

First Amendment Award of Excellence

First Place

The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune

Kevin Litten and Emily Lane

"The Track: How Sex Trafficking Has Taken Hold of Bourbon Street"

Great job! Provided important information, very thorough and helped explain how he might be able to make a difference.

Achievement-Louisiana - TV I

First Place

WVUE-TV, New Orleans

Lee Zurik and Jon Turnipseed

"State of Unrest"

Easy to understand and follow the investigative process. The topic was compelling.

Second Place

WVUE-TV, New Orleans

John Snell

"Coast in Crisis"

Good use of drone footage and the map really helped visualize what they were talking about with the different locations.

Achievement-Mississippi - TV I

First Place

MPB-TV, Jackson

Kathryn Rodenmeyer and

Dr. Rick deShazo

"Southern Remedy"

Great storytelling...easy to watch and emotional stories...thank you!

Second Place

WJTV-TV, Jackson

"Alex Deaton Coverage"

Great job following story from beginning to end.

Achievement-Louisiana – TV II*First Place***KATC-TV, Lafayette**

Team-oriented approach to presenting the news: multiple reporters, varying formats, very good use of graphic elements. Feature segment highlighted some of the unique characters who comprise the community.

*Second Place***KNOE-TV, Monroe****Achievement-Mississippi – TV II***First Place***WTVA-TV, Tupelo-Columbus**

"The Darkest Hour"

Achievement - Radio*First Place***Mississippi Public Broadcasting,
Jackson**

"State of Obesity"

In-depth radio reporting at its best. Excellent use of interview sound bites. Great balance of personal stories and hard data. This coverage features excellent writing, organization and narration. Very impressive.

*Second Place***WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM, Kosciusko**
Mina Mooney and Lindsey Jennings

Demonstrates the breadth and power of great radio reporting. Presented with effective use of sound bites and raw sound. Great work.

Louisiana Newsperson of the Year - Newspaper*First Place***The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

Rebekah Allen

Rebekah's excellent investigative reporting stands out from the rest of the field.

Louisiana Newsperson of the Year - Broadcast*First Place***WAFB-TV, Baton Rouge**

Kiran Chawla

Kiran does an excellent job of researching and reporting on issues of interest in her community. Well done.

Mississippi Newsperson of the Year - Newspaper*First Place***The Meridian Star**

Whitney Downard

Mississippi Broadcasters Hall of Fame - Broadcast**Mississippi Public Broadcasting,****Jackson**

Teresa Collier

WTVA-TV, Tupelo-Columbus

John Dolusic

WCBI-TV, Columbus-Tupelo

Bill Gamel

WLOX-TV, Biloxi-Gulfport

Brad Kessie

DIVISION III:**Breaking News***First Place***The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**

"New Orleans' Aug. 5 Flood"

The very thorough details, including maps and videos, added to this story put it over the edge.

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

"In a Controversial Police Shooting, a Prosecutor Declines Charges"

The sidebars helped advance this story well.

General News*First Place***The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**

Kevin Litten and Richard Rainey
"The Election of New Orleans' First
Female Mayor"

Great prep work, readers were rewarded with solid background and context to put the historic election in perspective. Nice accompanying visuals and online elements.

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

Julia O'Donoghue
"How Long Should Louisiana Keep
Old, Ill Criminals in Prison?"

Great writing and great way to put a human dimension on a significant story.

Features*First Place***The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**

Jed Lipinski
"Justice for Danny"

The clear winner. Great narrative, terrific details. Good storytelling and reporting.

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

Robert Rhoden
"She Saved my Life': DWI Driver and
Crash Victim Find Peace and a New
Purpose in Life"

This is a tough subject that could be tackled in a lot of communities but isn't. Kudos to the reporter for finding out what happens to the people who are involved in the crash briefs we write and telling this story.

Business

First Place

The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune

Katherine Sayre and Chelsea Brasted

"Is the New Orleans Economy at a Tipping Point?"

Draws on solid examples to bring it to life.

Second Place

The (Baton Rouge) Advocate

Richard Thompson

"The Collapse of a Storied Bank"

This is a very thorough obituary for a bank.

Continuing Coverage

First Place

The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune

"Louisiana's Battle to Save its Coast and Protect New Orleans"

This series covered a lot of angles. The presentation was aided by maps, charts and videos.

Second Place

The (Baton Rouge) Advocate

"Recovering from the Great Flood of 2016"

This follow-up to the major flooding was well done.

Investigative/Public Service

First Place

(Gulfport) SunHerald

Margaret Baker

"Rare Brain Cancer is Killing Coast Children"

Very impressive work. Great public service tackling a life or death issue and getting families to share their stories.

Second Place

The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune

"Cracking the Code: The Real Cost of Health Care"

Great collaborative project. Including the pricing check tool takes it a step further.

Breaking Sports*First Place***The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

Luke Johnson

"Poche's Father and Father of LSU
Strength Coach Resuscitate Fan"

This one takes the cake, not only was it a good story, the writer broke away from game coverage when news broke.

*Second Place***Shreveport Times**

Roy Lang

"Parkway Relieves David Feaster of
Coaching Duties"

The writer clearly had a good relationship with the coach to pull such candid quotes. A great indication of why maintaining good relationships with sources is so important.

Sports Enterprise/Feature*First Place***The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**

Jeff Duncan

"UNO's Ascension Under Mark
Slessinger a Story of Pride,
Perseverance and Now Wins"

Such a fluid story that makes the reader want to know this coach. Best of the bunch, bar none.

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

Luke Johnson

"A Promise Kept"

This story shows a commitment to the craft as well as the subject.

Editorials*First Place***The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

Lanny Keller and Peter Kovacs

"Attacking Louisiana's Culture of Incarceration"

Hand it to this editorial staff: They're relentless, well-reasoned and unafraid to keep pushing the button until someone responds.

*Second Place***(Jackson) Clarion Ledger**

Sam Hall

Good for keeping a complex (but important) issue in front of its readers on the editorial page and using history to help bolster its case.

Personal Columns*First Place***(Jackson) Clarion Ledger**

Sam Hall

Draws you in with thought-provoking statements or questions. Writing is chatty and challenging - offering solutions/suggestions.

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

Ron Higgins

Clearly isn't afraid to express what's on his mind, regardless of how his subjects may respond. Witty and engaging, even to a reader who is not a sports fan.

Headlines*First Place***The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune**

James Karst

You had me at "Come let us abhor them".

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

Christopher Martin

Layout & Design*First Place***The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

Jay Martin

The designs brought something unexpected to the reader. Good use of illustrations and logos.

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

Christopher Martin

Designer had topics that were not easy to present visually to the reader but did a terrific job with the given material. Clean and engaging.

Breaking News Photography*First Place***The (Baton Rouge) Advocate**

Scott Threlkeld

"Endymion Crash"

Captured the chaos of the dramatic scene well. The crazy lighting adds to the emotion.

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

David Grunfeld

"Robert E. Lee Monument Protester Removed"

The tension in this shot is clear. It's good that the sign in the forefront, while necessarily blurry, is still legible.

General News Photography*First Place***Shreveport Times**

Henrietta Wildsmith

"Women's March 2017"

Energy indeed; visually well portrayed.

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

Matthew Hinton

"Monument Protest"

Striking photo of sensitive, emotional, controversial event.

Feature Photography

First Place

The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune

Chris Granger

"And a Slap on the Rear"

The unexpected moment is what sold this picture. The symmetry and color also work well.

Second Place

The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune

Chris Granger

"Super Moon Flyby"

A lot of planning goes into making a tough technical picture like this, and the photographer pulled it off.

Multi-Photo

First Place

The (Baton Rouge) Advocate

"Domestic Violence"

Remarkable storytelling here with such raw emotion. Outstanding work!

Second Place

The (Baton Rouge) Advocate

"Monument Protest"

These images are a slice of history and should be viewed often as a reminder of this time in the U.S..

Portrait/Personality Photography

First Place

The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune

Chris Granger

"Plumage at the Door"

Second Place

The (Baton Rouge) Advocate

Sophia Germer

"Holocaust Survivor"

Sports Action Photography

First Place

The (Baton Rouge) Advocate

Hilary Scheinuk

"Airborne"

Such an interesting photo - from the players on the ground to the blur of blue in the back ground to ultimately the player in the air - it is the perfect moment captured.

Second Place

The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune

Brett Duke

"Ripped Off"

To see the look on the player's face - that he is trying so hard to keep his helmet on through his mouth guard - keeps me looking at the photo even longer.

Sports Feature Photography

First Place

The (Baton Rouge) Advocate

Matthew Hinton

"State Champs"

Love everything about this photo - from the leading lines to the expressions on the winners and the sad tears on the losers. The photographer needed to be on the ground for this shot, and it was just the right place.

Second Place

The (Baton Rouge) Advocate

Travis Spradling

"Victory Howl"

Not the typical winning photo, and that's what makes it special. The faces on the players keep the reader looking everywhere.

Multimedia Package

First Place

Shreveport Times

Lex Talamo

"Sinister Web"

Outstanding. All aspects of this project were top-notch from writing, to photos, fascinating podcasts and videos.

Second Place

The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune

"300 for 300: Year 1"

The top 25 were sooo fun to read, and the old photos, videos and trivia added tremendous depth and information. Kudos to the team that pulled this off!

Video

First Place

The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune

Aaron Fisher

"Why is Louisiana Shrinking So Quickly?"

The most technically sound. Great job combining the illustrations, interview, photos and video. It told a story explained it well and was a good length.

Second Place

The (New Orleans) Times-Picayune

Aaron Fisher

"Family Sentence: The Long and Costly Journey to Visit Parents in Prison"

Excellent job telling the story, explaining the problem, and a great use of the flash style illustrations and graphics. Good length - long enough to tell the story, but quick enough to get to the point and keep the viewer engaged.

DIVISION II:

Breaking News

First Place

The (Lafayette) Advertiser

"Coverage of Hurricane Harvey"

Outstanding job, there's a lot here and it's all done well.

Second Place

The (Houma) Courier

Dan Copp

"Man Accused of Killing Neighbor"

Dan Copp is smart to lead with the daughter and the detail of taking the trash out and hearing the pop. Strong writing.

General News

First Place

The (Lafayette) Advertiser

Amanda McElfresh

"Millionaire's Charmed Life Implodes in Bizarre Kidnapping Plot"

Riveting storytelling.

Second Place

Hattiesburg American

Haskel Burns

"Camp Shelby: 100 Years of History"

Well-planned. Well-executed. Just a good read.

Features

First Place

The (Columbus) Dispatch

Jan Swoope

"Bidding Farewell to Super Gabe"

This account of how a boy's courageous spirit touched an entire community brought tears to my eyes. Enough said.

Second Place

(Lake Charles) American Press

Emily Fontenot

"Homeless in LC"

An unusual story, well told and surprising, and that separated it from a number of equally well-done features.

Business

First Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

Dennis Seid

"Dairy's Decline"

Good presentation of problems facing the dairy industry, with a compelling human-interest angle by focusing through the experience of one family.

Second Place

The (Houma) Courier

Dan Copp

"Oil Price Decline's Local Impact"

This story was well reported and comprehensive.

Continuing Coverage

First Place

The (Houma) Courier

Dan Copp

"Minority Judgeship Case"

Hats off for staying with this story from the case, to the ruling and then next steps. An important community story; clear writing, dogged reporting set this entry apart.

Second Place

The (Lafayette) Advertiser

Claire Taylor

"Smile Head Start Federal Funding Terminated"

Way to stay with this story and get a hold of documents the board and staff (especially those travel bills) no doubt didn't want to share.

Investigative/Public Service

First Place

The (Lafayette) Advertiser

Claire Taylor

"Coverage of SMILE"

Relentless reporting on a troubled organization and its questionable service to the community.

Second Place

Hattiesburg American

Haskel Burns

"H2 Oh Gross "

Story really brings the frustration of residents to the surface and holds local officials accountable.

Breaking Sports

First Place

The (Monroe) News-Star

Cory Diaz

"Storm the Land, Burn the Ships: Bayou Classic a Playoff Game for Grambling, Southern"

More than your typical game preview. The story spells out what's at stake and it's more than a win or loss, it's a war. Reporter did a good job letting the strong language of the coaches set the tone.

Second Place

Hattiesburg American

Jason Munz

"Saders Bound for NAIA World Series"

The strong writing took me to the baseball diamond and I found myself rooting for the team, good move to include the backstory of the storm. Nice job.

Sports Enterprise/Feature

First Place

Hattiesburg American

Jason Munz

"The Bassfield Football Factory"

Provided some insightful analysis of an ongoing sports situation.

Second Place

Hattiesburg American

Jason Munz

"The Allen Fails Story"

Great profile in the way that it stuck to the motif of faith.

Editorials

First Place

The (Houma) Courier

Michael Gorman

Good series of strong editorials. These are issues having broad significance to more than just the people immediately involved.

Second Place

Hattiesburg American

Erin Kosnac

Clearly written, well organized, thoughtful.

Personal Columns

First Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

Derek Russell

Conversational columns that were easy and fun to read. Completely relatable. Some laugh-out-loud lines and a lot of passion.

Second Place

The (Lafayette) Advertiser

Kristin Askelson

Interesting and engaging with descriptive language. Compelling on controversial issues without being preachy. Solid reads.

Headlines

First Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

Derek Russell

Very clever.

Second Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

John Pitts

Attention-grabbing headlines.

Layout & Design

First Place

The (Lafayette) Advertiser

Designs show understanding of dimension, color and balance. Infographic is easy to digest and clean. Centerpieces are creative and impactful. Solid design in every way.

Second Place

(Lake Charles) American Press

Devin Dronett

Great examples of design sharing space with ads. Nice balance and use of color. Exciting and fresh.

Breaking News Photography

First Place

The (Lafayette) Advertiser

"Coverage of Hurricane Harvey"

Several great images that tell the story of peoples struggles while evacuating during the hurricane and that the photographer was right in the middle of the evacuation as well.

Second Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

Thomas Wells

"That's not a Parking Spot!"

This photo has clean and simple composition. It is striking to look at and is a quick read.

General News Photography

First Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

Thomas Wells

"Vietnam Replica Wall Opens"

Great composition. The man's reflection in the memorial, and the bugle at his feet make this a special, memorable photo.

Second Place

Hattiesburg American

Susan Broadbridge

"Deen and Tate Memorial"

The raw emotion of this photo is captivating.

Feature Photography

First Place

Hattiesburg American

Susan Broadbridge

"Night to Shine Prom"

Nicely framed photo. Really did a nice job of capturing the moment between all three parties.

Second Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

Adam Robison

"Tunnel Vision"

Great composition and wonderfully timed photo. A playful silhouette.

Multi-Photo

First Place

The (Houma) Courier

Chris Heller

"Rougarou Fest"

When it comes down to it, storytelling is about people and the things they do. I loved all the faces we saw here.

Second Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

Thomas Wells

"The Wall Opens"

Loved the variety of shots that helped tell the broader story.

Portrait/Personality Photography

First Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

Thomas Wells

"Indian Joe"

This photo has sooo much character. I appreciate the directness of the view.

Second Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

Thomas Wells

"Top Scorer"

I can only admire a photographer who can capture a shot like this.

Sports Action Photography

First Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

Adam Robison

"Hi-Jump"

In a field of photos filled with leaps and lunges, it becomes a matter of capturing the most interesting mid-air position. The main subject stands out better from the background than most.

Second Place

The (Houma) Courier

Chris Heller

"Taking Off"

One of the things often missing from sports photography is emotion. This captured it perfectly.

Sports Feature Photography

First Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

Thomas Wells

"Heading Out"

This photo captures multiple elements of a moment without one distracting from another. Nice shot.

Second Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

Thomas Wells

"Fall Shadows"

Sometimes the indirect is the most effective.

Multimedia Package

First Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

"Leigh Occhi Coverage"

The human voice makes things so much more personal, making a podcast series the perfect way to reach readers on such a sensitive subject. Bravo to the staff on compiling a compelling series.

Second Place

The (Houma) Courier

Holly Duchmann and Ashlee Hill

"Transgender Teenager Finds Community Support"

A great use of a timeline to share a story that's all about the journey.

Video

First Place

The (Lafayette) Advertiser

David D'Aquin and Scott Clause

"How Southside High School Measures Up"

A good use of emerging technology, which is well paired with still images and an informative voiceover. Just the right length to hold the viewer's interest and be worth their time.

Second Place

(Tupelo) Daily Journal

Chris Kieffer

"Joyner Students get Cooking with KOK"

A great subject for a video, given most adults' unfamiliarity with the subject. Good use of B roll, background sound and interviews.

DIVISION I:

Breaking News

First Place

The Meridian Star

"Tornado Hits Lauderdale County"

Outstanding job on the digital side getting the stories and photos up in a timely manner. Good coverage, well-rounded and encompassing.

Second Place

The (Brookhaven) Daily Leader

Donna Campbell

"A Senseless Tragedy"

Such a tragic event and the paper covered every angle above and beyond what had to be a trying news day.

General News

First Place

The Greenwood Commonwealth

Kathryn Eastburn

"Man Jailed 4 Years Without Trial"

Detailed research and sourcing, well-told, brings this story to light in advance of the hearing.

Second Place

The Greenwood Commonwealth

Kathryn Eastburn

"Deadly Day"

The account of the day from the perspective of first responders carries great impact.

Features

First Place

The Meridian Star

Whitney Downard

"Sealed with a Kiss"

A great story about love and courage. Excellent work. It was not only courageous of the gay couple to agree to be interviewed, but it took guts for the newspaper to be so bold to run such an extensive account of the impact of this law.

Second Place

The Meridian Star

Cheryl Owens

"Homeless to Harvard"

Nice piece on a lucky young man who went from homeless to landing a scholarship to Harvard. Well sourced.

Business

First Place

The Meridian Star

Whitney Downard

"No Easy RX"

Good information and well-written.

Second Place

The Oxford Eagle

Andy Belt

"John and Lauren Stokes Introduce Oxford to a Mediterranean-Style Restaurant, Tarasque"

Good read. I want to eat at the restaurant.

Continuing Coverage

First Place

(McComb) Enterprise-Journal

"Building Collapse"

Excellent coverage of all sides. Particularly chilling was the lead on the first day's story, telling about groups of people using the building only hours before it collapsed.

Second Place

The (Brookhaven) Daily Leader

Donna Campbell and Matt Rushing

"Lincoln County Memorial Day

Massacre 2017"

Stunning coverage both in photos and reportage. Staff assigned in a very organized fashion to bring out different aspects of this story.

Investigative/Public Service

First Place

(McComb) Enterprise-Journal

Ernest Herndon

"Landfill Series"

Well researched, presented, balanced look from multiple sides that preceded the hearings. Well done.

Second Place

The Meridian Star

"Lauderdale County Courthouse"

The Star's depth and thoroughness in examining the problems at the courthouse is impressive.

Breaking Sports

First Place

The Meridian Star

Elton Hayes

"Neshoba Girls Beat West Point"

Elton Hayes knew the team well enough to provide readers with insight about the season, what the coach had been telling the girls and background you only get by being on the scene and knowing your sources. Good work.

Second Place

The Natchez Democrat

Emmalee Molay

"Alcorn Kicker Breaks Record, Plays for Sister with Cerebral Palsy"

A story that benefited greatly by knowing about the kicker's history and his sister's battle with cerebral palsy. We learned a lot from this well-written piece.

Sports Enterprise/Feature*First Place***The Meridian Star**

Elton Hayes

"Robert Bell - Trailblazer"

*Second Place***(McComb) Enterprise-Journal**

Jordan Arceneaux

"A Lott of Will"

Editorials*First Place***The Meridian Star**

Dave Bohrer

Mr. Bohrer demonstrates a close familiarity with his community and a desire to see it improve.

*Second Place***(Thibodaux) Daily Comet**

Michael Gorman

Personal Columns*First Place***The (Brookhaven) Daily Leader**

Luke Horton

The writer told stories that stick with a reader and in a way that makes the reader reflect on their own experiences. I enjoyed reading these columns.

*Second Place***The Vicksburg Post**

Ernest Bowker

Excellent coverage of local personalities. The stories remind us that there are human beings behind the sport; it isn't just about the game.

Headlines*First Place***(McComb) Enterprise-Journal**

Matt Williamson

Loved them!

*Second Place***(Jackson) Mississippi Business Journal**

Frank Brown

Nice mix!

Layout & Design*First Place***The Vicksburg Post**

The use of art, photos and graphic elements make this entry stand out above the rest. The layout is clean and sharp. Nicely done.

*Second Place***The Vicksburg Post**

The graphic elements in this entry demanded attention — especially that snake! Smart use of the space on the page in order to maximize the visual value.

Breaking News Photography*First Place***(Thibodaux) Daily Comet**

"An Early Christmas Miracle"

*Second Place***The Oxford Eagle**

Bruce Newman

"Truce Wreck"

General News Photography

First Place

The Oxford Eagle

Bruce Newman

"Church Fire"

The composition of this photo is quite striking, makes me want to learn more about the fire and its impact on the community. This is the clear winner.

Second Place

The Vicksburg Post

Courtland Wells

"Training for the Unthinkable"

I'm impressed the photographer had access to the training and I commend the right-place-at-the-right-time effort to compose a photo like this.

Feature Photography

First Place

(McComb) Enterprise-Journal

"Womanless Beauty Pageant also

Beautyles"

Subject matter and catching a moment separates this from a tight pack.

Second Place

The Oxford Eagle

Bruce Newman

"Graduation"

Excellent "spontaneous" staging, composition and storytelling.

Multi-Photo

First Place

The Vicksburg Post

Courtland Wells

"Family Tradition"

Action is captured flawlessly. Eye-catching presentation.

Second Place

The Meridian Star

Paula Merritt

"Back on Top"

Emotion and action both shown through great amount of skill. Excellent presentation.

Portrait/Personality Photography*First Place***The Oxford Eagle**

Bruce Newman

"Pom Pom Man"

This is what personality photography should be. It's candid, but it shows the subject's face well. Great photo.

*Second Place***(McComb) Enterprise-Journal**

Matt Williamson

"LaPorsha Shoots Video"

Photo shows personality in the subject's natural setting. Great photo.

Sports Action Photography*First Place***The Vicksburg Post**

Ernest Bowker

"Near Collision"

The action captured in this photo is gold. This is a very powerful photo that keeps giving the reader's eyes more to look at.

*Second Place***The Meridian Star**

Paula Merritt

"Power Play"

The focus is exactly where it needs to be in this great photo that captures actions from both side of the team.

Sports Feature Photography*First Place***The Oxford Eagle**

Bruce Newman

"For the Win"

*Second Place***The Oxford Eagle**

Bruce Newman

"Egg Bowl Win"

Multimedia Package*First Place***The Oxford Eagle**

Alex McDaniel

"Ole Miss NCAA Investigation

Timeline: 2012 to 2017"

Great use of an appealing interactive timeline that breaks down a good amount of information.

*Second Place***(Thibodaux) Daily Comet**

Julia Arenstam and Chris Heller

"Eagles Flocking to Bayous"

The multimedia elements helped pull this package together. Beautiful photos.

TELEVISION I:**Franchise Reporting***First Place***KTBS-TV, Shreveport**

Rick Rowe

"Stories of Faith"

*Second Place***WVUE-TV, New Orleans**

Dave McNamara

"Heart of Louisiana"

Short Light Feature-Louisiana*First Place***WWL-TV, New Orleans**

Derek Waldrip

"Katrina Can't Stop the Music"

Truly captivating story. Very well shot and edited. Tremendous use of nat sounds.

*Second Place***KTBS-TV, Shreveport**

Rick Rowe

"Scopena Memoir of Home"

A really great story. Beautifully shot - a lot of effort went into getting some of the landscape shots. Well written and edited. Interesting subject.

Short Light Feature-Mississippi*First Place***WLBT-TV, Jackson**

Patrice Clark

"Medgar Wiley Evers' Home"

Really well-done story. Well shot, written and edited. Nice use of historical footage. Interesting subject.

*Second Place***WAPT-TV, Jackson**

Allie Ware and Lanis Leggett

"Newborn Touch Therapy"

Nice story. Well shot and written. Nice variety of interview subjects.

Long Light Feature-Louisiana*First Place***WAFB-TV, Baton Rouge**

Donna Britt and Robert Hollins

"Donna's Voice"

*Second Place***KTBS-TV, Shreveport**

Rick Rowe

"Rob Reeves Navy Seal"

Long Light Feature-Mississippi*First Place***WJTV-TV, Jackson**

Byron Brown and Justin Burks

"WJTV Smith Robertson Museum & Cultural Center"

*Second Place***WJTV-TV, Jackson**

Brittany Noble-Jones and Justin Burks

"Mississippi Marijuana Research Farm"

Sports Story

First Place

WWL-TV, New Orleans

Ashley Rodrigue and Brian Lukas
"The Will to Walk"

I can't get this story out of my mind! The young man's will, and determination shine brightly in this story, which flowed smoothly, and kept me interested. This is a story that stays with you!

Second Place

WJTV-TV, Jackson

Tyler Greever
"The Pastor & The Coach"

A well written, well edited example of good story telling. The way the pastor's two jobs, in essence were woven together was fantastic. An example of a story that stays with you!

Sportscaster

First Place

WDSU-TV, New Orleans

Fletcher Mackel

Second Place

WAFB-TV, Baton Rouge

Steve Schneider

Sportscast or Sports Program

First Place

WAPT-TV, Jackson

Josh Jackson and Ashley Shahahmadi
"Miracle Shot Team Coverage"

I couldn't stop thinking about the story! The emotion was so real, palpable and memorable. You captured the essence, energy, and emotion quite well.

Second Place

KTBS-TV, Shreveport

KTBS Sports Team
"Friday Football Fever"

The energy, urgency, and comprehensive nature of the show is what did it. Your team executed this show with passion, professionalism, and gumption. Well done.

Multimedia Story

First Place

WWL-TV, New Orleans

Katie Moore and Sam Winstrom

"Searching for Ramona Brown: The Mystery"

Compelling work with many techniques used to tell the story.

Second Place

WWL-TV, New Orleans

"Down the Drain"

Very comprehensive stylish storytelling.

News Videographer

First Place

WWL-TV, New Orleans

Derek Waldrip

The guitar feature won this. Great use of NATS, creating framing the shots, good pace and rhythm in the editing. This showcased integral news videography skills. Great eye and great instincts.

Second Place

WLBT-TV, Jackson

Mike Evans

Good eye for photography. I can tell he works hard to get those creative shots on a day to day basis. Good editing to script and pacing.

Documentary

First Place

WWL-TV, New Orleans

"Down the Drain"

Very thorough and effective investigation. The timeline helped explain and the special graphics made the story clear and easy to understand. Impressive effort in getting so many interviews.

Second Place

WVUE-TV, New Orleans

Lee Zurik and Jon Turnipseed

"Hooked Up"

Great investigative journalism. Tracking down so many key people was crucial in telling this story. The use of graphics made a complicated concept clear and easy to understand.

Public Affairs*First Place***WVUE-TV, New Orleans**

Lee Zurik

"Cracking the Code"

*Second Place***KSLA-TV, Shreveport**

Domonique Benn

"Taking Back our Streets"

Breaking News*First Place***WDSU-TV, New Orleans**"New Orleans Confederate
Monument Removal"

Nice coverage of this breaking event over several days. Entry showed a good use of live pictures and interviews throughout.

*Second Place***WDSU-TV, New Orleans**

"Congressman Shot"

Solid representation of team coverage that is comprehensive but does not feel repetitive.

Investigative Reporting*First Place***WVUE-TV, New Orleans**Lee Zurik and Jon Turnipseed
"State of Unrest"

Excellent story telling. Deep dive reporting that held people accountable and used the medium to make significant impact.

*Second Place***KSLA-TV, Shreveport**Stacey Cameron
"Crime of Violence Gap"

Eye-opening and good use of public records.

Breaking Weather*First Place***WDSU-TV, New Orleans**

"Team Coverage: New Orleans East Tornadoes"

Strong reporting on the ground, made me feel for these people whose lives were completely upended.

*Second Place***WAFB-TV, Baton Rouge**

"February Tornadoes"

Weather Anchor*First Place***WDSU-TV, New Orleans**

Margaret Orr

Margaret has a way with communicating vitally important information. Her delivery is crisp, confident, and comes with a little fun when the time calls for it. Her knowledge of the New Orleans area is impeccable. She is able to instill a sense of calm, even in the midst of scary weather situations.

*Second Place***WAFB-TV, Baton Rouge**

Steve Caparotta

Steve breaks down important information with certainty and confidence, in a way viewers can understand and find comforting. His knowledge of the ever-complex facets of weather is impeccable, and it clearly shows.

Weathercast*First Place***WVUE-TV, New Orleans**

Bruce Katz

This forecast told me something I could use right off the bat, and throughout kept the viewer and their day and plans in mind.

*Second Place***WWL-TV, New Orleans**

Dave Nussbaum

News Anchor*First Place***WAFB-TV, Baton Rouge**

Greg Meriwether

Greg does a nice job of engaging the viewer - having a conversation about the news with the viewer rather than reading news to the viewer.

*Second Place***KTBS-TV, Shreveport**

Shon Gables

TV Reporter*First Place***WJTV-TV, Jackson**

Natay Holmes

*Second Place***KSLA-TV, Shreveport**

Doug Warner

Daytime Newscast*First Place***WAFB-TV, Baton Rouge**

"9News This Morning"

*Second Place***WAPT-TV, Jackson**

"Flooding"

Evening Newscast*First Place***WWL-TV, New Orleans**

Ian Kramar

Great instinct to bring the reporter back to talk about the experience. Good story variety, great reporter sent to festival - very animated. Good show.

*Second Place***KSLA-TV, Shreveport**

Great story flow. Great sports reporter, anchor and chat at the end, making all talent personable and approachable to the viewer. Good show!

TELEVISION II:

Franchise Reporting

First Place

KALB-TV, Alexandria

Mark Klein and Hannah Verzwylt
"Golden Apple Award"

Reporter has good energy and a conversational delivery. Good pacing of stories.

Second Place

KATC-TV, Lafayette

Breanna Molloy and Daniel Phillips
"What's your Story"

Cute concept. Good storytelling, shooting and editing.

Short Light Feature-Louisiana

First Place

KATC-TV, Lafayette

Breanna Molloy
"Neighborhood Nanny"

Well shot and edited. Fast paced and nice writing to video. Nice job.

Second Place

KPLC-TV, Lake Charles

Candy Rodriguez
"Brian at Kroger"

Nice shooting of a live event. Tightly edited with lots of great NAT sound. Cute idea for the birthday wish at the end. Nice job.

Short Light Feature-Mississippi

First Place

WLOX-TV, Biloxi-Gulfport

Hugh Keeton
"Harbor Lights Winter Festival"

Nice effort to capture a wide variety of solid shots. Good anticipation is shown in capturing specific lighting arrangement. Nice work.

Second Place

WDAM-TV, Laurel-Hattiesburg

Taylor Curet
"USM Athletes Tornado Relief"

Excellent use of video and interesting interviews with storm victims and USM athletes. This was a strong entry in a field of very good candidates. Well done.

Long Light Feature-Louisiana*First Place***KNOE-TV, Monroe**

Aaron Dietrich

"Two Families, One Heartbeat"

*Second Place***KPLC-TV, Lake Charles**

Britney Glaser and Tim Bourgeois

"Coach's Ultimate Gratitude"

Long Light Feature-Mississippi*First Place***WLOX-TV, Biloxi-Gulfport**

Patrick Clay

"A Rebel with a Cause"

*Second Place***WLOX-TV, Biloxi-Gulfport**

Hugh Keeton

"Abigail's Story"

Sports Story*First Place***KNOE-TV, Monroe**

Aaron Dietrich

"Two Families, One Heartbeat"

A nice job showing the emotion. Nice use of nats, writing, and sound throughout.

*Second Place***WLOX-TV, Biloxi-Gulfport**

Patrick Clay

"From Styling to Cycling"

The reporter does a good job showing us how sports go beyond age. Very well done.

Sportscaster*First Place***KNOE-TV, Monroe**

Aaron Dietrich

Very energetic but doesn't get out of control. Does a good job of thinking outside the norm to showcase the story. Smooth delivery.

*Second Place***KATC-TV, Lafayette**

Andrew Clay

Smooth delivery. Very good story teller and use of video and sound.

Sportscast or Sports Program*First Place***WCBI-TV, Columbus-Tupelo**Tom Eble and Robby Donoho
"Endzone"

I loved the amount of manpower put into this show. To put on a full sportscast is impressive. The anchors were energetic, and their calls of the plays put me at the game even when I closed my eyes.

*Second Place***KPLC-TV, Lake Charles**

"Live Quarterfinal Coverage"

The team coverage elevated the coverage quality of the pre-game sportscast.

Multimedia Story*First Place***KALB-TV, Alexandria**Max Lindsey
"Concert Behind Bars"*Second Place***WCBI-TV, Columbus-Tupelo**Quentin Smith
"Shining Light on Player Safety "

News Videographer*First Place***KATC-TV, Lafayette**

Justin Terro

Good shot movement. Good use of nat sound.

*Second Place***KPLC-TV, Lake Charles**

Antoine Aaron

Documentary*First Place***KATC-TV, Lafayette**

Daniel Phillips and Justin Terro

"Louisiana Shrimp Industry
Struggling"

Interesting topic. Good effort to take the viewer to different places. Nice shots.

*Second Place***KALB-TV, Alexandria**

Sherman Desselle

"Remembering the Oakdale Prison
Riot"**Public Affairs***First Place***WTOK-TV, Meridian**"Dangerous Intersection in Clarke
County"

Significant effort by station to resolve a longstanding problem in the community, leading to at least a partial solution to the problem.

*Second Place***KPLC-TV, Lake Charles**

"At Your Service"

A nice example of how tv stations can play a role in helping their communities do good things.

Breaking News

First Place

WLOX-TV, Biloxi-Gulfport

Hugh Keeton and Robert Allen
"Missing Child"

Great in the moment story telling. Nice reveals and being on the spot.

Second Place

WDAM-TV, Laurel-Hattiesburg

Ryan Moore
"Beth Ann Murder Confession"

Great storytelling. Nice urgency getting the camera up close to suspect.

Investigative Reporting

First Place

KNOE-TV, Monroe

Nick Picht and Alan Donald
"8 Investigates: The Enterprise Water Crisis"

Stories were well told, and the reporter did a nice job of clearly explaining the issues for TV.

Second Place

KNOE-TV, Monroe

Chris Brown
"8 Investigates: Farrakhan Gets Key to the City"

Clearly demonstrated its commitment to getting answers, each story advanced the coverage. Particularly like the transparency with viewers about how and why the station was pushing for answers.

Breaking Weather

First Place

WTVA-TV, Tupelo-Columbus

"Hurricane Harvey Tornadoes"

Absolutely phenomenal meteorologist and broadcaster. He teaches the audience the physics of meteorology and I respect how un-scripted he is. Matt's strongest skill is his ability to keep his audience calm during significant severe weather to ensure THEY make the best decision for their family.

Second Place

WLOX-TV, Biloxi-Gulfport

Eric was a close second, with a similar presentation to Matt. Phenomenal meteorologist and broadcaster.

Weather Anchor

First Place

WTVA-TV, Tupelo-Columbus

Matt Laubhan

Second Place

KATC-TV, Lafayette

Daniel Phillips

Weathercast

First Place

KATC-TV, Lafayette

Rob Perillo

Second Place

WCBI-TV, Columbus-Tupelo

Keith Gibson

He has several unique, hand-drawn graphics in there. Great presentation as well.

News Anchor

First Place

KPLC-TV, Lake Charles

Randall Kamm

Good personality. Conversational. Uses his body and hands in a appropriate and relaxed way. Doesn't hide behind papers or ipad. Relaxed ad lib during live segments.

Second Place

WCBI-TV, Columbus-Tupelo

Aundrea Self

Seasoned and professional. Conversational. Relaxed. Good voice. Good interview skills.

TV Reporter

First Place

KNOE-TV, Monroe

Tyler Smith

Shows strong, focused reporting skills; good variety in reporting; compels the viewer to watch.

Second Place

KNOE-TV, Monroe

Nick Picht

Good presence in live shots; solid reporter.

Daytime Newscast

First Place

KNOE-TV, Monroe

"Good Morning Arklamiss"

Well produced show. The dual anchors and team coverage of the storm brought full details of Tropical Storm Cindy affecting the area. Solid anchoring and live shots

Second Place

WLOX-TV, Biloxi-Gulfport

"Good Morning Mississippi "

Solid and experienced anchors. Great live shot off the top of the show, very descriptive and well delivered. A plus solid show. Good newscast.

Evening Newscast

First Place

WLOX-TV, Biloxi-Gulfport

Nice natural sound in headlines and well delivered breaking news. A good variety, with just enough information to keep viewers updated. Solid local reporting. Good story telling, well delivered and professional presentation. Good video quality.

Second Place

WTVA-TV, Tupelo-Columbus

Good variety of local stories and live shots. Good breaking news lead with viewer photos. A solid staff of experienced and new reporters.

RADIO:

Short Feature Story

First Place

WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM, Kosciusko

Breck Riley

"Paul Harvey Broadcasts from WKOZ"

A great, human interest feature about an interesting and historical broadcast! Good use of audio. Nice job!

Second Place

WJSU-FM, Jackson

Dwain Doty

"ABC Health Fair"

A good wrap-up; efficient and easy to take-in way to disseminate health information for a community. Nice use of on-site sound and lots of explanatory interviews. Well done.

Long Feature Story

First Place

KEDM-FM, Monroe

Cory Crowe

"Ouachita River Could Lose 20+ Feet of Water in Worst Case Scenario"

Excellent radio reporting. Highly effective use of sound bites. Excellent narration and pacing. A wonderful example of how radio can tell interesting stories that inform and enlighten audiences.

Second Place

Mississippi Public Broadcasting, Jackson

Desare Frazier

"Controversial Union Election at Nissan-Canton Plant Underway"

Excellent job of letting the various stakeholders tell their perspectives. The audio sound bites are authentic and reflect the skill of a top-notch interviewer. Very impressive radio reporting that shows the power of the medium.

Sports Story

First Place

WJSU-FM, Jackson

Dwain Doty

"JSU Tennis"

Fun and interesting profile. Nicely paced and makes use of sound bites from multiple sources. Good raw sound for background. Creates a great flavor that captures the atmosphere. Solid narration.

Second Place

WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM, Kosciusko

Mina Mooney

"Choctaw Central Special Olympics"

An entertaining sports update. Good use of audio, nicely paced and quite listenable. The audience surely felt like they were at the event.

Sportscast or Sports Program

First Place

KPEL-FM, Lafayette

Brandon Comeaux and Ian Auzenne

"High School Game of the Week"

Well-done! Good pregame interviews and back and forth between the announcers. Tight production value and good energy. This is a textbook example of how to do a hometown football game!

Second Place

KPEL-FM, Lafayette

Ian Auzenne

"The Au-Zone "

A nice selection of stories overall. Listenable personality clearly comfortable in the role. Nicely done!

Use of Sound

First Place

KEDM-FM, Monroe

Cory Crowe

"Zika Lurks Among Us"

Interesting story, nice location sound and "on-site" audio. I found myself thinking about the topic to a deeper degree than I would have just hearing the interview in a studio. Nice job!

Second Place

WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM, Kosciusko

Mina Mooney

"Neshoba County Emergency Drill"

Short, but effective use of sound. Good story.

Multimedia Story

First Place

WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM, Kosciusko

Breck Riley

"Paul Harvey WKOZ Revisited"

The coverage is comprehensive, information-packed, and entertaining. Great combination of web script, audio and visuals, provided in a fashion the audience can really appreciate.

Second Place

WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM, Kosciusko

"Cruisin for a Cure"

A very fine presentation that nicely combines web script, audio and video. WCKK is to be commended for its community involvement in such a fine cause.

Documentary or Series of Stories

First Place

**Mississippi Public Broadcasting,
Jackson**

"Mississippi's Opioid Crisis"

Excellent report. Provides a human perspective to the opioid crisis. Multi-faceted, helpful insights, and makes great use of audio. Outstanding radio reporting that makes a difference for the audience.

Second Place

KEDM-FM, Monroe

Cory Crowe

"Zika Virus Series"

A highly listenable report that flows nicely and gives the listener helpful insights. The explanations are clear and enlightening. Very nice presentation.

Public Affairs

First Place

Mississippi Public Broadcasting, Jackson
"Mississippi Edition "

Several well-done stories that provide "outstanding service" to their listeners. Well reported and good job explaining the subject, a very strong entry. Well done, very good radio.

Second Place

KEDM-FM, Monroe
Jay Curtis and Sarah Hardin
"ULM Forum"

A strong entry. Good interviews, a lot of interesting data. Technically well-done, a lot of work pulling the pieces together, a very good example of news reporting and public affairs radio.

Breaking News

First Place

Mississippi Public Broadcasting, Jackson
"Hurricane Nate Barrels Toward Mississippi Gulf Coast"

Shows the true power of radio. Quite comprehensive and gathered input from multiple sources. Excellent use of audio. Conveyed a sense of urgency. A highly professional report that surely benefited the listeners.

Second Place

KEDM-FM, Monroe
Cory Crowe
"Gambling Student Shooting"

A comprehensive and timely report that covered all key aspects of the event. Delivered with authority and style. Fine work.

Radio Reporter

First Place

WCKK-FM/WLIN-FM, Kosciusko
Breck Riley

Riley has a good grasp of the power of local radio to move timely information quickly and accurately. Good Job!

Second Place

Mississippi Public Broadcasting, Jackson
Desare Frazier

Interesting stories, in-depth reporting. True to public radio style. A skilled reporter who understands how to tell a story!

Newscast*First Place***KEDM-FM, Monroe**

Cory Crowe

Provides listeners with news of significance in a highly listenable manner. Tightly written and helpful sound bites. The narration is authoritative and nicely paced. A great example of what radio news should be.

*Second Place***Mississippi Public Broadcasting,
Jackson**

Very fine example. Covers news of impact in a conversational manner. Good use of sound bites. The narration is most professional. Listeners of MPB are well served by such fine newscasts.