characters and minimal reporter intrusion.

"A Brother's Gift"

Aaron Dietrich

*Third Place***KATC-TV**

A well shot and well told story.

"Remembering Ross Granger"

Chet Davis

**Best Sportscast or Sports Program***First Place***KPLC-TV**

No comments.

"Touchdown Live Playoff Preview"

Brady Renard, Mike Gaither and Max  
McGee

*Second Place***KNOE-TV**

No comments.

"Preseason Blitz Special"

Aaron Dietrich

*Third Place***KNOE-TV**

No comments.

"Road to the Dome, December 2nd"

Aaron Dietrich, Patrick Clay and Alan  
Donald

**Best News Photography**

*First Place*

**KATC-TV**

"What's Your Story- Butte La Rose"  
Breanna Molloy

Your video took me to Butte La Rose! The script was well written and the video matched each word! Good job!

*Second Place*

**KPLC-TV**

"Britney's Response"  
Jason Rivera

The video for this story grabbed me because there was not a lot of different b-roll, but each and every shot spoke to me. I could feel the emotions from the parents; see the care they had for the children and the hurt in the subject's eyes. All of this was well captured.

*Third Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"Alligators in the Arklamiss"  
Lacey Sharp and Alan Donald

Well shot, well edited.

**Best Multimedia Story**

*First Place*

**KPLC-TV**

"2016 Year in Review"  
Staff

Concise, easy-to-read summaries, links to more info on each story.

*Second Place*

**KATC-TV**

"Shots Fired"- Gun Crimes by the Numbers"  
Tina Macias, Jim Hummel and Justin Terro

Good graphics, stories captured the fear, resignation and challenges living in the "shots fired" zones.

*Third Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"Quinton Tellis Charged with Murder"  
Tim Bragg

Thorough report, visually interesting, good graphics.

**Best Documentary**

*First Place*

**KATC-TV**

"Cuban Connection"

Breanna Molloy

Very well shot! Excellent use of lighting, visual elements, and creative writing to video. Great use of natural sound. Very compelling topic. Great work!

*Second Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"Drier Ground (Multi-part series)"

Nick Picht, Justin Page and Staff

Very well done and important series of stories. Writing was good, and finding the people who felt the impacts of the flooding was perfect. Nice mix of topics and subjects. Very well done overall.

**Best Public Affairs Reporting**

*First Place*

**KATC-TV**

"August Floods"

Staff

No comments.

*Second Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"8 Hours of Caring"

Chris Brown, Bob Walters and Staff

No comments.

*Third Place*

**KPLC-TV**

"The New Family Tree"

Britney Glaser

No comments.

**Best General News Story**

*First Place*

**KATC-TV**

"Isle De Jean Charles"

Breanna Molloy

Extremely well shot and great use of natural sound.

Compelling story, well written.

*Second Place*

**KLFY-TV**

"Alton Sterling Protests Continue"

Dalfred Jones and Conrad Hertzock

Made me feel like I was at the protest. Live shot was a great addition to this, gave it a true sense of timely general assignment reporting.

*Third Place*

**KALB-TV**

"Project Rebuild: The Road to Recovery"

Sherman Desselle

Well written, well shot. Good use of words to video.

**Best Breaking News**

*First Place*

**KATC-TV**

"Baton Rouge Officer-Involved Shootings"

Staff

Very clean execution overall. Great live shots and focus on people / sound bites. Great editing job putting together the video.

*Second Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"Devastating Ark-La-Miss Flooding"

Chris Brown, Kara Bridges and Staff

Great flood coverage. Makes it seem like only the best parts of the coverage were put into video, and any mess-ups on tosses to live shots or quality of the shots themselves were cut. Nice job getting a lot of live shots in during rough weather and focusing on people impacted by floods.

*Third Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"Two Sheriff's Deputies Shot in the Line of Duty"

Tim Bragg, Nick Picht and Staff

Pretty good repeated live shots from the scene throughout the day. Good use of intro package lead-in to live shot with deputy's status. Good focus on "team coverage". Good follow up interview with witness.

**Best Investigative Reporting**

*First Place*

**KATC-TV**

"Shots Fired"- Gun Crimes by the Numbers"

Jim Hummel, Justin Terro and Tina Macias

Loved the up close and personal storytelling. Great use of video and sound telling the untold stories that residents need to know.

*Second Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"Behind Closed Doors"

Tim Bragg

What stood out to me in this series was the legwork that you did to make this story come together. You showed viewers the concern of family members of loved ones incarcerated. Your storytelling made me care.

*Third Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"The Kill Pen"

Tim Bragg

Excellent storytelling of those without voices!

**Best Breaking Weather**

*First Place*

**KATC-TV**

"August Floods"

Staff

No comments.

*Second Place*

**KLFY-TV**

"Acadiana Historic Flooding"

Staff

No comments.

**Best Weathercast**

*First Place*

**KATC-TV**

Smooth, calm delivery. Fully confident. Clear explanation.

Daniel Phillips

*Second Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"March 10th 5PM"

Nice calm discussion of record rain event. Very conversational explanation.

Tom Pearson

*Third Place*

**KALB-TV**

Nice mix of technical/layman explanations.

Trevor Sonnier

**Best Daytime Newscast**

*First Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"Noon, March 15th"

Informative: strong flood coverage; good mix of stories throughout.

Nicole Cross, Tim Lavigne and Staff

*Second Place*

**KATC-TV**

"Good Morning Acadiana"

Good focus on issues and challenges of back-to-school day.

Jared Haynes, Richie Mills and Staff

*Third Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"Good Morning ArkLaMiss, October 5th"

Good visuals throughout, comprehensive flood reporting, helpful graphics.

Staff

**Best Evening Newscast**

*First Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"8 News at 10PM, February 11th"  
Marina Gelpi, Kara Bridges and Staff

Nice long distance team coverage. Mostly strong presence at anchor desk. Nice commitment to covering/explaining issues. Multiple live shots. Overall strong commitment to news, playing bigger than market.

*Second Place*

**KATC-TV**

"July 11, 2016, 10:00 "  
Olivia Blanchard and Staff

Strong anchor team. Nice variety of stories. Nice special report.

*Third Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"8 News, Live at Five, March 9th"  
Chris Brown, Kara Bridges and Staff

Comprehensive coverage of breaking news. Good information from start to finish. Strong weather explanation.

**Achievement**

*First Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"Devastating Ark-La-Miss Flooding"  
Staff

Calm, thorough and professional coverage. Good camera work.

*Second Place*

**KNOE-TV**

"The Arrest of Mr. Wonder"  
Chris Brown, Justin Page and Staff

Good pursuit of an old story. Disciplined -- no rush to judgment.

*Third Place*

**KPLC-TV**

"March Flooding"  
Staff

Comprehensive coverage, good variety of stories, strong characters.

## TELEVISION DIVISION II - MISSISSIPPI

### Best Franchise Reporting

*First Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"On Your Side:- Asking the Difficult"  
Amanda LaBrot, Mike McDaniel and  
Whitney Argenbright

Aggressive investigative coverage, digging through paperwork and data to uncover as much as possible for viewers. Holding politicians and other officials accountable. Good work.

*Second Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"Education Investigations"  
Amanda Labrot, Whitney Argenbright  
and Lauren Coleman

Another solid entry by WDAM. There are aspects of accountability throughout. Really nice job.

*Third Place*

**WTOK-TV**

"Behind the FBI: Shooting to Kill,  
SWAT Team Tools"  
Candace Barnette and Emily Paul

Engaging and visually attention-grabbing. Great interaction after taped piece, as well.

### Best Feature Story

*First Place*

**WCBI-TV**

"Downtown Musician"  
Allie Martin

No comments.

*Second Place*

**WLOV-TV**

"Food to Go"  
Mike Russell

No comments.

*Third Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"Ellie Dahmer: Taking a Stand"  
Karrie Brown

No comments.

**Best Sports Story**

*First Place*

**WXVT-TV**

"Team Hunter"  
Stephen Robinson

This story was written well and allowed the characters to tell the story. Videography was well-framed and smooth. Touching and memorable.

*Second Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"Kendall Breland 1st Female TD"  
Taylor Curet

Great character development, well editing, and overall well-rounded.

*Third Place*

**WTVA-TV**

"Drake West"  
Andy Lee

Good storytelling and use of natural sound. Well done.

**Best Sportscast or Sports Program**

*First Place*

**WTVA-TV**

"Friday Night Fever"  
Staff

Good teamwork. Football Fridays are big in the South. This sportscast had a great amount of local highlights, band and cheerleader interaction, all things that make parents go home and watch!

*Second Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"Gametime Football Coverage  
9.30.16"  
Jonathan Marshall and Taylor Curet

Good work by the team here. High energy from the start, lots of local highlights.

*Third Place*

**WXVT-TV**

"4/24/2016"  
Stephen Robinson

Nothing like a good prop! Shows awareness to a unique night in sports, uses a common item to make even non-sports fans identify.

**Best News Photography**

*First Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"Photography Montage"

Ryan Moore

Good variety of shots that bring you into the action. Several examples of creative shots and out-of-the-box thinking. Well done.

*Second Place*

**WTOK-TV**

"Collinsville Tornado Damage after the Storm"

Jeffrey May

Good use of video and natural sound.

*Third Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"Covington County Drug Round Up"

Ryan Moore

No comments.

**Best Multimedia Story**

*First Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"Timeline: A Review of the Kenneth Fairley Trial"

Erin Lowrey and Staff

Love the interactive timeline! Easy to navigate and a nice addition to the story.

*Second Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"Mississippi Flood Relief"

Erin Lowrey and Staff

This effort put all the things viewers need in one place. Nice.

*Third Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"MS Woman's Bible Illustrations go Viral"

Kathryn Miller and Staff

No comments.

**Best Documentary**

*First Place*

**WTVA-TV**

Talk about awareness! I couldn't wait for part two.

"Kids and Guns"

Emily Leonard, Jim Bruce and Alvin

Ivy

*Second Place*

**WDAM-TV**

This was touching, raw, and holds you with an emotional connection.

"Thin Blue Line"

Ryan Moore

*Third Place*

**WDAM-TV**

Wow. What a story. You've done Mr. Dahmer's memory a great service with this piece.

"Ellie Dahmer: Taking a Stand"

Karrie Brown

**Best Public Affairs Reporting**

*First Place*

**WDAM-TV**

This hits all five drivers: money, family, safety, health, and community. Good work by the entire team.

"Preparing the Pine Belt- Hurricane

Special"

Staff

*Second Place*

**WTOK-TV**

It may not have been the answer the homeowner wanted, but it was the answer. Good work.

"Creek Causing Concern for Residents"

Andrea Williams

*Third Place*

**WCBI-TV**

An in-depth look at something we don't always get to see, how those tasked with protecting us are trained to handle anything.

"Allie Martin True Blue"

Allie Martin

**Best General News Story**

*First Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"Cost of Zika"

Karrie Brown

Well-rounded piece that highlights both the struggles and costs associated with mosquito-spraying. Graphic support was helpful. Overall, a very nice story.

*Second Place*

**WTVA-TV**

"Our Lives Matter"

Symone Woolridge

Great piece. Videography and storytelling combined for a powerful story that takes you directly into the action.

*Third Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"Medical Data Breach"

Amanda LaBrot

Another great piece by Amanda. She's carving out a name for herself with her investigative work.

**Best Breaking News**

*First Place*

**WTOK-TV**

"Coverage of Chunky Fatal Hayride Accident"

Staff

Excellent implementation of the New, Now, Next philosophy. Great teamwork getting multiple live hits in, with new information each time. Good work!

*Second Place*

**WTOK-TV**

"Apartment Shooting Death Breaking News Coverage"

Staff

Great work touching a developing situation multiple times.

*Third Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"Collapsing Wall"

Amanda LaBrot

Love the interactive live intro! Holding the brick, and demonstrating the gap in the wall. Good job!

**Best Investigative Reporting**

*First Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"On Your Side Investigation: Stuck with the Tab"

Mike McDaniel , Whitney Argenbright and Nick Ortego

Great example of holding elected and appointed officials accountable. It's clear that a lot of legwork went into this series. Good work!

*Second Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"On Your Side Investigation: Pensions for Prisoners"

Amanda LaBrot

Nice job digging through the details to bring viewers what's important. Well done.

*Third Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"On Your Side Investigation: Wasteful Spending"

Amanda LaBrot

No comments.

**Best Breaking Weather**

*First Place*

**WTOK-TV**

"Shubuta Flooding Coverage"

Amicia Ramsey

No comments.

*Second Place*

**WTOK-TV**

"Collinsville Tornado"

Tom Williams

No comments.

*Third Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"Sylvarena Torndao Whip"

Ryan Moore

No comments.

**Best Weathercast**

*First Place*

**WTVA-TV**

"Weather at 6:00"

Matt Laubhan

Matt is informative and engaging. He's moving, referencing the time stamp, telling me what, when, and how much.

*Second Place*

**WLOV-TV**

"Weather at 9:00"

Matt Laubhan

No comments.

*Third Place*

**WTVA-TV**

"Weather at 10:00"

Matt Laubhan

No comments.

**Best Daytime Newscast**

*First Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"6am 10.28.16"

Staff

Strong start to the newscast, good writing leads to a sense of urgency.

*Second Place*

**WDAM-TV**

"6am 8.3.16"

Staff

No comments.

*Third Place*

**WTOK-TV**

"Good Morning Meridian 6:30-7:00

AM Dec. 23rd"

Staff

No comments.

**Best Evening Newscast**

*First Place*

**WTVA-TV** No comments.  
"News at 5:00"  
Craig Ford, Matt Laubhan and Dave Bauer

*Second Place*

**WTOK-TV** No comments.  
"6 PM April 1st"  
Staff

*Third Place*

**WTOK-TV** No comments.  
"10PM March 8"  
Staff

**Achievement**

*First Place*

**WCBI-TV** The production quality, thoughtfulness of story flow, videography, pacing, all of it combined propel this special from WCBI to the top.  
"Those Boys From State"  
Derek Rogers, MC Sullivan and James Parker

*Second Place*

**WDAM-TV** These pieces illustrate that something is going right at WDAM. The investigative and advocacy work by this team is admirable.  
"On Your Side- Asking the Difficult Questions"  
Amanda Labrot, Ryan Moore and Quentis Jones

*Third Place*

**WDAM-TV** Another well done special, designed to give the viewer the information they need to stay safe.  
"Preparing the Pine Belt- Hurricane Special"  
Staff

## RADIO – LOUISIANA – MISSISSIPPI

### Best Feature Story

*First Place*

**Mississippi Public Broadcasting**

"Mixed Feelings Over Guns in Church Bill"

Paul Boger

Descriptive writing and an interesting angle of national topics of gun control vs. gun rights. An excellent choice and use of sound bites. Great mix of natural sound and bites that jumped out of the radio.

*Second Place*

**Mississippi Public Broadcasting**

"The First Grammy Museum Outside of LA Opens in the Delta"

Desare Frazier

Great mix of natural sound and natural writing that flowed in between the sound bites. This was a groundbreaking that broke the recipe by adding interesting perspectives and historical significance.

*Third Place*

**WJSU-FM**

"Audra McDonald"

Gina Carter-Simmers

Nice mix of sound and narration. Well researched with clear writing.

### Best Sports Story

*First Place*

**WJSU-FM**

"Muhammad Ali"

Rob Jay

Strong sound bites weaved into a well-written narrative. Music was not overpowering, and set a good tone.

*Second Place*

**WWL-AM/FM**

"Wild Season for the Tigers sees Miles Fired and Coach 'O' Arrives"

Dave Cohen and Jeff Palermo

Balanced mix of news, analysis and play-by-play.

*Third Place*

**WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM**

"Graphic Edge Bowl Recap"

Breck Riley, Josh West and Chris Ebelhar

Tight writing with well-placed sound bites giving a variety of perspectives.

**Best Sportscast or Sports Program**

*First Place*

**WWL-AM/FM**

"Saints Ground Seahawks and on Halloween Tigers Prepare for 'Bama"  
Steve Geller

Great mix of scores, previews, and sound bites. The holiday-inspired music bed throughout was a nice touch for the listener.

*Second Place*

**Mississippi Public Broadcasting**

"MPB'S Season Pass: Meet David Francis"  
Sam Wells and Jay White

Strong interview questions. Unique localization of a tribute to a sports legend.

*Third Place*

**WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM**

"2016 Graphic Edge Bowl Broadcast"  
Sports Staff

Quick play-by-play with few errors and strong analysis highlighted by the announcers' enthusiasm for the event.

**Best Use of Sound**

*First Place*

**WWL-AM/FM**

"Barrage of Bullets Ring out as Sniper Kills Cops"  
Dave Cohen

Chilling audio weaved together with clear and concise writing.

*Second Place*

**WWL-AM/FM**

"Cops Kill Suspect, and it's Caught on Video"  
Dave Cohen

The audio is attention-grabbing and enhanced with on-scene interviews that show the depth of emotion behind the gun fire.

*Third Place*

**WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM**

"Big Red Wins State Championship"  
Breck Riley

A nice mix of jubilation through cheering, sound bites, and music. Nicely packaged and flowed nicely.

**Multimedia Story**

*First Place*

**WWL-AM/FM**

"Remembering Hokie: A Great Man, Broadcaster, Saints Player and LSU Star"

Ian Hoch and Scott Colomb

An inventive and touching tribute. Easy to navigate and provided a high level of perspectives. Very well done.

*Second Place*

**WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM**

"Big Red Band Wins State Championship"

Breck Riley and Markeith Selmon

Nice use of different mediums.

**Best Documentary/Series of stories**

*First Place*

**Mississippi Public Broadcasting**

"MS Opioid Epidemic Mirror's Nation's Struggle with Prescription Pill and Heroin Abuse E"

Desare Frazier

In-depth with multiple perspectives and original newsgathering. A timely topic with national implications. Well-mixed and narrated.

*Second Place*

**WJSU-FM**

"Reflections: African American Poets"

Gina Carter-Simmers

Well-researched and written. A pleasant mix of music and narration. Informative. What truly sets these pieces apart is the engaging poetry readings that transport the listener to a different time and place.

*Third Place*

**Mississippi Public Broadcasting**

"Child Welfare in Crisis"

Evelina Burnett

Well-researched and informative. The final production includes a variety of perspectives and expertise. Compiled in a logical way.

**Best Public Affairs Reporting**

*First Place*

**Mississippi Public Broadcasting**

"A Foundation Named After Fannie  
lou Hamer is Fighting Cancer Door-to-  
Door"

Desare Frazier

Great use of natural sound and use of primary sources to make the story jump out of the airwaves and into the ears. Strong narrative and well-written. I like how it went beyond just included "talking heads" and experts and highlighted the personal experiences of the people directly affected by the issue and profoundly changed by it.

*Second Place*

**WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM**

"Kosciusko Responds to Race  
Relations and Violence"

Breck Riley and Doyle Goss

A testament to the power of natural sound to give the listener a "sense of place." Clean writing and energetic delivery that packs a lot of punch in a short amount of air space.

*Third Place*

**WJSU-FM**

"Kamau Bell Interview"

Dwain Doty

Fun, insightful questions and answers. The interview covered a variety of intriguing issues in a comfortable atmosphere.

**Best Breaking News**

*First Place*

**WWL-AM/FM**

"Sniper Kills Cops"

Dave Cohen

Chilling audio provides an effective backdrop for the information. Clear and concise writing in an in-depth presentation. Strong audio mixing.

*Second Place*

**WWL-AM/FM**

"Cops Kill, Protest Follow"

Dave Cohen

Strong use of sound to enhance the presentation.

*Third Place*

**WJSU-FM**

"Bernie Sanders Protesters"

Dwain Doty

A good use of on-scene interviews.

**Best Newscast**

*First Place*

**Mississippi Public Broadcasting**  
"8am Newscast December 17, 2016"  
Staff

Very compelling interview in the DUI wrap which drew me into why the stats matter. Informative update on healthcare sign-up. The order of stories also made sense and had a nice flow.

*Second Place*

**WWL-AM/FM**  
"Thousands Await Rescue as Flooding Spreads"  
Chris Miller, Dave Cohen and David Blake

The top story was correctly placed and contained important information for the listener. The entire newscast was comprehensive and energetic.

*Third Place*

**WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM**  
"Breezy News: December 22, 2016"  
Breck Riley

A nice mix of text and sound, especially with the soldier story which had natural sound to accompany it and a good anchor intro.

**Achievement**

*First Place*

**Mississippi Public Broadcasting**  
"MS Opioid Epidemic Mirror's Nation's Struggle with Prescription Pill and Heroin Abuse E"  
Desare Frazier

Excellent use of first person narrative. A comprehensive look at the problem as well as alternative solutions to help combat it. Strong sound mixing and logical unfolding of the information.

*Second Place*

**WWL-AM/FM**  
  
Chris Miller, Dave Cohen and Jim Hanzo

Strong natural sound and a variety of voices from people directly impacted by the news from everyday people to emergency officials to POTUS. A lot of information packed into a clear and concise presentation.

*Third Place*

**Mississippi Public Broadcasting**  
"Child Welfare in Crisis"  
Evelina Burnett

A comprehensive look at an important issue.