

**The Minnesota Professional Chapter
of the
Society of Professional Journalists
presents:
The 2016 Page One Awards**



**June 15, 2016
Town & Country Club, St. Paul**

**The Minnesota Professional Chapter of the Society
of Professional Journalists
Page One Awards Banquet**

June 15, 2016
7:00 p.m.

Welcome

Jonathan Kealing
MN SPJ Chapter President

Student Scholarships

Presented by Jenna Ross
MN SPJ Board member

Presented to Jacob Belgum and
Ellis Williams

Peter S. Popovich Award

Presented by Anna Pratt
MN SPJ Board Member

Presented to Paul McEnroe

President's Award

Presented by Jonathan Kealing
MN SPJ Chapter President

Keynote

Jonathan Capehart
Journalist and Editorial Board Member
Washington Post

Page One Awards Presented

Jana Shortal
KARE 11

Student Scholarship Award Winners

Each year, the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists board of directors selects two college students studying in the field of journalism to receive its annual student scholarship. This year, MNSPJ is pleased to award two \$2,000 scholarships.

The funds for the scholarship are generated, in part, through your purchases at the Page One Awards Silent Auction. In addition, the board traditionally directs a portion of the local membership dues to fund the scholarships.

The scholarship application process is highly competitive, and applicants must either be enrolled in a post-secondary institution in Minnesota or be a Minnesota high school graduate enrolled in a post-secondary institution outside of Minnesota.

Jacob Belgum, of Atwater, Minn., is a junior at Augustana University, where he is studying journalism and accounting. After years reporting and editing for the campus paper, Belgum is set to become the editor-in-chief of the Augustana Mirror next year. Belgum has worked as an intern for the West Central Tribune, where he covered -- with clear and effective writing -- a variety of news. The newspaper's editor said that Belgum "displayed integrity, responsibility, ambition and a keen interest in journalism."

The board was impressed with Belgum's work experience, GPA of 3.93 and essay. "The concept of telling stories that may not otherwise be heard is thrilling to me," he wrote. "Digging to find details that other reporters haven't found keeps me going."

Ellis Williams, of Hastings, Minn., is graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where he was the managing editor of The Spectator, worked part-time for the Leader-Telegram and played football for four years.

Williams does fine work with the sports profile, drawing readers in with his tension-filled leads. "For 39 minutes and 39 seconds," one story began, "it was the UW-Stout men's basketball team's night."

The board appreciated Williams' writing, resume and letter of recommendation. "He is the best student sports journalist I knew in the 16 years I taught at UW-Eau Claire or four years at the University of Maryland," that letter proclaimed.

In becoming a high-profile sports journalist, Williams hopes "to inspire and give voice to the untold stories while making a lasting difference in the lives of others."

2015 Peter S. Popovich Award Winner

The Peter S. Popovich Award is given by the board of the Minnesota Society of Professional Journalists annually to the person or organization that exemplifies the fight for First Amendment rights.

The award, MN SPJ's most prestigious, honors the life of Peter Popovich, a MN legislator, jurist, and tireless advocate for First Amendment rights.

Through the years, Paul McEnroe, currently an executive producer of investigations and special projects at 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS, has churned out countless investigative stories that demonstrate a profound commitment to Freedom of Information.

McEnroe, who's been in the news business for 40 years, including over 25 years as an investigative reporter at the Star Tribune, embraces challenges head-on. His name is synonymous with stories that run "long and deep." It's no surprise that he's known as the "first one in, last one out" on very ambitious projects.

McEnroe's thoroughly reported social justice-oriented stories have had a huge impact: He's covered terrorism, the child protection system, corruption in the Minneapolis police department, and the I-35W bridge collapse. He's also reported on two wars and the Bosnia-Croatia conflict.

Furthermore, as both a mentor and a teacher, McEnroe inspires his colleagues and journalism students to go after serious stories with the same drive, skill and compassion.

Peter S. Popovich Award winners 1979-2016

- 1979 The Minnesota Supreme Court & Chief Justice Robert Sheran
1980 Newell Grant, Publisher, Tri-State Daily News, Wahpeton-ND
1981 Roger Adams, Star and Tribune Freedom of Information Committee
1982 Jeanette McDougal, Data watch of Minnesota
1983 T.J. Western; WCCO TV and Radio; St. Cloud Times
1984 Mark Baker, Editor, Lake Region Press and Lake Region Echo
1985 John R. Finnegan, St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch
1986 Star and Tribune First Amendment Committee
1987 Duane Rasmussen, Forest Lake Times, ECM Post Review
1988 John Fisher, Annandale Advocate;
Debra Flemming, Owatonna People's Press
1989 The Minnesota Daily and Marshall Tanick, Attorney
1990 Peter S. Popovich, Chief Justice, Minnesota Supreme Court
1991 Patricia Hirl Longstaff
1992 Robert Franklin, FOI Director, Minnesota SPJ
1993 Kevin Burke, Chief Judge, Hennepin County
1994 Mark Anfinson, Media Attorney
1995 Jim Pumarlo, RedWing Republican Eagle
1996 The Minnesota Daily and Michelle Ames, Editor;
John Stanoch, District Judge, Hennepin County
1997 Donald R. Casey, St. Cloud Times
1998 Reps. Matt Entenza and Bill Macklin; Sen. Richard Cohen
1999 Lucy Dalglish, FOI Director, Minnesota SPJ
2000 Tim McGuire, Editor, Minneapolis Star Tribune
2001 Randy Lebedoff, Minneapolis Star Tribune
2002 John Borger, Media Attorney
2003 Bill Lawrence and Mark Bartel
2004 Donald S. Gemberling, former director, Minnesota Department of Administration,
Information Analysis and Policy Division
2005 Walter Kuckes, Avon, Minn.
2006 Rep. Mary Liz Holberg; Sen. Don Betzold
2007 Gary Hill, former KSTP-TV journalist
2008 Mary Flister, Open government advocate, Maplewood, Minn.
Robbie La Fleur, Director – MN Legislative Reference Library
2009 The Echo student newspaper, Faribault High School: Kelly Zwagerman, adviser;
Vicky Carillo, Christen Hildebrandt and Ben Jackson, editors
2010 Randy Furst, Star Tribune
2011 Jane E. Kirtley, Silha Professor of Media Ethics and Law, School of Journalism & Mass
Communication, University of Minnesota
2012 Glenn Howatt & Richard Merryhew, Star Tribune
2013 The Timberjay Newspapers, Marshall Helmberger, publisher
2014 Joan Gilbertson, WCCO-TV and Art Hughes, freelance journalist
2015 James Eli Shiffer, Minneapolis Star Tribune
2016 Paul McEnroe, Executive Producer for Investigations and Special Projects at KSTP 5

Keynote Speaker - Jonathan Capehart



Jonathan Capehart is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and member of the Washington Post editorial board who writes about politics and social issues for the PostPartisan blog.

Capehart was deputy editorial page editor of the New York Daily News from 2002 to 2004 and served on that paper's editorial board from 1993 to 2000. In 1999, his 16-month editorial campaign to save the famed Apollo Theatre in Harlem earned him and the board the Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Writing.

Capehart left the Daily News in July 2000 to become the national affairs columnist at Bloomberg News and took a leave from this position in February 2001 to serve as a policy adviser to Michael Bloomberg in his first successful campaign for New York City mayor.

Awards Presentation

We ask all winners, or a representative from the winning news outlet, to come forward to accept their awards during the presentation.

Duplicate awards are available for purchase from MNSPJ. If you would like to order a duplicate plaque or certificate, please contact us by email at minnesota.spj@gmail.com.

Congratulations to all of the award winners!

Newspapers

Spot News

Newspapers – 50,000+ Circulation

First Place: Libor Jany, Paul Walsh, David Chanen, Beatrice Dupuy, *Star Tribune*

“Black Lives Matter”

Judge’s Comments: Excellent documentation of a saga as it unfolds from day to day. Each story breaks crucial news, and reporters found ways to tie in the historic cultural divide between north Minneapolis residents and law enforcement.

Second Place: Jenna Ross, Pam Louwagie, Randy Furst, David Chanen, *Star Tribune*

“Jacob Wetterling”

Third Place: Jean Hopfensperger, *Star Tribune*

“Twin Cities Archdiocese”

Spot News

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Taylor Nachtigal, *Post-Bulletin*

“McClellon steps down”

Judge’s Comments: Strong package with good voices, elements - especially the timeline. Lede was a bit long but got the context right up front, and it was backed up throughout. Writing was clear and well organized. Good coverage was mirrored in online package.

Second Place: Karlee Weinmann, *Finance and Commerce*

“Bruce Dayton revolutionized retailing and real estate”

Third Place: Brady Slater, *Duluth News Tribune*

“DTA bus crash”

Feature

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Mary Lynn Smith, *Star Tribune*

“Life After Death Row”

Judge’s Comments: This is so meticulously reported. In a category with great entries, the details made the difference. Particularly appreciated was the straightforward, unmelodramatic presentation on a topic that sometimes draws over-the-top writing. Nicely done. Understated. And a great read.

Second Place: Jenna Ross, *Star Tribune*

“One Room, One Teacher”

Third Place: Mary Divine, *Pioneer Press*

“Grieving Parents’ Memory Boxes”

Feature

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Eric Best, *Southwest Journal*

“If these walls could talk”

Second Place: Edie Schmierbach, *Mankato Free Press*

“Backyard archaeology”

Third Place: Sam Louwagie

“Second chance: angler lived after 20 minutes under ice”

Enterprise/In-Depth

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Chris Serres, *Star Tribune*

“A Matter of Dignity”

Judge's Comments: This package brought light to the circumstances in which Minnesotans with disabilities are living. I appreciated the comparisons to how other states handle this issue, and I thought the writer did a fantastic job of humanizing these people who are so often marginalized. The story about the challenges faced by couples was particularly powerful.

Second Place: Mark Brunswick, *Star Tribune*

“A Battle with Pain”

Third Place: Paul McEnroe, Abby Simons, Libor Jany, *Star Tribune*

“Called to Jihad from the heartland”

Enterprise/In-Depth

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Kevin Allenspach, *St. Cloud Times*

“Medical ethics”

Second Place: Sarah McKenzie, Dylan Thomas, Michelle Bruch, Eric Best, *Southwest Journal*

“Risky Rails”

Third Place: John Lundy, Tom Olsen, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Driven to Drink”

Investigative

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Jeff Meitrodt, *Star Tribune*

“Tragic Harvest”

Judge's Comments: This in-depth and informative set of stories - combined with compelling graphics and set off by plenty of anecdotes - brings to life the problem of lax safety rules and regulations on Minnesota farms.

Second Place: Sarah Horner, Elizabeth Mohr, *Pioneer Press*

“Child brides”

Third Place: Daniel Bauman, Rachel Stassen-Berger, *Pioneer Press*

“Leap from legislator to lobbyist a short one in Minnesota”

Investigative

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Dan Nienaber, *Mankato Free Press*

“The mysterious life and death of a Maverick”

Judge's Comments: A great read digging up the mystery of a mysterious man. This is a great example of when an interesting story falls into your lap, and you take it to the next level. Maverick wasn't just an unknown homeless man, he was sort of a community fixture who was liked, but remained on the fringe. Reporter covered all his basis looking into this man's past, giving readers and the people who knew Maverick some insight on his life.

Second Place: Taylor Nachtigal, *Post-Bulletin*

“RCTC spending raises questions”

Third Place: Brett Boese, *Post-Bulletin*

“Winona State administration under fire after Leaf incident”

Business Story

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Joe Carlson, *Star Tribune*

"New transparency comes to medicine"

Judge's Comments: A well-researched and sourced story on a topic of importance to readers. The reporter does a good job of offering pros and cons of the financial relationships between doctors and the medical device companies. The illustration was well done and appropriate and the graphic was clear and helpful. A breakout providing a website link to the database itself would have been helpful for readers wishing to check on their own doctors, though.

Second Place: Mike Hughlett, *Star Tribune*

"Bird Flu"

Third Place: Richard Chin, *Pioneer Press*

"Dying to build a haunted house? This Halloween store is for you."

Third Place: Katy Read, *Star Tribune*

"The real story about retirement"

Business Story

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Brady Slater, *Duluth News Tribune*

"Duluth's saturated taxicab industry forces a decision"

Judge's Comments: The business category had many excellent entries spanning a variety of topics -- both news and feature. Brady Slater's business piece stood out because of the intermingling of business issues and government decisions that have made a mess of Duluth's taxi industry.

Second Place: Sam Black, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

"Labor crunch to hit booming Shakopee"

Third Place: Vicki Ikeogu, *St. Cloud Times*

"Ownership losing luster"

Sports Story

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Chad Graff, *Pioneer Press*

"Wild star Ryan Suter working hard to keep his father's legacy alive"

Judge's Comments: Wonderful behinds the scenes look at NHL player Ryan Suter. Rare to have a reporter tell this kind of story about what a current NHL player does to keep the memory of his father alive in a community that meant so much for the Suter Family. Great story telling. Inspires readers to look at themselves when it comes to how they honor those people important in their lives.

Second Place: Mike Kaszuba, *Star Tribune*

"Hope on the Range"

Third Place: Jerry Zgoda, *Star Tribune*

"Timberwolves Coach Flip Saunders"

Sports Story

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Shane Frederick, *Mankato Free Press*

“Breaking Boundaries”

Judge’s Comments: Well-written and well-rounded story that captured the reader from the opening paragraph. Strong quotes. Told a unique story about students breaking from their own societal norms as they begin a journey as student athletes, and the story could help encourage others in the community to also pursue sports. Well done.

Second Place: Jason Feldman, *Post-Bulletin*

“Stewartville family faces a battle bigger than football”

Third Place: Brett Boese, *Post-Bulletin*

“To play football, or not?”

Arts & Entertainment Story

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: John Reinan, *Star Tribune*

“Nerd heaven”

Judge’s Comments: Reinan has taken what could be seen as boring or unwieldy subject matter and presented it in a way that connects and entertains while teaching a surprising amount. With his vivid descriptions and impressive wordplay, he holds the reader’s attention throughout the piece. It’s solidly written, well-organized and a joy to read. Who knew a museum about broadcasting could be so interesting? Reinan apparently did – or at least made it so here.

Second Place: Graydon Royce, *Star Tribune*

“Cuban overture bridges two divides”

Third Place: Mary Ann Grossmann, *Pioneer Press*

“A life worthy of verse ...”

Arts & Entertainment Story

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Dylan Thomas, *Southwest Journal*

“Renaissance men”

Judge’s Comments: Awesome lede – strong and interesting writing throughout.

Second Place: Kate Kompas, *St. Cloud Times*

“So why don’t Taylor Swift, Stones play in St. Cloud?”

Third Place: Eric Best, *Southwest Journal*

“A Minneapolis Muralist”

Column

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: James Eli Shiffer, *Star Tribune*

“Tiny tract of property slips away”

Judge’s Comments: Eli Shiffer uses strong reporting and strong narrative skills to bring an easily overlooked tale to life. A tiny plot of inaccessible land never took on such meaning.

Second Place: Gail Rosenblum, *Star Tribune*

“Differences of opinion were his calling card”

Third Place: Lee Schafer, *Star Tribune*

“Cornell begins reshaping Target”

Column

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Steve Lange, *Post-Bulletin*

"Sister-in-law embodied power of positivity"

Judge's Comments: Used personal story to illustrate health/life lessons that resonate with one and all. Supported by medical research and emotion that resonates with readers.

Second Place: Christa Lawler, *Duluth News Tribune*

"Another fear gets smooshed down in the exam room"

Third Place: Jay Furst, *Post-Bulletin*

"Too many unforced errors led to McClellon resignation"

Editorial

Newspaper- 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Lori Sturdevant, *Star Tribune*

"Better Together: a three-part series"

Judge's Comments: This is a first-rate package; a great use of data, illustrations and persuasive arguments to effect change. Minnesota readers were well-served by this project. Well done.

Editorial

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Brian Hunhoff, *Yankton County Observer*

"Gosch put safety last to drive fast"

Judge's Comments: Good look into a lapse of open/good governance, with an emphasis on why public policy has to be justified beyond its effect on one guy. Well argued; well supported.

Second Place: Joe Spear, *Mankato Free Press*

"Another Troubling Prosecution"

Graphics/Art and Illustration

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Ray Grumney, *Star Tribune*

"Loons Under Watch"

Judge's Comments: Well-executed with a nice mix of illustration and data visualization. Detail rich and wonderfully executed.

Second Place: Ray Grumney, *Star Tribune*

"What happens when you flush?"

Third Place: Ray Grumney, *Star Tribune*

"Turning sugar beets into sugar"

Graphics/Art and Illustration

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Ben Ramsden, Dirk DeYoung, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

"Aim Here"

Judge's Comments: Fun take on the Target logo and natural foods.

Page Design

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Bob Timmons, Kevin Cannon, *Star Tribune*

"Two Cities Marathon Guide"

Judge's Comments: Excellent job with the Marathon guide. It looked great and was very informative. That was a lot of good information to get into one space while keeping the flow constant and interesting. It reads very well and we enjoyed the color scheme throughout. We had four people voting and the first-place winner was unanimous. Very creative and time consuming.

Second Place: Ben Ramsden, Nancy Kuehn, Dirk DeYoung, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

"Club to keep"

Third Place: Ray Grumney, Eddie Thomas, *Star Tribune*

"Loons Underwatch"

Headlines

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: *Star Tribune*

Judge's Comments: Superior heads; perfectly set the mood of the stories they covered.

Second Place: *Pioneer Press*

Headlines

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: *Mankato Free Press*

Judge's Comments: Thoughtful wording that perfectly described the stories they covered. Readers are well served by the tone of the heads, especially the playful ones.

Second Place: Brian Hunhoff, Bernie Hunhoff, *Yankton County Observer*

Third Place: Kristal Leebrick

Third Place: David Bohlander, *Finance & Commerce*

Best Issue

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: *Star Tribune*

"9/13/2015"

Judge's Comments: A robust Sunday paper with something for everyone. The special sections previewing the Vikings season and the fall arts were standouts. Visually rich with a nice mix of graphics, photos and illustrations. A paper I can imagine sitting down and spending the morning with.

Second Place: *Star Tribune*

"9/20/2015"

Third Place: *Star Tribune*

"11/8/2015"

Best Issue

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: *Duluth News Tribune staff*

Judge's Comments: Well-designed newspaper with strong local content. Paper is packed with news, much of it with brilliant art. Strong effort.

Second Place: Kristal Leebrick, Stephen Parker, *Park Bugle*

Magazines

Best Profile Story

Magazine

First Place: Liz Fedor, *Twin Cities Business*

"Making Waves in Radio"

Judge's Comments: A comprehensive story about Ginny Morris, well written and well told.

Second Place: Jordan Osterman, *St. Thomas Magazine*

"The Power of Faith, The Necessity of Justice"

Third Place: Dan Heilman, Ross Pfund, *Super Lawyers Magazine*

"The Whistleblower's Best Friend"

Best Feature Story

Magazine

First Place: Jen Wittes, *Minnesota Parent*

"Free-Range Kids"

Judge's Comments: This was a super tough category to judge due to the wealth of great investigative reporting and depth of information in the articles. But, this article rose to the top because it was fun to read as well as concise. Jen also did a lot of good research and reporting on this story with timely, newsy information.

Second Place: Burl Gilyard, *Twin Cities Business*

"Food Fight"

Third Place: Dale Kurschner, *Twin Cities Business*

"Double Exposure"

Best Department

Magazine

First Place: Jennifer Koski, *Rochester Magazine*

"Random Rochesterite"

Judge's Comments: A clever introduction to ordinary Rochester residents who are not so ordinary. Light writing style makes the pieces interesting.

Second Place: Joanna Takes, Jeff Jacobson, Wayne Hein, Michael Dresdner, *Woodworker's Journal*

"Trivia"

Third Place: Sarah Jackson, *Minnesota Parent*

"Editor's Note"

Best Column

Magazine

First Place: Steve Lange, *Rochester Magazine*

"Oddchester"

Judge's Comments: Somewhat difficult to compare serious fact-filled columns with opinion columns, but Steve's articles won my heart. "I wish you could have met her" was an outstanding description of a dearly loved woman. The columns overall are easy to relate to but also share comical and endearing sides of the writer.

Second Place: Michael Dresdner, *Woodworker's Journal*

"Finishing Thoughts"

Third Place: Shannon Keough, *Minnesota Parent*

"Baby on Board"

Best Cover

Magazine

First Place: Chris Winn, *Twin Cities Business*

"9/1/2015"

Judge's Comments: The illustration tells the cover story here. The cover design is crisp and focused.

Second Place: Dana Croatt, *Minnesota Parent*

"Health issue cover"

Third Place: *Renew magazine*

"Sonia Manzano"

Best Page Design

Magazine

First Place: *Renew magazine*

"Sonia Manzano"

Judge's Comments: Nice juxtapositioning of the photograph with the type.

Second Place: Lisa Houghton, *Rochester Magazine*

"A day in the Life of Rochester International Airport"

Third Place: Amanda Wadeson, *Minnesota Parent*

"Story time with a twist!"

Best Issue

Magazine

First Place: Brian Brown, Patricia Petersen, Sara Klomp, Mike Ekern, *St. Thomas Magazine*

Judge's Comments: A good mix of short, in-depth and profile pieces. Well designed, beautiful photography (especially the photo of designated hitter Ryan Gerber) and portraits of alums. This is a magazine that people who are not University of St. Thomas grads would be interested in reading.

Second Place: Todd Reubold, Mary Hoff, David Doody, Sarah Karnas, *Ensia*

Third Place: Staff, *Mankato magazine*

Graphics/Art and Illustration

Magazine

First Place: Chris Winn, *Twin Cities Business*

"Triple Sales"

Judge's Comments: Just attention to detail in this graphic with the names of restaurants embedded into Guy Fieri's hair and his flowery commentary in the background.

Television

Spot/Breaking News

Television - 50+ newsroom employees

First Place: Esme Murphy, Jennifer Mayerle, Frank Vascellaro, *WCCO-TV*

"A Break in the Jacob Wetterling Case"

Judge's Comments: Outstanding job by the reporters in the field, who appeared to be very much in the know about this story and the developments.

Spot/Breaking News

Television - Less than 50 newsroom employees

First Place: Devin Bartolotta, Chuck Sibley, *KTTC-TV*

"Runaway Truck Rescue"

Judge's Comments: A good recap of what happened. Reporter explanatory standup added to the story.

Second Place: Heidi Enninga, Kyle Aune, WDIO-TV

"Superior Bridge Crane Collapse"

Third Place: Kimberly Davis, Chuck Sibley, KTTC-TV

"Church on Fire"

Hard News Report

Television- 50+ newsroom employees

First Place: Tom Lyden, Tyler Ryan, KMSP-TV

"Lifers?"

Judge's Comments: This story fits the definition of "hard news." A good, investigative piece that highlights the emotion of the decisions, but also a look at why the decisions are being made without judgment.

Second Place: Adrienne Broaddus, Lindsey Seavert, Bill Middeke, KARE-TV

"Uncomfortable Conversations"

Third Place: Jennifer Mayerle, Joe Berglove, WCCO-TV

"All-Access with the U.S. Marshals"

Hard News Report

Television - Less than 50 newsroom employees

First Place: Carl Sauer, WDIO-TV

"To Nome and Back"

Judge's Comments: Wow. A well-presented piece. Allowing the soundbites to tell the story with little narration sucked the viewer into this. Good piece in a category with very fierce competition.

Second Place: Renee Passal, John Whaley, WDIO-TV

"Bracing for Layoffs"

Third Place: Darren Danielson, Carl Sauer, WDIO-TV

"The Fitz, 40 Years Later"

Feature

Television - 50+ newsroom employees

First Place: Jennifer Mayerle, David Porter, WCCO-TV

"At Home with Garrison Keillor"

Judge's Comments: Nice writing, editing made this a must watch piece.

Second Place: Boyd Huppert, Jonathan Malat, KARE-TV

"The James Gang"

Third Place: Tom Lyden, Tyler Ryan, John Cottew. KMSP-TV

"Line of Duty"

Feature

Television - Less than 50 newsroom employees

First Place: Briggs LeSavage, Carl Sauer, WDIO-TV

"A Dog's Life"

Judge's Comments: Solid shooting, good writing and strong editing made this story. Good work by reporter, photographer and editor.

Second Place: Alec Ausmus, Kyle Aune, *WDIO-TV*

"Up North: Curling"

Third Place: Ali Killam, Chuck Sibley, Alanna Martella, *KTTC-TV*

"Isabel's Prom"

Special Project/In-depth Series

Television - 50+ newsroom employees

First Place: Jennifer Mayerle, Sean Skinner, David Porter, Dymanh Chhoun, *WCCO-TV*

"Disability Lawsuits Seek Payday"

Judge's Comments: A fascinating look at all sides of this complicated issue. Well presented.

Second Place: Eric Chaloux, Kevin Bubach, *KSTP-TV*

"Stolen Valor"

Special Project/In-depth Series

Television - Less than 50 newsroom employees

First Place: Renee Passal, Glenn Kellahan, *WDIO-TV*

"Mental Health: Where are the Beds?"

Judge's Comments: This was a well-written and broad contextual look at a serious problem affecting the community. Ms. Passal's use of natural sound and a strong personal story propelled this report to the top of the category.

Second Place: Devin Bartolotta, Chuck Sibley, *KTTC-TV*

"Fear Factor: Olmsted County Crime Statistics Don't Tell the Whole Story"

Investigative

Television- 50+ newsroom employees

First Place: Tom Lyden, Tyler Ryan, Brian Wiedeke, *KMSP-TV*

"Connecting the Dots"

Judge's Comments: A fascinating piece.

Investigative

Television - Less than 50 newsroom employees

First Place: Heidi Enninga, Kyle Aune, *WDIO-TV*

"The War Within"

Judge's Comments: This powerful report on the issue of soldier suicides was accented by concise writing, superb graphics and subtle music bed that enhanced, rather than distracted from the subject matter.

Second Place: James Wilcox, *KAAL-TV*

"Work Out World Investigation"

Newscast

Television - 50+ newsroom employees

First Place: Newsroom, *WCCO-TV*

Judge's Comments: Slick, to the point newscast. Clearly, WCCO-TV wanted to own their lead story (and they did).

Newscast - Less than 50 newsroom employees

First Place: Noel Sederstrom, *KTTC-TV*

"KTTC NewsCenter at 10 p.m., October 29, 2015:

Judge's Comments: This exceptional newscast began with in-depth coverage of two major local stories and was highlighted by a fascinating long form report on crime statistics. Pacing was brisk and very little time was wasted in delivering quality information, weather and sports. Well done.

Radio

Hard News Report

Radio

First Place: Brandt Williams, Laura McCallum, *MPR*

"In a high-crime area, Mpls. cops fight crime and perceptions"

Judge's Comments: Important issue, good sources, scene audio to take us there. Multiple perspectives.

Feature

Radio

First Place: Laura Yuen, Nancy Lebens, Riham Feshir, *MPR*

"Amayia Zafar wants to box competitively, and modestly"

Judge's Comments: This was a great story. Compelling issue, good use of nat sound, great details on what the conflict was for the young boxer. Well-written, interesting and informative.

Second Place: Britt Aamodt, *KFAI*

"A Toast to the Original Champagne Lady"

Special Project/In-depth Series

Radio

First Place: John Enger, Dan Gunderson, Kate Smith, *MPR*

"Feeling scars at Red Lake, 10 years later"

Judge's Comments: Writing was great, structure kept interest even though pieces were longer, movement, bunch of different perspectives and sources. Larger context of govt, school, cultural impact, moving and sensitive interviews, high quality quotes. Production really high. Characters were moving.

Second Place: Carrie Swiggum, *KFAI*

"Polka's Not Dead, Parts 1 and 2"

Third Place: Todd Melby, *KFAI*

"Sound of Silents"

Investigative

Radio

First Place: Laura Yuen, Mukhtar Ibrahim, Sasha Aslanian, *MPR*

“From MN suburbs, they set out to join ISIS”

Judge's Comments: Challenging story to tackle. Including different voices and perspectives. We heard from the community impacted. Not overly sensationalized. The scene of revealing info to a source and hearing the reaction, that had real emotional resonance. Important story, and likely very meaningful to the community.

Online

Best Website

Online

First Place: *Star Tribune*

“StarTribune.com”

Judge's Comments: Nice, clean look on both desktop and mobile. Good navigation. Especially like the online elements such as the editorial podcast, use of DocumentCloud and video. Those are what put the Star Tribune above other sites.

Second Place: *Newsroom, MPR*

“MPRNews.org”

Third Place: Joel Kramer, Andy Putz, Corey Anderson, *MinnPost*

“MinnPost”

Best Single News Story

Online

First Place: Paul McEnroe, Abby Simons, Libor Jany, *Star Tribune*

“Called to Jihad from the Heartland”

Judge's Comments: Great read of a topic that has huge impact in Minnesota, the recruitment of young men by terrorist groups. A take-out like this is really useful for your audience to explain how these things work. The linked photos and excellent graphic really do a lot for the online presentation.

Second Place: Mary Lynn Smith, *Star Tribune*

“Life After Death Row - The Resurrection of Damon Thibodeaux”

Third Place: Andy Mannix, *MinnPost*

“Disorderly Conduct”

Best Continuing Coverage

Online

First Place: *Newsroom, MPR*

“Climate Change in Minnesota”

Judge's Comments: This is a great package of work. The maps and graphics are great, there's a nice variety of stories (like the weather watchers, health/allergies, government impacts) including both technical sources and information, as well as lots of real people. Good use of online-only content to supplement radio coverage.

Second Place: Staff, *St. Cloud Times*

“Immigration project”

Third Place: *Star Tribune*

“Jacob Wetterling”

Arts & Entertainment

Online

First Place: Andy Sturdevant, *MinnPost*

"In sticker art, a universe exists between art for art's sake and commercial promotion"

Second Place: Kate Kompas, Abby Faulkner, Jake Laxen, *St. Cloud Times*

"Cloudy Town After Dark"

Third Place: Gregg Aamot, *MinnPost*

"An 'arts ecosystem' in Winona"

Best Use of Multimedia

Online

First Place: Multimedia Staff, *Star Tribune*

"Saturday Night"

Judge's Comments: Great mix of lively photos and videos that displayed the diversity of a Saturday night.

Second Place: Multimedia Staff, *Star Tribune*

"Hope on the Range"

Third Place: William Lager, Matt Sepic, Jeffery Thompson, *MPR*

"Upper St. Anthony lock closing after half a century; blame the carp"

Best social media account - Individual

Online

First Place: Briana Bierschbach, *MinnPost*

Judge's Comments: This reporter's use of Twitter is fantastic. Tweets are brief and easy to read -- they get the point across. It's nice that quotations are selective, as it can be hard to put context around many, but this entree does a fantastic job of picking the right quotations and putting the rest in context. The account also has a very good style that is professional, but feels personal too. There is definitely a brand here.

Second Place: Michael Russo, *Star Tribune*

Third Place: Ben Garvin, *KARE-TV*

Best social media account - Institutional

Online

First Place: *Star Tribune Sports*

"Twitter Account"

Judge's Comments: Great use of hashtags. Beyond articles, there is good information that can be found in Tweets. As a reader it's easy to consume. Good work!

Second Place: *MPR News*

"Twitter Account"

Third Place: Kate Metzger, *University of St. Thomas*

"Instagram Account"

Best News Video

Online

First Place: Jeffrey Meitrodt, *Star Tribune*

“Tragic Harvest”

Second Place: Curtis Gilbert, Molly Bloom, Sam Heyn, Bob Medcraft, *MPR*

“Choo Choo Bob explains Southwest light rail's newest woes”

Best Newsroom Blog

Online

First Place: *Star Tribune Sports*

“Star Tribune Sports Blog”

Judge's Comments: I loved that this blog felt a little behind the scenes. The extra bits of sports stories that get filtered out are usually interesting and this blog showcases them. I liked that some of these posts featured videos and context around scores, events and players. Well done!

Second Place: Bob Collins, *MPR*

“News Cut”

Third Place: Jim Hammerand, *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*

“Real Estate Inc.”

Best Independent News Blog

Online

First Place: Susan Perry, *MinnPost*

“Second Opinion”

Judge's Comments: Very accessible, with great links to dive deeper.

Second Place: Andy Sturdevant, *MinnPost*

“The Stroll”

Third Place: Pam Espeland, *MinnPost*

“Artscape”

Photography

Best News Photography

Photography

First Place: Renee Jones Schneider, Elizabeth Flores, Jerry Holt, Richard Tsong-Taatarii, *Star Tribune*

“Black Lives Matter”

Judge's Comments: The Star Tribune's News Photography conveys immense human emotion, tension and conflict from the coverage of the Jamar Clark shooting and the Black Lives Matter protestors. The photographers carefully composed the photographs to tell the story from many different angles and by shooting a variety of wide, tight and medium photographs. The photographers captured raw emotion in moments and drama in their photographs allowing the viewer to feel as if they were right in the middle of the conflict. In conclusion the photographers documented the news story with outstanding photographs depicting a high level of human emotion and tension within the community.

Second Place: Judy Griesedieck, Angela Jimenez, Regina McCombs, *MPR*

“Photography”

Third Place: David Joles, *Star Tribune*

“A Matter of Dignity”

Best Feature Photography

Photography

First Place: Jeffrey Thompson, Courtney Perry, Derek Montgomery, Regina McCombs, *MPR*

“MPR News photography”

Judge’s Comments: Outstanding feature photography including compositional order, attention grabbing moments, great use of angles and light as well as diverse shots ranging from tight, medium and wide. The photographs tell a cohesive story giving the viewer a sense of place, subject, and emotion.

Second Place: Leila Navidi, Elizabeth Flores, *Star Tribune*

“Star Tribune Features entries”

Third Place: Kimm Anderson, *St. Cloud Times*

“Feature photography by Kimm Anderson”

Best Portrait Photography

Photography

First Place: Andrew Link, *Post-Bulletin*

“Natalia Jacobson”

Judge’s Comments: The photographer’s use of light is striking in this image. Using off camera flash with the use of chalk creates a dramatic and dynamic portrait. The portrait is unique, bold and creative with a balanced composition.

Second Place: Mike Ekern, *St. Thomas Magazine*

“Ekern Portrait Portfolio”

Third Place: Jeff Wheeler, Aaron Lavinsky, *Star Tribune*

“Star Tribune Portrait Entries”

Best Sports Photography

Photography

First Place: Kyndell Harkness, *Star Tribune*

“WNBA Finals – Lynx”

Judge’s Comments: The sports photographs of the WNBA finals capture incredible reaction and emotion from the players. The photographs are tightly composed with clean backgrounds. The photographer did a wonderful job of capturing the important moments between players. Great action and reaction shots.

Second Place: Caroline Yang, Derek Montgomery, Regina McCombs, *MPR*

“MPR News photography”

Third Place: Elizabeth Nida Obert, *Post-Bulletin*

“Baseball”

Special Projects

Young Journalist of the Year

Special Awards

First Place: C.J. Sinner, *Star Tribune*

Judge’s Comments: C.J. Sinner has done some remarkable work in her newsroom as a digital journalist and commendable work teaching at the University of Minnesota. We commend her for both her journalistic work and helping the next generation of journalists.

Second Place: Mukhtar Ibrahim, *MPR*

Third Place: Hannah Yang, *Post-Bulletin*

Journalist of the Year

Special Awards

First Place: Renee Jones Schneider, *Star Tribune*

Judge's Comments: Portraits to spot news, Renee Jones Schneider has covered it all. Her photographs tell stories to readers – the function of every good photojournalists. Schneider goes above and beyond, and that is evident in her work.

Story of the Year

Special Awards

First Place: Staff, *St. Cloud Times*

“St. Cloud immigration issues”

Judge's Comments: A tough category to judge because both entries were so well done. The "St. Cloud immigration issues" piece got the first-place nod because of the breadth of the enterprise pieces to tell the story.

Second Place: Tim Nelson, Brandt Williams, Doualy Xaykaothao, Bill Wareham, *MPR*

“Jamar Clark Special Report”

Silent Auction Sponsors

The following individuals and organizations donated to the 2015 Page One Silent Auction. All proceeds from the auction benefit MNSPJ's student journalism scholarship fund so our chapter can assist Minnesota college students who are studying to become ethical, professional journalists. MNSPJ extends its gratitude to:

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About Minnesota SPJ

Founded as Sigma Delta Chi in 1909, the Society of Professional Journalists is the oldest, largest and broadest-based organization of journalists in the U.S. The Minnesota Chapter was founded in 1956. Chapter membership totals about 160. In 1998 and 2011, the Minnesota Pro chapter was named national large chapter of the year and was one of three finalists in 2014. The chapter has also been honored for its efforts in FOI advocacy, chapter programming and member communications.

SPJ provides a wide variety of professional development programming at the local and national level, including annual national and regional conferences as well as monthly programs sponsored by MN SPJ. Locally and nationally, SPJ is working hard to ensure a free flow of information, fighting battles for freedom of information and First Amendment rights.

SPJ promotes excellence in journalism through its local journalism awards programs, such as the Page One Awards, as well the national Sigma Delta Chi awards for professional journalists and The Mark of Excellence awards for collegiate journalists.

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