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For Immediate Release

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**THE ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES 2015 EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE
AWARD WINNERS FOR LEADING BUSINESS PUBLICATIONS**

LOS ANGELES—The Alliance of Area Business Publishers presented 109 Editorial Excellence awards to newspaper and magazine business periodicals June 27, 2015, the climax of its three-day annual Summer Conference in Charlotte, NC.

With 622 entries from 40 publications in the U.S., Canada and Australia, the competitive field was both impressive and diverse. Divisions include Magazines, Newspapers, Open, Online and Best of Show. Gold, silver and bronze awards were presented in most categories.

Historically among the most popular categories are Best Explanatory Journalism and Best Feature. This year, according to Prof. Daryl Moen of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, Personality Profiles were also a surprisingly strong and deep category.

“While Personality Profiles are among the most popular in both magazine and newspaper divisions,” Moen explained, “there is a wide variety of approaches from contestants. Some are question and answer formats. Some are business stories centered on a person. What the judges are looking for is a profile that includes both personality and business angles. We seek a sense of person, both physical and meta-physical. What makes them tick? Why do they do what they do?”

This year, Moen said, Personality Profiles leapt to the front of the pack. “The profile categories are among the strongest in the contest,” he asserted.

The annual competition recognizes excellence in journalism, photography and design achieved by regional business publications. Twenty-four judges (profiled in the following pages) are comprised of faculty members from the University of Missouri School of Journalism, with qualifications in respective area of expertise.

“The purpose of the Alliance competition is to encourage a high level of journalistic performance and service to communities by recognizing editorial excellence and outstanding visual presentation in regional business publications,” said Alliance Executive Director C. James Dowden.

Best Magazine went to **D CEO**; Best Newspaper: Small Tabloids to **Daily Herald Business Ledger**, and Best Newspaper: Large Tabloids to **Crain’s Chicago Business**. Best Cover, Magazines to **Twin Cities Business**, and Best Front Page/Section Cover, Newspapers to **Crain’s Chicago Business**. Most Improved Publication is **Greater Baton Rouge Business Report**. Best Ancillary Publication went to **Crain’s Detroit Business**. Best Website to **Crain’s Detroit Business**. Best Online Scoop went to **Indianapolis Business Journal**. Best Staff-Generated Blog went to **Crain’s Detroit Business**. Best Use of Multimedia went to **Crain’s Detroit Business**. Best Daily E-Mail went to **Florida Trend**, and Best Specialty e-Newsletter to **Des Moines Business Record**.

The award winners in each category and judges’ biographies are listed on the following pages.

Headquartered in Los Angeles, the Alliance is a nonprofit national organization representing 64 independent magazine and newspaper members in the United States, Canada and Australia. For more information about the Alliance, call 310/379-8261 or visit www.bizpubs.org.

AABP 2015 Editorial Excellence Awards

Judged spring 2015

MAGAZINES

1. Best Cover

Bronze: Baton Rouge Business Report, “Uber Invasion,” Carolyn Blakley

The story of Uber coming to town is a tough one to illustrate for a cover. Baton Rouge, echoing the simplicity of the iPhone, created a simple, direct and clear concept. The words and the visuals work together, and the color choices, especially the shade of blue, give it an appropriate contemporary look.

Silver: Business North Carolina, “The Black Plague,” David Kinney Editor in Chief, Jim Denk, Art Director

The parts of this cover work together to produce a page with impact. The metaphorical use of black plague to discuss the environmental impact of coal is excellent. The use of a dark background creates a two dimensional look. The subordinate tease lines show up well because of the color introduction.

Gold: Twin Cities Business, “The Birth of an Industrial Revolution,” Business Staff

Twin Cities produced a winning combination of concept and execution. The expertly drawn illustration places us inside a 3-D printer, which is giving birth to an industrial revolution. This works at first glance. It works even better if you stay long enough to see the second-level message.

2. Best Feature Layout

Bronze: Florida Trend, “Dominoes,” Gary Bernloehr, Jason Morton

The quirky opening illustration is well executed and sets a great tone for the story. The typographic effect of letters falling like dominos is terrific. The visual motif carries through the multipage layout, making the whole thing cohesive and consistent. The design makes a lot of disparate information highly readable.

Silver: Hawaii Business, “From Hawaii to Hawaii,” Kristin Lipman

Strong documentary photography carries the reader through a series of important storytelling moments. The photos are sized for impact, especially the beautiful opening image; yet the layouts also include ample breathing space around the elements. The accompanying map is well designed and provides an essential storytelling component.

Gold: D CEO, “White Knights with Calculators,” Hamilton Hedrick

These gorgeous high-contrast portraits are particularly well paired alongside each other to great visual effect. The typography is sophisticated and attractive, with a lovely restraint. The small diagonal lines connecting the blocks of type offer just enough flourish. It’s a layout that looks simple but really isn’t.

3. Best Use of Photography/Illustrations

Bronze: Florida Trend, Gary Bernloehr, Jason Morton

Judges like the strong covers, including “On Location” and “How Much Gambling?” Both are storytelling and executed well. The Florida Polytechnic University image is graphic and sized well to show off the design. Florida excels at photographic portraiture.

Silver: Hawaii Business, Jen Tadaki Catanzariti, Kristin Lipman, Mary Pigao

The entry includes a balanced mix of illustrations and photography and Strong visual storytelling and documentary work. Of note are “From Hawaii to Hawaii,” “Mission of Mercy” and “How Fish Get from the Sea

to your Plate,” all with telling moments and multiple photographs. “How to Lead” is a cohesive portrait series in which design and photos play off each other beautifully.

Gold: D CEO, Hamilton Hedrick

D CEO presents a strong mix of serious and light-hearted packages. They do a great job of conceptualizing and thoughtfully executing their visuals, particularly with the portraits. They nail the themes and carry them through the story, examples being “Rising Stars of Oil and Gas” and “White Knights with Calculators.” They counter the serious with humorous portraits of Suzy Batiz on the toilet and Younger Partners flying on a bike.

4. Best Overall Design

Bronze: Business North Carolina, staff

Stark cover designs give an air of gravitas and seriousness to the publication. Opening pages showcase some nice design work. Maps and graphics are used effectively throughout each issue, including the cover story about coal. Strong photo-driven story layouts in April and September add to the noteworthy visual range.

Silver: D CEO, Hamilton Hedrick

Covers project a clear sense of identity, which carries throughout the book. Clear visual hierarchy helps the reader know exactly what to look at. The design choices seem deliberate, with much attention paid to art direction and managing the content and aesthetics of the visual material. Portrait collections are especially well done, with thoughtful visual themes fitted to each story package. Small details are sophisticated as well, such as the attractive column heading illustrations.

Gold: Baton Rouge Business Report, Hoa Vu, Carolyn Blakley

Overall, readers of this publication are treated to an appealing variety of visual approaches; yet the design maintains a consistent feel throughout with clean typography, good opening pages, and clear navigation. Individual design elements are well tuned to work on non-glossy paper stock. Feature layouts are eye-catching, such as the “Uber Invasion” story. “Best Places to Work” feature was another standout.

5. Best Feature

Bronze: Florida Trend, “Publix vs. Walmart,” Mike Vogel

It’s a heavy-weight fight for the championship of Florida’s grocery market. In one corner, the defending state champ, Publix. In the other, the contender and national champion, Walmart. This is an important business story, relevant to business insiders and consumers, told in the appropriate boxing metaphor.

Silver: Hawaii Business, “Can Hawaii Feed Itself?” Dennis Hollier

The question is important, the answer an elaborate version of “That remains to be seen.” As the island’s agriculture shifts from dependence on sugar and pineapples to a broader base of locally sourced products, the economy and the ecology are strongly affected by the ways in which farmers large and small respond. With an anecdotal beginning and a solidly reported body, this is a feature with substance.

Gold: Baton Rouge Business Report, “We’re not ready,” David Jacobs

It’s rare that the collapse of a multi-billion-dollar development plan causes a collective sigh of relief rather than dismay. This explanatory feature details the many and serious ways in which a Louisiana Parish was unprepared to cope with the demands of a massive proposed oil and gas extraction project. From roads to workers, everything was in short supply and uncertain availability. This report can serve as both a reconstruction and an early warning.

6. Best Personality Profile

Bronze: Business North Carolina, “Broadening his band,” David Kinney, editor in chief; Chris Burritt, writer

This well-reported profile about media executive Jim Goodman explores the life and work of an important community figure. It succeeds because the writer doesn’t shy away from tough questions and includes an incredible amount of detail.

Silver: Virginia Business, “Turnaround CEO,” Jessica Sabbath

With strong anecdotes and entertaining writing, the profile of Christopher Nassetta reveals not only how the Hilton CEO works but also what he believes. The story succeeds in uncovering the human side of this corporate executive.

Gold: D CEO, “A calling to serve,” Christine Perez

This profile of CEO Jeff Blackard is an incredibly personal and amazingly detailed portrait of the Dallas real estate developer. With deep reporting and deft writing, the story goes well beneath the surface to reveal the personal values and business aspirations that make Blackard tick.

7. Best Body of Work, Single Writer

Bronze: Florida Trend, Mike Vogel

Vogel digs deeply into his subjects: for example, the largest bombing and gunnery range east of the Mississippi, the digital revolution in schools and grocery store wars, and digital divide in Florida’s schools. He builds the tension in his stories, enticing readers to keep reading and wondering: What’s going to happen next?

Silver: Georgia Trend, Susan Percy

Susan Percy, who writes authoritatively, provides her readers with context, scope and background vital to the understanding of her stories. She brings to life stories of Atlanta’s mayor with big goals, a successful organic farmer from Southwest Georgia, and a massive project to create what will be known as Atlanta’s Beltline.

Gold: Business North Carolina, Edward Martin

With literary flair infused with hard-nosed reportage, Martin consistently creates compelling business journalism for the audience of Business North Carolina. Whether writing about legislative threats to supporting the state’s film industry, coal hurting the environment and Duke Energy, erosion of the shoreline or the state’s poorest county, Martin buttresses his stories with compelling interviews that transcend quotes taken simply from “talking heads.”

NEWSPAPERS

8. Best Front Page

Bronze: NJBIZ, “The Interview issue,” Robert Russo,

The Interview issue— What a surprise! The photograph of a huge mic grabs readers’ attention immediately. This cover is simple and bold, not a whimpy cover. Typography doesn’t scream and serves its purpose as replicating the handwriting as if one were scribbling down notes. Red accent is nice. The row of faces (small portraits or head shots) offers a preview of what’s inside.

Silver: BizTimes Milwaukee, “Get on Board,” Shelly Tabor

The portrait on this cover was well-executed with dramatic studio lighting that emphasizes the woman among men. The red color was used both subtly and in a sophisticated manner to draw the eye around the page. Lots of restraint used with this cover so that it wasn’t overdone or hyperbolic.

Gold: Crain's Chicago Business, "Measuring the Mayor," Thomas Linden, Jason McGregor, Greg Hinz, Thomas Corfman

This cover sets a tone of seriousness with the dominant image. The staff picked the right photograph of the subject and then added the numbers in the background with the soft gray color to make the photo illustration. Reverse type is often difficult to read but not here; it's handled appropriately. All caps are used for emphasis and to create clean lines with the text and seven layers or levels of type on this first page. This is a complex package that reads with wonderful simplicity.

9. Best Feature Layout

Bronze: Des Moines Business, "CEO Personal Profiles After Work," Brianne Schechinger, Annika Peick, Adam Feller, Janette Larkin

This is an innovative story and equally innovative presentation. Readers must have enjoyed the photos of these businessmen doing their hobbies and the brilliant job your team did in packaging an excellent idea. You used white space well, which added to the consistent feel throughout each page. The space plays off the idea of these people getting away from the office and getting their own space. The consistent vision in the photographs also contributed to this idea.

Silver: Los Angeles Business Journal, "Counting it up," Robert Landry

The opening illustration clearly tells a story. The color palette is simple and makes the package easy to follow. This unity of design throughout the several pages makes consumption easy for the reader. The cover graphic and design nicely packages useful information. This information is presented in a way that provides context to the past 20 years. The graphic design and color use are consistent throughout. Nice touch running the TOC across the bottom of the first page.

Gold: Crain's Chicago Business, "The Millennials: Educated. Motivated. Screwed?" Thomas Linden, Jason McGregor, Steve Serio

The screw, the dark background, the excellent portraiture all help paint a dark picture. The design fit the topic so well. The design is cutting edge. The content is easy to scan and easy to read. The bullet points are a great addition for each person. The photography was excellent and couldn't have been done without the cohesive vision in the execution of the portraits. The photographer used great technique to keep the photography consistent. Nice use of shallow depth of field helps keep the theme. The lighting is used in a somewhat raw manner that gives the location some context but doesn't overwhelm.

10. Best Use of Photography/Illustration

Bronze: Crain's New York Business, Buck Ennis, Steve Krupinski, Carolyn McClain

Notable for its diversity, variety and consistency. The editors have a sense of humor (Turtle and Hare, Pawnshops, Dancing Calories Away, Mad World). The artists and photographers produce high quality images.

Silver: Los Angeles Business Journal, Robert Landry, Jose Morales, Sally Jones

The content is organized well, and many of the stories benefit from dominant visual display. Very nice images and solid display for the year-in-review package.

Gold: Crain's Chicago Business, Thomas Linden, Jason McGregor, Karen Freese

The editors exhibit personality, take risks and strive for bold statements. The book features excellent portraiture. The Vaccine Divide is reinforced by the split use of pictures. Overall the book features well-executed photography.

11a. Best Overall Design: Small Tabloids

Bronze: Charleston Regional Business Journal, Ryan Wilcox, Andrew Sprague, Jane Mattingly

A nice range of stories and content accompanied by a strong effort to incorporate interesting visuals provides an interesting reading experience. The cover centerpiece creates a magazine feel to an otherwise newsy format. Major stories inside benefit from strong visuals. The Upfront package on page two is a lively kickoff to each issue; the page provides a weekly surprise in content and format.

Silver: BizTimes Milwaukee, Shelly Tabor, Matt Cisz, Alex Schneider

The covers have impact and are inviting. Inside, the cover stories are generously presented with visuals and supplements. The packaging is clean and includes informative artwork. Editors exhibit a smart use of color and typography, as portrayed in the front-of-book Leading Edge and its Coffee Break and Political Beat, a strong table of contents, and a variety of pullouts and subheads throughout the issue.

Gold: San Fernando Valley Business Journal, Sally Jones, Laurence Darmiento

The pacing makes this an enjoyable read from cover to cover. The content and presentation moves along with a mix of quick reads and longer stories that encourages engagement and avoids monotony. The typography is fine tuned from top to bottom: evident in the care and consistency in spacing, use of efficient use of bold face in text and subheads, and attention to detail in the listings. The book is punctuated with a good ratio of visuals to text. Of particular note are the year in review in pictures, Retail Redux and the 2014 Timeline.

11b. Best Overall Design: Large Tabloids

Bronze: Crain's New York Business, Steve Krupinski, Carolyn McClain, Buck Ennis, Glenn Coleman, Jeremy Smerd

Crain's New York is the design reflection of the city it serves. It is vibrant, loud and sophisticated. It combines strong photography with wise use of color. It's covers have impact, especially those on the 40 Under 40 and fastest growing companies.

Silver: Los Angeles Business Journal, Sally Jones, Robert Landry, Jose Morales

Los Angeles combines excellent photography, especially in the portrait packages, with excellent typography and alternative story telling formats. They use of a variety of information graphics, which helps the visual display. Although the publication has a high element count, it is organized and clean.

Gold: Crain's Chicago Business, Thomas Linden, J McGregor, Karen Freese

Crain's Chicago hits on all cylinders—photography, typography, graphics and pacing. Design expertise is evident in special packages, such as The Millennials and 40 Under 40. Every issue offers multiple visual delights for readers.

12. Best Feature

Bronze: Los Angeles Business Journal, "Booze-Filled 7-Eleven Left Reeling," Alfred Lee

What could be a dull story about a building becomes a fascinating tale of city zoning ordinances gone awry. The writer deftly uses documents to trace the history of a store forced to sell alcohol even when the players involved would rather not.

Silver: Crain's New York Business, "The TransPerfect Storm," Glenn Coleman, Aaron Elstein

Superb storytelling engages the reader from start to finish. Carefully chosen excerpts from court documents show the hostility of the two major players while also highlighting the potential impact on a company's bottom line. This feature captures the human dramas that make business decisions more than just business.

Gold: Crain’s Chicago Business, “Back from the Brink,” Meribah Knight

Sometimes saving a company means making tough decisions that can prove devastating to local communities. The writer shows the complexity of the decision-making process and the human being behind those choices. The strong narrative provides a compelling behind-the-scenes look at the process and the impact.

13. Best Personality Profile

Bronze: Indianapolis Business Journal, “Role Player,” Anthony Schoettle, writer

The writer did a good job of focusing on the entire life of the subject and not just his job. The writer spent time talking not only to the subject, but the important people in his life, both personal and professional. The reader got a complete picture.

Silver: Los Angeles Business Journal, “Lynda and Stewart Resnick,” Tom Dotan, writer

Reporting and writing a profile is hard. Writing a profile on a couple is harder, but Tom Dotan introduced readers to a man and wife team. Readers get to know both people from the stories they tell and the comments of their admirers and critics. When you finish reading the story, you know them well.

Gold: NJBiz, “Pro Newark,” Joshua Burd, writer

Burd does a good job of showing the reader the caring nature of the subject. The anecdotes give a sense of why he believes it is important to invest in the inner city. In the end, the reader learns that it’s not just about monetary investment, but also time, effort and dedication to a cause.

14a. Best Print Scoop: Small Tabloids

Bronze: Charleston Regional Business Journal, “Integrating Medicine,” Ashley Barker Heffernan, reporter

An off-the-record tip got Heffernan digging until she was able to confirm on the record that a local group of physicians was going to create a 50-acre medical campus that would be an alternative to local health care options. This is a strong example of persistence and resulted in a complete package for readers.

Silver: Hartford Business Journal, “Hartford Healthcare Eyes Aggressive Capital Investments,” Greg Bordonaro, editor

Hospitals are notoriously tight-lipped about their expansion plans. So when Bordonaro learned that Hartford Healthcare was about to embark on a \$1.2 billion reshaping of its main facility in Hartford, he rushed it into print. Even the competition couldn’t match the story a day later. This is a great example of source development.

Gold: San Fernando Valley Business Journal, “Alfred Mann selling off valley-area business parks,” Elliot Golan, reporter

Billionaire Alfred Mann casts a long shadow over the San Fernando Valley. So when Golan learned that Mann was selling off two significant properties, he jumped on the story. He got the reluctant company to confirm the properties were on the market – months before the competition.

14b. Best Print Scoop: Large Tabloids

Bronze: Los Angeles Business Journal, “Will NFL Team Link to Carson?” Howard Fine, writer

Fine took a simple tip and with a lot of hustle and a dash of ingenuity broke the story that the NFL’s San Diego Chargers and Oakland Raiders were jointly pursuing a golf course property as the site of a new football stadium. He left the competition — no less than the Los Angeles Times — to chase him two months later as the teams prepared an official announcement.

Silver: Rochester Business Journal, “Excellus Payout Grows,” Will Astor, writer

Astor mined public tax records to discover and disclose that David Klein, the former CEO of Excellus BlueCross BlueShield and Genesee Region Homecare Association, stood to gain nearly \$30 million in post-

retirement benefits. Despite few answers and little cooperation from the non-profits, Mr. Astor was able to use documents to assemble a rock-solid report.

Gold: Crain's Chicago Business, "Poor Families Use Supervouchers," Alby Gallun, writer

Gallun blew the lid off a Chicago Housing Authority voucher program that put low-income residents in some of the swankiest apartments in the city, some with rents approaching \$3,000 per month. Gallun's reporting, which was careful not to demonize the poor, sparked a federal investigation and forced the housing authority to discontinue the practice. This is reporting that made a real difference.

15. Best Coverage of Local Breaking News

Bronze: Rochester Business Journal, "Rochester mourns loss of Glazers in crash," Will Astor, Andrea Deckert, Nate Dougherty, Thomas Adams

In-depth reporting measures the impact that a Rochester couple, killed in a plane crash, had on their city. The comprehensive package examines the couple's business and philanthropic activities. The reporters also tackle the question of what might happen to the couples' pending projects.

Silver: New Hampshire Business Review, "GTA Advanced Technologies bankruptcy," Bob Sanders

Great coverage of a how a local tech company that had tied its fortunes to Apple plunged into bankruptcy. The reporter often provided daily updates in this case, which was a challenge to cover because of the tech giant's attempts to keep documents secret.

Gold: Crain's Detroit Business, "Detroit Rink City," Staff

Impressive staff coverage of a proposal to replace an ice hockey arena and remake several downtown neighborhoods. The reporting goes deep into the project details and shows how the nearby neighborhoods could change. Strong use of interactives, including a video flyover, to help show the changes.

16. Best Body of Work, Single Reporter

Bronze: Indianapolis Business Journal, Kathleen McLaughlin, writer

The reporter has a great eye for a story. Her work could be published anywhere because its relevant beyond the business world. McLaughlin is keeping a focus on importance of transparency in government. Her stories are well written and complex issues are explained thoroughly. She finds stories that many might miss.

Silver: Los Angeles Business Journal, James Rufus Koren, writer

Koren is a reporter with many talents. Most importantly, he spots stories in unlikely places and crafts them with great ability. The body of work from the past year is like no other – unusual, captivating and compelling. Whether it's a billionaire for a moment or intrigue in the gambling world, Koren is keeping us informed and interested.

Gold: Crain's New York Business, Aaron Elstein, writer

Great story telling by a reporter who finds the perfect details. Elstein also excels at helping readers understand the larger points and paint a telling picture of those impacted. He also uses drama, as he did in the story of a corporate divorce, and enhances his storytelling by noticing and reporting unusual facts that put us in the moment of the narrative. Great writer with a wonderful eye for stories that impact many people and interest us all.

OPEN

17. Best By-lined Commentary

Bronze: Georgia Trend, "Sustainable Georgia. Surf's Up," Ben Young

“Surf’s Up” hones in on the potentially disastrous consequences of climate change and rising ocean levels. The column targets a local audience of coastal Georgia and provides specifics of how communities and their assets are at risk. With strong reporting, the writer boldly offers strategies for dealing with what's to come.

Silver: Indianapolis Business Journal, “Hoosier Bigotry Has Real Life Consequences,” Mickey Maurer

Mickey Maurer took on the politically hot topic of marriage equality. That’s the easy part. But Maurer personalized the issue by finding an example of the impact through someone who left Indiana. This column is a classic case of how showing can be stronger than simply telling.

Gold: Crain’s Detroit Business, “The Battle Against Blight in Pontiac Begins with One House,” Kirk Pinho

Personal in tone and vantage point, Kirk Pinho’s column details a critical news issue for not only the city of Pontiac but also the entire region of the so-called “Rust Belt.” He weaves his own story into the bigger story of urban blight and backs his viewpoint with evidence of statistics and solid reportage.

18. Best Editorial

Bronze: Vermont Business, “The \$4.5 Million Question,” Timothy McQuiston, editor

This editorial takes on a large, popular corporation by questioning whether its presence will be good for the community. This is not the usual stance of a business publication. It shows editorial leadership.

Silver: Charleston Regional Business Journal, “Why not just say how you voted,” Andy Owens, editor

This editorial points out the importance of transparency in government. It is important that the public not only knows the outcome of the vote, but also how each public official voted. This type of editorial is rare in a business publication.

Gold: Indianapolis Business Journal, “Public deserves full disclosure,” Ann Finch, editor

The writer makes a logical argument for transparency. Taxpayers should know whether they are getting a good deal and this publication demanded more details from city leaders. The editorial contains good examples on how the city can save money. The writing is excellent.

19. Best Recurring Feature

Bronze: Baton Rouge Business Report, “Entrepreneur,” Donna Perreault, Brian Baiamonte, Collin Richie

Find intriguing people, ask insightful questions and make careful selections, and the result is a crisply written feature that informs and entertains. These refreshing mini-profiles exude authenticity and capture the diverse voices of the community.

Silver: D CEO, “The Bottom Line,” Steve Kaskovich

This column provides cogent, authoritative analysis of the challenges facing key employers and industries in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The writer’s sourcing is impressive, and he does not shy away from taking on big names. Readers can trust him to ask questions that need answers.

Gold: Business North Carolina, “Picture This,” David Kinney, editor in chief, Chris Keane, photographer, Bryan Regan, photographer, Spencer Campbell, editor, Leah Hughes, writer

From the captivating photography to the equally engaging text, readers are invited to take a deep dive into a new world with each edition. “Picture This” vividly shines its spotlight on an unpredictable range of businesses.

20. Best Investigative Reporting

Bronze: Crain’s Chicago Business, “Judge sits on hospital board while her brother represents it in court,” Kristen Schorsch and Andrew Wang

These reporters uncovered a glaring but unreported conflict of interest in which a Cook County judge sat as a key member of a hospital board while her brother's law firm represented the board in front of her fellow judges. When the journalists had done what the judge should have done, she resigned from the board. This is investigative reporting with impact.

Silver: Business North Carolina, "Heart of Coal," David Kinney, editor in chief; Edward Martin, writer

The influence of the Duke Power Co. reached into the office of the governor, a long-time company executive. The coal ash left from decades of electricity generation reached into the air and the water supply of the governor's constituents. This investigation detailed both of those abuses with solid reporting and clear writing. Both environment and politics stand in need of clean-ups.

Gold: Baton Rouge Business Report, "Shifting Foundations," Stephanie Riegel

It's hard to imagine an institution closer to the hearts or deeper in the wallets of Louisianans than their state university. Those connections give relevance and power to this portrayal of the unstable and unsavory leadership of the nonprofit foundations charged with raising millions in gifts to underwrite the Tigers on and off the playing fields. The writing pulls no punches. Descriptive terms include "institutional arrogance" and "dysfunctional." The reporting supports the word choices.

21. Best Explanatory Journalism

Bronze: BizTimes Milwaukee, "Generational turning point for women to get on board," Erica Bruenlin

Kudos to the reporter for identifying a historic opportunity to get women onto the boards of more public companies in the state. The article helps shed light on how Wisconsin fits into national trends. Statistics help bolster the story, while experts help show why gender diversity is important.

Silver: Los Angeles Business Journal, "Pretzel supplier alleges twisted tale," Alfred Lee

This article provides a fascinating behind-the-scenes account of the cutthroat business practices of Trader Joe's. The story is deeply researched and the reporter uses lively writing to keep readers hooked. The plot twist at the end is an added treat.

Gold: Crain's Chicago Business, "Chicago 2.0," Ryan Ori, John Pletz

This package of stories and interactives smartly shows how tech firms are making their mark on the city's real estate market. One sidebar delves into the unique needs of startups. Nice use of a slideshow and map of properties to give readers more in-depth information.

22. Best Local Coverage of a National Business/Economic story

Bronze: Hawaii Business, "As the Nation Turns, Hawaii is Still Driven," Carlyn Tani, writer

This story had two news pegs for many readers. The first being that the use of private transportation is on the decline in America, and the second that more trucks and cars are on the roads in Hawaii. Told with compelling graphics, the story was told in a variety of segments that made the news useful and informative.

Silver: Business North Carolina, "Land's End," David Kinney, Editor in Chief; Edward Martin, writer

For more than a decade, there has been much publicity about climate change and its impact. But Business North Carolina gets beyond the politics and debate about the cause of the problem and shows readers – both graphically and in words – how the North Carolina coast is changing. The impact on a variety of businesses, from fishing to real estate, is astounding. Well sourced, clear and matter of fact.

Gold: Crain's New York Business, "Supersorm Sandy: Two Years Later," Joe Anuta, Thornton McEnery, Cara Trager, Erik Ipsen, Jeremy Smerd

What new could be reported about Super Storm Sandy? Crain's proved that follow up is as important as game day coverage. Extensive reporting uncovered a number of failures and painted a disappointing picture of

how local government had let citizens down during the recovery. Deep and impressive reporting told the narrative through numbers and people. This story was packed with information but none of it was overwhelming.

23. Best Headlines

Bronze: Virginia Business, Paula Squires

Headlines in Virginia Business excel at fitting the headline to match the tone of the story and letting readers know what to expect as well as drawing them into the article. For example, the entry offered up “Defense contractor plays offense” about efforts to Northrup Grumman seeking more contracts outside U.S. and “ Living the sky life ” about the appeal of high-rise apartments to varied demographic groups.

Silver: Central Penn Business Journal, staff

The strength of Central Penn Business Journal’s headlines is the overall packaging of content. They have done a great job of bringing the whole package together, giving readers a sense of the whole story. The layers work together and are not over-reaching -- photo, head, subhead and story dance together well.

Gold: Crain’s Detroit Business, Bob Allen, Gary Piatek

Crain’s Detroit Business’ headlines are smart and engage in strong word choice without falling off into over-the-top puns or clichés. All the judges confessed to laughing out loud when they read these two: “Ctrl ... Alt ... the D” and “An elephant and a donkey in need of horse sense.” And, we confessed to immediately starting to read the stories. So, the headlines did exactly what a good headline should do. They were intriguing with an appropriate tone and certainly brought the stories to the readers.

24. Best Special Section Design

Bronze: Baton Rouge Business Report, “Best Places to work,” Hoa Vu

The section uses playful photos of the “Best places” employees – a fun touch illustrating why they won. The graphics are open, crisply designed with an inviting color palette. “15 Cool Perks” flows with imaginative design and organization. And, employers in the Baton Rouge region are sure to frequently consult the “All Work and Play” section in an effort to clean up their acts.

Silver: Los Angeles Business Journal, “Wealthiest Angelinos,” Robert Landry

It’s not easy to find fresh imaginative ways to design a running topic from year to year. But, Los Angeles Business Journal found a way on the 20th anniversary of their “Wealthiest Angelinos” a fresh look. The splash page shows imagination and creativity; the Cumulative Wealth graphic quickly drew the judges into the package. The color continuity made it easy to follow the section and to easily move from one feature to the next.

Gold: Crain’s Chicago Business, “What comes first?” Thomas Linden, Jason McGregor, Karen Freese

“Best cover ever” was the unanimous opinion of the cover. That’s not all that grabbed our attention. The Kickstarter poster is a masterpiece, too. While those are the highlights, Crain’s Chicago’s overall sensibility in designing this package is remarkable. The inside splash page is as strong as the section cover, it’s organized coherently from start to finish, the graphics swell with information, and the color palette invites readers into the section and asks them to stay.

25. Best Ancillary Publication

Bronze: D CEO, “D Real Estate Annual,” Christine Perez

This annual look at Dallas real estate uses diverse storytelling formats and styles to paint a complete picture of a market. Long stories, short stories, graphic stories, photo stories and listings work together in a beautifully crafted package. The design is sophisticated and clean, and the book is immensely useful to readers.

Silver: Crain’s New York Business, “Crain’s 5Boros,” Editorial staff

What a breath of fresh air! 5Boros makes business personal and fun and makes readers want to more fully

explore their surroundings. Written with a consumer in mind, it provides a blueprint for a more diverse, vibrant city dwelling life. The vision is well conceived, and the execution is spot on.

Gold: Crain's Detroit Business, "Detroit 2.0," Amy Haimerl

The publication takes a broad and deep look at the evolution of a city. The diversity of the perspectives shared and of the storytelling formats makes it a lively, interesting read. The staff went beyond the typical voices of people in power to introduce readers to myriad forces at work for good in the community. From a pullout guide to more in-depth profiles, readers gain a better understanding of their surroundings. The design offers clear navigation and smart color and organizational choices.

ONLINE

26. Best Scoop

Bronze: D CEO, "7-Eleven eyeing move to the suburbs," Christine Perez

You have to love scoops where the mass-circulation daily with a great reputation for breaking news credits you for breaking the story. Perez's scoop on 7-Eleven's choice of headquarters – written from the Starbucks across the street from the new headquarters – was just that good. The story included telling details and great context.

Silver: Crain's New York Business, "Penn Station landlord tells fast-food joints to go," Lisa Fickenscher

A detailed story of high relevance to Crain's New York's commuting readers. Good critical comments from third-party interests, such as Amtrak's local planning chief, made the piece sing. This piece received the most hits of any story on the Crain's New York website in 2014, with a fifth of that coming as referral traffic from local websites – a sign of a scoop that has impact and resonates with the audience.

Gold: Indianapolis Business Journal, "IU Health consolidation would cut 3 downtown hospitals to 2," J.K. Wall

In-your-face reporting. Wall's story hits all the criteria for what makes a real scoop: confirming a tip, reporting and writing a powerful, well-sourced and comprehensive piece that is full of context. The reporting was insightful, the writing clear, the competitors on the story clearly followers. Delicious.

27. Best Staff-Generated Blog

Bronze: Crain's Cleveland Business, "SportsBiz," Kevin Kleps, writer

Kleps brings a conversational tone and impressive insight to this smart blog about the business of professional sports in Cleveland. His consistent work on the beat allows him to write with expertise in a city where there's certainly no shortage of sports news.

Silver: Indianapolis Business Journal, "The Dose," J.K. Wall, writer

Mr. Wall tackles the difficult topic of health-care reform in a blog that takes advantage of the bells-and-whistles available with an online platform. Multimedia makes the blog interactive, and helpful hyperlinks let readers go deeper if they're so inclined. The comments Wall receives are proof that his work resonates with his audience.

Gold: Crain's Detroit Business, "Amy Haimerl blog," Amy Haimerl, writer

Haimerl combines her work on the city and business beats in Detroit to produce a compelling blog that holds officials accountable and monitors the effects of city policies. Thorough reporting and a distinct writing voice give the blog an air of authority and unquestioned credibility.

28. Best Use of Multimedia

Bronze: Crain's Chicago Business, "40 under 40," Steve Serio, Jason McGregor, Christine Balch, Jeff Hartvigsen

This perennial feature is made special this year by its use of the artist's background for the portraits, the excellent video profiles with strong lighting, the time lapse of the artist creating the art piece, the behind the scenes and the look back at past winners and where they are now.

Silver: Crain's New York Business, "City changing," Ken Christensen, Erik Engquist, Amanda Fung, Nicholas Wells

Crain's New York let their videos tell a human story. The viewer sees more than just numbers. The baby appearing from the bottom of the frame of the first video set the tone, which continues with the housekeeper's story. The stats in both the videos and the data charts are made interesting. This piece puts real faces on a pile of numbers.

Gold: Crain's Detroit Business, "Detroit Rink City," Nancy Hanus, Jennette Smith, Kristin Bull, Norman Witte, David Hall

A big story told well. This project was an example of detailed reporting that uses multimedia in a way that fully engages its viewer. A high-interest story told using video, data, maps, timelines and text. Each stands alone to tell their story and allows the viewer to see and understand the full impact on their community. This is online journalism created to be consumed online, and it was done in just 72 hours!

29. Best Daily E-mail

Bronze: Business News, "Afternoon Wrap," Elton Swarts, Charlie Gunningham

A clear and concise writing style coupled with a clean design and effective use of photos deliver on a promise to provide subscribers with a complete snapshot of the day's business news.

Silver: Indianapolis Business Journal, "Eight @ 8," Mason King

This newsletter features a masterful mix of national and international news with local ties woven throughout. King's sense of humor shines in this daily news digest.

Gold: Florida Trend, "Florida Pulse," Andy Corty, Mark Howard, Will Gorham, Joyce Edmondson

When this newsletter hits your inbox, you'll *know* you're reading Florida Trend. It looks, feels and reads just like the main site – right down to the "Who said it" teaser. The headlines, story summaries and interactive features create an engaging experience for the subscriber.

30. Best Specialty E-Newsletter

Bronze: Hartford Business Journal, "CT Green Guide Weekly," Brad Kane

Hartford produces an interesting newsletter serving a growing business niche. Headlines are scannable, and readouts provide enough content to tease reader to go to website. Quick stats and a fact box that come with the newsletter help readers to find information without leaving their email.

Silver: D CEO, "D Healthcare Daily," Matt Goodman

Great blend of features and news stories that does a good job of offering promos for other D CEO content. Good mix of news about medicine and news about the medical business. Has a strong focus on a specific audience and is written with authority.

Gold: Des Moines Business Record, "Lift IOWA," Chris Conetzkey, Megan VerHelst, Anne Carothers-Kay, Annika Peick, Adam Feller

An excellent concept that not only provides news, but also provides a sense of community to its target audience. The newsletter works to connect women in business through news, but also social and networking events. It's great to see so many pictures of female business leaders in one spot.

BEST OF SHOW

31. Most Improved Publication

Winner: Greater Baton Rouge Business Report, Hoa Vu, art director

The Greater Baton Rouge Business Report has long been an attractive publication, but a recent renovation has taken it to a new level. In addition to reducing the overall size to more manageable dimensions, the updated version has streamlined its cover, simplified the design on inside pages, modernized page headers and incorporated more dramatic visuals. Judges commented on the bolder use of explanatory graphics, as well as better developed packages. One case in point is a piece on the struggling dairy industry, which is covered from a number of angles and is effectively enhanced with charts and photographs. From front to back, the magazine has made substantial improvements with the reader in mind.

32. Best Website

Bronze: Crain's New York Business

This website looks and feels like a website, instead of a print publication repurposed online. Judges took notice of the clean mobile design and wealth of web-native content – searchable databases, interactive maps and podcasts.

Silver: Crain's Chicago Business

With more than 90 percent of content never appearing in print, this is an online hub for breaking news and features for the busy professional. Reporting is deep and varied – with stories on everything from industry to science, from arts and culture to sports. Its responsive design makes it perfect for viewing on mobile during long Chicago commutes.

Gold: Crain's Detroit Business

Almost everything about Crain's Detroit Business shows the staff is focused on being web first. The site's responsive design makes the transition from desktop to mobile nearly seamless to the user. In-depth reporting seen in "Detroit Rink City" demonstrates a commitment to creating engaging, meaningful web content. The "American Dreamers" section reflects the diversity and personal side of Detroit's business community.

33. Best Magazine

Bronze: dbusiness, R.J. King, John Schultz, James Slate, Austin Phillips

From the well-designed and varied covers to the strong "Closing Bell" column, dbusiness is the complete package. Department stories are varied, and features are important and well written. The magazine exhibits an excellent sense of place and local Detroit pride, and succeeds in delivering a wealth of content for its readers.

Silver: Business North Carolina, staff

High-quality reporting, a clean and easy-to-consume design, and exceptional feature writing make Business North Carolina a magazine worthy of recognition. The magazine tackles a great range of topics that are important and impactful to its readers, and uses a variety of story-telling approaches to convey that content.

Gold: D CEO, Glenn Hunter, Christine Perez, Hilary Lau, Matt Goodman, Hamilton Hedrick

This is a magazine with a distinct personality and a sophisticated design. It is clear that D CEO knows its audience and it serves that audience with well-edited columns, targeted stories, and a visually stimulating approach to content. Feature stories and departments alike show a dedication to variety and quality.

34a: Best Newspaper: Small Tabloids

Bronze: Worcester Business Journal, Rick Sala, editor; Emily Micucci, Sam Bonacci, Roger Magnus, Heidi Martin

The Worcester Business Journal is a strong, consistent publication that delivers a broad range of financial, real estate, health care, technology and service sector information to its readership. The Journal is well-organized and well-written with unfussy design appropriate to the content. Breakout features, such as a story on craft breweries, rely on solid reporting and analysis to keep the audience abreast of trends. Considerable attention is paid to business leaders and innovators, reflecting its commitment to keeping the community well informed.

Silver: San Fernando Valley Business Journal, Laurence Darmiento and staff

San Fernando Valley offers a satisfying mix of content across a range of topics that reflect its constituency. It takes a smart approach to topics such as biotech, property development, aerospace, manufacturing, health care and transportation to suit the interests of its audience. The features can often have a lighter touch, as well, with a tone that matches the personalities and interests in Southern California.

Gold: Daily Herald Business Ledger, Kim Mikus, Rich Klicki, Tim Broderick, Rick Kirby

The judges were especially impressed with the extensive coverage the Daily Herald Business Ledger provides for the many suburban areas within the greater Chicago area. Despite the considerable geography, the publication keeps a close watch on each of the zones with news and news features, profiles, analysis and commentary. In addition, common issues are identified and addressed; one notable example is “The future of Internet taxes on Illinois companies.” The Business Ledger also celebrates successes and finds subjects whose achievements are often hard-won. The publication clearly makes wise use of its resources and is an asset to its readers.

34b. Best Newspaper: Large Tabloids

Bronze: Providence Business News, Mark Murphy.

This publication has a strong sense of place and knows its audience. It takes advantage of the sections to allow for strong inside design, not just on the front cover. There’s a high information per inch ratio, without being boring or overwhelming. This is a publication that packs a great deal of news into a small amount of space for its readers.

Silver: Crain’s New York, editorial staff.

With a particularly good focus on Wall Street and capital markets, even above and beyond what you would expect from a publication based in New York, Crain’s makes what could be dry business stories interesting and personal. Almost every issue submitted is strong with broad coverage, authoritative columnists and strong visuals with crisp design.

Gold: Crain’s Chicago Business, Staff

This publication grabs readers’ attention with compelling covers and then draws them inside. This year’s entries were showstoppers — the millennial package was stellar, as was “Agents of Change.” The front of the book section is strong with briefs from a variety of news sources. The typography and colors used enhance reader navigation and understanding of the content. The writing is authoritative, well edited and packed with can’t-miss business coverage.

AABP 2015 Editorial Excellence Awards

All from the Missouri School of Journalism

Jeanne Abbott is a managing editor of the Columbia Missourian. She came to the Missourian from the Des Moines Register, where she was assistant managing editor for features. Before that, she was on the features copy desk at the Sacramento Bee. Her first job was at the Anchorage Daily News in Alaska, working in news and features.

Jackie Bell joined the Photojournalism faculty in January 2001 after two years of teaching at the University of Montana. She has 15 years of experience as a staff photographer at The Tennessean, The Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel and The Arizona Daily Star.

Greg Bowers has won numerous awards on both the national and state levels for his feature writing, column writing and editing. He was sports editor of The York Dispatch/York Sunday News in York, Penn. and also taught at York College of Pennsylvania. He has an M.A. in English from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash. and a B.A. in English from Catawba College in Salisbury, N.C.

David Herzog is an assistant professor at the Missouri School of Journalism, where he teaches computer-assisted reporting. Before joining the faculty in January 2002, he was an investigative reporter for the Providence Journal in Rhode Island and, before that, the editor for computer-assisted reporting at The Morning Call in Allentown, Pa.

Beverly Horvit worked for several Texas newspapers, including The Houston Post, before earning her master's and doctoral degrees from the Missouri School of Journalism, where she was a faculty news editor at the Columbia Missourian. Her research on international news coverage and foreign policy has been published in Newspaper Research Journal, International Communication Gazette and the International Journal of Press/Politics.

Berkley Hudson has taught in the magazine sequence of the Missouri School of Journalism since 2003. He earned his doctorate at the University of North Carolina. For twenty-five years, including at the *Los Angeles Times*, he worked as a newspaper and magazine journalist.

Laura Johnston is a dayside copy editor at the Columbia Missourian. She is a graduate of the University of Missouri and has worked as a reporter, copy editor and features editor for a daily newspaper.

George Kennedy came to the School of Journalism from the Miami Herald. He has served as managing editor of the Columbia Missourian and associate dean of the School. He is the co-author of three journalism textbooks and is a frequent judge of several national contests, including the Investigative Reporters and Editors competition.

Brian Kratzer is director of photography for the Columbia Missourian. He has 18 years of professional experience as a photographer, photo editor and newsroom manager at The Columbia Tribune, the Moscow-Pullman Daily News and the Gainesville Sun.

Heather Lamb is an assistant professor with 17 years of professional writing, editing and management experience at national magazines as well as regional newspapers. She works with students on Vox Magazine, VoxMagazine.com and all its digital and mobile extensions. Previously, Lamb was the executive editor of the Reader's Digest Home & Garden magazine group, overseeing editorial direction and growth for five national consumer magazines with a combined circulation of more than 5 million. She also was executive editor of Fresh Home magazine from 2009-11, and editor of Birds & Blooms, the nation's largest birding and gardening magazine, from 2004-09.

Joy Mayer is the design editor for the *Columbia Missourian*. She oversees designers for news, sports and features sections, in both print and digital formats. Before joining the *Missourian* staff in 2003, Joy was a designer, section editor and copy editor for the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* and the *Wichita Eagle*.

Daryl Moen, professor, is the former editor of three daily newspapers. He is author or co-author of four books on design and writing and conducts seminars and consults with publications internationally. He coordinates the AABP contest judging.

Earnest L. Perry is an associate professor at the Missouri School of Journalism. A veteran reporter and editor, he teaches cross cultural journalism and journalism history.

Steve Rice has a video, still photography and design background. He was a staff photographer at the *Los Angeles Times*, the assistant managing editor/visuals at the *The Miami Herald* and a videographer and manager at the *Star Tribune* in Minneapolis. He joined the University of Missouri in 2010 where he designed the "Fundamentals of Multimedia" class that is required for all journalism students.

Jennifer Rowe, an associate professor, teaches magazine classes including editing, design and writing. She is also Editorial Director of *Vox*, an award-winning weekly city magazine that appears in the *Columbia Missourian*. She is a contributing editor for *Italian Cooking and Living* magazine as well as the *Magazine of Cucina Italiana*. Recent freelance writing projects have appeared in *Elle*, *Real Simple* and *Missouri Life* magazines.

Amy Simons joined the convergence journalism faculty in August 2010. Previously she worked as the digital news editor for the *Chicago Tribune*, where she helped develop and execute the editorial programming strategy for *chicagotribune.com*. While at the *Tribune*, Simons worked closely with the newsrooms of WGN-TV, CLTV News and WGN-AM to coordinate the coverage of daily and planned news events. Before joining the *Chicago Tribune*, she spent seven years at CLTV News, the *Tribune's* 24-hour news channel covering Chicago and the suburbs

Judd Slivka is an assistant professor of convergence journalism at the Missouri School of Journalism. He has worked as a reporter at the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* and *The Arizona Republic*. His work has appeared in *Slate*, *ESPN: The Magazine*, *The American Spectator* and the *Los Angeles Times*. Slivka has served as the lead legal investigator in police brutality cases against "America's Toughest Sheriff," and served as principal investigator in a number of multi-million dollar civil lawsuits.

Randall Smith joined the Missouri School of Journalism in August 2009 as the first Donald W. Reynolds Endowed Chair in Business Journalism. His 30-year career at *The Kansas City Star* began in 1979, and he has worked on both the news and business sides. Smith is a former president of the Society of American Business Writers and Editors and a recipient of the organization's Distinguished Achievement Award.

Brian Steffens, the former Senior Vice President and Editor of the Editor & Publisher Co., is Executive Director of the National Newspaper Association and Adjunct Associate Professor at the Missouri School of Journalism. He has also been Editor of *Quill* magazine and held newsroom leadership positions at several newspapers including the *Los Angeles Times*, *San Diego Union*, *Orange County Register*, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *Miami Herald* and *Detroit News*.

Martha Steffens is the SABEW-endowed Missouri chair in business and economic reporting. She came to Missouri after a 30-year career in newspapers, including executive editor of the *San Francisco Examiner*, and earlier the *Press & Sun Bulletin* in Binghamton, N.Y. She held other editing and reporting roles at the *Minneapolis Star*, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *Orange County Register*, *Dayton Daily News* and *Evansville (Ind.) Courier*. She is a frequent trainer and consultant on writing and management issues.

Reuben Stern was the design editor for the Los Angeles Daily News before joining the University of Missouri in 2002. He has worked as a designer, editor and graphic artist at several newspapers over the past 10 years and has overseen a number of newspaper redesign projects. He teaches multi-media story telling in the convergence sequence.

Scott Swafford joined the faculty 2003 as an assistant professor and a city editor at the Columbia Missourian. He has 20 years of experience reporting and editing at various Missouri newspapers.

Margaret Walter, an assistant professor, is news editor at the Columbia Missourian. Previously, she had been features editor at the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram and Sunday editor at The Telegraph/The Sunday Telegraph in Nashua, N.H. as well as a reporter at daily newspapers and editor of weekly newspapers in Indiana.

Rob Weir oversees technology at the Columbia Missourian. Previously, he was assistant features editor and a copy editor at the Star-News in Wilmington, N.C. and a city editor at the Missourian.