

## 2006 Alabama Associated Press Association Award Winners

### NEWSWRITING

#### **Deadline Reporting:**

##### Class 1:

- 1st Place, Huntsville Times, "Bus Wreck", News Staff

Comments: Dramatic, thorough coverage of a horrific school bus crash. The state explained how the accident happened, personalized those who died, interviewed and photographed witnesses, examined the issue of seat belts on school buses. It was well-planned and well-orchestrated coverage. Columnist Lee Roop on Front Page was a good idea. He touched the heart of the matter.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "3 set church fires as joke agents say", Carol Robinson, Val Walton  
Comments: A lot of details demonstrate reporters' abilities to find the sources that could help put this puzzle together.

- Honorable Mention, Press-Register, "Russo Found Guilty", Brendan Kirby, Ryan Dezember.

Comments: This story captures the drama and anxiety that defines the trials of high-profile and public figures.

##### Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Dothan Eagle, "Weather Whips Wiregrass", Staff

Comments - Great hustle by the reporters. Nice mix of first-person accounts and general information. Solid reporting all around.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Gadsden Times, "Woman boyfriend charged in her 5-year-old's death", Lisa Rogers, & Mo Jackson

Comments: No Comment

-Honorable Mention, The Decatur Daily, "Drug bust nets 29 arrests", Holly Hollman

-Comments: No Comment

##### Class 3:

- 1st Place, The Cullman Times, "Day in Court", Jimmy Simms

Comments: Overpowering lead & explosive photo plus accompanying photo shows the high price society for runaway crime. In addition to the amount of fines and times given to the guilty. Good Story.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The News Courier, "He Was our Heart", Kelly Kazek

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The News Courier, "Youngsters help save fathers severed hand" Karen Middleton

Comments: No Comment

#### **Non-Deadline Reporting:**

##### Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "Corruption in two-year community college system", Brett J.

Blackledge

Comments: This is the elephant in the room. The research, the range, the reporting and the results make this series about the mindboggling corruption in Alabama's two-year college system impossible to beat.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Huntsville Times, "Young and Restless", Patricia McCarter, Lee Roop, Kenneth Kesner, Gina Hannah, Steve Doyle, & Steve Campbell

Comments: Four days' worth of good reads on why Huntsville's booming high-tech industry can't find enough young workers to fill the jobs --- despite three colleges in towns. The series breaks down the problems and offers possible solutions. Very well done.

- Honorable Mention, Mobile Press-Register, "Rural Healthcare Doctor shortage". Penelope McClenny  
Comments: Comprehensive look at the lack of physicians and dentists in rural areas, seamlessly written and insightful with good anecdotal leads.

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Decatur Daily, "Sheriff's Food Money", Sheryl Marsh  
Comments: No Comment

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Gadsden Times, "Gadsden Public Corruption", Lisa Rogers, Andy Powell, & David Clemons.

Comments: No comment

- Honorable Mention, The Tuscaloosa News, "Online Intimidation", Jason Morton  
Comment: No comment

Class 3:

Non-Deadline Reporting:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The News Courier, "Teacher fired for showing obscene videos in class", Kelly Kazek

Comments: It raises key issues and continues the coverage without becoming too redundant. Relentless coverage of an important local issue.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Daily Home, "An Alternative to Prison", Richard McVay  
Comments: The story moves it makes you want to keep reading.

- Honorable Mention, Opelika-Auburn News, "Tracks of Tears", Joe McAdory  
Comments: Good Writing-well packaged.

#### **Newfeatures:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "The Unique Lives of Cancer Survivors", Dave Parks

Comments: Ambitious project detailing the advances made against cancer as well as a series of well-written vignettes about cancer survivors and how the experience changed their lives --- and their finances. A very good read throughout as well as being insightful.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Huntsville Times, "Terror, Twisters and TV", Mike Marshall

Comments: Great story about how TV meteorologists hype potentially bad weather with some surprisingly candid admissions. This had to be a big-time talker in Huntsville.

- Honorable Mention, The Birmingham News, "Co-founder of HealthSouth's new Life", Bob Carlton

Comments: This tale of a former CEO involved in corporate fraud who is now happily mowing lawns for a living was captivating. Tight, clean, and very descriptive.

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Anniston Star, "Southern Exposure: The South has become the new 'ground zero' for the AIDS epidemic, Brett Buckner

Comments - The clear No. 1 of all entries in this class. A thought-provoking blend of articles with strong statistics and personal accounts. The writer invested significant time and effort in the work, and it shows.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Dothan Eagle, "Nothing special, just a mother", Lance Griffin

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Times Daily, "Respect", Lisa Singleton

Comments: No Comment

Class 3:

Newsfeatures:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, "Back on their Feet", Joe McAdory  
Comments: Joe McAdory paints a picture in the first 5 graphs. Imagery great.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Cullman Times, "Few Found around town during Iron Bowl", Jimmy Simms  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, Opelika-Auburn News, "Cost of War", Mitch Sneed, & Beverly Harvey  
Comments: No Comment

### **Lifestyle Features:**

#### Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Huntsville Times, "Meet George", Mike Marshall  
Comments: This was a cleverly written story. The reporter let the subjects tell the story. Language was straight forward, get effective. It had the right tone. "George" really took on a life of its own.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "Hollywood Alabama", Kathy Kemp  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, Montgomery Advertiser, "Finding a new Groove", Teri Greene  
Comments:  
No Comment

#### Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Anniston Star, "After the Rain", Brett Buckner  
Comments: Uses some excellent storytelling and does a good job of mixing in excerpts of the subjects writings. Insightful moving in places.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Anniston Star, "Food For Thought", Brett Buckner, Steve Ivey, Crystal Jarvis, Josh Keller, Rachael Scarborough King, & Todd South. Well done overall.

- Honorable Mention, Times Daily, "Living with HIV", Michele Brown  
Comments: No Comment

#### Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The News-Courier, "Decoration Day Honors Dead", Kelly Kazek  
Comments: The history is a nice touch along with the local traditions-compelling writing.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, "County Road: Den of Antiquity", Joe McAdory  
Comments: Colorful Writing-good senses But got too long about 4 different Stories that could have been runners up.

- Honorable Mention, The Daily Home, "The Embry's Together Again", Laura Nation-Atchison  
Comments: Good subject material.

### **Business News:**

#### Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Mobile Press-Register, "EADS Northrop", George Talbot  
Comments: Everything you needed to know about the aerospace industry, from alliances to trans-Atlantic politics to ethical shenanigans in trying to wrest the best incentive deals, the ongoing coverage of Mobile's bid to become for a military air tanker plant. Readers were kept exceptionally informed. Well-written, tremendous insights.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Huntsville Times, "The Peoples Business", Brian Lawson  
Comments: Excellent enterprise series detailing five issues at stake for business and labor in the 2006 election, and what their clout would mean if their candidates prevailed.

-Honorable Mention, Mobile Press-Register, "LNG", Bill Finch, Ben Raines, George Talbot, & Andrea Raines.

Comment: No Comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Tuscaloosa News, "Alabama Catfish Industry", Katie Porterfield

Comments: Wow! What didn't she cover in this series about the catfish industry in Alabama? Well written and informative. It must have taken extensive, time-consuming research. Great job.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Anniston Star, "A Single town, not a World of Change", Brian Lyman

Comments: Nice look at impact of closing of a textile mill on a town. Lead paints melancholy picture. Use of statewide picture complements local situation. A sad story for community, but covered in a professional manner.

- Honorable Mention, The Times Daily, "Success at 1", Ty West

Comments: Quite lengthy, but managed to keep my interest until the end. No stone was left uncovered, so to speak. Negative impact studied as well as positive aspects. Looks like writer spent a lot of time researching story and it paid off.

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Daily Home, "Small Business Find it Increasingly Difficult to Compete with Big Box Story" Richard McVay

Comments: Well written-good information and the personal side of story is told displayed well.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Daily Home, "Avondale Closing", Denise Sinclair, Amanda Casciaro, Daniel Thompson, David Atchison

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The News Courier, "Hundreds Rally to Show impact of Immigrants", Karen Middleton

Comments: No Comment

### **Education News:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "City's Black Students Leaving the Suburbs", Jeff Hansen & Marie Leach

Comments: In a very competitive category, this was a very thorough analysis of the exodus of black students from Birmingham schools that paired extensive data on their flight with the face of the families and their reasons for leaving.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Mobile Press-Register, "Son Sure his mother never went to Bishop", Jeff Amy & Sebastian Kitchen

Comments: Thoroughly researched investigation on the financial aid scandal of Bishop State, which included money for a 77-year-old amputee who was signed up to play varsity, basketball and baseball. The reporters dotted every "I" and crossed every "t" in revealing this scam.

- Honorable Mention, The Birmingham News, "Remediation in Alabama", Stan Diel

Comments: It costs the state of Alabama \$541 million annually to provide remedial classes for high school graduates who are unprepared for college. Diel did a nice job of compare and contrast --- a school that succeeds in preparing students and those that don't.

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Anniston Star, "Learning Large", Steve Ivey  
Comments: Nicely done. Covered all the angles of how the new high school works and extras it provides. Good lead. A thorough job of reporting.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, TimesDaily, "The Pioneers", Michelle Rupe Eubanks  
Comments: Interesting look at an issue that doesn't received much attention from the media. The writer let individuals tell the story, including all the ups and downs they face. Well done.

- Honorable Mention, "The Tuscaloosa News, 176<sup>th</sup> Anniversary", Adam Jones  
Comments: Well researched. It's difficult to keep readers interested in long, historical articles. But writer does that for the most part. Jump on story on page G2 is marked incorrectly - it's on 8G, not 8F.

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Cullman Times, "PE Pool Education", Jimmy Simms  
Comments: Reporter immerses the reader into the story with play on words and pictures.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Daily Home, "Wanted Male Teachers", Denise Sinclair  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Daily Home, "Can We go Outside and Learn?", Amanda Casciaro  
Comments: No Comment

## **SPORTSWRITING:**

### **Sports Deadline Reporting:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "Iron Bowl Coverage", Charles Goldberg, Ray Melick, Ian Rapoport, Kevin Scarbinsky  
Comment: This was extensive coverage of the big game. Several other entries also submitted their coverage of this game and all were outstanding. But this was the best. Golberg's game story was an example of having some fun and keeping it short.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Press-Register, "Iron Bowl", Sports Staff  
Comment: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Birmingham News, "Mike Davis", Steve Irvine, Matthew Glenesk, Jon Solomon, and Kevin Scarbinsky  
Comment: No Comment

Class 2:

- 1st Place, The Anniston Star, "Whistle-Filled Win", Joe Medley  
Comments: No comment

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Decatur Daily, "Young Death", Kyle Veazey  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Gadsden Times, "Cherokee Comeback", Mathew Martin  
Comments: No Comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Daily Home, "Racing", Will Heath, & Heather Baggett  
Comments: I commend your staff for their hard work on this section. You covered each aspect of the race, and created something a NASCAR fan would cherish.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The News Courier, "Playoff Bound", Justin Graves

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The News Courier, "State Champs", Justin Graves

Comments: No comment

**Sports Non-Deadline Reporting:**

Class 1:

1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Huntsville Times, "Race Against Time", John Pruett

Comments: Very compelling writing and outstanding reporting with very good display

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "Recruiting Services", Jon Solomon

Comment: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, Mobile Press-Register, "The Grave", Neal McCready

Comment: No Comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Gadsden Times, "Bryant's switch to wishbone", Jimmy Smothers

Comments: No comment

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Decatur Daily, "Austin Journey", Kyle Veazey

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Anniston Star, "Cregs Priceless Vacation", Creg Stephenson

Comments: No comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, "Money Matters", Collen Meckle, Mike Szvetitz, & Tim Ritter

Comments: I was impressed by the depth of coverage. Not only is there a lot but it is clean copy, and an interesting look into division 1 athletics. I believe your readers would have enjoyed this.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Daily Home, "No Title", Will Heath

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, Fort Payne Times-Journal, "New Ejection Penalties concern Some Coaches", Lew Gilliland

Comments: No Comment

**Sports Feature:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Huntsville Times, "Getting to the Net", Bill Bryant

Comments: The writer did more with less, in terms of taking a common topic — an under-the-radar athlete and drawing you in with details of his everyday life. This didn't glorify unnecessarily. It was honest. An example: The segment where the athlete admits he won't be a superstar.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "Jermareo Davidson", Doug Segrest

Comments: Impressive trust-building by the reporter. From behind-the-scenes details from the player at the hospital to the important relationship and perspectives from the mother of the late girlfriend, emotion shines through at key moments.

-Honorable Mention, Mobile Press-Register, "Clem Parnell: Storytelling Conversation Officer", David Rainer

Comments: Rich anecdotes carried the piece. A real treat — from the drunk man stabbing the fake deer to the 'Ain't my duck' story.

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Anniston Star, "Born to Kick", Bran Strickland  
Comments: Nice well told story. I was told what I wanted to know in a timely manner.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Tuscaloosa News, "Before they were Marshall", Christopher Walsh  
Comments: Very detailed which ties you into this well told story. Food local angle.

-Honorable Mention, Times Daily, "Just Golf", Gregg Dewalt  
Comments: Good use of quotes in a solid feature story. Also liked the combination of local and national interest.

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The News Courier, "Beating all Odds", Justin Graves  
Comments: Tugged on my mother heart strings food feature-well written

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, "Softball Star forces to balance sports, survival", Tom Peavy  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Cullman Times, "Against all Odds", Matt Perdue  
Comments: No Comment

### **Sports Column Writing:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, , Montgomery Advertiser, "Josh Moon", Josh Moon  
Comments: Josh Moon, Montgomery Advertiser, various columns; I really like the variety and the "pure" opinion columns (as opposed to feature columns). Keep the new picture, you look like you're having more fun, which is important in column writing. It comes through that you really enjoy writing columns.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "Sports Column" Kevin Scarbinsky  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Huntsville Times, "Sports Columns" Mark McCarter  
Comments: No Comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Decatur Daily, "Edwards Column", Mark Edwards  
Comments: Nice combination of local issues (tide search), opinion (shula) and a good story (soft ball sluggers). Excellent versatility each well crafted.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Gadsden Times, "Unknown Alabama Player", Jimmy Smothers  
Comments: Interesting topic, well-researched.

-Honorable Mention, The Anniston Star, "Strickland Columns", Bran Strickland  
Comments: Lively, descriptive tone. Great lead graphs that pulled me in.

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, "A View from the Lazy Boy", Mike Szvetitz  
Comments: Great Topic-well written-clear-all in all good day.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Fort Payne Times-Journal, "Community should stick behind Johnson", Lew Gilliland  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Daily Home, "Area Football fans see guard changing",  
Comments: No Comment

### **Participatory Sports Story:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, “Pitching Injuries”, Jon Solomon  
Comments: A clear winner in this category. The high and consistent level of nuts-and-bolts reporting elevated this piece. This story did the most to inform and educate thousands of readers involved in the sport.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, “Mobile Press-Register, “Prichard Boxing Gym”, Lauren Nelson  
Comments: This story found moments to do what strong sports stories should do — show the relevance of something beyond the victories and defeats.

- Honorable Mention, Montgomery Advertiser, “RBI Kids a Big Hit”, Tom Ensy  
Comments: Showed both the program and its roots, as well as the joy of being a kid who’s “never flown on an a plane.”

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Tuscaloosa News, “Shooting Instinctively”, Robert Dewitt  
Comments: No Comment

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Times Daily, “ Building Better Athletes”, Sports Staff  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, Times Daily, “In the cough”, Gregg Dewalt  
Comments: No comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Opelika Auburn-News, “Challenger League”, Beverly Harvey  
Comments: A nice story about a nice group of kids/ A very clean story that handled the subject with the proper mix of news and emotion.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The News Courier, “Staring down Adversity”, Justin Graves  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, Opelika-Auburn News, “Right on Target”, Tom Peavy  
Comments:  
No Comment

## **MAKEUP**

### **Deadline Page Design:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Huntsville Times, Neil Adams, Bill Bryant, & Bruce McLellan  
Comments: Headlines, photo usage, graphic details come together for game coverage. Photos played well. “2 Minute” column has nice mix of information and art. Immense effort to juggle several games and still maintain high standards of presentations.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Mobile Press-Register, Staff  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention – Huntsville Times, Jerry Felts, Doug Mendehall, & John Mullen  
Comments: No Comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Anniston Star, “No Title”, Lora Reynolds  
Comments: A good variety of news and feature stories cleanly laid out. Nothing gimmicky. The main packages were clearly evident and nicely set off with white space. A nice looking paper. We may have to borrow some ideas for our redesign.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Dothan Eagle, “Dothan Eagle Deadline Pages Part 2”, News Staff  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, TimesDaily, “From Football to Nascar”, Ryan Sonner  
Comments: No Comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Daily Home, “Train Collision”, Janice Keith, Sheron Kent, & Mandy Reynolds  
Comments: A quick look at this page tells the story-page design on deadline with spot story-strongest entry. Most impressive.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, “News Fronts”, Copy Desk  
Comment: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Times-Journal in Fort Wayne, “City Tables Agenda Change”, J.D. Davidson  
Comment: No Comment

### **Non-Deadline Page Design:**

Class 1:

-1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, “Unseen Forgotten” News Staff  
Comments: Exceptional use of photographs, typography, and white space to illuminate historical period. Consistency of elements pulls together pages. Headlines and captions are enough to convey information, but do not overwhelm pages. Nice effort to get out of the way of great photos.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, “Non-Deadline Page Design”, News Staff  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, Mobile Press-Register, “Lord’s Feature Pages”, Debbie Lord  
Comments: No Comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Anniston Star, “Tosha’s Portfolio/Anniston Star”, Tosha Jupiter  
Comments: I loved the use of your art for subjects that often can be difficult to illustrate. Design is clean and overall easy to follow. The green and yellow screens on the “let your personality show: page distracts from so much going on, on the rest of the page. Sometimes less is more. Overall very nice pages.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Tuscaloosa News, “Page Design Non-Deadline”, John Wallace  
Comments: I love, love, love the apple illustration –might have to steal the idea. Nice job on the “Dangerous Game”, page that could have been a tough one to illustrate. Good use of art nice headlines. Good job.

- Honorable Mention, The Tuscaloosa News, “Non-Deadline Page Design”, Janet Sudnik  
Comments: No Comment

Class 3:

-1<sup>st</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, “Feature Fronts”, Copy Desk  
Comments: Strong page-six framed well pullouts have strong supportive info good eye candy-great presentation.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Daily Home, “Our Memories of Avondale”, Graham Hadley  
Comment: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Times Journal, “Celebrating Mardi Gras”, J.D Davidson, Mark Harrison, & Kelly Townsend  
Comment: No Comment

## **Headlines:**

### Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "Headlines", News Staff

Comments: This entry has the most consistently strong headlines. All are pithy, but one misses the march on accuracy. Viewers of "Grey's Anatomy" will know that Meredith Grey is an intern, not a resident, as implied by the headline, "All the Resident's Men."

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Press-Register, "Headlines" Mark Heim

Comments: Strong, clever writing that even a non-sports position can appreciate!

-Honorable Mention, Huntsville Times, "Headlines" Bruce McLellan

Comments: This fell a few notches short of placing second. The "bark ... rough" head struck me as trying too hard, but "Johnny B. Good" and "Agony of de feet" hit the mark.

### Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Decatur Daily, "Headlines", Mike Wetzel

Comments: So many "best headline" entries go for the obvious pun, or sacrifice clarity for cuteness. These winning entries were clever but also informative, capturing attention as well as the essence of the story.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Tuscaloosa News, "Headlines", News Staff

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Anniston Star, "Best Headlines of 2006", News Staff

Comments: No Comment

### Class 3:

#### Headlines:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, "Opelika-Auburn News Headlines", Staff

Comments: Cleverly conceived and connects readers instantly to what they read in the story.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The News-Courier, "Kelly's Headlines set 2", Kelly Kazek

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The News Courier, "Kelly's Headlines", Kelly Kazek

Comments: No Comment

## **News Graphics:**

### Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "News Graphics News Staff

Comments: I bet the publisher loved the double-truck graphic! Sophisticated technical illustration, but doesn't overwhelm the basic information. Seizure, coaster graphics easy to follow step-by-step, beginning to end. Information conveyed clearly and concisely.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Press-Register, "News Graphics", Staff

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Birmingham News, Mark Baggett, Jody Potter, & Donald Wiley

Comments: No Comment

### Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Tuscaloosa News, "News Graphics", Anthony Bratina

Comments: Beautifully rendered graphics that added greatly to the design of the pages, but more importantly that provided easy to use information to the readers.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Dothan Eagle, "News Graphics", Andrew Small

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Gadsden Times, "How the Federal Court System works", Laura Catoe, Lisa Rogers  
Comments: No Comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Times-Journal, "Take a tax Vacation", Jared Felkins, Mark Harrison, Dusty Plunkett  
Comments: Times Journal in Fort Payne pass at the reader gives a good idea-makes story stand out.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Times-Journal, "Breaking Through", J.D. Davidson  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, Opelika Auburn News, "Graphics", Staff  
Comments: No Comment

### **Illustrations:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Birmingham News, "No Title" Bill Thomas, Jody Potter  
Judge's comments: Varied styles show sophistication in finish and polish. Each was apt for subject matter. "Fresh ideas" clearly conveyed point without going over the top. "Old plants" and "Social Butterfly" were simple and clean, but complex on many levels.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Birmingham News, "No Title" Mark Baggett, & Jody Potter  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, Kevin Van Hyning  
Comments: No Comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Tuscaloosa News, "Illustrations", Anthony Bratina  
Comments: Bold Captivating illustrations that compel further examination. Its amazing an artist of this caliber is working at a small medium size paper.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Anniston Star, "Illustrations", Leilah Rampa  
Comments: No comment

- Honorable Mention, Dothan Eagle, "Dothan Eagle Illustrations", News Staff  
Comments: No Comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, "Wild West", Steven Barnett  
Comments: Excellent idea they executed it well Jeadline superb compliment.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, "Money Matters", Steven Barnett  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Daily Home, "Energy Explosion", Tim Smothers  
Comments: No Comment

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

#### **Spot News Photo:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Montgomery Advertiser, "Army Funeral", Julie Bennett  
Comments: In a situation that has become all too common it is refreshing to see a different and creative composition; beautifully realized in a stunning and touching moment.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Huntsville Times, "Lee High School Fatal Bus Crash", Bryan Bacon  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Birmingham News, "Klan Youth", Joe Songer  
Comments: No Comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, TimesDaily, "Barely Escapes", Matt Mckean  
Comments: Quick read, we liked the use of foreground/background. Lady's face could have used some dodging.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Decatur Daily, "Cande Outing turns Tragic", John Godbey  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Gadsden Times, "Sports Page Fire", Eric T. Wright  
Comments: No comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Opelika-Auburn News, "Arrest", Cliff Williams  
Comment: No Comment

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The News Courier, "Fiery crash on interstate", Kim Rynders  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Daily Home, "Truck Wreck", Bob Crisp  
Comments: No Comment

**Feature Photo:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "Helping Hand", Tamika Moore  
Comments: Nice light, makes me ask questions, tells a story.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Montgomery Advertiser, "Dog Show", Mickey Welsh  
Comments: No comment

-Honorable Mention, - Montgomery Advertiser, "Police Memorial", David Bundy  
Comments: No comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Gadsden Times, "Theatrical Lightning", Tammy McKinky  
Comments: A tough decision to pick a No. 1 from the top entries in this class. We liked the perspective and lighting but chose this mostly because it captured the varied expressions of the students. Our favorite is the girl clutching the dollar bill and glaring at the principal as if to say "Let's get to the treats already!"

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, TimesDaily, "Hands of Time", Jim Hannon  
Comments: No comment

- Honorable Mention, The Tuscaloosa News, "Baptism", Michael E Palmer  
Comments: No comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Cullman Times, "Harmony first day", Amanda Shavers-Davis  
Comments: No Comment

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Opelika-Auburn News, "Haircut", Vasha Hunt

Comments: No comment

- Honorable Mention, The Cullman Times, "John Ross Eats", Amanda Shavers-Davis  
Comments: No Comment

**Best Portrait/Personality:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "Quinceanera Dress", Tamika Moore  
Comments: Nice moment, captures the exuberance of a person.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Press-Register, "Joyous Graduation", G.M. Andrews  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, Montgomery Advertiser, "Tillis James Portrait", Mickey Welsh  
Comments: No Comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Tuscaloosa News, "Veteran", Dan Lopez  
Comments: No Comment

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Tuscaloosa News, "Elvis Impersonator", Michael E. Palmer  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Decatur Daily, "Who did this?", John Godbey  
Comments: No comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Cullman Times, "A Normal Amazing Boy", Amanda Shavers-Davis  
Comments: This could make a great picture story as it is, it was the best in this category. It puts things into perspective.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Cullman Times, "Woman on a Mission", Amanda Shavers-Davis  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, Opelika-Auburn News, "Reeltown QB", Vasha Hunt  
Comments: No Comment

**Picture Story:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Huntsville Times, "Oh, my, God", Bryan Bacon, Glenn Baeske, and Eric Schultz  
Comment: No Comment

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Mobile Press-Register, "Determined to be a Dad", Bill Starling  
Comments: No comment

- Honorable Mention, The Birmingham News, "When the end is Near", Hal Yeager  
Comments: No Comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Gadsden Times, "At the Crossroads", Tammy Mckinley  
Comments: Nice personal vision. Strong images nice flow picture to picture.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, TimesDaily, "2 FireFighters Killed", Matt Mckean  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Anniston Star, "Creating Santa", Trent Penny

Comments: No Comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Cullman Times, "Harmony first day", Amanda Shavers-Davis

Comments - An appealing combination of subject matter and layout. What makes this entry No. 1 is its demonstration of special moments during the first day at a new school. Individual images in other entries were better, but this grouping best told a good story.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Opelika-Auburn News, "Dedication", Cliff Williams

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Daily Home, "Truck Wreck", Bob Crisp

Comments: No Comment

### **Photo Illustration:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Montgomery Advertiser, "Pearl Harbor Survivor", Julie Bennett, and Marlowe Mason

Comments: Took it beyond portrait very thoughtful. This has impact.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Mobile Press-Register, "Who Needs a feathered mask?" G.M. Andrews

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, Montgomery Advertiser, "Jamarr Sanders", Karen S. Doerr

Comments: No comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Tuscaloosa News, "Oscar", Robert Sutton

Comments: Great idea! This stood out, it was a clear winner.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Anniston Star, "911 Prayer", Stephen Gross

Comments: No comment

- Honorable Mention, The Anniston Star, "Mud Slinging", Stephen Gross

Comments: No comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Daily Home, "Alzheimer's Medication", Jerry Martin

Comments - The No.1 pick of each judge. Great highlighting of the medications with the elderly patient in the shadows.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Opelika-Auburn News, "Longing to Play", Vasha Hunt

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The News Courier, "Driving with cell phone", Kim Rynders

Comments: No Comment

### **Humorous Moments:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Mobile Press-Register, "Fast and Slumberous", Chip English

Comments: Have makes to photo great expression.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "Courthouse Wedding", Tamika Moore

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Birmingham News, "Flamingo Walk", Linda Stelter

Comments: No Comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Times Daily, "Meter Face", Jim Hannon

Comments: Curious image fits this category.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Anniston Star, "Give me a Taste" Stephen Gross

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Decatur Daily, "A Visit from Ben", Gary Cosby Jr.

Comments: No Comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Fort Payne Times-Journal, "A little pomp and circumstance", Dusty Plunkett

Comments - A priceless expression caught at what we're sure was a target-rich environment. A dramatic size and tight crop helped make us all chuckle at this young vocalist.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Cullman Times, "Snakes Alive", Evan Belanger

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Daily Home, "Less than Pleased", Bob Crisp

Comments: No Comment

**Sports Action Photo:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Press-Register, "Pirates Treasure win over Robertsdale", G.M Andrews

Comments: Clean Peak action.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Mobile Press-Register, "Incomplete Pass", John David Mercer

Comments: No comment

- Honorable Mention, Montgomery Advertiser, "Iron Bowl Missed Catch", Lloyd Gallman

Comments: No Comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Decatur Daily, "Head On", Gary Cosby Jr.

Comments: Nice tight image, quick read. Good action, stood out from the rest.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Tuscaloosa News, "Dive", Michael E. Palmer

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, No Award

Comments: No Comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Opelika-Auburn News, "That kind of day", Vasha Hunt

Comments: The receiver might've dropped the ball, but the photographer made a fantastic catch of one of the most difficult split-second shots to take in football.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Opelika-Auburn News, "Soccer Header" Cliff Williams

Comment: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Daily Home, "State Champs", Jerry Smith

Comment: No Comment

**Sports Feature Photo:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Huntsville Times, "Sad Loss", Eric Schultz  
Comments: Great angle, great background nice emotion.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Montgomery Advertiser, "Talladega Rainout", Mickey Welsh  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Huntsville Times, "Winning Run", Robin Conn  
Comments: No Comment

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Anniston Star, "We did it" No Name  
Comments: Great emotion, nice composition.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, TimesDaily, "Tate Canida", Daniel Giles  
Comments: No comment

- Honorable Mention, The Gadsden Times, "Bridge Fishing", Eric T. Wright  
Comments: No Comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Cullman Times, "Junior Varsity foul", Amanda Shavers-Davis  
Comments - The top choice from what was probably the best field of submissions in Class 3. Great job of capturing a dramatic moment from "just a JV game."

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Opelika-Auburn News, "We Clinched", Vasha Hunt  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Cullman Times, "West in Charge", Amanda Shavers-Davis  
Comments: No Comment

### **Portfolio:**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Montgomery Advertiser, "Portfolio of Lloyd Gallman", Lloyd Gallman  
Comments: Well Rounded, not a weak photo nice light, nice vision. Would have benefited from story.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Montgomery Advertiser, "Portfolio of Mickey Welsh", Mickey Welsh  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Birmingham News, "2006 Portfolio of Bernard Troncale", Bernard Troncale  
Comments: No Comment

Class 2:

Portfolio:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, TimesDaily, "From Track to the Klan", Daniel Giles  
Comments: All the portfolios needed to be edited. Too many weak images took away from the overall presentation. This portfolio had the best, most diverse images. Nice moments.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, TimesDaily, "Portfolio", Matt McKean  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Tuscaloosa News, "Lopez Portfolio", Dan Lopez  
Comments: No Comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, "2006 Portfolio", Cliff Williams

Comments - It's evident this photographer truly gets into his work. His talent in timing and perspective put us in every scene, whether it was an action or static shot.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, "Vasha Hunts Portfolio", Vasha Hunt  
Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Cullman Times, "Amanda Shavers-Davis Portfolio", Amanda Shavers-Davis  
Comments: No Comment

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: The Mobile Register, "Alabama Natural Gas third Costliest in the Nation", No Name  
Comments: What better community service than exposing and explaining why your utility bills are so high. The paper, if anything, underplayed its follow-ups to the initial reporting. The computer-assisted reporting by Raines and French set the standard for public service. The writing is clear and fair. One can only hope Alabama reforms the way it regulates – or does not regulate – large utilities.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Huntsville Times, "BRAC-Outlook" No Name  
Comments: Good approach for an annual section. Covered all the bases for what newcomers and current residents can expect with a huge influx of newcomers.

- Honorable Mention, The Birmingham News, "Corruption in a two-year community college system", Brett, Blackledge  
Comments: Good investigative work.

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place: The Tuscaloosa News, News Staff; "University of Alabama 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary".  
Comments: Very thorough and well researched. Not afraid to cover potentially embarrassing subjects such as professors and students having slaves who worked on campus. Timelines, notable alumni add greatly to this story.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Anniston Star, "Southern Exposure: The South has become the New Ground zero in the AIDS epidemic", Brett Buckner.  
Comments: Nice mix of real life examples and statistical data about HIV/AIDS epidemic. Church's role not always considered when issues are talked about or written about but it is here.

- Honorable Mention, The Decatur Daily, "Justice for Lucky", Paul Huggins, Sheryl Marsh, Seth Burkett".  
Comments: Well-written series of stories on dog that was abused. How the community became involved was covered well. Editorial using people to buy a calendar was nice touch. I wonder what happened to defendant in case.

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, "Tracks of Tears", Joe McAdory  
Comments: No Comment

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Daily Home, "Hoping and Coping", Denise Sinclair, David Atchison, Will Heath, Katie Brumbeloe, Christa Jennings, David Mackey, Laura Nation-Atchison, Graham Hadley, Chris Norwood, Kellie Long, Gary Hanner, Samantha Corona, Richard McVay, Heather Baggett, June Winters, & Robin Bird  
Comments: No comment

- Honorable Mention, The News Courier, "Never Empty Nest", Kelly Kazek  
Comments: No Comments

### **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

Class 1:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Birmingham News, "Corruption in two year Community College System", Brett J Blackledge

Comments: An extraordinary piece of work that established a database of financial records in the two-year college system and unearthed extensive nepotism as well as a shocking number of lawmakers on the dole. The breadth of Blackledge's work is breathtaking, the resulting payoff in public accountability rewarding. The chancellor of the system was fired, a new reporting system promised and state and federal criminal investigations are looking into the charges.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Mobile Press- Register, "Post Katrina Spending", Sean Reily & Brandon Kirby

Comments: This should really be 1a, rather 2 because it is excellent work as well. The reporters sought information on contracts given by FEMA to a local firm for \$192.1 million, learning that individual lunches provided by the company went for more than \$14 and the whereabouts of several thousand were unknown. The persistence is praiseworthy, the execution top-notch.

- Honorable Mention, Montgomery Advertiser, "Alabama State Fraud", Josh Moon

Comments: This tale of how a former football coach, who had been in trouble in that position, scammed Alabama State University by issuing assorted fake reimbursement forms as an arena manager, made for an insightful series of reports.

Class 2:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, The Decatur Daily, "Sheriffs food money", Sheryl Marsh

Comments: An outstanding effort that shed light on apparent graft in local government and resulted in review of an antiquated law. Solid reporting that benefited the public - the essence of this category. The Daily's entry was tops in a quality field.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Tuscaloosa News, "Sheriff vs. Tuscaloosa News", Staff

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention, The Dothan Eagle "Sunshine Week", Jill Nolin, Peggy Ussery & Jim Cook

Comments: No Comment

Class 3:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place, Opelika-Auburn News, "Records track city Manager's departure, claims", Mitch Sneed, News Staff

Comments: No Comment

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, The Daily Home, "Big Boat Ran", David Atchison

Comments: No Comment

- Honorable Mention: No Award

**NEWS SWEEPSTAKES:**

**Class 1:** The Birmingham News, "Unique Lives of Cancer Survivors", David Parks

Comments: No comment

**Class 2:** The Tuscaloosa News, "Alabama's Catfish industry", Katie Porterfield

Comments: No comment

**Class 3:** The News Courier, "Teacher fired for showing obscene videos in class", Kelly Kazek

Comments: No comment

**SPORTS SWEEPSTAKES:**

**Class 1:** The Hunstville Times, "Race Against Time", John Pruett

Comments: This piece accomplished what great sportswriting does — transcending sport to tell us something great about the times and our lives. A fascinating story, thoroughly reported. The writer also did a great job stepping aside and letting the voices breathe and tell the tale.

**Class 2:** The Anniston Star, “Whistle-filled win”, Joe Medley

Comments: The story is a tribute to the often-unsung staple of deadline reporting. The reporter could not have planned for a routine event to unfold in this way, but reacted to nail its uniqueness with layers of supporting facts. The writing mechanism he used — inserting (whistle) throughout to emphasize the story in a out-of-box way — elevated the effort even more.

**Class 3:** Opelika-Auburn News, “Sports Columns”, Mike Szvetitz

**Comments:** Mike shows an ability to tackle a range of topics — the emotion of a coach dealing with death in the family, spot-news type reaction to a QB’s key performance in a game, scolding basketball fans for not showing up a big game. He also allows readers in with his easy, quickly paced writing style. There are times when the quick-hit, choppiness can feel a bit over the top — but most of the time it’s a non-threatening, easy to read voice for all types of readers.