



June 21, 2014

For Immediate Release

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310/364-0193

**THE ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES 2014 EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE
AWARD WINNERS FOR LEADING BUSINESS PUBLICATIONS**

LOS ANGELES—The Alliance of Area Business Publishers presented 108 Editorial Excellence awards to newspaper and magazine business periodicals June 21, 2014, the climax of its three-day annual Summer Conference in Baltimore, MD.

Participation – and competition – was up this year. There were 659 entries from 43 publications in the competition. That number is up from 573 entries in 2013, 657 in 2012, and 487 in 2011. Divisions include Magazines, Newspapers, Open, Online and Best of Show. Gold, silver and bronze awards were presented in most categories.

“The most popular categories this year were Best Explanatory Journalism in the Open division, with 48 entries, and Best Feature in the Newspaper division, with 45 entries,” noted contest coordinator Prof. Daryl Moen of the University of Missouri School of Journalism. “There were 70 entries in the Online division, 221 in the Newspaper division, and 87 in the Magazine division.”

The annual competition recognizes excellence in journalism, photography and design achieved by regional business publications. Twenty-seven 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 **San Fernando Valley Business Journal**, and Best Newspaper: Large Tabloids to **Los Angeles Business Journal**. Best Cover, Magazines to **Business North Carolina**, and Best Front Page/Section Cover, Newspapers to **Baton Rouge Business Report**. Most Improved Publication is **Columbus CEO**. Best Ancillary Publication went to **Hawaii Business**. Best Website to **Crain’s New York 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 Chicago Business**. Best Daily E-Mail went to **Florida Trend**, and Best Specialty e-Newsletter to **Crain’s Cleveland Business**.

“With the increasing number of entries, the quality of the pool is deeper, and the competition is tougher,” Prof. Moen noted. At 659, this is the largest number of entries AABP has had since 717 in 2008.

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 310/364-0193 or visit www.bizpubs.org.

AABP 2014 Editorial Excellence Awards

Judged spring 2014

MAGAZINES

1 Best Cover

Bronze: Twin Cities Business, “Collision Course,” Chris Winn, Bret Ryan

The Twin Cities Business’ cover features words and images that work in lockstep. The computer manipulation of the image reflects the impending collision and brings the focal point to the works that explain and sell the story.

Silver: DBusiness, “Can Detroit Be Saved?” R.J. King, John Schultz, Jessica Decker, Martin Vecchio

With a difficult subject to illustrate, the designers at DBusiness came up with a film noir approach. The angle of the photography and the ominous color in the sky communicate trouble. The type is placed where it works with the photo. Other elements teased on the page are appropriately sized and placed.

Gold: Business North Carolina, “Always Low Wages,” David Kinney, Merissa Jones

BNC took Wal-Mart’s slogan and happy-face visuals and turned it on its head to create a humorous cover with an edge. The title focuses the magazine’s angle on the impact of low wages on the economy.

2 Best Feature Layout

Bronze: Florida Trend, “Golden Spoon Awards,” Gary Bernloehr, Jason Morton

A wonderful opening portrait beckons readers into this well-designed collection of listings. There is a good mix of large, small and in-between elements, organized in a way that grabs attention, holds it and keeps readers moving through the content. Nice unity in the color palette throughout, including the photographs.

Silver: Twin Cities Business, “The Little Railroad That Won’t,” Adam Platt, Eliesa Johnson

From the attention-grabbing main headline and layout to the final pull-quote, this feature uses all the visual tools available to engage the reader: documentary photos, graphics, sidebars and other display typography all work in tandem. A single highlight color and continuous graphic treatment across the bottom of the pages tie the layout together.

Gold: DBusiness, “Powered by Women,” R.J. King, John Schultz, Jessica Decker, Roy Ritchie, Stephanie Potts

The series of boldly lit portraits provides a sophisticated visual style not seen very often, and each image communicates the theme of “powerful women.” The photos are blended with interesting typography that carries a consistent feel across a dozen pages. Rarely are features of this type done so well.

3 Best Use of Photography/Illustrations

Bronze: Columbus CEO, Staff

Wonderful infographics that are presented understandably to give a sense of style to this entry. The “Haunting FX” page shows movement and blends illustration and information, while the “Holiday Spending” page is a home run. The photographic strength is found in the cohesive, nicely composed architectural interiors.

Silver: Florida Trend, Gary Bernloehr; Jason Morton

Florida Trend does a great job of mixing illustrations, portraits and photographic illustrations. However, their strength is their portraiture. “A-Lotto Money” surprises viewers with the juggling lotto balls, and the Jerry Uelsmann portrait perfectly portrays his spirit. The knockout photograph is the complicated group portrait for “Florida’s Best Companies.”

Gold: D CEO, Hamilton Hedrick

D CEO stands out because of its superb illustrations and photographs and its sophisticated display of the images. “Reel World” draws in viewers with a clever and humorous mix of animation and reality. “A Passage to India” uses three beautifully composed and interesting images. Page after page, D CEO produces visual stunning photographs and illustrations.

4 Best Overall Design

Bronze: Twin Cities Business; staff

A variety of design approaches appear throughout this publication, giving the reader many beautiful surprises. Bold and well-designed feature pages, such as the “Sport Radio Grand Slam” and “Sweet Land” layouts, showcase creative typography and effectively draw readers into the stories. “Battle Tested” layout is also strong, with good visuals on the cover and inside.

Silver: DBusiness; R.J. King, John Schultz, Jessica Decker, Megan Dekok

High quality photos, illustrations and infographics all feature prominently throughout the pages of this magazine. Overall the design is clear, consistent and contemporary. Good creativity is displayed in the range of approaches to cover visuals. The success continues across strong feature layouts like “Powered by Women,” “Can Detroit be Saved” and “The State of Beer.”

Gold: D CEO; Hamilton Hedrick

A restrained approach allows the design to be driven by the content without extraneous decoration. There is a clear effort to make the numerous portraits interesting and beautiful, for example “The Grocer’s Son,” “Back to the Future” and “Language of Business” layouts. A good mix of image sizes across the pages creates an appealing visual texture throughout. Typographic choices are elegant and appropriate to the subject matter and overall tone. The sophistication is carried consistently from front to back.

5 Best Feature

Bronze: D CEO, “J.C. Penny,” Joe Guinto, Glenn Hunter

This is a deeper look at the very public problems facing J.C. Penny, one of the country’s biggest retailers. It’s a story that, as it turns out, hasn’t been told in this much detail before. There are discoveries and there is blame enough to spread around.

Silver: Florida Trend, “La Florida,” Lilly Rockwell, Mike Vogel; Mark Howard, editor

This is an exhaustively reported look at Florida’s Hispanic population and culture. The piece works because the writers found real people who represent the various aspects of the demographic and the history of the state of Florida. Like most good stories, the reader learns a lot but the information seems effortless because of great storytelling.

Gold: Hawaii Business, “Twins,” Dennis Hollier

Hawaii Business took a potentially dry subject and made it interesting and easy to read. And there’s a lot to learn in the story of two banks that avoided the booby traps that caught many banks in the economic upheaval. The story is clear, interesting and most importantly, well reported.

6 Best Personality Profile

Bronze: Georgia Trend, “Robert Jepson, Visionary,” Jerry Grillo, Neely Young, Ben Young

This is some sassy writing. The writer has a distinctive, accessible style that feels like the guy next to you at a bar telling you a story. There are some masterful turns of phrase in a story about a profile subject who is clearly a pillar of the community. The writer spent some time beyond a simple interview with Robert Jepson and did an excellent job of painting a multifaceted portrait of an interesting man. And he did it in a way that was distinctive in style, form and tone.

Silver: Florida Trend, “Carol Craig,” Mike Vogel

A well-written profile give the reader the sense of going on a journey with the subject. This piece has that feel. Through good reporting and some salient observations, Vogel conveys not just who Carol Craig is but how she got to be that person. The piece was full of anecdotes that speak to who a person is. It still had the requisite “business stuff,” but it really was about Carol Craig first and Craig Technologies second.

Gold: D CEO, “The Reluctant Entrepreneur,” Christine Perez

A profile that goes beyond Craig Hall’s strong handshake and resume. Christine Perez wrote a story with incredible pacing; the use of scenes and of moments within the piece moved the story from point to point. Insightful details like Hall’s Green River soda business give a real feel on who Hall is and how he operates. And there were enough details that it felt like nothing was left out. Perez wrote a complete profile.

7 Best Body of Work, Single Writer

Bronze: Georgia Trend, Jerry Grillo, writer.

Grillo’s writing is well-informed by his reporting. There are inside-outside nuances captured in his stories. Most of all, he writes a compelling narrative out of topic that could’ve been a dry, talking-heads dispatch

Silver: Twin Cities Business, Adam Platt, writer.

Platt’s story of Andrew Zimmern was an exhaustive tour of the chef’s empire. It really gave the occasional viewer of the show a behind-the-scenes look at how a cable television show has grown into a diversified business.

Gold: Business North Carolina, Edward Martin, writer.

Martin’s stories are fine examples of how to humanize business stories without losing sight of the numbers. The writing has many lovely turns of phrase that keeps the reader engaged to the very end.

NEWSPAPERS

8 Best Front Page/Section Cover

Bronze: NJBIZ, Robert Russo, Tom Bergeron

In “Game of Drones,” NJBIZ took a difficult concept to visualize — drones — and executed an illustration that is not only concept-driven by creating a connection between the drone and agriculture, but also gives the reader an emotional reaction to the possible presence of drones.

Silver: Crain’s Chicago Business, Thomas J. Linden, Jason McGregor, Karen Freese

In “Trending,” Crain’s Chicago Business created a visual centerpiece that immediately grabs readers’ attention. The graphic photo of the Chicago skyline integrated with type gives the design a poster-like feel. The attention to detail is also notable, especially in the gradient effect used in the headline type.

Gold: Baton Rouge Business Report, Hoa Vu

The Baton Rouge Business Report’s cover, “Bright Ideas, Big Shock” is simple but smart. What moves this from cliché to original is the execution of making the shape of the light bulb into a human head. The electric shock in the bulb gives it some excitement and works perfectly with the title.

9 Best Feature Layout

Bronze: Los Angeles Business Journal, “Wealthiest Angelenos—Riches Under the Radar,” Robert Landry

This special report on the wealthiest residents of Los Angeles uses several well-executed storytelling methods to help form a more complete picture of residents who fly under the radar. The Business Journal uses part of this section to uncover those who attempt to keep a low profile. The illustration and page layout, “Riches

under the radar” drives this point home with good design and warm tones. The designer sized photos for impact. Sharp attention to the info graphics allows you to tell the story of the people and their money in many different ways.

Silver: Baton Rouge Business Report, “The Tech Pioneers,” Hoa Vu

The Tech Pioneers topic is a good idea. The layout of the opening spread features an energetic color palette full of icons the reader will soon understand. The series of profile portraits are fun, light, and well-lit. Clearly the subjects had a notion to have fun so the vision for the section could shine through.

Gold: Crain’s Chicago Business, “Market Intel,” Jason McGregor

This is an information graphics tour de force. Readers can scan or they can dig deeply into the multi-layered graphics. Several different graphic formats are matched with different data sets so readers can understand them. The black background allows the eye to focus on the interior content. The pages have a consistent foundation—a dominant element with three smaller graphics below. The format, the content and the organization combine to make this a winner.

10 Best Use of Photography/Illustrations

Bronze: NJBIZ, Robert Russo

NJBIZ delivers some of the better illustration in this category. “Thought Crime” is powerful in its simplicity, introducing a bit of whimsy that communicates clearly and quickly. “Spotlight: Corporate Incentives” is another creative, inventive example. There is variety in approach demonstrated in “Taking Special Interest” and the various photo illustrations. Photography and illustration both excel in their execution

Silver: Crain’s New York Business, Steve Krupinski, Carolyn McClain, Buck Ennis

Consistency in excellence of execution is the hallmark of this entry. Ideas and concepts behind the images, composition and lighting all work to deliver impact and engage readers. There’s no standard environmental portrait repeated with different backdrops, no repetitive illustration style. It’s evident the illustrators, photographers, art directors and editors strive to keep it fresh. As befits a major media market, the variety and quality are evident in “Cuomo’s Casino Flip,” “Fight Club ...,” “Moving to the music,” “All they want to do is dance” and especially “2 wild and crazy guys?”

Gold: Crain’s Chicago Business, Thomas J. Linden, Jason McGregor, Karen Freese

It was totally refreshing and impressive to see documentary photography, unencumbered by encroaching type and headlines, illustrate a story with power, compassion and technical excellence. The package is a terrific example of using all the tools at their disposal – photography, timeline, maps, charts, video and galleries. This is one of the better examples of business storytelling in human terms.

11A Best Overall Design: Small Tabloids

Bronze: Des Moines Business Record, Brianna Blake, Adam Feller, Chris Conetzkey, Annika Peick

This publication has contemporary typography and clean, modern templates. With solid, quick department pages and more breathing room for features, readers are offered a well-paced experience. Good use of white space and typographic accents keep readers turning the page. Very nice presentation of the Reader Survey material in the June 21 issue.

Silver: Worcester Business Journal, Mitchell Hayes, Kira Beaudoin

This is a very solid execution of a traditional business journal format. The variety in the covers show real thoughtfulness for big stories without overdoing the design. A commitment to creativity in story formats is displayed in the strong use of infographics throughout. The whole publication makes use of good typographic hierarchy.

Gold: MaineBiz, Jan Holder, Matt Selva, Carol Coultas, Donna Brassard

This is such a contemporary, inviting, professional publication. There's a unique visual identity and a consistent look from cover to cover. Nearly every page demonstrates clear hierarchy of elements, and color is used to effectively guide readers, not just decorate. The strong portraiture also stands out from other entries, with good variety in style and content of the photographs.

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 Business displays a consistent visual energy throughout the publication. The covers have variety and engages the reader. Designers weren't afraid to take risks with layout and with the selection and treatment of visual elements.

Silver: Crain's Chicago Business, Thomas J. Linden, Jason McGregor, Karen Freese

Crain's Chicago Business surprises the readers with examples of stellar feature designs. They present a number of creative approaches to visualizing stories throughout the publication. It was obvious that a lot of thought was put into the design. When at its best, it soared higher than other similar publications.

Gold: Baton Rouge Business Report, Hoa Vu

The Baton Rouge Business Report clearly keeps the reader in mind. A modern look combined with consistent design gives it a clean and sophisticated feel. Stories are presented in a way that facilitates consumption of information. There is solid integration of visuals on the pages with delightful illustrations that makes it inviting and fresh.

12 Best Feature

Bronze: Crain's Chicago Business, Meribah Knight, writer, "A Business of Life and Death"

Through the lens of a family-owned funeral home, the writer captures the human and financial toll of gun violence on Chicago's South Side. Grim statistics become more meaningful as the narrative puts a spotlight on the unsung heroes sacrificing profit to help families through their most painful times.

Silver: Los Angeles Business Journal, James Rufus Koren, "Riches Under the Radar"

With intuition and enterprise, this reporter found the perfect source: a billionaire who greatly would have preferred anonymity. What could be a routine annual accounting of Los Angeles' wealthiest residents instead unfolds as a fresh story. Superb details and sourcing, not to mention the writer's strong voice, make the piece a great read – informative, too.

Gold: Crain's New York Business, Aaron Elstein, writer, Glenn Coleman, "Capturing the Seggermans"

The writer brings to life a complicated tale that shows in gripping, fascinating detail the lengths some people will go to avoid paying taxes. With masterful storytelling, Elstein seamlessly weaves together documents and interviews to produce a compelling, behind-the-scenes look at one family's decision to try to skirt the law.

13 Best Personality Profile

Bronze: Fort Worth Business Press, "In the House," Dave Montgomery

It's unusual to learn so much about politicians away from the Capitol, as happens in this profile of Texas Rep. Charlie Geren. Anecdotes are used to good effect. The result is a fully realized, human characterization of the Fort Worth Republican.

Silver: Inside Business, "The Golden Greek," Lydia Wheeler

This delightfully written profile on Chris Zarpas and his career movie business emerges by letting the subject do the talking. In looking back on Zarpas' life through his perspective, it provides context for what he does and why he does it.

Gold: Crain's New York Business, "So Many Chapter 11s, He Could Write a Book," Adrienne Pasquarelli, Jeremy Smerd

It's hard to do a profile of someone who doesn't want it. This one on James McGown and his lion's share of bankruptcies succeeds because it springs from rich reporting and is tightly written. It smartly handles a subject not often seen in business publications: a guy who gives people in business a bad name.

14A Best Print Scoop: Small Tabloids

No bronze award.

Silver: Hartford Business Journal, "\$368 million health tech park planned," Greg Bordonaro, editor

Bordonaro was the first to report details of a \$368 million health technology park coming to the state. The ambitious center was to include construction of a proton therapy center to treat cancer patients across New England. The HBJ story was so early and so thorough that it took the local daily two weeks to confirm details and write a story of their own.

Gold: San Fernando Valley Business Journal, "Hundreds of Apartments Eyed for Glendale Block," Business Journal, Elliott Golan, reporter

When Citigroup decided to sell an entire city block in the heart of Glendale, a lot of rumors started. Reporter Elliott Golan was the first reporter to tease out the details of the complicated deal, which called for an office building and parking structure to be demolished to make way for 500-live and work units in the heart of the city. Golan even advanced the story by quoting some who worried about an unsustainable housing boom in the city.

14B Best Print Scoop: Large Tabloids

Bronze: Los Angeles Business Journal, "Might Oxy Ditch L.A. HQ to Hang Its Hat in Houston?" Howard Fine, writer

Despite company denials, Mr. Fine pieced together more than enough evidence to make a solid case that the Occidental Petroleum Corp. — the last big-oil firm with headquarters in Los Angeles and the city's second largest public company — was about to say goodbye. His story not only reported the move weeks before it happened; it also helped readers understand what it meant to the city.

Silver: Crain's New York Business, "NY-Presby to Bail out Downtown Hospital," Barbara Benson, writer

Public records often hold the biggest scoops if reporters will simply bother to look at them. Ms. Benson did just that and beat the competition with a front-page story about a bailout that would save the last remaining hospital in lower Manhattan. The New York Times could do nothing more than repeat the story the next day.

Gold: Arkansas Business, "Rx: \$14.7 Million Fraud," Mark Friedman, writer

Mr. Friedman's sharp eyes while combing through federal forfeiture filings put him on the trail of a deceased cardiologist who had racked up millions of dollars in fraudulent Medicare billings before he died. His story represents meticulous and timely reporting on a scandal that illustrates the vulnerability of one of the nation's largest entitlement programs.

15 Best Coverage of Local Breaking News

Bronze: Central Penn Business Journal, "Watsontown trucking company," Jason Scott

The reporter used the web and social media to inform readers about the sale of one of Harrisburg's most blighted properties in federal bankruptcy court. This is a great example of how Twitter can be used to supplement traditional reporting. In the print article that followed, the reporter examined the new owner's plans and track record in depth.

Silver: Crain’s New York Business, “How did the man buy that building?” Daniel Geiger and Erik Ipsen
This story takes an entertaining look at the purchase of an iconic New York building by little-known investor. The writer keeps readers hooked by using narrative and dropping in interesting tidbits along the way.

Gold: Crain’s Detroit Business, “Detroit Bankruptcy: The Next Chapter,” Chad Halcom, Bill Shea, Dustin Walsh, Kirk Pinho and Chris Gautz

This package of online and print reporting gives readers all they need to know about the bankruptcy. When the news broke, Crain’s Detroit published an extensive story online, along with another containing reaction from business leaders. Just days later, in its print edition, Crain’s shifted into forward-looking mode with wide-ranging coverage on the expected fallout.

16 Best Body of Work, Single Reporter

Bronze: Crain’s Detroit Business, Tom Henderson, reporter

Henderson places the reader behind the scene in a dispute between a well-respected researcher and his university in a fascinating story about academics gone haywire. We learn what happens when a well-known and highly recruited academic runs out of money – and what it means to a university’s pride. Henderson has a creative way of diving into stories that are important but would likely not be reported by lesser talent.

Silver: Los Angeles Business Journal, Alfred Lee, reporter

Lee demonstrates hard, dogged reporting and excellent writing in his many entries. For example, most Americans do not know about the EB-5 program, which gives green cards to foreigners who create jobs in the U.S. While the program works in some cases, Lee is aggressive in outing the false promises – one involved hundreds of millions of dollars in biofuel projects around America. In other work, Lee exposes bad real estate deals and poor government oversight. Lee’s hallmark is an unwillingness to let a story go until it’s completely and well told.

Gold: Crain’s New York Business, Aaron Elstein, reporter

Aaron Elstein’s narrative style unravels a complex family struggle to hide a massive inheritance and avoid taxes. Imagine a complex white board in a federal prosecutor’s office with dozens of names and funnels of money going around the world. Elstein’s tale takes us into the lives of the Seggermans, their conflicts and motives. Masterful story telling is apparent in every entry, including a wonderful story of a New York gold merchant who earns millions and is virtually unknown. Elstein knows how to find a story.

OPEN

17 Best By-line Commentary

Bronze: Florida Trend, “Core Wars,” Mark Howard

Mark Howard brings a common-sense perspective to the Florida debate over whether to adopt Common Core state standards for education, and he boldly dresses down state officials for failing to lead on the issue as well as rabid opponents who rely on conspiracy theories to undermine the effort. This was a well-written and well-formulated argument that sided with facts rather than emotion.

Silver: Crain’s Detroit Business, “News flash: Reporter signs up for Obamacare; what’s the fuss?” Jay Greene

Instead of merely writing about the well-known troubled rollout of Healthcare.gov, Jay Greene gives readers an informative first-person account of his attempts to sign up. The ups and downs recounted in rich detail show that – in the end – signing up for insurance is possible for the persistent. Also, kudos to the reporter for engaging with audience members who posted comments to the commentary.

Gold: Georgia Trend, “Shame on Us,” Neely Young

Neely Young echoes Georgia Republican Gov. Nathan Deal by saying “shame on us” for passing legislation that targeted undocumented workers. Young speaks directly to Republican legislators who supported a bill that also

set forth onerous requirements for the business community. The artful use of statistics and quotes makes the case that the diversity of Georgia's melting pot is a key strength to be preserved.

18 Best Editorial

Bronze: Worcester Business Journal, "Transportation Priorities for Mass," Rick Saia, editor

This editorial provides a guide to areas of agreement on a vital issue for businesses and citizens. It helps to find light where there is political chaos. It shows editorial leadership.

Silver: Virginia Business, "The unintended consequences of populism," Bernie Niemeier, editor

This editorial is well sourced and provides good historical examples. It deals with a issue that many states are facing and makes a powerful statement about a problem that is not being addressed.

Gold: Indianapolis Business Journal, "Root out rogue attorneys," Cory Schouten, editor

The writer states a clear problem and provides good examples that show the outrageous actions of the subjects. No one should be able to read this editorial and not come to the conclusion that this problem needs to be solved in a hurry.

19 Best Recurring Feature

Bronze: Business North Carolina, "The Regional Report," David Kinney, Spencer Campbell, James Denk

The "Regional Report" uses inviting graphics and crisp text to show readers from anywhere in North Carolina how their own locale stacks up. The beautifully illustrated data sets cover an impressive array of topics.

Silver: Crain's Chicago Business, "The Innovators," Staff

"The Innovators" shows good storytelling can be done succinctly. All it takes is finding fascinating people, gathering intriguing details and letting the narrative flow. Anyone can enjoy these profiles, and would-be entrepreneurs are likely to be inspired.

Gold: D CEO, "The Bottom Line," Steve Kaskovich, Glenn Hunter

Great topic selection. Not afraid to write strong pieces about some of the region's biggest names, the Dallas Cowboys and RadioShack. Lucid writing that integrates material from expert analysis and firsthand reporting.

20 Best Investigative Reporting

Bronze: Crain's New York Business, "Dov Hikind's Radio Silence," Chris Bragg, Erik Engquist

This story is an excellent example of digging that reveals an important abuse whose ramifications go far beyond the usual boundaries of business reporting. A prominent politician uses his access to create an obvious, but previously unreported, conflict of interest.

Silver: Los Angeles Business Journal, "Developer Money Crosses the Lines," Alfred Lee

The EB-5 program was designed to encourage foreign investment in deteriorated areas, but Alfred Lee demonstrates that gerrymandering is not restricted to politics. The accompanying maps illustrate the extent of abuse, and Lee identifies the beneficiaries.

Gold: Charleston Regional Business Journal, "Broken Oath: Is S.C.'s medical board too lenient?" Matt Tomsic

In an investigation that should trigger reform, Tomsic discovered that the South Carolina board responsible for disciplining doctors was, in fact, administering wrist slaps when disqualification was really required. This is a chilling tale of dangerous doctors and a toothless watchdog.

21 Best Explanatory Journalism

Bronze: Mainebiz, “Pushing Maine Milk,” James McCarthy, Carol Coultas, Matt Selva, Tim Greenway and Jan Holder

Readers get an inside look at the effort to shore up the state’s faltering milk-processing industry. The story is expertly written and shows why the readers should care about the industry changes.

Silver: Florida Trend, “Higher Ed Trends,” Mike Vogel

In this special report, the reporter provides a comprehensive snapshot of the economic health of higher education in the state. It features impressive use of public data sources that help inform the reporting about the most important issues of the day.

Gold: Crain’s Chicago Business, “Reckless Abandon,” Alby Gallun and Micah Maidenberg

This deeply reported package gives readers an exhaustive look at Chicago’s vacant-housing crisis and how it could undermine efforts to revitalize the city. The reporters tap into rich data sources, experts and neighborhood residents to help deliver a full understanding of the scope of the problem. Outstanding use of charts, maps, video and interactive graphics to help visualize the story.

22 Best Local Coverage of a National Business/Economic Story

Bronze: Crain’s Chicago Business, Kristen Schorsch and Andrew Wang, reporters

Many reporters wrote stories about the health care law, but Wang and Schorsch analyzed the law and did the math. The result of their excellent reporting is a deep look at the cost of health insurance in Illinois. As a result, they were able to give readers a portrait of what business was doing behind the scenes.

Silver: Business North Carolina, Ken Otterbourg, free-lance reporter

Using social media, great graphics and wonderful story-telling, Otterbourg tells the fascinating story of the birth of e-cigarettes. Lots of detail is packed in the story, giving great twists and insight about how an industry is being re-invented amidst health concerns and heavy regulation.

Gold: Arkansas Business, Mark Friedman, reporter

The hustle, contacts and hard work of reporter Mark Friedman shine throughout this tale of law firms earning millions by manipulating the court system. Some publications would have gotten a comment from a jurist and written three paragraphs and inserted them into the national story. Arkansas Business broke a huge story with massive implications for its readership.

23 Best Headlines

Bronze: Arkansas Business, Jan Cottingham, Gwen Moritz

Headlines were tightly written and clear, and captured the story themes in a creative and engaging way.

Silver: Charleston Regional Business Journal, Staff

This publication exhibited creative headline writing, and adopted the language of the subject matter to make headlines pointed and clever.

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

These entries demonstrated the publication's overall strength in headline writing -- with the entries coming from different parts of the paper, and covering varied story types. The word play here was clever, while still conveying key themes of the stories. Examples like Gilt Trip and Pressed for Success are stellar examples of what good headline writing should be.

24 Best Special Section Design

Bronze: Los Angeles Business Journal: “Wealthiest Angelenos: Riches under the radar,” Robert Landry

This section is clearly identified as independent of the regular issue, which is a benefit for readers. Clearly the staff knows its audience and their interests and this section certainly helps satisfy readers’ curiosity. The content is comprehensive, yet the news is told in many digestible units to draw readers into the information. The information is simply displayed in its design, and the graphics convey content without a lot of overlap. The typography has good hierarchy. Color use is consistent, to help unify the design.

Silver: Hawaii Business, “Quality of Life,” Kristin Lipman

The scope of information in this section shows a breadth of reporting that many staffs wouldn’t be able to handle. The graphics offer easily digestible tidbits for the readers. The depth of information in this special report shows the herculean effort taken by the staff to organize the information in a way that readers can use. This is a project readers would want to keep.

Gold: Crain’s Chicago Business, “State of Small Business,” Karen Freese, Thomas J. Linden

This section theme takes on a creative bent with high quality photography and design. Judges loved the poster as a way to pull readers into the feature. There is a variety to the design, and yet this section is organized well, readable, and makes good use of photography. The consistent use of full-page, sleekly designed graphics make this a fun read.

25 Best Ancillary Publication

Bronze: Des Moines Business Record, “Standing on the Shoulders of Giants,” Brianna Blake, Ashley Holter

This publication did a marvelous job of combining Des Moines business history with issues facing the contemporary city and state. The beautiful design gives credence to the important ideas throughout the publication. Timelines and graphs are executed with care. The elegantly written profiles are highlighted with current and historical photographs. One judge called this publication “ a useful coffee-table book.”

Silver: Crain’s Detroit Business, “Detroit 2.0,” Staff

This publication highlights a new sense of optimism despite bankruptcy in Detroit. The editors picked a narrative focus that showcased economic development and scrappy success stories. They found lots of ways to do this – with excellent photography and great storytelling. The judges felt as though they really understood who was living and working in Detroit.

Gold: Hawaii Business, “Quality of Life,” Steve Petranik, Stacy Yuen, Beverly Creamer, Kristin Lipman

This publication looks at the quality of life in Hawaii – a big topic. The staff made this work with a consistent voice and storytelling format. The critical thinking about business issues and the addition of social issues were handled with sensitivity and effectiveness. The charts are incredible; the design is beautiful. Each piece is good and together they serve as a call to action.

ONLINE

26 Best Scoop

Bronze: Crain’s Detroit Business, “Campbell-Ewald and Cadillac deal,” Bill Shea

This is what happens when a reporter takes a tip and runs with it. It creates a scoop that explains the larger ramifications of what a “small” overlooked event might mean before anyone else. The story’s depth was excellent. There were multiple layers of reporting and knowledge giving the story credibility and giving testimony to the writer’s ability to take a news tip and turn it into something more.

Silver: Crain's New York Business, "Hilton ends room service in favor of grab-and-go grub," Lisa Fickenscher

Lisa Fickenscher shows why a seemingly inconsequential story has implications that will ripple through the hospitality industry and how this could affect hotels not just in New York, but also around the country. The piece showed likely impact on audience. It was well-written and the greater context of the piece was easily digested and understood. A good get in an intensively competitive market.

Gold: Indianapolis Business Journal, "FBI searches City-County Building, makes multiple arrests in Land Bank probe," Cory Schouten

Dogged, good old-fashioned reporting that showed impact, scope and the willingness of the reporter to roll up sleeves and dig in. IBJ owned the story from start to finish, and this scoop was just one more example of that. A nice mix of old-school police reporting techniques and substantive knowledge of the topic. The writer became the tour guide on a complex issue and clearly lit the way for all that followed.

27 Best Staff-Generated Blog

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

Mr. Kleps recognizes that there's much more to professional sports franchises than games, players and coaches. He keeps a keen eye on the business side of Cleveland sports and makes sure readers know how the teams' financial strategies affect their pocketbooks and the government's.

Silver: Charleston Regional Business Journal, "Flightlines," Liz Segrist, Andy Owens, writers

"Flightlines" offers focus, humor, voice, news and insight about an industry that's crucial to its readers, and it makes excellent use of Web-only features such as audio and video and hyperlinking. It's everything a blog ought to be.

Gold: Crain's Detroit Business, "Table Talk," Nathan Skid, writer

Mr. Skid has found the perfect recipe for a dynamic food blog. He employs a conversational style that clearly engages readers — just look at all the comments — and he finds interesting angles that make his posts a pleasure to read.

28 Best Use of Multimedia

Bronze: Central Penn Business Journal, "Small Business Week," Staff

Central Penn does a good job of using video, photos, social media (Facebook) and UGC video in combination with print to mark "Small Business Week." The integration of the multimedia elements helps paint a picture of why these businesses are successfully. It is a cohesive look at the small business community in Central Pennsylvania.

Silver: Crain's New York Business, "Stats and the City: New York in Transition," Erik Engquist, Ken Christensen, Emily Laermer, Irina Ivanova, Jeremy Smerd

This multimedia entry put faces on the 1,226 data points. The viewer could see themselves, their friends and family in the video. The use of multiple cameras keeps the traditional standup interview visually interesting. The presentation of the stats in the video allowed the viewer to digest the numbers quickly without being overwhelmed.

Gold: Crain's Chicago Business, "A Business of Life and Death," Meribah Knight, Andrew Nelles, Jason McGregor, Jackie Bender, Steve Reiss

The effective use of stills, audio and video opens the viewers' eyes to the "Deadly Gun Culture" in Chicago's south and west sides. This was a comprehensive effort to tell the story of a community devastated by violence through the lens of the Leak & Sons Funeral Home. It is compelling video that could easily translate to a TV documentary on several cable outlets.

As one judge said, "This is the total package."

29 Best Daily E-mail

Bronze: Baton Rouge Business Report, “Daily Report,” Staff

Subscribers to the Daily Report will find a comprehensive update on the day’s business news without ever leaving their email. Headlines and story summaries give a complete picture, while making it easy to get back to the web site for a more comprehensive treatment.

Silver: Virginia Business, “E-News,” Jessica Sabbath

Easily scannable headlines coupled with a nice use of color and imagery provides an easy-to-read newsletter that fulfills its promise to inform and entertain before “you have your first cup of coffee.” The editors are bold in their efforts to transparently curate content from other local news sources to create an all-encompassing product that gives subscribers a reliable spot from which to start their workday.

Gold: Florida Trend, “Daily Pulse,” Corty Andy, Howard Mark, Gorham Will, Joyce Edmondson

Florida Trend’s newsletter, Florida Trend’s Daily Pulse, stands out for its personality-driven storytelling. Featured stories show depth that goes beyond the financial reports of faceless corporations. Editors’ creative approach to content shines through in the “Who said that?” quiz, video and human-interest sidebars. This email informs, entertains and gives readers every reason to click through to the Florida Trend web site.

30 Best Specialty e-Newsletter

Bronze: Charleston Regional Business Journal, Southeast Supply Chain News, Andy Owens and Chuck Crumbo

The Southeast Supply Chain News has an excellent set of longer stories sourced from the Business Journal, quick briefs that are email-specific, and a curated set of links from other supply chain business publications around the United States. It offers readers a great service that is easily digestible.

Silver: D CEO Healthcare Daily, Glenn Hunter and Bradford Pearson

D CEO’s Healthcare Daily offers an excellent mix of quick, scannable news and access to larger, in-depth features that a reader can sink into. Headlines and summaries are engaging and offer readers plenty of reasons to keep clicking and to keep opening and using the newsletter. Many options for types of content also help with engagement.

Gold: Crain’s Cleveland Business (Health Care Report), Timothy Magaw

Crain’s Cleveland Business Health Care Report gives readers a comprehensive look at trends and daily happenings in the health care market. For people in the know, the newsletter offers a quick way to catch up on recent events; for people less familiar with the industry, the newsletter offers a great way for readers to educate themselves in the field. The blog content gives readers an excellent reason to explore the publication’s web site and establishes Crain’s as a leader in the field.

BEST OF SHOW

31 Most Improved Publication

Winner: Columbus CEO, staff

The redesign of Columbus CEO is a striking upgrade of content, visuals and design. The publication was steady and serviceable before, but the team has taken it to a new level with a clean, stylish typeface; commanding photo display; bold covers; and consistently effective headlines. Content has been markedly improved with an eye to contemporary reader needs. The Insider section up front has a smart, tailored look with features that stretch across a range of topics, from perceptive interviews with business leaders to profiles of small businesses, a spotlight on innovation, expanded calendar pages and slices of news about technology, health care, the law and more.

32 Best Website

Bronze: BizTimes.com, BizTimes Milwaukee, Dan Meyer, Staff

Sleek design and an appropriate use of color help draw readers' eyes to all the right places on this regional website. Milwaukee-area business leaders can expect to be well informed as they make their way through the day's top business headlines, watch video and participate in polls.

Silver: Chicagobusiness.com, Crain's Chicago Business, Staff

Crain's Chicago Business uses its online and mobile editions to cover Chicago with the same depth, fervor and urgency as the market's other major mainstream dailies. The homepage has a robust set of offerings including text, video, social networking, trending topics, blogs, searchable lists, etc. This is clearly a niche website that doesn't act like one.

Gold: CrainsNewYork.com, Crain's New York Business, Staff

This website excels at producing an expanse of web-native content that appeals to all of the sense. The site offers a simple, well-designed setup with an intuitive organizational hierarchy. Visitors can read, watch, listen and interact with content that's always fresh and engaging. A daily promotional podcast available through iTunes, Google Play and RSS demonstrates editors' extra efforts to reach users and bring them into the product.

33 Best Magazine

Bronze: Twin Cities Business, staff

Twin Cities Business leverages its large format in surprising and effective ways. The excellent photography and understandable yet beautiful graphs and charts help tell the business story so well. The writing is strong – one story the judges all liked was on the double life of executives. The piece was told in a fun way without resorting to clichés.

Silver: DBusiness, R.J. King, John Schultz, Jessica Decker, Megan Dekok

DBusiness tells an important tale of how business is surviving during difficult times for the city. Content-driven covers that elegantly present these ideas entice the reader inside. The storytelling is insightful and pragmatic, both important with the tough subjects encountered within the magazine. This is contrasted with good-news stories and fun features that balance the magazine.

Gold: D CEO, Glenn Hunter, Christine Perez, Bradford Pearson, Hilary Lau

D CEO combines consistency with surprise to produce an enticing and engaging magazine. For example, a story about power women in North Texas is strong and informative without becoming predictable, which is often the problem with these kinds of stories. The design is consistently elegant with well chosen typography and impressive photography. The judges felt that the magazine presents an authoritative understanding of northern Texas that inspires readers to think and respond.

34A Best Newspaper: Small Tabloids

Bronze: Des Moines Business Record, Chris Conetzkey and Brianna Blake

The Business Record reports on a complex network of communities that make up the Des Moines metro area, and it does so with skill and balance. The publication also concentrates on the big picture, with a strong mix of news about issues and trends that address the region. A story on a new ice hockey team, for example, takes a deep look at the business of professional sports in a mid-size city with a history of disappointment concerning pro franchises.

Silver: Worcester Business Journal, Staff

Worcester Business Journal serves Central Massachusetts by paying close attention to industries that shape the economy, from higher education to health care, property development, banking and finance. The Business Journal also gives ample credit to small businesses, the job market, relevant national and state issues and

individual community leaders. Noteworthy, too, are the top-notch recurring features, such as the Flash Poll and a consistently thoughtful commentary section.

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

This publication puts a premium on delivering a news-rich product to a wide range of population centers in Southern California. It is exemplary in its ability to provide both quantity and quality in authoritative news reports. The business journal has clearly identified topics that resonate with its particular demographic — entertainment, real estate, tourism, development and aviation, as well as legal, medical and financial matters. Not only does coverage have breadth, but it often digs deep.

34B Best Newspaper: Large Tabloids

Bronze: Crain's Detroit Business, Staff

This publication shows a level of high-quality, sophisticated reporting that focuses on what is important to its community. Stories are well written, authoritative and sharply edited. Content throughout the section is strong; it's easy to feel like you're in the know without actually being in Detroit. The publication shows the complexity of the economic situation for the city and region, as well as how it affects the broader economy of the nation.

Silver: Crain's Chicago Business, Staff

This special report goes in depth and pulls out the stops on features, graphics, design and analysis. The publication takes topics worthy of public service reporting and informs the business community. Readers can tell the editors really care about quality. As one judge says, "Every time I read them, I think I want to go work for them" because they care so much about quality.

Gold: Los Angeles Business Journal, Staff

The staff understands its market so beautifully and it reflects in this publication's coverage. This is a publication that knows how to keep its readership informed and entertained while offering a reflection in the community. The writing is bright; reporters dig deep.

AABP 2014 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.

Elizabeth Brixey is a city editor at the Columbia Missourian and faculty member of the School of Journalism in the Print and Digital department. She worked for the Madison State Journal as a reporter and editor.

Jan Colbert, an associate professor, teaches design and writing. She has designed for such publications as the IRE Journal, is managing editor of the *National Book Critics Circle Journal* and co-editor of *The Reporter's Handbook*. She has judged design entries for several national competitions.

Charles Davis, Ph.D., is an associate professor. Davis worked for nearly ten years at newspapers, magazines and a news service in Georgia, Florida and Ireland. He taught at Georgia Southern University and Southern Methodist University before joining the Missouri faculty.

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.

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

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.

Alecia Swasy is a doctoral student at the Missouri School of Journalism. Previously, she worked as a reporter at the Wall Street Journal and held senior editing positions at Dow Jones, the St. Petersburg Times and other media companies. She is the author of "Soap Opera: The Inside Story of Procter & Gamble" and "Changing Focus: Kodak and the Battle to Save a Great American Company," both published by Random House.

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.