Winners of 55th Annual SoCal Journalism Awards 2013

55th SoCal Journalism Awards

A. JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

A1. PRINT (Over 50,000 circulation)

Gene Maddaus, LA Weekly

Comment: Maddaus’ investigative stories were thorough and interesting. He knows how to write a story that peels the layers away one by one until the reader can’t wait to see the ugly corruption fully exposed. His story about the Los Angeles County Assessor’s Office was especially good. His entry was clearly the best in this category.

2nd: Fred Dickey, U-T San Diego

3rd: Matthew Garrahan, Financial Times

A2. PRINT (Under 50,000 circulation)

Ryan Vaillancourt, Los Angeles Downtown News

Comments: Good mix of stories on a variety of topics. Displaying strong reporting and writing.

2nd: Jon Regardie, Los Angeles Downtown News

3rd: Brian Sumers, Los Angeles Daily Journal

A3. TELEVISION JOURNALIST

Robert Kovacik, NBC4

Comments: Robert Kovacik has not only won the trust and respect of his audience, he's won their hearts with solid reporting and integrity.

2nd: N/A

3rd: N/A

A4. RADIO

Warren Olney, KCRW 89.9 FM
Comments: Olney and his team did a masterful job of remembering a traumatic period in the city’s history. Great job.

2nd: Alex Cohen, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles

3rd: Stephanie O’Neill, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles

A5. ONLINE JOURNALIST

Martin Henderson, Patch.com

Comments: As media outlets continue to trim their news staffs and the survivors are expected to do more, Henderson demonstrates versatility and skill in his role as editor of the Rancho Santa Margarita Patch. His entry included excellent examples of news writing, video and photography, covering a wide variety of topics from sports and consumer reports to hard hitting political and court reporting, all optimized for delivery on the Web. His work serves as a model for the future of journalism on the Internet.

2nd: Dylan Howard, CeleBuzz

3rd: Catherine Green, Neon Tommy

A6. ENTERTAINMENT JOURNALIST

Stephen Galloway, The Hollywood Reporter

Comments: Galloway's writing is outstanding and his choices of material to include indicate intuitiveness and excellent judgment.

2nd: Jennifer Garcia, People Magazine

3rd: Rachel Abrams, Variety

A7. PHOTO JOURNALIST

Rick Loomis, Los Angeles Times

Comments: Normally a photo journalist of the year entry includes sports photos and photos from a wider variety of categories. Still, this is an extraordinarily rich set of photographs. The Population Rising story is exceedingly well researched and photographed, and shows the abilities the photographer would bring to any assignment.

2nd: Jessica Chou, The Hollywood Reporter

3rd: N/A
DAILY/WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS -- over 50K

B1. HARD NEWS

Gene Maddaus, LA Weekly, “The Artful Dodger”

Comments: A damning expose of the trail of deceit and lies that Josh Macciello told in his longshot bid for the Dodgers. The reporter went to impressive lengths to follow the story and track down sources, then quotes them again after their stories fell apart. This after Macciello had fooled some other media into thinking he was the real deal. The insistent reporting and colorful quotes kept the tale moving. Compelling.


3rd: R. Scott Moxley, OC Weekly, “Prince Edward Maryland Is Sorry”

B2. NEWS FEATURE (Over 1,000 words)

Molly Hennessy-Fiske, Los Angeles Times, “Standing Up: Davien’s Story”

Comments: The outstanding entry in this exceptional group is the story of a young man paralyzed in a shooting who stood up to his assailant. The reporter recognized the central player in this drama in 2008 and stayed with him over four years to witness the entire story. That commitment and perseverance paid off with a captivating tale that paints a broader picture of moralities in a complex world of gangs, schools, families and laws.

2nd: Gendy Alimurung, LA Weekly, “The Man Who Smelled Too Much”

3rd: Thomas Curwen, Los Angeles Times, “In Tune with Their Needs”

B3. NEWS FEATURE (Under 1,000 words)

Michael J. Mishak & Ashley Powers, Los Angeles Times, “High-Stakes Stumping”

Comments: Right from the start the authors pull the reader in with a lead that’s gold. And they find a way to make what would otherwise be a boring, dry piece about talking heads into a compelling, insightful and comical look at a bizarre stop in Las Vegas on the campaign trail. The entire story is tight and the authors make every word count. They also bring the story to life with vivid and descriptive detail that puts the reader in Sin City, listening to the 2012 Republican presidential hopefuls hawking their ideas and watching them wade into a world they’d rather keep at arm’s length.

2nd: Linda J. Williamson, Freelance & Los Angeles Times, “Facebook Group Helped With Cancer Support, Mourning”

3rd: N/A
B4. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Michelle Woo, OC Weekly, “Jason Quinn Will Meet You at the Playground”

Comments: In her lively and entertaining piece, Woo captured Mr. Quinn’s iconoclastic personality and attitudes toward food and the food industry. The reader learned what makes him tick and what makes him cook from his own lips and from his colleagues and critics. Readers come away with a clear idea of Quinn’s place in the Orange County and U.S. culinary scenes. At the same time, Woo never lost sight of her objective, to profile Mr. Quinn, not his industry.

2nd: Matthew Garrahan, Financial Times, “Will.i.am: The Player”

3rd: Tibby Rothman, LA Weekly, “Bobby Martinez’s Rebel Cry”

B5. INVESTIGATIVE SERIES

Hannah Dreier, The Associated Press, “Sept. 11 Fund Raided For Deficits”

Comments: The winner of the Investigative Series for larger outlets uncovered the shocking fact that of the 15 million dollars Californians donated to the children of 9-11 victims, only 20 thousand dollars actually reached the families. The reporter's curiosity and persistence paid off, exposing conduct from the public officials that wouldn't be tolerated from a private charity.

2nd: Molly Hennessy-Fiske, Los Angeles Times, “Standing Up: Davien’s Story”


B6. BUSINESS

Gustavo Arellano, OC Weekly, “Is Aaron Kushner the Pied Piper of Print?”

Comments: A well-written, thoroughly researched article that gives the reader a glimpse behind the curtains at who Kushner is, what he has done, where he comes from and, maybe, what he will do. It also is told in a manner that even if you are not interested in journalism you would want to read it.

2nd: Tessa Stuart, LA Weekly, “The Break-Up”

3rd: Gendy Alimurung, LA Weekly, “The Death of Film”

B7. COMMENTARY

Thomas Elias, California Focus Syndicated Column, “California Focus”

Comments: Thomas Elias is not afraid to express his opinion and he has the reporting chops necessary to support his views with facts. He serves his readers well by critically examining the workings of California state government.

2nd: Amy Alkon, Creators Syndicate, “Amy Alkon Syndicated Columns”

**B8. COLUMNIST**

Marty Kaplan, *Jewish Journal*

Comments: Different qualities go into fine column writing. Some columnists tend toward vivid description; others make their points through personal experience; others offer carefully balanced, almost judicious, argument and, in the end, arrive at a conclusion. Yet there will always be a place and a need for fiercely passionate yet skillfully structured opinion – the kind of opinion, whether you agree or not, that sweeps you up and carries you to the end of the piece. Fueled by what infuriates him within our polarized culture, Marty Kaplan is a practitioner of that classic technique. Like a boxer, he is relentless, coming after you with crisp language and rhetorical combinations, whether the subject is Chris Christie or global warming. Embrace Kaplan’s points or totally discard them, you’ll almost certainly stay in the ring with him until the end.

2nd: Rob Eshman, *Jewish Journal*


**B9. ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRITICISM/COLUMNS**

Catherine Wagley, *LA Weekly*, “Disney Demo”

Comments: This is artistic analysis at its finest. It incorporates the history of the medium and the message by highlighting tween obsessions from every decade in the latter half of the 20th century. It isn’t until Wagley is halfway through the piece that she gets to the work she’s analyzing, but by then, the reader is primed to hear her argument. And it’s a convincing one. It proves that good criticism revolves around good research, and both are solid in this piece.

2nd: Marty Kaplan, *Jewish Journal*, “Don’t Be Naked”

3rd: Nick Schou, *OC Weekly*, “The King of Cool, Don Winslow”

**B10. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE**

Zachary Pincus-Roth, *LA Weekly*, “Nothing To Hide”

Comments: Pincus-Roth’s exploration of a seemingly trivial craft forces the reader to indulge and engage in a world they would likely otherwise disregard. Not only is it well-researched and well-written, it’s beautifully structured. He balances show and tell with the skill of a magician, leaving just enough to the imagination. Most importantly, he contextualizes this inaccessible world for the layman (i.e. “David Blaine...would exit and get right back in line to see the show again, trying to figure out how the tricks were done.”) He takes us through these guys, their tricks, the magic world and the background of the Castle, all with wit and precise, fine writing.

2nd: Nate Jackson, *OC Weekly*, “The Ballad of Wade Michael Page”
3rd: Linda J. Williamson, Freelance – Los Angeles Times, “Game Over: Family Fun Arcade is Pulling the Plug”

B11. SPORTS

Matt Coker, OC Weekly, “Dick Baney and the Other Lost Boys of Summer”

Comments: It was a very well-written piece with great baseball idioms throughout. You can tell it was well-researched and left the reader wanting to know the future outcome of the Lost Boys. In the end, the reader was left rooting for the Lost Boys and hoping for a resolution to the problem.

2nd: Joel Beers, OC Weekly, “Muffin Spencer-Devlin Is the Best Lesbian…”

3rd: Jay Berman, The Orange County Register, “The Forgotten League”

B12. HEADLINE

Libby Molyneaux, LA Weekly, “The Oyster is His World”

Comments: A sharp play on words that works on many levels and is backed up by the story.

2nd: Kevin Leung, Los Angeles Times, “Florida Voters See GOP Ads Infinitum”

3rd: Steven Leigh Morris, LA Weekly, “The Race-Time Continuum”

B13. DESIGN

Darrick Rainey, LA Weekly, “2012 Theater Issue, LA Weekly”

Comments: Lively cover design, clean typography on cover and cover story presentation. Consistent use of type and pictures throughout. Nice read.

2nd: Laila Derakshanian, OC Weekly, "Anaheim Calling"

3rd: N/A

DAILY/WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS -- under 50K

C1. HARD NEWS

Richard Guzman, Los Angeles Downtown News, “For Streetcar, It's the $85 Million Question”

Comments: Strong reporting on an important issue for taxpayers. Good watchdog journalism.

2nd: Brittany Levine, Glendale News-Press, “John Drayman Pony Rides Offered a Clue”

3rd: Ciaran McEvoy, Los Angeles Daily Journal, “Shrinking Court Reporter Staffs Brings Changes to Civil Litigation”
C2. NEWS FEATURE (Over 1,000 words)
Alfred Lee, Los Angeles Business Journal, “Police Make Business of Seizures”

Comments: This well-written piece informs us of the disturbing new trend of questionable law enforcement seizures destroying businesses.

2nd: Adolfo Flores, Pasadena Sun, “How An Unarmed 17-year Old Died in a Hail of Police Bullets”

3rd: Theresa Marie Moreau, The Remnant, “Christ Crucified in China”

C3. NEWS FEATURE (Under 1,000 words)

Comments: With lucid writing and details, this feature makes it a compelling read.

2nd: Richard Guzman, Los Angeles Downtown News, “Artwork Lost, Artwork Found”

3rd: Christina Schweighofer, Pasadena Weekly, “Professional Nit Pickers”

C4. PERSONALITY PROFILE
Ryan Vaillancourt, Los Angeles Downtown News, “The Dancer”

Comments: A well-written profile of a dancer-turned-choreographer. Good pace and easy to read.

2nd: Theresa Marie Moreau, The Remnant, “Christ Crucified in China”


C5. INVESTIGATIVE/SERIES
Brian Hews & Randy Economy, Los Cerritos Community Newspaper, “Corruption at LA County Assessor’s Office”

Comments: An amazing piece of investigative journalism that not only uncovered the root of a serious problem but also produced increased public awareness that, in turn, led to significant reform and change. The reporter/editor partnership that tackled this series demonstrated a combination of courage and perseverance, as well as a keen understanding that the important stories are often the ones that don’t come easy.

2nd: Joe Piasecki, La Canada Valley Sun, “Using Money to Shape Policy”

3rd: Richard Clough, Los Angeles Business Journal, “Too Good To Be True”

C6. BUSINESS
Jacqueline Ryan, Los Angeles Business Journal, “Miracle Growth”

Comments: Ms. Ryan’s piece demonstrated a well-researched and well-thought out approach to breaking down regional economic development trends. Her analysis of L.A.’s historic Miracle Mile district was eye-opening, engaging and informative.


3rd: Marlize van Romburgh, Stephen Nellis & Henry Dubroff, Pacific Coast Business Times, “Union Bank To Buy SBB&T”

C7. COMMENTARY

Amy Alkon, Creators Syndicate, “Amy Alkon, Syndicated Columns”

Comments: This is informational, insightful, provocative and entertaining -- everything you want in great commentary. The work is polished, the style conversational. The laugh-out-loud logic is unique because writing with humor is extremely challenging. Doing it well is worthy of note.

2nd: Thomas Elias, California Focus Syndicated Column, “California Focus”


C8. COLUMNIST

Charles Crumpley, Los Angeles Business Journal

Comments: This is the way to write commentary. Crumpley's thoughts are well organized, and build to a strong conclusion. He says he strives “to write columns off the news” and that's why he nails the readability.

2nd: Dan Evans, Glendale News-Press

3rd: Brian Lowry, Variety, “Why TV Channels Won't Sustain Gun Debate”

C9. ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRITICISM/COLUMNS

Tom Teicholz, “Lessons From Schnitzler's Vienna et al”

Comments: A range of topics covered within the arts, some giving historical perspective, while injecting a little levity through humor in others. His reviews are informative and engaging.

2nd: N/A

3rd: N/A
C10. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE


Comments: Transmedia is a new trend or topic. Dotan presented it with great clarity for the general reader.


C11. SPORTS

Mike Terry, San Fernando Valley Sun, “Keeper of the Flame”

Comments: Intriguing lead, fast-paced writing, good choice of strong quotes. Terry's story is an exceptionally well-written sports profile of a female athlete whose background is as outstanding as her height.


3rd: Andrew Campa, Pasadena Sun, “Muir Football Looks for Leadership”

C12. HEADLINE

Tom Hicks, Los Angeles Business Journal, “If Cochran Partners Don’t Fit, They Might Just Split”

Comments: A great throwback to Cochran’s famous argument during O.J. Simpson’s trial. This headline is a sure winner.


C13. DESIGN


Comments: Beautiful layout, lots of information well presented, making for a successful presentation.


**ART/PHOTOGRAPHY**

**D1. NEWS PHOTO**

Eric Longabardi, *TeleMedia News Productions*, "Two Sides of the Same Street"

Comments: The powerful juxtaposition in this image speaks volumes.

2nd: Raul Roa, *Glendale News-Press*, “Neighbors Watch as a California Black Bear is Removed”

3rd: N/A

**D2. FEATURE PHOTO**


Comments: The winning photo is a moody portrait of the singer at home. It is nicely lit, and it is interesting to see his choice of books... he is well-read, and this photo tells us that there is much more to his life than music.


**D3. PORTRAIT**

Carrie Smith, Jenny Sargent, Jennifer Laski, Shanti Marlar & Art Streiber, *The Hollywood Reporter*, “Norman Lear, the Man Who Changed TV”

Comments: Surrounded by framed pictures of friends, colleagues and family, Lear’s expression is that of a man who knows that what is important in life, is what is important in his life’s work.


3rd: Dan Busta, *Backstage*, “Amy Adams”
D4. SPORTS PHOTO

Cheryl Guerrero, Burbank Leader, “Burroughs Takes Control of League Title”

Comments: This shot is the epitome of action.


3rd: N/A

D5. ENTERTAINMENT PHOTO


Comments: Wonderful, weary but definitely a winning photo of the winner.


D6. EDITORIAL CARTOON

Doug Davis, Los Angeles Downtown News, “Springboard to Higher Office”

Comments: The springboard cartoon was beautifully composed from a visual standpoint and conveyed its message economically and effectively.

2nd: Ralph Gamboa, San Fernando Valley Sun & El Sol Newspapers, "Dirty Dancing"

3rd: N/A

D7. PHOTO ESSAY (Single Topic)

Liz O. Baylen, Los Angeles Times, “Life-Changing Dose”

Comments: A haunting look at the problem, with stunning access to subjects. Many aspects of the problem are covered. The black and white is even more effective than color.

2nd: Rick Loomis, Los Angeles Times, “Population Rising”


TELEVISION

E1. ANCHOR

Michael Eaves, *Fox Sports West/Prime Ticket*

Comments: Good on-camera delivery, strong presence, good writing and delivery.

2nd: Patrick O’Neal, *Fox Sports West/Prime Ticket*

3rd: N/A

E2. VIDEOGRAPHER

Jeff Shearin, *Fox Sports West/Prime Ticket*

Comments: Great, creative camera angles and views; a good mix of stories showing a range of talent.

2nd: Edward Lewis, *Fox Sports West/Prime Ticket*

3rd: Laurie Fernandez, CBS 2/KCAL 9, “Anaheim Police Shooting”

E3. NEWS

Laurie Fernandez & Jay Jackson, CBS 2/KCAL9, “Anaheim Police Shooting”

Comments: Gripping, dramatic on the scene coverage of a breaking news story.

2nd: Bret Marcus, Justine Schmidt, Karen Foshay, Jennifer London & Michael Bloecher, *KCET-TV*, “Courting Disaster”


E4. FEATURE

Bret Marcus, Rebecca Haggerty, Angela Shelley, Brian Rooney & Alicia Clark, *KCET-TV*, “The App Economy”

Comments: A clear standout coming from a highly decorated team of great professionals.

2nd: Sean Browning, Del Armijo & Robert Kovacik, *NBC4*, “Carmageddon Baby Boom”

3rd: Jessica Carrillo, *Telemundo Los Angeles KVEA-52*, “Los Chipsters”

E5. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Comments: Buffett’s journey from Omaha newsboy to the Pulitzer Prize to Wall Street icon is told in this well-written profile. Great photography and editing combine to tell an already compelling story.


**E6. INVESTIGATIVE**


Comments: This team does a very good job of exposing a very real situation. Good writing, strong interviews, editing and storytelling backed up by hard facts.


**E7. SPORTS**

Jeff Shearin, *Fox Sports West/Prime Ticket*, “Howie Kendrick Photography Feature”

Comments: Great perspective and insight into what a sports figure does in his off time. Well-shot and edited.

2nd: Patrick McBride, Lawrence Patin & Edward Lewis, *Fox Sports West/Prime Ticket*, “CIF 100: Janet Evans”


**E8. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE**

Juan Devis, Bruce Dickson, Drew Tewksbury & Justin Cram, *KCET-TV*, “Date Farmers: Desert Detritus Becomes Chicano Pop Art”

Comments: Well-edited, good use of music, mix of interviews and visuals to tell the story.

2nd: Bret Marcus, Rebecca Haggerty, Kat Keeney, Val Zavala & Jack Moody, *KCET-TV*, “Geena Davis: Women in Media”
3rd: Oswaldo Borraez, Andres Pruna & Arturo Quezada, KMEX, “Los Verdaderos Vaqueros”

E9. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Bret Marcus, Rebecca Haggerty, Karen Foshay, Brian Rooney & Madeleine Brand, KCET-TV, “Season 5 SoCal Connected: OC Homeless/Paula Poundstone”

Comments: Good mix of stories, well-presented, well-written and edited.

2nd: Bret Marcus, Justine Schmidt, Karen Foshay, Rick Wilkinson & Vince Gonzales, KCET-TV, “Season 4 SoCal Connected: Big Oil/Kickstarter”

3rd: Rick Reiff, David Nazar & George Barker, “SoCal Insider”

E10. FEATURE DOCUMENTARY (Over 25 minutes)


Comments: Beautifully shot and edited with great content and revealing & entertaining interviews.

2nd: Sara Takata, Patrick McBride, Lawrence Patin, Michael Eaves & Shawn Kopelakis, Fox Sports West/Prime Ticket, “Before the Bigs: Chris Paul”

3rd: Matt Holwick, “Lets Roll – Ride For 9/11”

E11. DOCUMENTARY (Short, under 25 minutes)


Comments: Clever and creative, well-shot, edited and presented. Good use of music and graphics.


3rd: Althea Wagoner & Brent Foster, Titan TV, “1 in 88”

RADIO

F1. ANCHOR

Dick Helton & Vicky Moore, KNX 1070, “Dick Helton & Vicky Moore”
Comments: Helton and Moore are easy to listen to. Professional anchors who sound great and keep the hour moving. Great job.

2\textsuperscript{nd}: Jim Rondeau, \textit{KCLU}, “KCLU News With Jim Rondeau”

3\textsuperscript{rd}: Sonali Kolhatkar, \textit{KPFK Pacifica Radio}, “Uprising With Sonali Kolhatkar”

\textbf{F2. NEWS}

Josie Huang, \textit{89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles}, “Deferred Action”

Comments: The story brought to life what some undocumented youngsters are going through to gain legal status. Nice, personal story of the hopes of one young woman.

2\textsuperscript{nd}: Corey Moore, \textit{89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles}, “Anaheim Violence”

3\textsuperscript{rd}: Vanessa Romo, \textit{89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles}, “Miramonte Anger”

\textbf{F3. NEWS OR FEATURE SHORT FORM}

Corey Moore, \textit{89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles}, “Endeavour Fans”

Comments: Moore is a compelling reporter. Does a great job of telling a story with humor and good writing.

2\textsuperscript{nd}: Stephanie O’Neill, \textit{89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles}, “Starbucks Crash”

3\textsuperscript{rd}: Stephanie O’Neill, \textit{89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles}, “Lap Band”

\textbf{F4. FEATURE}

James Kim, \textit{89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles}, “First Language Attrition”

Comments: Kim skillfully wove together the personal story with the sociology of linguistics. Great writing. Well-done.

2\textsuperscript{nd}: Lance Orozco, \textit{KCLU AM/FM}, “My Cancer”

3\textsuperscript{rd}: Sanden Totten, \textit{89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles}, “LACMA Rock”

\textbf{F5. PERSONALITY PROFILE}

Corey Moore, \textit{89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles}, “Paralympic Runner”

Comments: Moore did a fantastic job of capturing this runner’s personality, spirit and
enthusiasm. Nice devices like lots of natural sound, interaction and the “jog along” make the runner a compelling subject.

2nd: Darby Maloney & Kim Masters, KCRW, “Benh Zeitlin, an Unconventional Filmmaker”
2nd: Patt Morrison, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “Rodney King, 20 Years After”


F6. INVESTIGATIVE

Stephanie O’Neill, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “Starbucks Crash”

Comment: O’Neill is a talented journalist. Great job. Very interesting.

2nd. Stephanie O’Neill, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “1-800-GET-THIN”

3rd: Sharon McNary, Shirley Jahad & Tami Abdollah, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “Miramonte Settlement”

F7. ENTERTAINMENT REPORTING/Criticism

Sanden Tottten, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “Movie Trailers”

Comments: Excellent stories. Fascinating information and well-edited with fun elements.

2nd: Darby Maloney & Kim Masters, KCRW, “The Hollywood-China Connection”

3rd: Kevin Ferguson, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “How Will The Adult Film Industry Respond to LA’s Condom Ordinance?”

F8. SPORTS


Comments: Quality work from Hamilton. Good interviews and nice sense of place. Really good story.

2nd: Corey Moore, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “Paralympic Runner”

3rd: Josie Huang, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “Kyla Ross”

F9. USE OF SOUND

Judy Muller, Kristen Muller, Steve Proffitt & Emily Frost, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “When The Riots Began”

2<sup>nd</sup>: Sanden Totten, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “Movie Trailers”

3<sup>rd</sup>: Lance Orozco, KCLU AM/FM, “My Cancer”

**F10. TALK/PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

Warren Olney, KCRW 89.9 FM, “Special Programming: 20 Years After the Riots”


2<sup>nd</sup>: The Madeleine Brand Show, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “20th Anniversary of LA Riots”

3<sup>rd</sup>: Take Two, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “Take Two: December 17, 2012”

**F11. DOCUMENTARIES**

Gideon Brower, Eric Drachman, Bob Carlson & Jacob Conrad, KCRW, “The Couple in 303”

Comments: Nice intro to set-up the story. Good story structure and background music. Narration is very natural and easy to listen to.

2<sup>nd</sup>: Cason Smith, KSPC Radio-Claremont, CA, “Scavengers”

3<sup>rd</sup>: N/A

**MAGAZINES**

**G1. NEWS INVESTIGATIVE**

TIE: David Evans, Bloomberg News, “Duping the Donors”


Comments: A penetrating expose of charitable fundraising that is shocking in its findings. Evans does a great job of pulling together tax and legal filings to weave an interesting story.

Comments: A spellbinding piece of journalism that takes a deep dive into the subject matter and emerges with a fresh perspective on the issue that at the same time is both wide and deep.


**G2. FEATURE/COMMENTARY (Over 1,000 words)**


Comments: Excellent story telling; layered with compelling firsthand accounts; sub categories and timeline helped story unravel; readers, will be invested in the story from start to end.

2nd: Vince Beiser, *Playboy Magazine*, “Overdose County, USA”


**G3. FEATURE/COMMENTARY (Under 1,000 words)**


Comments: Strong catchy opening; very funny - had several laughing out loud moments; great flow and layering of story; refreshing to read; natural writer.

2nd: Timothy M. Gray, *Variety*, “From Kakuma to Cannes”


3rd: Johnny Dodd, *People Magazine*, “Florida’s Troop 409: Boy Scouts, With a Difference”

**G4. PERSONALITY PROFILE**


Comments: An excellent personality profile that explains the subject’s approach to his work and causes, written well and with a nice tone.

2nd: Peter Suderman, *Reason Magazine*, “Obama’s Failed Narrative: Did the Presidency Ruin a Good Storyteller, or Vice…”


**G5. ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS/CRICITISM/COLUMNS**


Comments: High-octane writing with some little jewels tossed in. A total delight to read!

3\textsuperscript{rd}: Tim Grierson, \textit{Backstage}, “Killing Them Softly”

\textbf{G6. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE}

Rachel Abrams, Clifford Coonan, Ted Johnson & Andrew Stewart, \textit{Variety}, “Great Mall of China”

Comments: Very interesting and informative mix of stories. Everything pertinent is in this selection of articles and they are all very well-written.

2\textsuperscript{nd}: Andrew Stewart, \textit{Variety}, “B.O. Reality Gets Lost in Perception”

3\textsuperscript{rd}: Marc Graser & Rachel Abrams, \textit{Variety}, “Movies & Money”

\textbf{G7. IN-HOUSE OR CORPORATE PUBLICATION}


Comments: The magazine has a clean and well-organized layout. Articles include a good mix of interesting, on-topic stories and updates about the work of SAG-AFTRA and the service it provides to its members. Bundles a lot of information relevant for its audience in an easy-to-read, attractive package.

2\textsuperscript{nd}: Collegian Times, “Collegian Times”

3\textsuperscript{rd}: Adam VanGerpen, “The Los Angeles Firefighter Newspaper”

\textbf{ONLINE}

\textbf{H1. NEWS}

Staff, \textit{The Hollywood Reporter – THR.com}, “Fatal Shooting at ‘The Dark Knight Rises’”

Comments: The difficulty in covering a story of this magnitude, particularly from a remote location is finding news elements that are fresh and unique. The staff of the Hollywood Reporter managed this in their coverage of the tragic shootings in Aurora by offering a complete and comprehensive report that covered not only the impact on the entertainment industry but also for the human and cultural aspects as well. The coverage also made full use of the online medium. Nicely done.

2\textsuperscript{nd}: Michael Martinez, \textit{CNN}, “On the Border; Guns, Drugs and a Betrayal of Trust”

3\textsuperscript{rd}: Lilly Fowler, \textit{FairWarning}, “State Investigators, Workers Cite Labor Abuses in Warehouse Empire”
H2. INVESTIGATIVE


Comments: When a well-researched, fair and balanced piece of journalism results in system-wide reform and justice, you know it must be good. Reporters Fremon and Fleischer did their homework in this multi-part series and it paid off.


H3. FEATURE


TIE: Sal Cardoni, *TakePart.com*, “Not In My Backyard”

Comments: Brettingen - Story is informative and well-researched with good, illuminating quotes on a topic that, in less-skilled hands, could have been a snooze. This story has heart. And soul.

Comments: Cardoni - Not only documents the health and environmental hazards of strip mining, but also reveals the views of a straight-talking, opponent to a developer’s euphemisms and corporate-speak lies on jobs and dangers in an arena where money definitely talks. This story reminds us once again, that money still talks loudly.


H4. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Sahra Sulaiman, *Streetsblog Los Angeles*, “Listening to the Streets”

Comments: Fidel's story makes for compelling reading. Under a less-skilled reporter, Fidel's tale of his struggles to overcome gang life and make something of his life could have been superficial. But Sahra was able to get him to open up and reveal himself. A wonderful job.

2nd: Jessica Koslow, *LA Stage Times*, “Mikhail Baryshnikov: A Russian in Paris”


3rd: Mike Fleeman, *People.com*, “Robby Benson: Inside His 'Brutal Experience' of Four Heart Surgeries”
H5. DATABASE-DRIVEN JOURNALISM


Comments: While Fleischer collected and used information drawn from readily available public records to support his story, the results were presented in an especially effective way for the reader with easy to understand charts and graphs, along with supporting descriptions. Other entries made use of more complicated research and analyses. But ultimately, this entry was the best at communicating the findings in a clear and concise manner.

2nd: Matt Pressberg, *Neon Tommy*, “Doing the Math on Guns”

3rd: Christopher Palmeri & Rodney Yap, *Bloomberg News*, “Los Angeles $100,000 Carpenters Show Clout of Utility’s Union”

H6A. MULTIMEDIA PACKAGE

Michele Stueven, Kris Widger, Monica Rizzo & Aili Nahas, *People/People.com*, “TCAs”

Comments: Perfect multimedia package with all the elements – well-organized and presented.


H6B. POLITICAL COLUMN/COMMENTARY


Comments: True to the name Reason, this piece avoid the emotional aspects of the growing debate over the United States’ use of drones to target its enemies. Instead, it focuses on the practical arguments and in doing so Gillespie and Bragg present a case with broad appeal across the political spectrum. The piece is packed by documented research that breaks out of the echo chamber of right and left. It pulls the rug out from under the effectiveness, the legality and the future projects surrounding this new style of warfare. It is a stellar example of what an opinion piece ought to do -- compelling acceptance instead of attacking one side or another. Well "reasoned".


H7. NON-POLITICAL COLUMN/COMMENTARY

Damien Newton, Streetsblog Los Angeles, “Don't Let the South Figueroa Corridor Project Get Lost in the CRA Shuffle”

Comments: This commentary's passion from the beginning hooks the reader. The writing was pithy and straightforward. The point of view was clear but not preachy, about the plans -- and looming challenges -- for overhauling a Los Angeles street to become more pedestrian and bike friendly. This author knows his stuff and will have success gaining support with his compelling arguments.


3rd: Florie Brizel, CNN.com, “Why We All Need a Degree in 'Mobilology'”

H8. ONLINE SPORTS NEWS/FEATURE/COMMENTARY


Comments: Articles this long often are hard to digest. But that's not true here, as Kendrick made many interesting, insightful points about the contentious issue of high school athletes who transfer to other schools, and he does so with tight writing. The anecdotes and examples of real-life situations do a great job of illustrating the problems that come with this issue. Kendrick did a great job with this article.


3rd: Aaron Fischman, Neon Tommy, “The Joys of NBA Summer League”

H9. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS


Comments: Very engaging storytelling.

2nd: Dylan Howard, Celebuzz, “Family Feud: The Battle Over Michael Jackson's Millions and His Three Children”

3rd: Dylan Howard, Celebuzz, “Caught On Tape: Chevy Chase Rips His Own TV Sitcom”

H10. ENTERTAINMENT FEATURE

Sarah Parvini, Neon Tommy, “The Family Arcade Holds on as the Arcade Industry Falters”

Comments: Terrific writing. You virtually see, feel and taste what the writer is describing.

3rd: Tasbeeh Herwees, Neon Tommy, “The Last Bookshops of Los Angeles”

H11A. ENTERTAINMENT COMMENTARY/REVIEWS

Don Shirley, LASstageTimes.com, “LA Stage Watch”

Comments: Excellent reviews and commentaries. Original angles and writing that is clear and to the point.


H11B. BLOG, INDIVIDUAL

Danielle Berrin, Jewish Journal, “Should ‘Girls’ Just Get Married”/“Wrong to be Funny About Anne Frank?”

Comments: There were several outstanding entries in this category, but what made Danielle Berrin’s Hollywood Jew postings stand out was her “voice.” She carefully infuses strong, well-written commentary with her personality and insight, all within the lively online platform blogs provide.

2nd: Ted Johnson, Variety, “RNC”

3rd: Matt DeBord, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “DeBord Report”

H12. BLOG, GROUP


Comments: Hollywood, Esq., a blog devoted to breaking entertainment legal news, was a standout for several reasons: There is no confusion about the purpose of this blog and its audience. The three contributors posted consistently well-written, uniform and newsworthy items. The blog also makes effective use of hyperlinks, photographs and other multimedia content to support each post. Not surprisingly, the posts draw candid commentary from readers and are consistently shared to social media, demonstrating the reach of the blog.

2nd: Zuade Kaufman, Robert Scheer, Peter Scheer, Tracy Bloom & Alexander Reed Kelly, Truthdig, “Ear To The Ground”

3rd: Zachary Pincus-Roth, Amanda Lewis, Catherine Wagley, Siran Babayan & Jacy Wojcik, LA Weekly, “Public Spectacle: LA Weekly’s Arts and Culture”

H13. WEBSITE, NEWS ORGANIZATION, EXCLUSIVE TO THE INTERNET
Zuade Kaufman, Truthdig.com

Comments: Good content, well-organized and easy to explore with a good layout.

2nd: Amanda Wolfe, Kate Ackerman, Matthew Wayt, George Lauer & David Gorn, California HealthCare Foundation & The Advisory Board Company, “CaliforniaHealthline.org”


H14. WEBSITE, NEWS ORGANIZATION


Comments: Great content, functional design, good use of video and print elements.

2nd: Staff, LA Weekly, “People Issue Microsite”


SOCIAL MEDIA

I1. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA, INDIVIDUAL


Comments: The combination of Blogging and Facebook page give a forum for advocacy for elderly. The blog post When Aging Actors Prey on the Elderly is especially good.


3rd: Vicki Chen, Annenberg TV News, “For Garcetti, Experience is Double-Edged Sword”

I2. BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA, ORGANIZATION

Brian Humphrey, Erik Scott & Matt Spence, The Los Angeles Firefighter, “LAFD News and Information Blog”

Comments: Well "liked" page with plenty news and information posts and interaction with its followers. Lively page, great use of platform.

2nd: Staff, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “Social Media on Election Night”

3rd: Chris Keller & Kim Bui, 89.3 FM – KPCC Los Angeles, “Dangerous Intersections”
CAUSE/ADVOCACY JOURNALISM

J1. ADVOCACY JOURNALISM

Sharon Bernstein, Olsen Ebright & Daisy Lin, NBC4, “Taking Advantage of California’s Change in Autism Insurance Coverage”

Comments: Well-executed coverage of a challenge that affects so many families. Writing is clear, interviewed subjects compelling.


3rd: Chris Clarke & Zach Behrens, KCET-TV, "The Desert is Not a Wasteland"

INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM

K1. NEWS

Claudine P. Mulard, Le Monde, “We are Safe on Mars!”

Comments: This was the most historically significant entry in this competition. Claudine and Le monde, were the first to print a story about the Mars Rover landing. Recognizing an important moment in history is a gift of wisdom.

2nd: Mike Amor & John Varga, 7 Network Australia, “Under the Border”

3rd: Tom Walters & Liam Hyland, CTV – Canadian Television, “Searching for Sam Bacile”

K2. FEATURE

Tina Jøhnk Christensen, Plaza Deco, “Back to the Future”

Comments: Excellent story, very objective and positive in their approach. The audience in Europe will find this story fascinating.

2nd: Tom Walters & Liam Hyland, CTV - Canadian Television, "Cardboard Dreams"

3rd: Kerstin Zilm, German Public Radio, "MariachiOke"

K3. PERSONALITY PROFILE

Comments: Excellent piece that lacked nothing, from photos and clips from Shatner's long and varied career to the hard questions, including that one we've all wanted to ask, "Why DID you do 'Nightmare at 37,000 Feet'?" It's a bit of a shock, too, to discover that, due to the absence of residuals, actors who became household names in a famed series were left far from rich for their efforts.


K4. ENTERTAINMENT NEWS OR FEATURE

Fernando Mexia, *EFE News Services*, “Tarzan Reclaims His Place in the 21st Century With A Clamor”

Comments: This piece opens with a whiz-bang lead and never lets go throughout. The three sources are the perfect choices to bring Tarzan alive: The grandson of the books’ author, offering a great insight into the theme of the Tarzan books; an actor who played Tarzan, contributing some fascinating anecdotes; and the president of the Edgar Rice Burroughs Association with some incisive analysis. It also boasted the funniest single quote in the category, from the actor in a more recent Tarzan film: "I also had to yell, but I sounded like an injured cat, so they ended up ... using Johnny Weissmuller's call instead."

2nd: James Desborough, *Sunday Express*, “World Tour Too Much For Me, Says Adele”

3rd: Kerstin Zilm, *German Public Radio/freelance*, “Burdensome Objects”

K5. COLUMNIST/CRICITIC

Tom Walters, *CTV – Canadian Television*, “The Myth of Good And Evil”

Comments: The disturbing trend of political demonizing is clearly underscored in this report. Walters points out that in our seemingly endless presidential campaign there have been more than a million TV ads. And a record four out of five were negative."


3rd: N/A

YOUTH MEDIA

L1. COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

*Daily Sundial, CSUN*, “20 Years After the Riots”

Comments: The Daily Sundial is the class of Southern California student journalism. The paper - as exemplified by the staff's "20-years after the LA Riots" edition - presents a sophisticated
blend of content, presentation and photography. The paper is thoroughly "professional" by any standard. Kudos to the Daily Sundial staff.

2nd: *Los Angeles Collegian*, L.A. City College, “May 2, 2012”

3rd: *The Daily Bruin*, UCLA

**L2. HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER**

Highlights, *Beverly Hills High School*

Comments: The Highlights staff has produced an impressively comprehensive paper with a nice blend of stories from tackling the impact of budget cuts on the school to spotlighting students helping to provide books for a Mongolian school. Well thought out editorials and a sports page round out this top-notch student publication. Well done!

2nd: The Pearl Post, *Daniel Pearl Magnet High School*

3rd: N/A

**L3. NEWS WEBSITE**

*Annenberg TV News*, USC

Comments: This beautifully organized and informative website surpasses many professional operations. Outstanding work!

2nd: The Pearl Post, *Daniel Pearl Magnet High School*

3rd: *Daily Sundial*, CSUN

**L4. INDIVIDUAL BLOG**

N/A

**L5. PHOTOGRAPHY**

Loren Townsley, *Daily Sundial*, “Short-Lived NACC Tournament”

Comments: Loren Townsley captured what every professional news photographer both prays for and, just a little bit, also hopes not to see -- real tears, rolling down a young woman's face in a dramatic news moment. Loren's framing of the beautiful young student who has just learned her soccer team has been eliminated tells all the drama and news in a single shot.


3rd: Ken Scarboro, *Daily Sundial*, “Proposition’s 30 Ultimatum Photo”
L6. WRITING -- PRINT

TIE: Melody Cherchian, *Daily Sundial*, “Fort For the Foreclosed”
TIE: Amanda Scurlock, *Los Angeles City College*, "Ghosts of Snyder Field"

Comments for Melody & Amanda: Excellent writing by Amanda Scurlock of the Los Angeles Collegian and Melody Cherchian of the Daily Sundial equally impressed the judges. Scurlock’s piece movingly evokes an earlier time when LACC had an athletics program while Cherchian personalizes the Occupy movement through a local family facing foreclosure. Fine job both.

2nd: Anna Kamalyan & Olga Tatarenkova, *Los Angeles City College*, "FDIC Turns Magnifying Glass on Higher One"
2nd: Christina Cocca, *Daily Sundial*, “Conversion Therapy Ban Challenged”

L7. REPORTING – BROADCAST, PODCAST OR STREAM

Althea Wagoner & Brent Foster, *Titan TV*, “1 in 88”

Comments: This highly sophisticated report on autism -- and the media hysteria over its causes, which seem to change every few months -- draws out highly personal thoughts from shattered parents, as well as their open cynicism toward the system and their gritty courage. It slams both Jenny McCarthy’s horribly damaging and debunked theories as well as Michael Savage’s brutal dismissal of the existence of the disease. The student reporter wisely stays off camera, passing on the wrongheaded urge to be a key part of the story. Bravo to these wonderful, very adult and very talented, student reporters.

2nd: Christian Pipion, *Daily 49er*, “University Art Museum’s Opening Weekend”
3rd: Matthew Mullins & Dave Martin, *Los Angeles City College*, “LACC Student, Jose Barrientos Fakes Accent in Speech 101 Class”

M1. GENERAL NON-FICTION


Comments: A compelling insight into the murder of a small town deputy sheriff and the massive Mojave Desert manhunt for his killer.

2nd: Bob Brill, “No Barrier: How the Internet Destroyed the World Economy”

M2. BIOGRAPHY OR MEMOIR

N/A