

*The Minnesota Professional Chapter of the
Society of Professional Journalists
presents:*

The 2014 Page One Awards



May 29, 2014
Town and Country Club
St. Paul, Minn.

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

**May 29, 2014
7:00 p.m.**

Welcome	Anna Pratt MN SPJ Chapter President
Keynote	John F. Harris Co-founder and Editor in Chief of Politico
Peter S. Popovich Award	Presented by Jonathan Kealing MN SPJ Board member Presented to Joan Gilbertson & Art Hughes
Student Scholarships	Presented by Amanda Theisen MN SPJ Board member Presented to Jordan Gerard & Gino Terrell
Presidents Award	Presented by Anna Pratt MN SPJ Chapter President
Page One Awards Presented	Tom Weber, Minnesota Public Radio

Guest Speaker

John F. Harris is the editor in chief and a cofounder of POLITICO, a publication specializing in national politics and the workings of the federal government. Since its launch in January 2007, POLITICO has become one of the country's most-trafficked news sites and has drawn widespread attention nationally and internationally for its efforts to create a new editorial and business model to sustain robust journalism in an era of radical change for the media industry.

Harris is a native of Rochester, N.Y. and a 1985 graduate of Carleton College in Northfield, MN, with a major in American History. He began his newspaper career in 1985 as a summer intern at the Washington Post. The summer ended with a job offer, and Harris spent the next 21 years at the paper in a succession of beats that began in Virginia politics. He covered the term of Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder, the nation's first elected black governor, spent time covering the military, and six years, starting in 1995, covering the White House during Bill Clinton's presidency. Harris's last position at the Post was national politics editor.

He is the author in 2005 of "The Survivor: Bill Clinton in the White House," a history of the 42nd president which was a New York Times bestseller and a Times notable book of the year. He is also co-author of a book on modern politics, "The Way to Win," which he wrote with Mark Halperin.

In late 2006, Harris joined with colleague Jim VandeHei to launch POLITICO, in collaboration with publisher Robert Allbritton. The publication now has more than 180 employees in its news and business operations and was recently named by "Fast Company" magazine to its annual list of America's most innovative companies.

Harris was also recently listed in the Telegraph's list of most influential Washington journalists and GQ's list of the most influential people in Washington. He is a frequent guest on such shows as CBS's "Face the Nation," PBS's "Washington Week" and "Charlie Rose Show," and MSNBC's "Morning Joe." In addition, he is a member of the Board of Trustees for the German Marshall Fund of the United States and Carleton College.

He lives with his wife, Ann O'Hanlon, in Alexandria, Virginia with their three children.

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 \$2,500 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.

Jordan Gerard

Jordan Gerard has already immersed herself in several journalism organizations at Winona State University. She has served as a writer for The Winonan and Winona360.org. She's also taken on leadership roles in the school's Society for Collegiate Journalists' chapter. She plans to spend part of her junior year as an intern at the Winona Daily News. In their letters of recommendation, Jordan's professors praised her for her strong desire to learn, her willingness to take on leadership roles and her "firm sense of the role of journalism in a free and open society." Jordan, herself, says, "I like to think that journalists have the power to give a voice to those who are voiceless. Journalism is how many issues came to surface throughout history." Jordan is on track to graduate from Winona State University with a journalism degree in Spring 2016. Her ultimate goal is to become a newspaper reporter.

Gino Terrell

Gino Terrell plans to graduate from Hamline University with a degree in communications. He has taken on several journalism roles in his time at Hamline, including a senior reporter and sports photographer at the campus paper, The Oracle, a sports broadcaster at the Hamline TV studio, a freelance reporter for MinnPost, and a sports editor at The Harbinger. He also spent a year with ThreeSixty Journalism, a journalism training program based at the University of St. Thomas. He now volunteers with ThreeSixty as a volunteer and mentor to high school journalism students; he was named the group's Volunteer of the Month in February 2013. Gino's academic adviser writes, "This talented young journalist works hard and wants to succeed in his academic life and journalism career." Gino's goal is to become a news anchor and talented storyteller.

2014 Peter S. Popovich Award Winners

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.

Art Hughes and Joan Gilbertson, former MN SPJ board members, have been instrumental in the ongoing effort to bring cameras into Minnesota courtrooms, and their hard work has had a big impact.

Six years ago, MN SPJ was the lead organization on this front. In 2011, the District Court agreed to an 18-month pilot project, bringing cameras into some courtrooms. Several media outlets worked to photograph civil proceedings, which was no easy task. Unfortunately, civil cases are difficult to track — they're often settled outside of the courtroom — and they hold limited interest for the broader public.

Hughes, a freelance journalist who was long the Freedom of Information chair for the MN SPJ board, has been a great advocate for cameras in the courtroom. Besides staying on top of the issue, keeping the board apprised of the latest news on this front, he's helped to garner greater support for the game-changing pilot program. Hughes has also been a liaison to the Minnesota Coalition on Government Information (MNCOGI). MNCOGI, of which he's a current board member, organized events, raising awareness of the issue in the journalism community (in collaboration with MN SPJ and the Silha Center) and in the legal community with a separate event aimed at lawmakers and the judiciary.

Likewise, WCCO producer Joan Gilbertson has brought further awareness about the program through her reporting. She brought TV cameras into a handful of civil cases. Her stories explained the pilot project and showed how the cameras give the public important insight into the legal process. She and attorney Mark Anfinson, a previous Popovich winner, presented those reports to the Minnesota judiciary when the pilot wrapped up in 2012. Her stories played a major role in the program's success. It helped to convince the Court to extend the pilot project indefinitely, effectively making access to civil cases permanent in Minnesota.

The Court has recommended further evaluation of the feasibility of opening up criminal cases to cameras. That decision is pending.

Peter S. Popovich Award winners 1979-2014

- 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, *Red Wing 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, MN
- 2006 Rep. Mary Liz Holberg; Sen. Don Betzold
- 2007 Gary Hill, former KSTP-TV journalist
- 2008 Mary Flister, Open government advocate - Maplewood, MN
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

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: minnesota.spj@gmail.com.

Congratulations to all of the award winners!

NEWSPAPERS

Spot News

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Olivia LaVecchia, *City Pages*

“Holy Smoke”

Judges comment: Well written, good flow and a neat spin on a storyline that has produced dozens, if not hundreds of stories on this subject. This story stands out.

Second Place: Raya Zimmerman, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Police: Matula shot in head, buried in grave”

Third Place: Abby Simons, *Star Tribune*

“Killer faces justice, scorn for ending boy's short life”

Spot News

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Chris Newmarker, Burl Gilyard & Drew Kerr, *Finance & Commerce*

“Post-Macy's advice: Blow it up!”

Judges comment: All three articles are nicely tied in to the local economy with a nod to the history and comparison to the past. A focus on the future with regard to the redevelopment and a mention of Sears cutting space to allow for new retail space all play nicely in to the role of losing Macy's. Written in very sharp, clear news style; easy to read the extensive information and see how it all ties together.

Second Place: John Lundy & Clint Austin, *Duluth News Tribune*

“11 Escape After Planes Collide Over Superior”

Third Place: Briana Bierschbach, *Politics in Minnesota/Capitol Report*

“Advocates of Sunday alcohol sales gird for renewed fight with powerful liquor lobby”

Feature

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Curt Brown, *Star Tribune*

“Sergeant Buckman's diary”

Judges comment: This entire package made for an incredible read, but the narrative was a stand-out. Journalists are often told to tell the human story, and this feature told a 150-year-old story in a human way. The careful selection of quotes from the journal and the historical perspective made this a clear winner.

Second Place: Jesse Marx, *City Pages*

“Waking Up with Jason DeRusha”

Third Place: Mila Koumpilova, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“At Central, class of '63 has your back”

Feature

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Michelle Bruch, *Southwest Journal*

“A Warrior for Open Data”

Judges comment: This judge appreciated learning the motivation behind a person and a cause that can often seem so dull and boring. This feature provided an insight into a national movement through a local profile. The story also provided a serious component, highlighting the failure of local officials to provide transparency and ease of use with public records.

Second Place: Sarah McKenzie, *Southwest Journal*

“Historic Vows”

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

“End of an Era”

Enterprise/In-Depth

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Curt Brown, *Star Tribune*

“Life in the Boom”

Judges comment: These deeply-reported, beautifully-illustrated narrative stories document different facets of the profound economic, demographic and cultural transformation of North Dakota's oil-producing region. This is big-picture enterprise reporting at its finest.

Second Place: Pam Louwagie, *Star Tribune*

“Saving Bobbi”

Third Place: John Brewer, Dave Orrick, Doug Belden & Bob Shaw,
St. Paul Pioneer Press

“What Happened To The Water?”

Enterprise/In-Depth

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Amy Bowen, *St. Cloud Times*

“Anorexia”

Judges comment: Bowen's multi-story look at anorexia was able to put the stories of individuals suffering from the disease into a broader perspective, using a wealth of national statistics and scientific studies. Bowen was able to seamlessly transition from the micro to the macro level of the issue in her stories, providing the reader with a wealth of information ranging from the effects of the disease to treatment information. In addition, Bowen's inclusion of those who had not yet recovered from the disease and the barriers to treatment captured the difficulty of overcoming anorexia. In short, Bowen's work was extraordinarily well-researched, sourced, and written, and gave readers a truly comprehensive inside glimpse of an issue that, for many, is not easy to talk about.

Second Place: Amanda Dyslin, *The Free Press*

“K-12 Diversity Series”

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

“Next Stop is Tough for Some Workers”

Investigative

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Brandon Stahl, *Star Tribune*

“When Nurses Fail”

Judges comment: This is a stunning combination of data-driven research and shoe-leather reporting. Brandon Stahl dove deep and came up with startling findings that led to overdue public policy reforms.

Second Place: Olivia LaVecchia, *City Pages*

“Split The Baby”

Third Place: Emily Gurnon, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“He’s a priest. He’s a parent. And nothing’s simple after that.”

Investigative

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

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

“Money Pits”

Judges comment: An excellent story by Black outlining how the cost to taxpayers of a building renovation project spiraled out of control, and how some of the "green" aspects of the project were more of a novelty than a true "green" effort.

Second Place: Tom Olsen & Robin Washington, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Landfill Scandal Investigation”

Third Place: Nathan Hansen, *Winona Daily News*

“Want to track hazardous chemicals in train cars? Good luck”

Business

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Tom Webb, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Turmoil at Best Buy meant big bucks for some departing executives”

Judges comment: Nice writing and a well put together piece. It's a business story, but doesn't read like one. It's written for the common man, not in business-speak lingo that only a few understand.

Second Place: John Welbes, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“What's been the 'Southwest Effect' since airline landed at MSP in 2009?”

Third Place: Christopher Snowbeck, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Mayo's Big Bet”

Business

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Sam Black, Jim Hammerand & Tom Smith,

Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal

“Supervalu? Not for CEO pay”

Judges comment: A well-written business story comparing CEO pay to company performance and size. The authors use of publicly available data combined with analysis from experts in the field provided for an interesting look at Supervalu's compensation practices.

Business

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

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

“Last gasp for North Loop industry”

Third Place: John Vomhof, Jr., *Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal*

“1,000 rooms, 1 question: Does Minneapolis need a megahotel?”

Sports Story

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Jesse Marx, *City Pages*

“Matt Cooke: The soul of an agitator”

Judges comment: Great story. This is the kind of long-form writing that outlets like this can still do, and that gives me hope for this dying art. Made me a hockey fan, too.

Second Place: Chris Tomasson, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“After JFK assassination, Vikings and NFL played as nation mourned”

Third Place: Mike Kaszuba & Jason Gonzalez, *Star Tribune*

“Mentor - or more? A look at the role of college recruiting advisers”

Sports Story

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Louie St. George, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Disappearing Act”

Judges comment: St. George's story on the decline of youth participation in the "Big 4" sports (basketball, hockey, baseball and football), not only tells the reader by how much there has been a decline in participation but why there has been such a decline. St. George's story stands out as unique an interesting story on an issue that the average reader probably would not know existing beforehand, or why such an issue was happening. Moreover, St. George puts the situation in perspective for the reader by comparing the youth sport participation rates for the "Big 4" sports in Duluth to national statistics.

Second Place: Michelle Miron, *Forest Lake Lowdown*

“Just Call Her Alpha Dog”

Third Place: Rick Weegman, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Scoring Goals Stopping Goals”

Arts & Entertainment

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Tatiana Craine, *City Pages*

“The Dark Night Returns”

Judges comment: I didn't even know this celebrity author when I started reading about him, but I certainly knew a lot when I finished this article. It left me wondering, "How is it that I'm not familiar with this guy or his work?" That's a tribute to the article writer. She went to great lengths to go beyond a single interview with the author. She talked to quite a few other people about him (essential in a great profile) and wove in detailed observations that put me in the room during her interviews.

Arts & Entertainment

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

Second Place: Jon Bream, *Star Tribune*

“A night with Prince: “This is real time””

Third Place: Amy Carlson Gustafson, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“St. Paul's Central High? More Like Comedy Central”

Arts & Entertainment

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Michelle Miron, *Forest Lake Lowdown*

“IT Guy By Day, Captain Jack Sparrow By Night”

Judges comment: Love the localization. Nice structure and great quotes

Second Place: Stephanie Dickrell, *St. Cloud Times*

“Staged on Fifth”

Third Place: Judy Woodward, *Park Bugle*

“Julie Buffalohead and her furry little friends deconstruct the obvious”

Column

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Scott Gillespie, *Star Tribune*

“The nation after Sandy Hook: Sadly unshaken”

Judges comment: Very strong content which spears directly into the real problem with this American issue. A fabulous perspective into Americans simply choosing to look the other direction.

Article keeps readers attention all the way through, and brings hard truth to an uneasy topic.

Second Place: Rubén Rosario, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Today I Need To Tell You About A Little Boy”

Third Place: D.J. Tice, *Star Tribune*

“The Civil War: Our Nation's Bloodline”

Column

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Steve Lange, *Post-Bulletin*

“Oddchester”

Judges comment: Great column, lots of details, great parallel to teaching a lesson in parenting.

Strong ending ties entire column together and leaves reader thinking.

Second Place: Sam Cook, *Duluth News Tribune*

“He's Cozy in the Cold”

Third Place: Julie Moravchik, *Grand Forks Herald*

“A Christmas Reminder”

Editorial

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: John Rash, *Star Tribune*

“Growing Minneapolis: The value of transit”

Judges comment: Well developed opinion. Good statistics to back up argument. Addresses major metropolitan concerns. Overall, good job breaking down pros and cons to potential future transportation options.

Editorial

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Chuck Frederick, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Because too many still watch, do nothing”

Judges comment: Point is very clearly made, and the call to action is definitely moving. By using history the conclusion helps illustrate to reader the why and stresses the importance.

Second Place: Kristal Leebrick, *Park Bugle*

“UNCLE”

Graphics/Art and Illustration

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Ken Avidor, *City Pages*

“The People You've Probably Dated”

Judges comment: Excellent illustrations. Fun, easy and enjoyable read. Brilliant variety of personalities. Captures the readers mental checklist and allows the reader to play along. Overall, very well done.

Second Place: Derek Thomson, *Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal*

“Moneytree”

Third Place: Amanda Wadeson, *The Journal*

“Great Rides”

Graphics/Art and Illustration

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Dana Croatt, *The Journal*

“All Day 2K”

Judges comment: Awesome display of information presented in a clear and logical manner easy to read and follow for all readers. Very visual, nice use of varying graphs and charts without being overkill. The cut out background photo of Peterson leads the readers' eyes right into the compilation of information.

Second Place: Gary Meader, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Hawk Pride or Hawks Denied”

Third Place: Lisa Mueller & Mark Sommerhauser, *St. Cloud Times*

“How Does MNsure Affect You?”

Page Design

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Derek Thomson, *Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal*

“Minnesota Breweries”

Judges comment: Very clean layout. Draws the reader in and easily guides them through a tidy alternative design. This is a top ten list that easily answers readers questions. Overall, very nicely done.

Second Place: Amanda Wadeson, *Southwest Journal*

“Best of Southwest”

Third Place: Emily Utne, *City Pages*

“Picked to Click”

Page Design

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Dana Croatt, *Southwest Journal*

“Hold the Cherry”

Judges comment: Very nice, clean layout-enticing. Not so busy as to turn off the reader. Many times people go crazy on all kinds of graphics but this has been kept nice and clean and used white space, the forgotten page element, to emphasize the page elements! Nice work!

Second Place: Tribune Staff, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Cool Record Runnings”

Third Place: Jake Schreiber, *Finance & Commerce*

“Moneyball”

Headlines

Newspaper - 50,000+ circulation

First Place: Mike Decaire, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Think the view is breathtaking? TRY THE STAIRS.”

Judges comment: Nice play on words. Subhead adds to the intrigue for the reader.

Headlines

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Kristal Leebrick, *Park Bugle*

“The birds, the bees, the butterflies; His next act: certified sommelier; Ministry and Movement”

Judges comment: Alliteration is always a great way to catch a reader's eye and trendy words like sommelier work well too. Try to move away from just using label leads and add verbs as in the Ministry and movement headline. The first attempt to catch a reader is through the headline-good job!

Best Issue

Newspaper - Less than 50,000 circulation

First Place: Staff, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Sunday, November 3, 2013”

Judges comment: The number and quality of local stories made the judges wish for a similar newspaper where they live. Breaking news, a relevant newsy-feature, along with a strong, clear layout made this issue a winner. The stories were engaging and showed a variety of reporting talent.

Second Place: Sarah McKenzie, Dylan Thomas, Michelle Bruch & Ben Johnson, *Southwest Journal*

“2013 Minneapolis Voter's Guide”

Third Place: Dirk DeYoung & Newsroom, *Minneapolis St. Paul Business Journal*

“Nov. 22, 2013 issue”

MAGAZINES

Best Profile Story

Magazine

First Place: Steve Lange, *Rochester Magazine*

“Meant to Be”

Judges comment: This profile's greatest strength is the life experience of its 92-year-old physician, who shares memories in a colorful way that endears him to readers. Interview subjects such as this serve the assigned storyteller ob so well. :)

Second Place: Dan Heilman & Ross Pfund, Jr., *Super Lawyers Magazine*

“The Wide Out”

Third Place: Adam Platt, *Twin Cities Business Magazine*

“Zimmern Incorporated: The business behind bizarre”

Best Feature Story

Magazine

First Place: Jennifer Koski, *Rochester Magazine*

“Made in Rochester”

*Judges comment: While there are several great entries in this category, Jennifer's piece represents a story where the reader feels as if he or she has *met* the interview subject via the writer's story-telling--not merely read about him or her.*

Second Place: Konnie LeMay, *Lake Superior Magazine*

“Fires and Floods”

Third Place: Adam Wahlberg, *Twin Cities Business Magazine*

“Battle-tested: Untapped talent”

Best Department

Magazine

First Place: Steve Lange, *Rochester Magazine*

“10 (or so) Questions”

Judges comment: Excellent rhythm between writer and subject -- humorous and informative -- makes the reader feel like a part of the conversation

Second Place: Bob Berg, *Lake Superior Magazine*

“Travel & Events”

Third Place: Jennifer Koski, *Rochester Magazine*

“Random Rochesterite”

Best Column

Magazine

First Place: Steve Lange, *Rochester Magazine*

“Oddchester”

Judges comment: Great humor combined with an easy, friendly style -- the kind of turn-to-first column that readers look forward to with each issue

Second Place: Vance Opperman, *Twin Cities Business Magazine*

“Open Letter”

Third Place: Joy Riggs, *Minnesota Parent*

“Tween Scene”

Best Cover

Magazine

First Place: Jamie Klemmensen, *Rochester Magazine*

“Ultimate Summer Guide”

Judges comment: Casual photo very evocative of summer combined with good text treatment and color choices -- made me want to leave the office for an impromptu road trip

Second Place: *Lake Superior Magazine*

“June/July 2013”

Third Place: Scott Schoerberl & Jamie Klemmensen, *Rochester Magazine*

“Single in the City”

Best Page Design

Magazine

First Place: Scott Schoerberl, *Rochester Magazine*

“Single in the City”

Judges comment: Excellent type treatment and use of white space -- complements the photo beautifully

Second Place: Bret Ryan, *Twin Cities Business Magazine*

“Zimmerman February 2013”

Third Place: Jerry Olson & Jamie Klemmensen, *Rochester Magazine*

“Greg Miller Q&A”

Best Illustration

Magazine

First Place: Kirk Lyttle, Amy Nelson & Lauri Hopple, *Spaces*
“Outdoor Living”

Judges comment: Lovely use of color - an inviting, fanciful intro to the section.

Best Issue

Magazine

First Place: Dale Kurschner & Newsroom, *Twin Cities Business Magazine*
“April 2013”

Judges comment: Creative use of photos and images, along with clear, crisp writing make this the winner. The magazine uses graphics to add to the storytelling. Infographics, in particular, make this contestant a standout. The ledes in these articles entice the reader to learn more. They are the best in this class.

Second Place: Dale Kurschner & Newsroom, *Twin Cities Business Magazine*
“November 2013”

Third Place: Steve Lange, Jamie Klemmensen & Jennifer Koski ,
Rochester Magazine
“June 2013”

TELEVISION

Spot/Breaking News

Television - 50+ newsroom employees

First Place: Dayna Landgrebe, Katherine Johnson, Vickie Binkley &
Brad Altena, *KSTP-TV*

“Car Crashes Into Pond, 5 Children Inside”

Judges comment: KSTP's coverage of this breaking news event began with a photographer's alert ear hearing rescue crews being called out to the scene. The coverage that resulted was urgent and thorough, with reporter Katherine Johnson playing a big role in that urgency. She did a very good job of keeping viewers informed on all aspects of the story. The show was produced well from the standpoint in that the producer continued to go back to the breaking news and give it the appropriate weight and length of coverage it deserved. This entry most assuredly deserves a First Place win.

Spot/Breaking News

Television - Less than 50 newsroom employees

First Place: Newsroom, *WDIO/WIRT*
“Germann Road Fire (newscast excerpt)”

Judges comment: Good initial on-site reporting by the field reporter, later joined by another staff person who brought the personal touch to the breaking news story. This judge appreciated the direct reporting of the event and the lack of hyperbolic "excitement" seen in so much event coverage of this type. Nice use of maps and weather reports also added information for the viewer.

Spot/Breaking News

Television - Less than 50 newsroom employees

Second Place: *WDAZ News*

“The search for Anthony”

Third Place: *KTTC-TV*

“Winter Without End”

Hard News Report

Television - 50+ newsroom employees

First Place: Boyd Huppert & Jonathan Malat, *KARE*

“Unhitched and Out of Control”

Judges comment: This story is masterfully shot and masterfully told. Boyd Huppert and Jonathan Malat capture the viewer's heart immediately, weaving a story of great loss with the purpose of preventing deaths from such simple omissions. Huppert and Malat made expert use of natural sound in their story. They also were very thorough in their reporting, showing us exactly what can happen when the correct equipment isn't used. "Unhitched and Out of Control" is most assuredly an award winning report.

Hard News Report

Television - Less than 50 newsroom employees

First Place: Alan Hoglund & Desten Johnson, *WDIO/WIRT*

“Life on Uneasy Street”

Judges comment: This was a story that took a public problem to task. There was an obvious investment in time by the team to get both the big picture and drill down to the detail. Spending time covering a story results in winners. Congratulations.

Second Place: Jared Ransom, Noel Sederstrom, Chuck Sibley &

Dymanh Chhoun, *KTTC-TV*

“Transforming the Med City”

Feature

Television - 50+ newsroom employees

First Place: Lindsey Seavert & Jonathan Malat, *KARE*

“Grant's Place”

Judges comment: Excellent use of sound. Crisp, clean pictures that evoked emotion without being intrusive. The writing was economical and lyrical. The time spent and dedication to this story paid off with a winner.

Second Place: Boyd Huppert, *KARE*

“Chief of Kenyon”

Third Place: Dave Berggren, *KARE*

“Surprise Standup”

Feature

Television - Less than 50 newsroom employees

First Place: Jolene Loetscher, Nate Burdine & Brad Dumke, *Midco Sports Network*
“Fighting Spirit - Midco Sports Magazine”

Judges comment: This standout feature made this judge root for the subject. The 100-mile marathon must have made for a marathon shoot, and the hard work shows. The narrative arc holds together throughout the story. The interview pieces provide just enough context to give meaning to the run. The creative writing lifted this story above all others without falling into cliché.

Second Place: Jolene Loetscher, Josh Munce, Brad Dumke & Christian Begeman, *Midco Sports Network*

“Ode to the Old Man - Midco Sports Magazine”

Third Place: James Wilcox & Chad Corey, *KAAL-TV*

“Beat the Odds: Caroline Adams (air date: February 10th, 2013)”

Special Project/In-depth Series

Television - 50+ newsroom employees

First Place: Boyd Huppert & Jonathan Malat, *KARE*

“Pregnant in Prison”

Judges comment: Wonderfully written story that blended a personal narrative with public policy. Good use of sound to complement the words. The pace and emotion of the reporter's "read" created the proper mood.

Second Place: Phil Thiesse & Chris Egert, *KSTP-TV*

“High Tech Humanitarians”

Special Project/In-depth Series

Television - Less than 50 newsroom employees

First Place: James Wilcox & Chad Corey, *KAAL-TV*

“Rochester's Hidden Problem: Homeless Youth”

Judges comment: Good use of one person's story to get at a problem likely unknown by many viewers. The use of the chalkboard graphics, with the added sound effects, were a good visual that tied the numbers together. Effective use of various sources and resources. One missing piece, more reasons why families end up homeless (debt for example).

Second Place: Nicole Goodrich & Chuck Sibley, *KTTC-TV*

“DMC Reality Check”

Third Place: Alan Hoglund & Desten Johnson, *WDIO/WIRT*

“Life on Uneasy Street”

Investigative

Television - 50+ newsroom employees

First Place: Tom Lyden & Brian Wiedeke, *KMSP*

“Chambers Hotel Liquor License”

Judges comment: Solid, dogged investigative journalism. Kept digging on a story many other reporters might have dropped.

Investigative

Television - 50+ newsroom employees

Second Place: Jay Olsted, Ron Stover, Stacey Nogy & Jennifer Young, *KARE*
“Heroin at Home”

Investigative

Television - Less than 50 newsroom employees

First Place: Ellery McCardle & Chad Corey, *KAAL-TV*

“Investigation: Synthetic Drug Use Spreads in SE MN”

Judges comment: The reporter uses a lot of sources on camera to tell the story of this growing problem in the community. Her thorough reporting allows her to explain the problem, how it started, the impact it has on people, why the community should care and what law enforcement officials and legislators are doing to curb it. For those unfamiliar with the problem, this report serves as a great warning for people not to try synthetic drugs.

Second Place: Laura Lee & Chad Corey, *KAAL-TV*

“Inside Minnesota's Sex Offender Program”

Third Place: Brittany Falkers & Desten Johnson, *WDIO/WIRT*

“Wounded, Not Broken”

Newscast

Television - 50+ newsroom employees

First Place: Mike Brannen, *KSTP-TV*

“Shoreview Shooting”

Judges comment: A strong mix of local and national news with evolving coverage of a breaking news event. Aggressively produced, gives the viewer a comprehensive view of fresh stories. Good planning and news judgment is evident in this winning approach.

Newscast

Television - Less than 50 newsroom employees

First Place: Newsroom, *WDIO/WIRT*

“Eyewitness News at Five - May 15, 2013”

Judges comment: Solid newscast. Good coverage of a breaking news situation; wild fire story woven in throughout newscast - live shot, packages and weather. Beyond that, nice local and regional coverage that serves viewers well.

Second Place: Noel Sederstrom & KTTC News Staff, *KTTC-TV*

“KTTC NewsCenter at 6 p.m., May 2, 2013”

Third Place: Newsroom, *WDAZ News*

“The Search for Anthony”

RADIO

Spot/Breaking News

Radio

First Place: Tim Nelson, Elizabeth Dunbar, Jon Collins & Jennifer Ehrlich, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“2 children die after car plunges into St. Louis Park stormwater pond”

Judges comment: This tragic story was reported in a careful manner without the hype and speculation that is the focus of so much breaking news. The depth of the reporting and the detail provide the listener with confirmation that MPR knows this is an important story that they will follow until its conclusion. Great job!

Hard News Report

Radio

First Place: Martin Moylan & Bill Catlin, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Copyright trolls' target Minnesotans, accusing them of stealing online porn”

Judges comment: Very engaging storytelling in this story. The topic is unusual, but serious enough to engage while also reporting on issues that could affect many listeners. The subject selected as the vehicle for the story was perfect.

Second Place: Elizabeth Dunbar & Mike Edgerly, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Could Mississippi River, conservation meet water needs of northeast suburbs?”

Feature

Radio

First Place: Elizabeth Baier & Kate Smith, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Growing coders: Rochester programming classes bet on the future”

Judges comment: Fantastic, scene-setting descriptive writing at the beginning, with very high production value. Good use of natural sound. Baier did a great job crafting an interesting story by basing it around a compelling character the audience could care about.

Second Place: Britt Aamodt, *KFAI-FM*

“Socialist Opera House”

Third Place: John Peterson, *KVSC 88.1 FM*

“St. Cloud State University Opens New Building ISELF To Public”

Special Project/In-depth Series

Radio

First Place: Kerri Miller, Paul Huttner, Chris Dall & Marc Sanchez, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Climate change: What we know, what we're doing”

Judges comment: A listenable, engaging and academic exploration of a vital news topic that's typically mired by sound bytes. Miller and Huttner decipher the science with in-depth interviews from knowledgeable researchers and taut reporting and narration. Combined with slick editing and mixing by producers Dall and Sanchez, this is an outstanding and professional presentation that helps educate listeners about the changing world around them.

Special Project/In-depth Series

Radio

Second Place: Susan Gray, *KFAI-FM*

“Second Chances: The Story of Fergus Falls State Hospital”

Investigative

Radio

First Place: Mark Steil, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Hundreds of water permit holders pumping more than allowed”

Judges comment: A great piece of investigative radio journalism that highlights a major environmental issue and state government's inability to enforce its own regulatory rules. Reporter Mark Steil makes great use of data and computer-assisted analysis to anchor the piece, but shoe-leather journalism, field reporting and great sound drive home the real-life impact of the government failures.

ONLINE

Best Website

Online

First Place: Jason Barnett

The UpTake

Judges comment: Easy-to-navigate website, with the information I wanted never more than two or three clicks away. Clean, simple presentation that's not too busy or bombards the reader with unnecessary information. Nice variety of local and national content, with compelling visuals, and a strong HD video component that never felt obtrusive.

Second Place: Newsroom, *Minnesota Public Radio*

MPRnews.org

Third Place: *Star Tribune* Newsroom

StarTribune.com

Best Single News Story

Online

First Place: Alleen Brown, *TC Daily Planet*

“Student Teaching”

Judges comment: Well-focused story on a real problem. Distinctive use of real-world examples give it a narrow edge over the Urban Farming story.

Second Place: Jon Collins, *Walker Art Center Magazine*

“Beyond the Feel-good of Urban Farming”

Third Place: James Nord, *MinnPost*

“MNsure Launch Security Test”

Best Continuing Coverage

Online

First Place: Staff, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Betrayed by Silence”

Judges comment: Clearly the winner, from an opening that was already comprehensive to a continued look at the Archdiocese's ongoing and self-inflicted errors. In the followups, a sense that some pieces had an agenda was a distraction; the strongest pieces were those that let the victims tell the story and evoke the outrage. There was no need for the reporters to say, "This is bad." And if any would step forward, what would good priests who worked with these perpetrators say? They had to know the stories, too.

Second Place: Dan Haugen, *Midwest Energy News*

“Minnesota's New Solar Law”

Third Place: Doug Grow, *MinnPost*

“Minnesota Orchestra Lockout”

Arts & Entertainment

Online

First Place: Olivia LaVecchia, *City Pages*

“The Nudes”

Judges comment: LaVecchia's use of sharp, vivid descriptions make me want to learn more about this couple's unusual photo project. Acknowledgment of the Nu Project's detractors is appreciated.

Second Place: Michael Anthony, *MinnPost*

“The Right Man at the Right Time”

Third Place: Sheila Regan & Hlee Lee, *The UpTake*

“Ordway Production of 'Miss Saigon' Ignites Renewed Protests Over Racist Stereotypes”

Best Use of Multimedia

Online

First Place: Jennifer Vogel, Dave Peters & Will Lager, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Fighting for an American Countryside”

Judges comment: Wow. This entry defines how multimedia can be used effectively to tell a story, through videos, text, still photos and audio. This truly was a team project that clearly took months to create on such a grand scale. The videos and photos were shot on a variety of locations, involving a diverse group of people. This entry incorporated maps to illustrate trends and other things, too. This package offers the reader/viewer a complete view of the problem.

Second Place: Staff, *St. Cloud Times*

“Far From Help: The Fight Against Anorexia”

Third Place: Newsroom, *Star Tribune*

“Metrodome: 1982-2013”

Best News Video

Online

First Place: Jim Gehrz, Curt Brown & Jenni Pinkley, *Star Tribune*

“Trading Tradition for Oil”

Judges comment: This entry tells a story using the best of video and audio. The still photography is breathtaking, and I love the sepia tones used in places to create a rugged look of the past, intertwined with the colorful landscapes and skies. It would have been easy just to edit video to tell the story, but by putting the still photos together with the audio, it made this entry special. Thanks, too, for capturing so many points of view about the good, the bad and the ugly associated with this development of the land, from longtime residents and Native Americans to teachers, prisons and the impact on business.

Second Place: Matt McKinney, Maya Rao, James Shiffer & Billy Steve Clayton, *Star Tribune*

“Scourge of teen gun violence”

Third Place: McKenna Ewen & Baird Helgeson, *Star Tribune*

“Phil and Harvey: The 38-Year Engagement”

Best Newsroom Blog

Online

First Place: Tim Nelson, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Stadium Watch”

Judges comment: Fantastic, compelling, and always interesting take on what could otherwise be dull topic. Great variety of relevant content, videos, searchable documents, and visuals. Pair that with the consistently solid reporting and "Stadium Watch" never implodes.

Second Place: Bob King, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Astro Bob”

Third Place: Ben Garvin, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Flash Garvin”

Best Independent News Blog

Online

First Place: Jay Gabler, *TC Daily Planet*

“Front Row Seat”

Judges comment: A very nice feel to all elements of the package. Gatsby/Dylan was thought out and laid out especially well and the four things to embrace/four things to fix should be distributed to every member of the Legislature and every school kid above the age of 12.

Second Place: Sheila Regan, *TC Daily Planet*

“Behind the News”

Third Place: Stephanie Fox, *TC Daily Planet*

“Global Groceries”

PHOTOGRAPHY

Best News Photography

First Place: Alex Kolyer & Jennifer Simonson, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Photos: The Winona fire”

Judges comment: Each photo evokes an emotion and causes the viewer to stop, look, and read the story. Technically, the images are crisp and clean. Great work!

Second Place: Ben Garvin, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

Third Place: Staff, *Duluth News Tribune*

“Grand entry to a grand port”

Best Feature Photography

First Place: Emily Utne, *City Pages*

“Viva La Fringe”

Judges comment: Stunning! Nice depth of field in each one, deep blacks and sharp whites! The content is so interesting that you keep looking for more.

Second Place: Bob King, *Duluth News Tribune*

Third Place: Bill Klotz, *Finance & Commerce*

“Ice Castle Open For Business at MOA”

Best Portrait Photography

First Place: Jeffrey Thompson & Alex Kolyer, *Minnesota Public Radio*

Judges comment: Stunning photography! Each of the images invites you to learn more about the subject.

Second Place: Jim Gehrz, *Star Tribune*

“Ayden's Journey; Father Joseph; Roots of Democracy”

Third Place: Sherri LaRose-Chiglo, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Apple Valley's Tyus Jones”

Best Sports Photography

First Place: Jeffrey Thompson, Nate Ryan & Derek Montgomery,
Minnesota Public Radio

Judges comment: These winning images capture the action or emotion associated with sports. Different angles and close proximity to the subjects make them the clear winners!

Second Place: Sherri LaRose-Chiglo, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

“Recovers to Win”

Third Place: Ben Garvin, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

SPECIAL AWARDS

Young Journalist of the Year

Special Awards

First Place: Madeleine Baran, *Minnesota Public Radio*

Judges comment: Dealing with a difficult topic, Ms. Baran digs in and does not let go. Well done!

Second Place: Maya Rao, *Star Tribune*

Third Place: Olivia LaVecchia, *City Pages*

Journalist of the Year

Special Awards

First Place: Jim Ragsdale, *Star Tribune*

Judges comment: At time when state Capitol reporting suffers from a lack of staff, knowledge and balance, Jim Ragsdale provides his publication's readers with his wealth of experience. Reading the stories submitted for this contest proves the depth of understanding he brings, supported by hard evidence, to his reporting. "Rags" could teach a master class to us all.

Second Place: Ben Garvin, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*

Story of the Year

Special Awards

First Place: Newsroom, *Minnesota Public Radio*

“Betrayed by Silence”

Judges comment: Reading and listening to these stories provided a stunned response from the judges. Clergy sexual abuse stories aren't new, but the thorough reporting, backed up by extensive interviews and documents, showed there is still more to this story. The inclusion of multimedia elements in the online versions provided excellent context into the reporting.

Second Place: Baird Helgeson, *Star Tribune*

“Gay Marriage”

Best Use of Public Records

Special Awards

First Place: Rachel Stassen-Berger & Glenn Howatt, *Star Tribune*

“Minnesota Campaign Finance”

Judges comment: The focus of this winner's efforts on records the public is supposed to use to help determine political influence, and their discovery that those very records suffered serious flaws, shows the importance of examining public records of all types more closely. The scrutiny provided here demonstrates the use of data for reporting trends, while also educating the electorate on how much their government "costs" before a single vote is cast. Great work, and a model that should be repeated elsewhere.

Silent Auction Sponsors

The following individuals and organizations donated to the 2014 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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Minnesota Public Radio	Yess Yoga

About MN 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, the Minnesota Pro chapter was named national large chapter of the year, and more recently has been honored for its efforts in FOI advocacy and strong member programming.

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.

Learn more about SPJ: <http://www.spj.org/>

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