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For Immediate Release

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THE ALLIANCE ANNOUNCES 2016 EDITORIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS FOR LEADING BUSINESS PUBLICATIONS

LOS ANGELES—The Alliance of Area Business Publishers (AABP) presented 112 Editorial Excellence awards to newspaper and magazine business periodicals June 11, 2016, the climax of its three-day annual Summer Conference in Des Moines, IA.

With 644 entries from 46 publications in the U.S., Canada and Australia, the competitive field was both impressive and diverse. The divisions were revised this year to include fewer Magazine/Newspaper only categories and put an emphasis on core journalism categories to showcase more of the journalistic excellence. Divisions include Design, Journalism, Online and Best of Show.

As in past years, the most popular categories were Best Feature and Best Explanatory Journalism. According to Reuben Stern, who coordinated the judging by faculty members at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, entries in these and other categories showcased thorough reporting and strong writing accompanied by useful graphics and photos to convey the material.

“Entries across all categories demonstrate how widely publications have embraced creative ways to present essential information and contextual material to help audiences understand the complex stories happening around them,” Stern said.

From stories about Uber and Lyft to coverage of GMOs and female executives, the award-winning business publications are delving into issues that matter to readers economically — and socially. “These regional business publishers capture their audiences with compelling designs for print and digital formats, keep their attention with relevant content, and earn their loyalty with consistency and quality,” said Alliance Executive Director C. James Dowden.

The annual AABP Editorial Excellence 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,” according to Dowden, “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.” Best Magazine went to **D CEO Magazine**; Best Newspaper: Small Tabloids to **Daily Herald Business Ledger**, and Best Newspaper: Medium/Large Tabloids to **Los Angeles Business Journal**. Best Cover: Magazines to **D CEO Magazine**, and Best Front Page: Newspapers to **Crain’s Cleveland Business**. Most Improved Publication is **Providence Business News**. Best Website to **Crain’s Chicago Business**. Best Bylined Commentary went to **Georgia Trend**. Best Specialty e-newsletter went to **Business News (Western Australia)**. Best Use of Multimedia went to **Crain’s Chicago Business** and best Daily E-Mail went to **Business News (Western Australia)**.

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 2016 Editorial Excellence Awards

Judged spring 2016

DESIGN CATEGORIES

1. Best cover: magazine

Bronze: *Hawaii Business*; “What Happens if GMO’s are Banned?”; Warren Daubert

This ambitious cover photograph is striking and conceptual, referencing “American Gothic” with a Hawaiian narrative. Beautifully designed elements attract, organize and draw the eye, like the seal, the color band on the side and the swatch of red textile. Type treatments are dimensional and well placed.

Silver: *Columbus CEO*; “Columbus CEO April Cover – Data Hotspot: City’s Critical New Sector”; Yogesh Chaudhary

This unexpected, distinctive cover will stand out on any newsstand. The sense of high tech is created with bold colors and geometric fonts. A layering of typography and buildings is used to create dimension. Illustration is a perfect choice for this cover.

Gold: *D CEO Magazine*; “New Faces of Dallas Tech”; Hamilton Hedrick

This a daring choice for a cover photograph about Dallas tech, but the results are fantastic. It feels like it should illustrate a Hollywood issue or a fashion story. Sophisticated type treatment integrates with a strong, distinct nameplate. Muted colors contrast well with the bold red.

2. Best feature layout: magazine

Bronze: *Biz New Orleans*; “The Ultimate Juggling Act”; Antoine Passelac

The lead photo in this feature was particularly captivating. The conceptual visual execution set the tone well for the story and layout. The typesetting was restrained and elegant, with ample use of white space, as well as a clear sense of visual hierarchy. The playful, modern color palette complimented the photographs, and subject matter. The design of this feature was simple, deliberate, and well-considered.

Silver: *Hawaii Business*; “Facing Future: What Happens to Molokai if GMOs are Banned?”; Warren Daubert

Rich, beautiful photography highlighted this feature, along with elegant typesetting and typographic design. Little details like the textured borders, distressed typographic elements, and illustrations added variety and texture that relates well to the subject matter, and engages the reader without distracting from the main story. Pull-quotes, and insets were equally well-handled. Overall, the feature was composed from a variety of visual design cues that made reading the story a richer, more compelling experience.

Gold: *Columbus CEO*; “Data Hotspot: City’s Critical New Sector”; Yogesh Chaudhary

Clever design details, and use of a progressive, eye-popping color palette made this layout feel appropriately “techie.” Color also related well to the equally bright and colorful photography. The close attention paid to the typography and typefaces were noted and appreciated. Making headlines resemble code added a nice touch. Overall, the design was deftly handled and complemented the story well.

3. Best overall design: magazine

Bronze: *Hawaii Business*; Staff

Hawaii Business stands out for its unique, sophisticated color combinations. Color is used for visual hierarchy and to make connections from article to article. The palette established through typography on the cover is carried throughout the magazine, such as the orange used in the September

issue. Illustrative and portrait photographs are used well, most notably in “What Happens if GMOs are Banned?” and “Attention Passengers: This Form is Really Important to Hawaii.”

Silver: *Twin Cities Business*; Chris Winn, Staff

Overall design is clean and consistent, with effective white space to enhance content. Every page is interesting, including regular departments. Covers are creative and varied, and each fits the theme of the cover story. Lively features receive special attention, such as the opening spread of the railroad story “Hard Stop” and the fun title for “Shopping Center Shuffle.”

Gold: *D CEO Magazine*; Hamilton Hedrick

D CEO does it all. Typography and decks are sophisticated, and designers seamlessly and consistently integrate illustrations, graphics and photography throughout the magazines. Art and data are combined well in the many strong infographics. Portraits are fun, making readers stop to take time with the story, such as the barefoot entrepreneur in “The Software Giant.” Finally, the stellar article “The New Faces of Dallas Tech” impressed judges with its fresh visual style.

4. Best front page: newspaper

Bronze: *BizTimes Milwaukee*; “Ramp it up!”; BizTimes staff

BizTimes Milwaukee presents a bold and clean front page with a clear message. Of particular note is the use of the grey and blue tones in contrast with the red script. The color contrast gave the page a whole new layer to consider. The layering is important to note because the design already shows off a sophisticated use of layering from the skyline to the bull rider and shadow. The design elements all contributed to a fun approach for a trend story and was an interesting way to guide the reader to the material.

Silver: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; “Big Ideas for Chicago’s Troubled Schools”; Thomas J. Linden, Jason McGregor, Cassie Walker Burke

This front page is packed with so much great information and storytelling while being designed with such excellence. It offers many choices and the reader is directed to these options by well-designed entry points. The second story on the page is presented in a clean space. In the lead story there are four items in the subheads to help direct readers. The type is clean and easy to navigate. The lead illustration shows the story is actually a ‘people-story’ which increases the amount of care to the topic. The monotone photo is a bold choice along with the color of the typography.

Gold: *Crain’s Cleveland Business*; “The Right Mix”; Rebecca R. Markovitz

This cover is choreographed perfectly. The irregular round shape contrasts nicely against the white page format. The decision to use the expert illustration in a dominant position is perfect and was a bold decision that creates a powerful impact. It is evident great thought went into the design, the shape and the text.

5. Best feature layout: newspaper

Bronze: *Central Penn Business Journal*; “The Business of Pretzels”; Kathryn Morton

This is a tasty treat that took planning and teamwork. The headline is in mustard and pretzel. The text in the reverse is larger for legibility. An inside photo showing the pretzel wheel is artistic and informative. The photos were supplemented with infographics. Mechanical color choices were excellent throughout.

Silver: *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*; “7 Over 70”; Sally Jones, Tia Seifert and Kristin Skaggs-Kirby

“7 Over 70” is an interesting twist on the many lists in business publications. This one had strong portraiture, consistency and graphics. The design approach was minimal; that allows the photos and type

to emerge from the pages, which are framed with white space. Every detail is successful, down to the arrows to show the story continues.

Gold: *Crain's Chicago Business*; "Goodbye Motto"; Jason McGregor, Michael Arndt and John Pletz

In what may be the first use of a graphic novel format in a business journal, *Chicago* explains the rise and fall of Motorola. It's an innovative use of the format. Researchers have found that graphic novels, when used to explain real things and events, leave a longer impression in readers. The color scheme and the variety of box sizes add to the success.

6A. Best overall design: small tabloids

Bronze: *Charleston Regional Business Journal*; Ryan Wilcox, Emily Matesi, Andrew Sprague and Jane Mattingly

Charleston brings consistency every issue, but within that consistency, there are usually surprises. For instance, after Volvo announced they would build in South Carolina, the *Journal* produced a 21-page section with a full-page intro of photo and type, added an innovative timeline and other graphics and supplemented the text page with more photos. The front pages are newsy, but they all offer a window into a highlighted story.

Silver: *Springfield Business Journal*; Wes Hamilton, Eric Olson and Emily Letterman

Springfield offers its readers a fast-moving, high vitality publication. The pages are full of photos and pullouts. Still, when it comes time to pause, they offer features with type that tells and sells and ample white space to set off the packages. Photographs are displayed well. They have a strong table of contents.

Gold: *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*; Sally Jones and Tia Seifert, Kristin Skaggs-Kirby

This is a buttoned-down publication. The fundamentals—such as spacing, labeling and typography—are consistent. The front-page feature windows are enticing and interesting. The end-of-the-year photo package recycled used and unused photos from throughout the year. It was presented beautifully. The high quality paper and printing shows off every design decision nicely.

6B. Best overall design: medium/large tabloids

Bronze: *San Diego Business Journal*; Michael Domine, Angela Castillo, Sandra Powers

This is a solid example of the business newspaper genre. It is scaled down and controlled, providing multiple stories on the cover. Typography is strong and clean, as demonstrated by the visual contrast of headline-deck play. Of particular note are the graphics and typography in the wealthiest package.

Silver: *Crain's New York Business*; Jeremy Smerd, Carolyn McClain

The quality of the art direction is obvious – extremely powerful cover imagery that drives you into the book. Lead story packages inside are no less powerful and engaging. The work here is bold and beautiful with creative typography, attention to spacing and white space. There is a consistent visual hierarchy. Other notable inside design packages include 20 under 20 and Gotham gigs.

Gold: *Crain's Chicago Business*; Jason McGregor, Thomas J. Linden, Karen Freese

Crain's Chicago Business is a great book from front to back with consistent attention to detail and design fundamentals throughout. The covers are well executed with large, impactful imagery that still leaves room for secondary stories. Lead art for the major stories is sharp, smart and played for impact. A highlight is the clever graphic journalism approach to the Goodbye Motorola story – engaging, surprising and nicely done. Other notable packages include the large and small dog visual metaphor for the big and small story; the strong charts, maps, charts and photos for the schools story; the map illustration for the craft brews story; the concept and execution of cool workplaces; and the Facebook case study. Readers also benefit from a lively editorial page with topical editorial cartoons.

7. Best use of photography/illustrations

Bronze: *Crain's Cleveland Business*; Rebecca R. Markovitz

Crain's Cleveland Business produces strong illustrations and plays them to their full potential. They are willing to try a variety of styles, keeping it fresh for the reader. Images are well planned, and the results are never the expected illustrations. Of note is "The Right Mix" cover, a photo illustration using beautifully arranged piles of herbs and spices, in just the right mix.

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

Crain's Chicago Business uses visuals to make the publication accessible to anyone. They make business cool with the creative illustration for "Goodbye Moto." There is a good balance of illustrations, photos and graphics. The "20 in Their 20s" package stands out for its strong photography as well as the excellent use of the images.

Gold: *D CEO Magazine*; Hamilton Hedrick

The variety and quality of D CEO's submission made it a clear winner. The portraits for "The New Faces of Dallas Tech" were unexpected, taking a softer approach than a traditional tech story. They had the tasteful, ethereal feel of post-processed photographs, in the style of fashion photography. Likewise, the portrait of Fehmi Karahan surrounded by blurred bodies is wonderfully conceived and used. D CEO uses illustrations equally well, most notably "Critical Condition," which is conceptually strong and engaging.

ONLINE CATEGORIES

8. Best bylined commentary

Bronze: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; "Mickey Maurer"; Mickey Maurer, writer

Mr. Maurer offers smart, sometimes sarcastic but always insightful commentary on the Indianapolis business and political scene. Every column is sprinkled with small doses of humor that help elucidate serious issues.

Silver: *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report*; "The Big Picture"; Stephanie Riegel, writer

"The Big Picture" carries an air of authority that's the product of solid reporting and sound critical thinking. Ms. Riegel is a fearless columnist who freely challenges Baton Rouge business leaders, Louisiana politicians and even the state's obsession with LSU football.

Gold: *Georgia Trend*; "Business Casual"; Susan Percy, writer, Neely Young, editor, Ben Young, editor

As its name suggests, "Business Casual" explores important societal and business matters with a conversational style that makes it easy to read and accessible. Ms. Percy is unafraid to take on topics such as race that stir readers' emotions and challenge them to think hard about their perspectives.

9. Best use of multimedia

Bronze: *Business News*; "Cruising Tales put Frame in picture with liners," "Dr. Angus Turner talks about the 40 under 40 Awards;" Charlie Gunningham, Elton Swarts

Nice use of time-lapse and variable-speed video shows a place that most people will never go in the cruise piece. It can also be watched without sound, which is nice for a mobile audience that increasingly doesn't want to pull out its headphones. The Turner piece was a solid piece of interviewing with strong production values.

Silver: *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report*; "The Brief"; Staff

This entry shows a cool, trendy way to look at complex issues. The cartoony, explanatory format simply works in the effort to be accessible and to create content form that will keep readers engaged. The narration is fun and keeps the video moving, and the pace is upbeat and snappy.

Gold: *Crain's Chicago Business*; "Goodbye Moto"; John Pletz, Peter and Maria Hoey, Jacon McGregor

This is a fresh way to approach a complicated issue. The graphic-novel has a very "of the moment" feel to it, and its format also forces the content to be fed in bite-sized pieces. A long narrative of Motorola's downfall wouldn't have been as entertaining. The option to go through with audio on or off and not lose any content makes a real difference for an audience that might be reading this at their desk in a crowded office.

10. Best daily email

Bronze: *Grand Rapids Business Journal*; Scott Sommerfeld, Chris Ehrlich

This is a comprehensive daily newsletter with plenty of added value in its presentation. Links give enough context to be read as summaries, while allowing the reader to quickly access more information.

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; Mason King

"Eight@8" provides a great mix of headlines that all have a business bent. Presentation is clean and consistent, and writing style makes this a saucy, enjoyable read.

Gold: *Business News*; Charlie Gunningham, Elton Swarts

Excellent use of images plus easily scannable headlines and readouts give a full picture of the day's business news that is extremely comprehensive. The email really sets up someone to get the day started in the Australian business community.

11. Best specialty e-newsletter

Bronze: *D CEO Magazine*; "D Healthcare Daily"; Matt Goodman

D Healthcare Daily makes it easy to catch up quickly on the day's healthcare news, offering a complement of breaking news headlines, personality profiles and feature stories. A compelling writing style combines with a clean design to draw in readers.

Silver: *Grand Rapids Business Journal*; "Michigan Made"; Scott Summerfield, Chris Ehrlich

Local news reigns supreme in the Grand Rapids Business Journal's "Michigan Made" newsletter. It's also a point of entry into the main site with its comprehensive listing of the day's top headlines, an events calendar and links to the evergreen features.

Gold: *Business News*; "Business News Weekender"; Charlie Gunningham, Elton Swarts

Business News Weekender lets readers review the week's top business news through a clever interface. Subscribers can listen to a podcast while they wade through a variety of news, analysis and networking tools. Particularly impressive is the customization functionality that gives the reader control over what they see, hear and read.

JOURNALISM CATEGORIES

12. Best scoop

SMALL

Silver: *The Business Journal, Fresno*; George Lurie

The reporter followed up a cryptic email and landed a scoop on the first major real estate foreclosure in 10 years. Other news outlets followed a day later.

Gold: *Des Moines Business Record*; Kent Darr

This scoop gave readers an advance look at an \$85 million proposal for a 32-story residential tower and movie theater in downtown Des Moines. Lots of detail and pertinent comments from key players.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Arkansas Business*; George Waldon

The biggest online story in the journal's history, this scoop detailed a dispute involving a prominent family, big money and 16,000 acres of prime duck-hunting territory. No wonder his editor described it as "the perfect Arkansas business story."

Gold: *Hartford Business Journal*; Greg Bordonaro

Good source cultivation by the journal's editor paid off with a page-one story revealing the identities of leading Connecticut business executives who invested in a start-up TV media company that promised glamour but instead collapsed.

LARGE

Silver: *Crain's New York Business*; Eric Engquist

This scoop on a judge's ruling that allowed Uber to continue disrupting the city's taxi business generated more hits (over 300,000) in the shortest time ever for the publication. Constant coverage of the issue led the city's attorney to leak the ruling to Engquist and forced daily competitors to follow a day later.

Gold: *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report*; Stephanie Riegel

Report editor Riegel didn't give up when the LSU public relations office wouldn't respond to questions about the future of football coach Les Miles. So she tracked down the university president and got an exclusive explanation of how and why the decision to keep the coach was made. Local competitors and national media were forced to follow and credit the Business Report.

13. Best feature

SMALL

Silver: *Georgia Trend*; "Eat, Drink and Enjoy"; Susan Percy, Neely Young and Ben Young

By focusing on the business of restaurants, this feature provides a fresh and interesting take on the food industry. It examines how restaurants have changed, looks to the future and explains why the industry is so vital to local economies.

Gold: *Business North Carolina*; "Palate Loader"; Matthew Burns, David Mildenberg and Ben Kinney

This is much more than a story about Golden Corral. The writer infuses the piece with rich context – about obesity in America, about franchising and about the buffet restaurant business. Sidebars add complementary detail, and this well-written and deeply reported feature truly engages.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Virginia Business*; "A Wave of Larger Ships"; Jessica Sabbath

This piece takes the audience on a journey to the Port of Virginia marine terminal. Visual storytelling places readers right next to the mammoth vessels that now do much of the world's transport, and looks at how the increase of such ships has changed shipyard operations.

Gold: *Hawaii Business*; "Our Water World"; Lavonne Leong

With thorough reporting, helpful graphics and compelling photos, this exhaustive feature brings to light the intricacies and issues related to fresh water in Hawaii. The history, the challenges, the costs, the management – it's all here in this wonderfully executed package.

LARGE

Silver: *Crain's New York Business*; "Staring Into the Abyss"; Aaron Elstein

With strong writing and reporting, this feature looks at the past and the future of a Harlem development company. It tells an interesting story that neither demonizes nor lionizes the players involved despite a politically turbulent atmosphere.

Gold: *Florida Trend*; “The Cuba Factor”; Jason Garcia

Kicking off with a first-person narrative that grabs the reader, this extensive feature covers a lot of ground as it examines the economic possibilities of a reopened Cuban market. With thoughtful and well-reported writing, it answers a lot of questions about business sectors to watch.

14. Best personality profile

SMALL

Silver: *Daily Herald Business Ledger*; “Elk Grove’s Pinball Wizard”; Anna Marie Kukec, writer; Kim Mikus

You thought pinball machines had gone the way of vinyl records? That’s correct, if you include recent comebacks in the story. Gary Stern, president of Stern Pinball, is leading the next generation of the iconic silver-ball games. A story about a man, and an industry, that won’t give up.

Gold: *Business North Carolina*; “Peddle to the Metal”; Edward Martin, writer; David Mildenberg, Ben Kinney

In the land of NASCAR, Gene Hass is betting a billion dollars that his team can crack the Grand Prix. This is a comprehensive look why Hass and his team are attempting to make the jump to Grand Prix racing and why they just might be able to pull it off from a North Carolina headquarters. Graphics add a lot and make the statistics easily digestible.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Arkansas Business*; “The Pot Stirrer”; Jan Cottingham, writer

Matt Campbell, a lawyer/blogger in Little Rock has succeeded in making life miserable for some of the state’s most powerful figures. Jan Cottingham’s profile reveals the man behind the “Blue Hog Report” blog. It’s simple: He thinks people should play by the rules. He doesn’t like bullies.

Gold: *Virginia Business*; “A New Look”; Richard Foster, writer

A compelling profile about former CIA master of disguises, Bob Barron, who has now repurposed his skills to help cancer survivors, accident victims and the disabled. This is a rich source whose story is told with equally rich writing and scenes.

LARGE

Silver: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; “Marcus Lemonis has fans. Why doesn’t he have friends?”; Meribah Knight, writer

Everyone has seen Marcus Lemonis, the star on CNBC’s “The Profit” swoop in to help struggling businesses usually, at least in part, with a large personal check. This profile goes deep and reveals the man behind the character. It does what the best profiles do, tell the reader more.

Gold: *Crain’s New York Business*; “Parking lot and storage king of New York is looking for an heir”; Daniel Geiger, writer; Jeremy Smerd, editor

Manhattan Mini Storage is a name known by every New Yorker, partly because of the company’s sarcastic, audacious ads. But this story profiles the man who created the business, Jerry Gottesman and how he’s trying to sift through family politics to chart his company’s future. The resulting narrative is hard to put down.

15. Best body of work, single writer

SMALL

Silver: *Twin Cities Business*; Adam Platt

Platt shows great range in his reporting. Whether he is explaining the challenges of the railroad industry or higher education, his well-sourced work offers readers rich context and fascinating storylines.

Gold: *D CEO Magazine*; Matt Goodman

Goodman's authoritative, engaging reporting on the business of health care informs and entertains. He deftly uses court records to untangle complicated stories, draws readers in with compelling anecdotal leads and keeps their attention with seamless writing.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Hawaii Business*; Lavonne Leong

Leong's in-depth reports highlight her skills as an interviewer, researcher and writer. Keeping her community in mind, she provides readers a range of perspectives and helps them understand each other, regardless of generation or geography.

Gold: *Virginia Business*; Jessica Sabbath

Kudos to a journalist who can show how real people are affected by such a seemingly nebulous concept as the Export-Import Bank. Sabbath's highly accessible stories offer clear explanations and strong descriptions, allowing the average reader to join her in becoming an expert on her topics.

LARGE

Silver: *Crain's Detroit Business*; Kirk Pinho

This reporter's portfolio features great versatility and enterprise. Not only can he use documents to build a story – who owns downtown Detroit, for example -- but he can also cultivate human sources to tell engaging back stories about real estate deals and local sources' far-flung connections.

Gold: *Crain's New York Business*; Aaron Elstein

A master storyteller, Elstein immerses readers in the worlds and characters he introduces. What might be a dry business story in one writer's hands becomes a fascinating tale with amazing details and context whether Elstein is writing about meatpackers, a church group or the JFK Airport.

16. Best recurring feature

SMALL

Silver: *Business North Carolina*, "Picture This"; Moira Johnson, Mike Belleme, Steve Exum, David Mildenberg, Ben Kinney

This feature reaches far beyond the standard set of profiles to combine strong visuals and engaging personalities into a thoroughly charming series. The staff takes full advantage of the offbeat nature of each business by showing how gifted artisans and entrepreneurs are reinventing the nature of success.

Gold: *D CEO Magazine*, "Bottom Line"; Steve Kaskovich, Glenn Hunter

A knowledgeable voice, thoughtful analysis and superb editing elevate this column to must-read status. The topics are well-chosen and bound to resonate with a sophisticated audience — from subprime auto loans to the billionaire funding research for his own degenerative disease.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Hartford Business Journal*, "Executive Profiles"; John Stearns

The subjects of these profiles are a rich, eclectic mix of professionals whose personal visions inform the values of their companies. This is an effective marriage of storytelling and news.

Gold: *BizTimes Milwaukee*, "Real Estate Spotlight"; Corrinne Hess

Extensive reporting and capable writing take this real estate column to the level of excellence. Each column deftly weaves financial and market data with elements of history, architecture, trends and lifestyle. The result is an expansive look at an always fascinating subject.

LARGE

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*, “Mike Lopresti — Sports”; Mike Lopresti

A big city with a big interest in sports, Indianapolis has a keen observer and fine writer in Mike Lopresti. Close attention to sports across all fronts, from college to pro, plus ample wisdom and timing, make his column a winner.

Gold: *Florida Trend*, “ICON”; Art Levy

Surprising characters and their answers to terrific questions populate this wonderful column. The NFL linebacker, the famous entertainer and the alligator wrestler become real and accessible when you learn about their childhoods, their faith, favorite food and the way they raise a family. These interviews are just brimming with humanity, compassion and wit.

17. Best coverage of local breaking news

SMALL

Silver: *Vermont Business*; “GlobalFoundries buys IBM chip business”; Timothy McQuiston

GlobalFoundries’ acquisition of IBM Microelectronics gave Vermont Business an ideal opportunity to demonstrate its agility and speed with breaking news. The package of stories around the news also showed how preparation and skill can identify aspects with real value to the entire community.

Gold: *Columbia Regional Business Report*; “Flooding disaster leaves Midlands in misery”; Chuck Crumbo, Chris Cox, Matthew Clark, Licia Jackson

The staff of the business report recognized immediately that a weather disaster would have far-reaching implications in the state, and they reacted both efficiently and effectively. Rolling news reports paired with sensible advice about insurance, unemployment assistance and service interruptions kept the publication at the forefront of the story.

MEDIUM

Silver: No award

Gold: *Central Penn Business Journal*; “Walgreens-Rite Aid merger”; Roger DuPuis, Larry Portzline

Central Penn Business Journal owned the breaking story about the merger of Walgreens with the locally based Rite Aid drugstore brand. By assembling graphics, data, history, reaction and impact, the publication surrounded the topic quickly and comprehensively.

LARGE

Silver: No award

Gold: *Indianapolis Business Journal*, “Anthem's \$54.2 billion merger with Cigna”; J.K. Wall, Scott Olson, Jared Council, Mason King

The extensive multiplatform coverage of the Anthem-Cigna deal is an outstanding example of maximizing the potential of breaking news. The level of detail and analysis showed authority, and the reach for impact was a model of smart sourcing.

18. Best investigative reporting

SMALL

Silver: *dbusiness*; “Capital Flight”; Norm Sinclair, R.J. King, John Schultz

This story takes a deep look at how Detroit municipal pension funds lost \$10 million in loans to real estate Ponzi scheme. Great digging by dbusiness to show how the scheme worked.

Gold: *D CEO Magazine*; “The Shocking Collapse of Dallas’ Go-Go Luxury Hospital Chain”; Matt Goodman, Glenn Hunter

The reporter pieces together the demise of a high-end hospital chain by tapping into documents and internal company emails. The compelling narrative writing keeps the reader interested in a complicated story.

MEDIUM

Silver: No award.

Gold: *Arkansas Business*; “Goodson’s New Game”; Mark Friedman, senior editor

Friedman mines court documents to show how local plaintiff’s lawyers attempted to keep certain class-action lawsuits out of federal courts, violating the spirit of a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling. The reporter breaks this complex story down in a way that’s easy to digest.

LARGE

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; “Charter Star Hit by Cash Crunch”; Hayleigh Colombo

This story give readers an inside look at the financial troubles of a high-profile charter school network and its big-spending CEO. The reporter nails the story down by using documents and extensive on-the-record interviews with many of the key players.

Gold: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; “Running on Empty”; Kristen Schorsch, reporter, Jason McGregor, graphics editor

Top-notch work by Schorsch in uncovering a critical glut of hospital beds in Illinois. Her analysis of state hospital data gave her solid footing in reporting on the vacancy rates. Visualizations from graphics editor McGregor help present the story in more detail, as does a searchable database of all the state’s hospitals’ data.

19. Best explanatory journalism

SMALL

Silver: *Twin Cities Business*; “The Price of Excellence”; Adam Platt

Access to higher education stands at the heart of this context-rich examination of how the University of Minnesota remade its undergraduate program. The comprehensive analysis rings with clarity as Platt walks the reader through the layers of finance at play.

Gold: *D CEO Magazine*; “Critical Condition: When Ebola Hit”; Matt Goodman, Glenn Hunter

The social and medical drama of an Ebola outbreak at a hospital in Texas provides the narrative drive for this gripping account set against the backdrop of management changes at the hospital. Original reporting and strong sourcing anchor this accessible account written with authority and clarity.

MEDIUM

Silver: *BizWest*; “Debt puts higher ed in the red”; Steve Lynn, Jerd Smith

Lynn provides an interesting and original explanation of the mounting debts at research universities through a critical lens that keeps impact top of mind. Relevant data helps connect the dots on higher education financing.

Gold: *Hartford Business Journal*; “CT’s Silver Tsunami”; Greg Seay, Matt Pilon, Brad Kane, John Stearns, Greg Bordonaro

Great example of ‘what’s happening’ versus ‘what happened’ journalism. This adventure in demographics turns on personal perspectives and unusual angles overlooked by others.

LARGE

Silver: *Florida Trend*; “20 million”; Mike Vogel

A focus on impacts that are in part surprising and unpredictable sets apart this breakdown of a population trend that’s perhaps even more important in Florida than other places. The story is important, informative and digestible.

Gold: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; “What Went Wrong? The Illinois Pension Disaster”; Dave McKinney

An engaging and definitive autopsy of how the Illinois pension system came unraveled.

McKinney takes the reader by the hand in this original report as he methodically unpacks a complex and long-standing problem one step at a time. The result is a valuable contribution to the public conversation.

20. Best local coverage of a national business/economic story

SMALL

Silver: *Business North Carolina*; “Changing of the Guard: GlaxoSmithKline slims down”; Edward Martin, writer, David Mildenberg, editor, Ben Kinney, publisher

An insightful and well-written piece about North Carolina’s pharmaceutical industry in the wake of the chaos that has engulfed Big Pharma. The piece takes a broad view whether other life science companies can keep momentum going despite the declining workforce at flagship GlaxoSmithKline. The story is a must-read for understanding the economic forces at play in the Research Triangle.

Gold: *Twin Cities Business*; “All In: Hiring Women Executives”; Liz Fedor, writer

Studies have shown that companies with better gender balance, which generally adds women to the executive ranks, do better on the bottom line. This piece lays out the compelling rationale for hiring more female leaders, while focusing on local companies and their progress. This goes beyond daily needs to take a needed step back to look at industry trends.

MEDIUM

Silver: *NJBIZ*; “Street Fight: Uber and Lyft have transportation and technology colliding in Trenton”; Andrew George, writer

Much has been written about Uber and Lyft’s battle to stay in metro markets as a major scale pushback from taxi companies. This piece looks at the motivations behind changes in the law, and compares it with other states that are dealing with the ride-sharing trend.

Gold: *Virginia Business*; “A Comeback for Ex-Im Bank”; Jessica Sabbath, writer

Several publications looked at what would happen if the charter for the U.S. Export-Import Bank was not renewed, but this story really brought it home. In plain speak, it details the story of a distiller who risked payment after the Ex-Im charter expired. This piece contributed to better understanding of why and how the controversial federal bank exists.

LARGE

Silver: *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report*; “Immigration Dilemma”; Stephanie Riegel, writer

Many publications, in the wake of discussions during the presidential debates, wrote about the status of immigration in their areas. This story takes a measured approach, looking first at the immigrants and their hopes and dreams, but also looks at the broader labor market. This type of reporting leads to a nuanced approach to this hot-button issue, and promotes understanding.

Gold: *Crain’s Detroit Business*; “When ALICE’s problems become your problems”; Lindsay VanHulle, writer

The working poor are trapped, and this piece pulls back the curtain on the daily stresses that undermine low wage workers in staying employed. This is an examination of workers described as ALICE (asset-limited, income-constrained, employed) and how that class of working affects the national

economy. This series of stories pulls back the lens to show that the churn of these low-wage workers cost companies. It's also proscriptive on how help for low-wage workers, including transportation and childcare, has a bigger economic payoff.

21. Best ancillary publication

SMALL

Silver: *Mainebiz*; “Fact Book: Doing Business in Maine”; Matt Selva, Peter Van Allen, James McCarthy, Lori Valigra

Mainebiz has developed a good variation on the fact book package with other stories mixed in among the data reporting. The design is clean and shows great restraint, making it an overall handsome publication. It has a quite human personality. The data are clean and crisp and easy to access.

Gold: *D CEO Magazine*, “Real Estate Annual,” Christine Perez, Hamilton Hedrick

The annual real estate report from *D CEO* covers an impressive array of topics, including millennials and workplace design. “The Top Real Estate Stories of the Year” opens the book with solid writing and design. Overall, it has clean design, packaging and typography as well as contemporary content.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Arkansas Business*; “Greenhead: The Arkansas Duck Hunting Magazine”; Mitch Bettis, Greg Churan, Brent Birch, Todd Traub, C. Waynette Traub

Greenhead offers a wide variety of stories for a targeted audience. The writing is strong and tightly edited, and the photography is both visually appealing and well displayed. Of special note is the article, “He’s Got Game,” which provides recipes for exactly what to do with all that meat.

Gold: *BizTimes Milwaukee*, “WisconsinBiz” BizTimes Staff

The writing and topics overall are strong in this publication, with a mix of staff written and sponsored reports. It has well-thought out packages and is visually strong. The education section is deep and solid, providing massive insight into the state’s current status, progress and plans for the future.

LARGE

Silver: *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report*, “10/12 Industry Report”; Jerry Martin, 10/12 Industry Report staff

“Building the Pipeline” is an amazing journalistic effort, providing readers an in-depth look at state of Louisiana’s plans for the future and how to achieve them. It is a well-written and reported publication with a great visual approach to industrial and construction sectors. The opening of the cover story shows smart and savvy design, with lots of planning and energy.

Gold: *Crain's Detroit Business*, “Detroit 2.0”; staff

Crain’s “Detroit 2.0” is solid gold from start to finish with good leads and solid reporting and engaging photos and design. The table of contents is lively and comprehensive, offering strong navigation guide to readers. The key feature bringing this ancillary publication to the top spot is the “Waiting for New Life” pullout graphic, which is terrific.

22. Best editorial

SMALL

Silver: *Twin Cities Business*; “Blind Intersection, Cross Traffic Ahead”; Dale Kurschner

Although the condition of roadways and bridges remains a vital national issue, Dale Kurschner argues that Minnesota’s infrastructure is in better shape than most and the state doesn’t need to spend the billions of dollars that the governor suggests. The entry offers detailed examples of assessing how much

Minnesota actually should spend to make its byways safe and efficient for everyone. The use of numbers and statistics supports the argument and enhances the editorial.

Gold: *Worcester Business Journal*; “Baker, Legislature Need to Encourage Large Solar Installations;” Brad Kane, Peter Stanton

This entry presents the nuanced case for a long-term approach for public support for solar power. Solid reporting on the complicated subject of solar power contributes to that nuance. And the editorial makes clear that Massachusetts, as with the rest of the United States, still needs to find ways to provide incentives for solar power, especially when compared to early solar adopters such as Germany.

MEDIUM

Silver: *Hartford Business Journal*; “Transatlantic flight subsidy misguided”; Greg Bordonaro.

With Connecticut facing billion-dollar deficits, this editorial questions the sensibility of Gov. Dannel P. Malloy’s offer to subsidize an Irish airline’s plan to begin transatlantic flights from to Dublin to the state. The editorial acknowledges that tax-incentives can be a legitimate tool to entice businesses to locate in a region but not when the enticements represent nothing more than a “greenmail” ransom. This editorial deploys a key quality of great journalism: history and background to provide context as a way to scrutinize an always-important subject—airports and government-business partnerships.

Gold: *Virginia Business*; “Diversity is good for business”; Bernie Niemeier,

Opening his editorial with the artful use of a personal, anecdotal narrative, Bernie Niemeier calls forth his 1960s experiences as a Richmond schoolboy newspaper carrier in a time of racial and societal tumult. He uses specific, telling details to take the reader to a place and a time. Then, with clarity he draws a direct line to today’s racial and cultural strife. In doing so, he argues that equal opportunity fosters innovation and makes “both economic and social sense.”

LARGE

Silver: *Indianapolis Business Journal*; “Vision Fleet Mess: Lesson in Secrecy”; Cory Schouten

What may have seemed like a good idea —rent a fleet of electric cars for Indianapolis — turned into a governmental debacle. With concision and numerical specifics that illuminate rather than overwhelm, Cory Schouten details how things went terribly wrong. In the grand tradition of journalist-as-watchdog, he highlights unnecessary governmental secrecy on behalf of the mayor while he praises a city-county council that rightfully questioned the \$32 million deal.

Gold: *Florida Trend*; “More Than Water”; Mark Howard

In prose that’s clear and compelling, Mark Howard outlines why the water supply for Florida remains the single most important issue for the state as it grows beyond 20 million residents. He uses the rhetorical strategy of a striking sense-of-place comparison: arid Israel with lush Florida. In this way, he points to innovative strategies that provide a template for water supply sustainability and economic growth.

BEST OF SHOW CATEGORIES

23. Most improved publication

Winner: *Providence Business News*; Roger Bergenheim, Mark Murphy

Providence Business News took a giant leap from its previous design to a new look that’s filled with light, content, context and a crisper presentation. The most striking change is the switch from a newspaper-style cover to a magazine layout, adding emphasis to a strong cover story. And the nameplate has been modernized as well, making an attractive display. The Table of Contents reflects a major improvement with more details and visuals to help readers make their way through content. Stories focus

on more top-of-mind topics. “For Starters” and “It’s Personal” sections create more interesting pacing. The overall result is a more personal and reader-friendly publication.

24. Best website

Bronze: *Arkansas Business*; Lance Turner, editor

Arkansas Business offers its readers an attractive, easy to navigate website that is equally accessible on the desktop or via a mobile phone. Reading this website is to have an insider’s view of the state’s business community: you instantly know what’s important to Arkansas and its citizens. On mobile, Arkansas Business delivers a paired down, but well-curated collection of the latest news, while also maintaining links to the site’s engaging blogs and staff story picks.

Silver: *BizTimes Milwaukee*; BizTimes staff

Milwaukee’s BizTimes delivers a strong business voice for the city. Its website features good use of photos and illustrations that engage readers with the site. The rotating story gallery keeps a fresh feel to the website’s home page, while the addition of reader polls, events and Twitter feed help extend engagement with the audience. The BizTimes efforts are likely to keep people reading well past the homepage.

Gold: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; staff

Readers of *Crain’s Chicago Business* can see that the site is not just trying to be Chicago’s best source of business news; they are working to be the city’s best overall news source. The website is a lively, engaging and well-organized collection of business and city news. The home page is a curated must-read for Chicago residents, but the real depth of this site is revealed behind the drop-down menus. Here readers find a collection of news, politics and opinion stories that is hard to match.

25. Best magazine

Bronze: *Business North Carolina*; staff

Excellent reporting marks a strong publication that covers the business of North Carolina in a thorough and varied way. Its statewide coverage is strong and the writing is some of the best in this category.

Silver: *dbusiness*; R.J. King, John Schultz, Carolyn Watson and Austin Phillips

The editors of *dbusiness* cover a lot of topics in a package that is organized and easy to read, all while capturing the essence of Detroit. The features display excellent photography, and the cover art is varied and conceptual.

Gold: *D CEO Magazine*; Glenn Hunter, Christine Perez, Hamilton Hedrick, Matt Goodman and Lauren DeLozier

The unexpected visuals and compelling stories of *D CEO* make for a strong magazine that is smartly edited and has a solid sense of place. This is a clean, attractive publication with a great balance of personality-based stories and in-depth features.

26A. Best newspaper: small tabloids

Bronze: *Springfield Business Journal, MO*; Eric Olson, Editorial Director and Emily Letterman, Features Editor

Stories like “The Millennial Mindset” and “CEO Roundup,” invite readers into the paper. The use of strong headlines and design add to that invitation. Each issue is filled with information that gives residents a strong sense of the city and its businesses. This includes coverage of family-owned businesses, “Damaged, not Destroyed,” about a family who kept the business going after a co-founder died and entrepreneurs “The Ride of Their Lives,” about two rodeo cowboys who will be inducted into the Professional Bull Rider’s Ring of Honor and how one started a new business raising rodeo bulls.

Silver: *Worcester Business Journal*; Staff

The variety of the stories, use of headlines and drop heads pulls readers into each story, along with design elements like boxes, quotes and subheads. With this clean presentation readers can easily move throughout the pages and find wonderful stories and columns. The use of the “Flash Poll” to involve readers on the editorial page is good example of an effort to maintain a strong relationship with an involved audience.

Gold: *Daily Herald Business Ledger*; Kim Mikus, Editor, Rich Klicki, director of content development, Rick Kirby, design/copyeditor

In addition to writing strong stories, this publication adds interesting and relevant facts via helpful infographics. Each page is well designed and allows the eye to move easily through the sections. The publication also does a good job of showing the city’s diversity with faces and stories within each issue.

26B. Best newspaper: medium/large tabloids

Bronze: *Crain’s Detroit Business*; Staff

There are some great stories in Detroit, and Crain’s Detroit seeks out the important ones. The stories are often gritty with a gloves-off approach to the city and its challenges. The editors do not spare the elite and powerful, and they don’t sugarcoat Detroit’s difficulties. The result offers a realistic look at the city while sharing a caring sense of civic pride.

Silver: *Crain’s Chicago Business*; Staff

There is a lot of reporting muscle throughout the book, along with an impressive variety in story selection and approach. Unexpected surprises include the Goodbye Moto graphic journalism package; an entrepreneur’s cleansing soup startup; the coolest office contest; and an interesting moving-day graphic. On the news side, there’s a quality deep dive into the Illinois pension disaster. On the softer side are the back of book Business of Life features. The headlines are more interesting than in most other entries, and every story feels like it gets attention.

Gold: *Los Angeles Business Journal*; Staff

A strong mix of photos, graphics and art begins on the covers and carries on throughout the book. There are entry points on each page, and those pages are filled with some of the best writing in the competition. The story and display hierarchy is easy to follow. It shows that the editors and staff work to understand their audience and to deliver highly relevant material.

Judges for the Alliance of Area Business Publishers 2016 Editorial Excellence Awards

Judged by the University of 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 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 and a chain of Israeli magazines.

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. His work – poetry, fiction and non-fiction – has appeared in numerous publications, from literary reviews to Sports Illustrated.

Frank Corridori has more than 14 years of experience as an art director, creative director, creative and design consultant, photographer, illustrator, writer and interactive designer. He worked in New York City and Phoenix before moving to Missouri, where he teaches courses in strategic design and visual communication and helps oversee the student-run advertising agency MOJO Ad.

David Herzog serves as the academic adviser to the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting (NICAR), a joint program of the Missouri School of Journalism and Investigative Reporters and Editors, Inc. Before joining the J-School faculty in January 2002, Herzog spent five years as an investigative reporter at the Providence Journal in Rhode Island. Earlier, he was the editor for computer-assisted reporting at The Morning Call in Allentown, Pa., a business reporter for the Baltimore Sun and general assignment reporter for other newspapers in Pennsylvania.

Mark Hinojosa joined the Missouri faculty in 2015 from The Detroit News, where he was director of interactive media. Previously, he was the associate managing editor for multimedia for the Chicago Tribune. He is a two-time Pulitzer Prize judge and has served on the boards of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the Online News Association.

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 spent 25 years as a magazine and newspaper writer and editor and now teaches in the magazine journalism emphasis area. Prior to joining the faculty, Hudson was a staff writer for the Los Angeles Times, the Providence (R.I.) Journal and The Bulletin in Bend, Ore. He edited the Providence Sunday Journal Magazine. Hudson's freelance writing has appeared in the Los Angeles Times Sunday Magazine, Mother Jones, Hemispheres and Historic Preservation.

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.

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 also spent many years coordinating the PMA contest judging.

Steve Rice is an assistant professor in convergence journalism. He teaches Fundamentals of Multimedia and Micro Documentary courses. Rice directed the production and design of Knight Ridders' book, "Come Hell and High Water," on the flooding that devastated Grand Forks, North Dakota in 1997. He was a member of the Minneapolis Star Tribune's news video team and was the AME/Graphics for the Miami Herald. Under his leadership, the Herald's photography department won two Pulitzer prizes for photography and was a finalist with three other entries.

Jennifer Rowe, Jennifer Rowe, associate professor, chairs the magazine faculty. For a dozen years, she served as editorial director of Vox, an award-winning weekly city magazine for Columbia. In 2004 she received the Provost's Outstanding Junior Faculty Teaching Award and in 2009 MU's William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence. Jennifer has written freelance articles for Runner's World, Elle, Real Simple, Westways and St. Louis magazines. A speaker at conferences across the country, she has presented at the FOLIO: show in New York City and Chicago, the United States Olympic Committee Communications Workshop and many more.

John T. Schneller has worked as a journalist since shortly after arriving at the University of Missouri in 1973. He was a correspondent for the Kansas City Star and Times and city editor at the Columbia Daily Tribune before joining the School of Journalism faculty in 2000. Since then he has continued to oversee a team of community news reporters as a city editor at the Columbia Missourian.

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 and an expert on multimedia reporting using mobile devices. 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. He also served communications director for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

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 is the director of communications for the Reynolds Journalism Institute. He was formerly senior vice president and editor of the Editor & Publisher Co. and served as executive director of the National Newspaper Association. 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.

Marty Steffens holds an endowed chair in business reporting. She is a former department head or editor at several newspapers, including the Orange County Register, Los Angeles Times and San Francisco Examiner.

Reuben Stern was the design editor for the Los Angeles Daily News before joining the University of Missouri faculty in August 2002. He has worked as a designer, editor and graphic artist at several newspapers and also led multiple newspaper redesign projects. He also coordinates the AABP awards judging.

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.

Maggie Walter is a professor at the Missouri School of Journalism and an interactive 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 is the systems editor at the Columbia Missourian. Previously, he was assistant features editor and a copy editor at the Star-News in Wilmington, N.C.