

Osman C. Hooper
&
Ohio Collegiate Newspaper
&
Best Website Awards

Competitions for Weekly and Collegiate Newspapers presented by
The Ohio Newspaper Association Weekly Newspaper Committee and
Ohio Newspapers Foundation



Awards & Judges' Reports
2014

As presented at The Ohio Newspaper Association Annual Convention
February 6, 2014

Ohio Newspaper Association Weekly Newspaper Committee

Mary Huber, Archbold Buckeye, Chair

Diane Chiddister, Yellow Springs News

David Keller, Morgan County Herald, McConnelsville

Jerry Mossbarger, The Telegram, Jackson

Doug Dixon, ThisWeek Newspapers, Columbus

Erica Peterson, Record Publishing Company, Kent

Kim Ross-Polito, Crestline Advocate

Foreward



Osman C. Hooper

When the Ohio Newspaper Association was established in 1933, Osman Hooper was already a significant contributor to the organization. For many years he conducted the annual “Ohio Newspaper Show” which was held as part of the Buckeye Press Association convention in Columbus. At the turn of the 20th century, the Buckeye Press Association, which represented weekly newspaper publishers, and the Associated Ohio Dailies were conducting separate events. ONA’s founding was the result of their merger into a single state trade association.

It was also in 1933 that Hooper published one of several books, “The History of Ohio Journalism,” which traces the beginnings of Ohio newspapers. At the 1937 ONA Convention, Hooper was presented a resolution citing “his part in the development of increasingly high standards for Ohio community papers” and his name was added to the annual weekly newspaper contest.

Hooper spent 58 years at *The Columbus Dispatch*, beginning as a telegraph editor in 1880. He was an editorial writer for nearly 20 years and was made literary editor in 1917. Hooper became a journalism professor at Ohio State University in 1918 and was named professor emeritus in 1932. Throughout his teaching career he continued to edit *The Dispatch* book page.

In 1925, Hooper established the Ohio Journalism Hall of Fame which is housed at Ohio State University and in 1939 he was inducted into the Journalism Hall of Fame. He died in 1941 at the age of 83.

Weekly Circulation Divisions 2014

Competing newspapers were divided into four divisions according to circulation information already on file with the Ohio Newspaper Association. With a total of 35 newspapers, the divisions are as follows:

Division A: Total circulation of 10,500 and over

Chagrin Valley Times	Stow Sentry
Cuyahoga Falls News-Press	The Press, Millbury
News Democrat, Sunday	ThisWeek Dublin Villager
News Leader, Northfield	ThisWeek Westerville News & Public Opinion

Division B: Total circulation from 5,200 to 9,500

Free Press Standard, Carrollton	The Budget, Sugarcreek
Geauga Times Courier	The Herald, Barberton
Hudson Hub-Times	The Press, Avon Lake
Jackson County Times-Journal	The Telegram, Jackson
Putnam County Sentinel	West Life, Westlake
Tallmadge Express	

Division C: Total circulation from 3,038 to 4,600

Morgan County Herald	Pike County News Watchman
News Democrat, Georgetown	Solon Times
Paulding Progress	The Gazette, Jefferson
Perry County Tribune	The Press, North Ridgeville

Division D: Total circulation from 1,000 to 2,954

Ada Herald	The Courier, Conneaut
Archbold Buckeye	The News, Pymatuning
Bluffton News	The Photojournal, Vermilion
Ripley Bee	Yellow Springs News

Collegiate Newspapers 2014

The following Ohio Newspaper Association collegiate member newspapers entered this year's competition:

Division A

The News Record - University of Cincinnati
Daily Kent Stater - Kent State University
The Post - Ohio University
The Lantern - The Ohio State University

Division B

The Collegian - Ashland University
The Carroll News - John Carroll University
Cedars - Cedarville University
The Pulse - University of Findlay
Aviso AVW - Malone University
Tan and Cardinal - Otterbein University
The Clarion - Sinclair Community College
The Independent Collegian - University of Toledo
The Jambar - Youngstown State University

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Hooper Class 1: News Coverage

Judged by Ann Schierhorn, professor; Jan Leach, Candace Perkins Bowen, associate professors; Cheryl Kushner, assistant professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Kent State University

Division A

- First Place:** Chagrin Valley Times
- Second Place:** The Press, Millbury
- Third Place:** ThisWeek Dublin Villager

Division B

The winners in Division B had a good mix of news, teases, and photos.

- First Place:** The Telegram, Jackson
- Second Place:** Geauga Times Courier
Joseph Koziol Jr., Todd Nighswonger, Keli Boatwright,
Joan Demirjian, Amy Fahnestock
- Third Place:** The Herald, Barberton
Cheryl Vespoint, Randy Broadwater, Carl Boon, Rich Muller,
Brian Powell

Division C

These entries show a significant commitment to local journalism and community coverage, which is heartening considering the industry trend away from newspapers. Winners focus on news and important features and package their "product" ~ news and information ~ an appealing way for local readers. Front pages are engaging, though some inside pages are heavily dependent on lists and text.

- First Place:** Solon Times
Sue Reid & Staff
- Second Place:** The Gazette, Jefferson
Stefanie Wessell
- Third Place:** Paulding Progress

Hooper Class 1: News Coverage - continued

Division D

First Place: Archbold Buckeye

The Archbold Buckeye was selected for its coverage of two major events: The indictment of the former owner of the local grain elevator and reporting on the candidates for school superintendent. The school story required filing a FOIA request. Both of these stories are of major importance to the community.

Second Place: Yellow Springs News

Diane Chiddister, Lauren Heaton, Megan Bachman, Robert Hasek,
Lauren Shows

The Yellow Spring News undertook a series on Guns and the Village. The reporter interviewed gun owners as well as school officials and police. The News also did a good job of humanizing stories, including interviewing the owners of a 320-square-foot house for a story about a zoning code revision to allow "tiny houses."

Third Place: Ada Herald

Ashley Lehman

The Ada Herald was selected for its stories on efforts of the village school board to raise taxes - even though the increase would not completely replace revenue lost to state cuts. This is an issue plaguing many communities statewide.

Collegiate Category 1: News Coverage

Judged by Steve Keller, editor; Brad Sherman, The Telegram, Jackson, Ohio

Division A

All entries in this class did an outstanding job of covering the news impacting their respective campuses and keeping their finger on the pulse of their schools. Pieces were well-written, and usage of elements such as photographs, graphics, info boxes, etc. really added to each story. For the most part, stories were in-depth, well-written, informative, and entertaining. Overall, a fine class of entries.

First Place: Daily Kent Stater, Kent State University

This paper had feel of true professionalism in all areas of news coverage. It was easily the best entry of those judged.

Second Place: The Post, Ohio University

Pat Holmes, Bekkie McKinsey, Joe Fox

The writing in this publication was exceptionally fine, very mature, and the mix of articles was good.

Third Place: The Lantern, The Ohio State University

The writing in this paper is very comfortable and the authors express the pulse of the campus in their writings making the choice of deciding second and third places very difficult.

Division B

All the papers judged did an excellent job of covering news and writing features important to their respective schools. It is evident that a lot of hard work went into the publication of these papers.

First Place: The Independent Collegian, University of Toledo

The team that puts this newspaper together works hard to present a product that not only looks like a college newspaper should, but does so in an entertaining and enjoyable way. All elements work together to create a fine publication. The team tackled hard, but important, topics and did so with professionalism.

Second Place: Cedars, Cedarville University

An excellent use of graphics enhanced the very good news coverage which focused on important college issues on campus. The writing was above par.

Third Place: Tan & Cardinal, Otterbein University

There was a good mix of hard news and features in this paper which made it an interesting read.

Hooper Class 2: In-Depth Reporting

Judged by Dan Caterinicchia, assistant professor, director of student media, *The Lantern*; Tom Schwartz, associate professor, School of Communication, The Ohio State University

Division A

Very strong field of entrants.

First Place: ThisWeek Dublin Villager

Jennifer Nesbitt, Jennifer Noblit, Pamela Willis

School Security Issues - Well reported, strong voices and visuals. True in-depth reporting on an issue that many care about. Only minor quibbles: ledes could have been stronger and not sure starting with the officer profile was best way into the series.

Second Place: The Press, Millbury

Kelly Kaczala, Melissa Burden

Levy Revenue - Great use of open records requests and data reporting. The voice or voices of outside "experts" would have strengthened the piece a bit and the lede was very dense.

Third Place: News Leader, Nordonia Hills

Eric Marotta, Jeff Saunders

Northfield Racino - So many layers to cover here and all are done well. Strong effort.

Division B

Strong group of contenders. The first and second place winners were just a little more well-rounded than others in this category, but all served their readers well.

First Place: The Press, Avon Lake

Bryan Wroten

Managing Deer - Great sourcing and some creative ledes, namely the one about as many deer maps as deer. Challenged sources where appropriate. Well done.

Second Place: Putnam County Sentinel

Anne Coburn-Griffis

Lake Erie Algae Problem - Series flowed well. Great context and background from reputable sources.

Third Place: The Herald, Barberton

Carl Boon

Lake 8 Cinemas - Solid job on a story with a lot of moving parts, offers and counter-offers.

Hooper Class 2: In-Depth Reporting - continued

Division C

First Place: Solon Times

Sue Reid, Todd Nighswonger

Prasser - A story that the arts director resigned led to a series of events that seemed to threaten community arts programs, all ably covered by the Solon Times. This is excellent in-depth reporting that serves the public well.

Second Place: Solon Times

Sue Reid, Todd Nighswonger

A town inexperienced with a police shooting that killed a suspect must have been helped considerably by the timely and thorough coverage provided by the Solon Times. A steady flow of new developments were covered in careful detail.

Third Place: The Gazette, Jefferson

Stefanie Wessell, Kim Pickard

JALS School Levy - Stefanie Wessell and Kim Pickard used a well-edited group of stories to explain the impact that discontinued tax revenue has had and will have on library and other programs in local schools. The electorate was no doubt aided in its deliberations by this thoughtful journalism.

Division D

First Place: Yellow Springs News

Diane Chiddister, Lauren Heaton, Megan Bachman, Chad Stiles

Guns and the Village - The seven-part series on gun regulation and violence in the Yellow Springs News thoroughly and systematically explores the debates about the issues at the local level and with the context of national events and initiatives. The four writers provided their readers with thoughtful and balanced presentations of the conflicting views. Truly excellent journalism.

Second Place: Yellow Springs News

Megan Bachman

Comparing Two Waters - This was a well-written and well-researched pair of stories by Megan Bachman that helps the public better understand the quality of water that local water systems provide.

Third Place: The Courier, Conneaut

Martha Sorohan

Prison Smuggling - Reporter Martha Sorohan does an outstanding job of keeping the community apprised about current events and concerns about community safety and prosperity regarding the nearby private prison.

Collegiate Category 2: In-Depth Reporting

Judged by Keith Rathbun, Publisher, *The Budget*, Sugarcreek, Ohio

Division A

First Place: **The Post, Ohio University**
Will Drabold, Jim Ryan

Excellent in-depth probe of Ohio University's General Fees. Helps the student make an informed opinion on the use of their monies. Great interest to students and the many parents footing their child's bill. Great accompanying graphics and checklist was a brilliant feature add-on. Good reporting by Will Drabold and Jim Ryan. Strong Post Editorial, as well. Total package here.

Second Place: **The Lantern, The Ohio State University**
Liz Young

Coverage of Reported Campus Sex Crimes - Excellent series with solid reporting that made a difference.; Good story angles and leads, raised strong challenges to the inappropriate use of FERPA and HIPPA, and concluded with the story of the dismissal of a student involved in one rape. Well done Liz Young. You are going places.

Third Place: **The Lantern, The Ohio State University**

Ohio State Monitors Athletes' Twitter, Facebook - Fascinating story for the readers as well as the athlete subjects of the story. Well-written piece on a very controversial subject.

Division B

First Place: **Carroll News, John Carroll University**
Abigail Rings

Resident Assistant Salary and Benefits Take a Hit - Abigail Rings knows in-depth reporting and delivers on this assignment. She went to great lengths tracking down persons willing to talk on record about a topic - cutting of Resident Assistants' pay and benefits. An important subject, as RAs play such an important role in campus life. Gathered a lot of truthful comments. Great graphics and good comparisons to similar universities.

Second Place: **Cedars, Cedarville University**
Mary Miller, John Filcik, Radleigh Wakefield

Election 2012 - Excellent job of writing and organization. This is an example of how a college newspaper should cover an election. Great localization of national issues. Solid graphics accompany the in-depth look at what Cedarville University's students are thinking. Group reporting effort.

Third Place: **The Pulse, University of Findlay**
Abbey Nickel

Crypto Series - This is in-depth reporting compelling enough that it made a difference. Stories commanded authorities' attention and sprang them into action. Well-balanced among students' thoughts, university reps' reactions and health officials' responses. Good job Abbey Nickel.

Hooper Class 3: Best Local Feature

Judged by Catherine Cassara, associate professor; Nancy Brendlinger, associate professor; David Sennerud, instructor, Dept. of Journalism & Public Relations, Bowling Green State University

Division A

Stories are at the heart of good features and the top entries had them. The best features were set apart by the use of multiple sources and unique quotes.

First Place: Chagrin Valley Times

Tony Lange

This entry is an excellent in-depth feature about an important change in high school athletics. It tells the story about how wheelchair racing was added to the state track and field competition and also the stories of the athletes participating. Well-organized around its angle with interesting anecdotes and quotes.

Second Place: Stow Sentry

Frank Aceto

Sentimental story about the reunion of a historic high school basketball team that would affect local readers. Well-written story with multiple sources.

Third Place: ThisWeek Westerville News & Public Opinion

Powerful story about a prominent local woman's fight with ALS. Covers many aspects of story, including how the community is supporting her.

Division B

The entries in this division showed a knack for good topics, good reporting and/or good writing. The entries ranged from simple stories that were far from being feature stories to real, well-written feature stories. Too many of the submissions presume that because they are features-profiles or otherwise-there is no necessity to bring in more than one source. If the story is local and contemporary there should be absolutely no reason that other sources could not be found for comment-even pleasant comment.

First Place: Jackson County Times Journal

Jennifer Hughes

Vice President Biden Visit - The reporter took a stale news story and turned it into a feature that the community would want to read. Good visuals were painted with choice of anecdotes and details. Good use of multiple sources.

Second Place: West Life, Westlake

Kevin Kelley

Westlake's #1 Fan - Charming, well-written story that flowed. It managed to address a human interest topic that was sentimental without becoming unpleasantly so. Drawing on so many different sources demonstrates what that they can add to a portrait

Hooper Class 3: Best Local Feature - continued

Third Place: The Press, Avon Lake

Shane Rogers

Avon Lake Grad - Good story. Reporter let the story do the work without falling into overwriting, which would have been tempting given the subject. Good choice of full quotes, partial quotes and paraphrasing. In this case, one source was appropriate, as it would have been difficult to find others that would add to the story.

Division C

First Place: Pike County News Watchman

Stephanie Stanley

Singing Her Heart Out - Interesting well-written, profile that carries the reader all the way to a cliff-hanging ending that actually has a point. Strong narrative, more than one source, well written without overwriting.

Second Place: Solon Times

Sue Reid, Hope Kinchen

100 Year Old Homemaker - Nice writing that conveys a story of a life well, painting a series of pictures for the reader, the rare story where a one-source story does make sense. Also, the rare story about a person turning 100 that is neither condescending nor prosaic.

Third Place: Pike County News Watchman

Stephanie Stanley

The Simpler Life - Interesting series of stories. Well-written and easy to read, the only question is why quite so many of them only had one source.

Division D

Strong entries in this category with well-chosen topics, good reporting and good writing. Several that did not make the top four were serious contenders. As in the other classes, several were one source stories that could have easily been enhanced by other sources.

First Place: Archbold Buckeye

David Pugh

Stacy Searches For His Thumb - Best lead ever, and snappy writing following matched it. Unusual way to get a story idea and good use of social media. Fun story that gives insight into a particular community member and humanity in general.

Hooper Class 3: Best Local Feature - continued

Second Place: Yellow Springs News

Megan Bachman

Native Son, Talented, Caring, Addicted - The reporter took an emotionally difficult topic for the community and explored multiple sides of it. Most stories would have chosen the burglar or his victims to focus on, but this one does both, with respect and sympathy. And well written.

Third Place: Yellow Springs News

Lauren Heaton

What's the Buzz About the Bugs? - Science stories can be difficult to write for a general audience, but this reporter does it well and uses multiple sources. The explanations are clear and the writing pulls you along, other than the lead, which we thought was cumbersome.

Collegiate Category 3: Arts & Entertainment

Judged by Peter Comings, managing editor, *West Life*, *The Press*, *North Ridgeville Press* newspapers, Avon Lake, Ohio

Division A

First Place: **The Lantern, The Ohio State University**
Aly Mizesko, Shelby Lum, Madeline Roth

The distinction between first and second place here is the development of a local story, over the localization of a celebrity appearance. Well-written pieces all around with nice art.

Second Place: **The Lantern, The Ohio State University**
Lauren Weitz, Madeline Roth, Rose Davidson

Third Place: **None Selected**

Division B

First Place: **Cedars, Cedarville University**
Lauren Eissler, Crystal Goodremote, Becca Powlus

Again, this paper shows it knows how to design a page around a story. All three stories deliver, and in their breadth of topic and depth of treatment.

Second Place: **Cedars, Cedarville University**
Holly McClellan, Crystal Goodremote, Madison Troyer

This paper knows how to lay out a feature (to which the tab-sized publication generally lends itself). The photo with the sitcom pilot story sets the tone for that page. The strength of the story carries this entry with the other two pieces eligible for Best Supporting Story Items.

Third Place: **The Clarion, Sinclair Community College**
Whitney Vickers

The entries take on interesting issues from the distinct perspective of the campus at hand, but leave me wanting a little more from them – length as well as perhaps unique visual treatment – as feature stories.

Hooper Class 4: Original Columns

Judged Bill Reader, associate professor; Ralph Izard, professor emeritus, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University

Division A

Personal recollections from childhood are fine, once in a while, when there is a timely, current relevance. Too many columns were simply recollections of the past with no clear connection to the news of the day or matters of local interest. Others were far too self-centered - columnists writing about their personal experiences is so 1990s.

First Place: **The Press, Millbury**
John Szozda

Three very strong columns showing a diversity of approaches, from sentimental to hard-hitting political commentary. Great use of facts and reporting - not just "from the top of my head" recollections.

Second Place: **ThisWeek Dublin Villager**
Margo Bartlett

The "bumper sticker" column had me laughing many times ("stick oxen" - those, I would put on my own car!). The "gift" column took too long to get to the point, and at first just seemed to be another "busy mom" lament; I worry that some readers may have lost interest by the time the writer got to the central topic, at which point the prose turn truly beautiful.

Third Place: **None Selected**

Division B

The best column will deal with important local issues or with national issues that must have local impact. Many of the columns in this competition accomplish those goals. Many were exceptionally well-written in a way that emphasizes issues of importance to local individuals. Making these judgments, therefore, was difficult, but the winners in my judgment wrote well about matters and brought home their local importance in a precise and understandable way.

First Place: **The Budget, Sugarcreek**
Jessica Hartzler Stock

It takes talent to deal effectively with common day-to-day activities in a way that brings them home to local readers. These columns accomplish that goal. Content is excellent, very local and most interesting. Columns are a little long, but very well written.

Second Place: **The Herald, Barberton**
Carl Boon

These columns deal with national issues in a way that effectively brings them to Main Street. They are opinionated, as they should be, but thoughtful and well written. Interesting discussions that should prompt readers to think about the issues.

Hooper Class 4: Original Columns - continued

Third Place: **Hudson Hub-Times**

Laura Freeman

Readers of this column gain regular access to thoughtful discussions of important matters. At times, they read like a good feature story, but the writing has clarity and thoughtfulness. They provide an excellent variety in their subject matter.

Division C

Too many entries in this division were self-indulgent "me, myself, and I" columns, offering little to no perspective on local issues or people. The two components of a good column are "good story" and "well told," and too many entries only had one or the other (and a few had neither).

First Place: **The Press, North Ridgeville**

Michael Fitzpatrick

Very well-written columns. Two were about serious local issues, and helped to frame the issues with good reporting. One was a humorous column about obnoxious gym patrons; it was less interesting, but certainly funny.

Second Place: **None Selected**

Third Place: **None Selected**

Division D

Aside from the winning entries, this category had far too many "Me! Myself! I!" columns - that is, columns about the writers' personal lives that would be of minimal interest to others in the community (and they come across as too self-absorbed to be amusing).

First Place: **The Photojournal, Vermilion**

Felton Finch

A very good humor column. The issues are timely, and the jokes are well executed. Clichés are used sparingly, and usually with a twist. A delight to read - actually made me laugh out loud many times.

Second Place: **Yellow Springs News**

Lauren Heaton

Very solid "community issues" columns. Opinions are thoughtful without being judgmental or "holier than thou."

Third Place: **None Selected**

Collegiate Category 4: Opinion Writing

Judged by Mike Shearer, executive editor, Gannett Central Ohio Newspapers

Division A

First Place: **Daily Kent Stater, Kent State University**

Jody Michael

Jody's columns were easy to read and filled with thought-provoking opinions, especially his thoughtful piece on "The stink of pinkwashing." This column examined better ways to fight cancer than just wearing pink. It was the best single piece in the competition.

Second Place: **The Lantern, The Ohio State University**

Michael Periatt

Two of Michael's columns did an excellent job of using his personal experiences to put current news into perspective, including a call to action to save his former teacher's job.

Third Place: **The Lantern, The Ohio State University**

Kayla Byer

Shorter columns can work just as effectively as longer pieces. Kayla makes her point quickly with a direct approach that works.

Division B

First Place: **Tan & Cardinal, Otterbein University**

A good editorial page shines light on questionable decisions. That's what the Tan and Cardinal did with editorials questioning a university decision to make police reports private. Editorials were clear and strongly worded. Editors also stood their ground following criticism by the university. Well done.

Second Place: **The Independent Collegian, University of Toledo**

Three strong editorials on three topics that matter to UT students. A solid effort to question university leadership and serve as the voice of the student body.

Third Place: **The Independent Collegian, University of Toledo**

Danielle Gamble

Danielle shares very personal thoughts and observations through her columns on everything from campus problems to fashion choices. Her writing is clear and engaging.

Hooper Class 5: Best Editorial

Judged by David Sennerud, instructor, Dept. of Journalism & Public Relations, Bowling Green University.

In this class there are no divisions by circulation

Overall, the editorials submitted did a good job of advocating for the community and keeping an eye on those in power, often bringing to light important issues that officials might rather have seen go away. Best entries had easy-to-follow arguments about issues that meant something to readers.

First Place: News Leader, Nordonia Hills

Eric Marotta

Council should have discussed salary hike measure in public: This is a great example of a newspaper playing its watchdog role over a public body that acted in a questionable fashion. Great history of the issue with opposing comment from the city council president. Well-written entry that flowed logically from start to finish.

Second Place: Chagrin Valley Times

Dave Lange

Transparency Loud and Clear: Well-argued editorial about an important local issue. The entry provides the necessary context and all sides of the issue. Ideas presented clearly in an entertaining and colorful writing style.

Third Place: Archbold Buckeye

Ohio Turnpike: This editorial explains the issue well, addresses arguments from both sides and advocates for the community.

Fourth Place: Yellow Springs News

Diane Chiddister

Women's Voices, subdued

Collegiate Category 5: Sports Coverage

Judged by Bill Knight, columnist, retired journalism professor, Western Illinois University

Division A

First Place: **Daily Kent Stater, Kent State University**

Superior section, with arresting images, gripping narratives, informative graphics and fine design.

Second Place: **The Lantern, The Ohio State University**

Excellent effort, if entries a bit too reliant on Big News as opposed to running stories. Still, memorable writing, compelling photos and user-friendly layout.

Third Place: **The News Record, University of Cincinnati**

Competent packaging, with a slight edge of cheerleading, if not hyperbole in stories. Nevertheless, impressive.

Division B

First Place: **The Independent Collegian, University of Toledo**

Well-rounded section shows exciting action photos and solid news judgment in an appealing page design. Compliments on serving your readers.

Second Place: **Carroll News, John Carroll University**

Joe Ginley, Zach Mentz

Stories are your strength, but it's a rather pedestrian design. The small sizing of potentially dynamic photos in particular doesn't strengthen the impact.

Third Place: **Cedars, Cedarville University**

Deanne Bradshaw, Zack Anderson, Nathaniel Bond

Pretty routine presentation but contents that seem to display a good sports-news sense. However, the first-person account needed an edit/rewrite to avoid it becoming a memoir instead of a feature on the Olympics.

Hooper Class 6: Sports Coverage

Judged by Ralph IZard, professor emeritus; Guido Stempel, professor emeritus, Hans Meyer, assistant professor, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University

Division A

This was not an easy competition to judge. Writers for all three of these papers seemed fully to understand their need to satisfy the sports fan appetite for details but, at the same time, to emphasize the young athletes in a personal way. In all cases, pictures are large enough to clearly show the action and are well organized on the page. The sports coverage of all three of these papers is impressive.

First Place: Chagrin Valley Times

Tony Lange, Hope Kinchen, Chris Meier, Kristi Leffler, Michael Weil

The writing and use of pictures in this paper are excellent. The reporters provide comprehensive details in a personal context that makes them both interesting and meaningful. Extensive use of direct quotations is impressive. Layout is sharp and impressive.

Second Place: ThisWeek Dublin Villager

A major strength of this work is its emphasis on the athletes themselves in a context that does not ignore the details. Use of direct quotations is very good. Layout places good emphasis in an uncluttered atmosphere.

Third Place: ThisWeek Westerville News & Public Opinion

Writing in this paper is clear and precise as it seeks to wrap up sports activities over time. Good use of direct quotations. Pictures show action and are well presented.

Division B

What is needed for good community sports coverage is a comprehensive approach, including a variety of sports and, particularly, significant attention to male and female activities. The writing in some of these entries combined accurate and complete description of detail with a personalized approach that brought the sports coverage home and added meaning. It also is important that illustrations follow the same broad pattern and layout presents the information in a straightforward, uncluttered manner.

First Place: Hudson Hub-Times

Frank Aceto

This paper performs major service to its community with coverage of multiple sports, including the so-called minor sports. The writing is detailed and personal, and the pictures are large enough and show significant action.

Second Place: Tallmadge Express

Frank Aceto

Good, comprehensive coverage with good, large pictures. Writing handles meaningful details but, at the same time, is personalized. A good variety of sports is presented.

Hooper Class 6: Sports Coverage - continued

Third Place: West Life, Westlake

Ryan Kaczmarek

The simplicity of the layout of this paper is a strength. Pictures demonstrate action, and the writing is well handled.

Division C

Throughout the sports categories of this competition, the best newspapers have been those that combine detail and description with emphasis on the people involved. Writing about these young people more personally, more effective use of direct quotations and, in general, providing more of the human context of sporting events make sports coverage more meaningful to the readers. It's not uncommon that journalists need to work to gain more effective use of quotations from coaches, and this certainly applies in this case. On the other hand, it was most impressive to see these newspapers covering a variety of sports, including the so-called minor sports and to see them paying significant attention to the female side of the sports operations.

First Place: The Press, North Ridgeville

Joe Ostrica

Breadth of coverage is a strength of the sports presentation of this paper. It contains an excellent variety of sports and good balance between male and female activities. Writing and picture quality are good although more action shots would help the photos. I like the open layout format.

Second Place: Pike County News Watchman

Julie Billings

It is impressive that this newspaper goes beyond some good description of what happened in sports events with attention to analysis of the future element. Could strengthen the presentation, however, with effective use of direct quotes and more effective cropping and presentation of photos.

Third Place: News Democrat

Wade Linville

Sports fans are hungry for detail, and this newspaper provides considerable detail and description. Would be helpful to include more meaningful direct quotations and personal description. Good variety of content and pictures.

Division D

Good sports coverage depends on breadth of coverage, attention to a variety of sports and then a style of presentation that emphasizes facts and detail in a human context. Beyond the statistics, sports coverage is of real people, and that involves inclusion of the personal context, partly in the form of good direct quotations. The best photos, likewise, will emphasize action, of course, but also with emphasis on the athletes as people.

Hooper Class 6: Sports Coverage - continued

First Place: **Yellow Springs News**

It is a strength that writers for this paper seek to provide meaningful details about athletic events in a personal context. Good writing goes a long way. In addition, I like how the pictures also emphasize individuals in addition to action.

Second Place: **Ripley Bee**
Wade Linville

Presentation of facts and details is important to sports readers, and this paper does a good job with that kind of focus. It would help if more direct quotes and personal emphasis were included, as well.

Third Place: **Ada Herald**
Charlie Warnimont, Cort Reynolds

Clearly, the writers for this paper believe in emphasis on facts and details. Some of its presentations are quite good from that perspective, but it would be helpful if more direct quotes were included. Some of the stories are long and could be reduced to open up room for more news.

Collegiate Category 6: Design

Judged by Karl Smith, senior vice president for Member Value at the Produce Marketing Association; former design editor and interactive media director.

Division A

All entries showed great potential and flashes of real brilliance. Would love to see more experimentation happening at this level.

First Place: The Post, Ohio University

Clean, consistent design with some well-executed basics.

Second Place: The Lantern, The Ohio State University

Strong underlying design principles with some good accents.

Third Place: Daily Kent Stater, Kent State University

Good use of design tools to convey priorities.

Division B

Some incredibly inspiring work in this category.

First Place: The Collegian, Ashland University

Tyler Rimmel

Beautiful, thoughtful and daring.

Second Place: Cedars, Cedarville University

Elegant execution of a tabloid design.

Third Place: The Jambar, Youngstown State University

Keeley Black, Paris Chrisopoulos, Kevin Buck

Consistent, but with some tweaks and stronger execution, could move to another level.

Hooper Class 7: Design

Judged by Marsha Chambers, Ohio freelance graphic and design professional

Division A

Very hard to decide between these entries - both from ThisWeek with basically the same layout and design. However, The Dublin Villager had a couple issues with editorial flowing around the photos too close.

First Place: **ThisWeek Westerville News & Public Opinion**

Second Place: **ThisWeek Dublin Villager**

Third Place: **None Selected**

Division B

First Place: **West Life, Westlake**
Tracy Miller

Second Place: **The Telegram, Jackson**

Third Place: **The Press, Avon Lake**
Jo Anne Porras

Division C

First Place: **The Press, North Ridgeville**
Connie Thomas

Second Place: **Perry County Tribune**

Third Place: **Paulding Progress**

Hooper Class 7: Design - continued

Division D

First Place: **Archbold Buckeye**

Second Place: **Yellow Springs News**
Matt Minde, Suzanne Szempruch, Diane Chiddister

Third Place: **Bluffton News**
Austin Arnold

Collegiate Category 7: Photojournalism

Judged by Erica Peterson, Record Publishing Co., Kent, Ohio

Division A

First Place: **The News Record, University of Cincinnati**
Lauren Purkey, Phil Didion

The photographers caught small but powerful moments in time that really set the scene and tell the story. The Tanzania shot is gorgeous in its composition and focus. And the expression on the face of the demonstrator captures the emotion of the day. Excellent work.

Second Place: **The Lantern, The Ohio State University**
Andrew Holleran, Cody Cousino, Shelby Lum

Strong images. The football shot paired with the headline tell me everything I need to know about the game. And the pulled back and overhead perspective of the car crash shot helps capture the entire scene.

Third Place: **The Post, Ohio University**
Gwen Titley, Logan Riley

Dramatic breaking news photos add impact to the story. And the perspective of the President Obama shot adds interest to what could have been a predictable picture.

Division B

First Place: **The Independent Collegian, University of Toledo**
Bob Taylor

Very strong images. The composition of the protest photo, to include the iconic University Hall tower in the background, establishes time and place well. Strong sports portrait and action shots. Nice work.

Second Place: **The Collegian, Ashland University**
Elizabeth Bucheit, Halee Heironimus

It's hard to get a "nice" wrestling shot. This one is terrific. The basketball moment nicely tells the story. Good work.

Third Place: **Cedars, Cedarville University**
Jillian Philyaw, Madison Sternberg, Stephen Port

The dog portrait shot is wonderful. It really gives the subject life. The guitarist shot captures a nice moment.

Hooper Class 8: Advertising

Judged by Marsha Chambers, Ohio freelance graphic and design professional

Division A

First Place: Chagrin Valley Times

Karla Goodrich, Connie Gabor, Nancy Kelley, Karla Viers, Patty Vitale
Bella Design, Chagrin Pet, Gino's Jewelers, Kredo Hardware, Thomas Brick

Second Place: ThisWeek Dublin Villager

Union Savings, Baptist Church, Carfagna's, Darby Creek, Reyes Karate

Third Place: News Leader, Nordonia Hills

Diane McGee
Tax-Pros, Blue Willow, Primp Parlor, All-Health Chiropractic, Calvetta Brothers

Division B

First Place: The Telegram, Jackson

Memorial Day Sale, Smith Chevrolet Buick, March Madness, Farm Bureau, Down Home Quality
Right Down The Road

Second Place: The Press, Avon Lake

Jo Anne Porras
Gardenscapes, Howard Hanna, The Gift Hut, Seasonal Yard Work, Knuths Spring Break

Third Place: West Life, Westlake

Tracy Miller, Joanne Porras, Connie Thomas
Becker's Bakery, Cahoon Nursery, Elmwood Bakery, Christ the King Church, Dean's Greenhouse

Division C

First Place: The Press, North Ridgeville

Connie Thomas
John Christ Winery, King Wah Restaurant, Grilled, Adria Design, Larry's Avon Lake Liquor
Agency

Hooper Class 8: Advertising - continued

Second Place: Perry County Tribune

Deb Hutmire, Brenda Carney, Bill Rockwell, Casey Sargel, Rusty Smith
Crossroads Café, Gobel Funeral Home, Hunter's Run, Perry County Health Department, Roberts
Winegardner Funeral Home

Third Place: Solon Times

Karla Goodrich, Connie Gabor, Karla Viers, Nancy Kelley
Solon Point, Oasis Yoga Spa, Honeybaked Ham, The Grooming Station, Plasco's Fashion
Floors

Division D

First Place: The Photojournal, Vermilion

Susan Borso
Fish Fest, Vermilion Country Club, Rudy's Vermilion in Bloom, Vermilion Hot Stove Baseball, St.
Mary School Open House

Second Place: Archbold Buckeye

RTEC Communications, Joe Short Insurance, Dr. Winder & Associates, Archbold Buckeye, Brush
Creek Sales & Rental

Third Place: Bluffton News

Rhonda Hohenbrink
Orthopaedic Institute of Ohio, Heiks, Buckeye Floor & Ceiling, Panache Florals & Interiors,
Stratton Greenhouse, Creekside Family Medicine LLC

Collegiate Category 8: Headline Writing

Judged by Tom Callinan, founder and director, Charitable Words Scholars, Cincinnati; former editor and vice president, *The Cincinnati Enquirer*

Division A

First Place: The Post, Ohio University

MGK 'laces up' for a return to campus; Stamped Out; Excuse me, sir, I mustache you about your beard

It could be considered a groaner - but come on this is college. The headline benefited by strong presentation. And the story included solid reporting about the issue of cancer prevention tucked in the fun. The headline fit the tone, overall.

Second Place: Daily Kent Stater, Kent State University

Behind these Hazell eyes; Flashes of brilliance; The swing state of swing states

Third Place: The Lantern, The Ohio State University

The Sweet Shot: Aaron Craft lifts Buckeyes to Sweet 16; Ohio State renter's salty landlords ignore icy sidewalks; Goodall: 'Tarzan married wrong Jane'

Division B

So many plays on words. Fun, but start with key words that convey the story and if the fun fits it, go for it. But get the point across, first

First Place: Cedars, Cedarville University

Our Social Posts: Will Our Children Care; Marksmanship Org Aims to Educate, Expand; Philosophy, Papers and the Pinkerton Raid

Tight, compact headline writing that covers a life of information in few words. Alliteration lightens it but does not overwhelm or distract.

Second Place: Cedars, Cedarville University

Fracking: A Benefit for Ohio?; ERAP Funding Cut, But Teachers Staying; From Student to Coach

Third Place: Tan & Cardinal, Otterbein University

Josh Park, Staff

Swinging lights brighten nights; The Dawn of a new era; Cigar shop becomes new hot spot

Hooper Class 9: Best News Photo

Judged by Sue Zake, assistant professor; Dave Labelle, lecturer, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Kent State University

Division A

I am impressed with the events covered, the choice of "moment" pictures and the play the pictures were given.

First Place: **ThisWeek Dublin Villager**
Lorrie Cecil

Good emotion in a photograph that reinforces and adds to the story and headline. Congratulations on making a picture that represents the event.

Second Place: **Chagrin Valley Times**
Hope Kinchen

Without a caption or a page layout to give the picture context, we are left to guess what is happening. I like the moment - the emotion and composition.

Third Place: **The Press, Millbury**
Ken Grosjean

Put a yawning African lion on the front page and most readers will stop and be engaged with the story.

Division B

Overall, I was impressed with the "real" news pictures in this category. I applaud the photographers who arrived at news scenes quickly enough to capture some spontaneous emotion.

First Place: **The Telegram, Jackson**
Brad S. Sherman

Best, most storytelling photo in the contest. Photograph has everything-action, fire, reaction, environment. Congrats on being on the scene so quickly.

Second Place: **The Herald, Barberton**
Rich Muller

Even though this is only a "drill," the body language of the kids reveals a sense of urgency. Great positioning and perfect timing. Photographer knows what he is doing.

Third Place: **The Herald, Barberton**
Rich Muller

Humor, especially in a news situation is appreciated. Would have been even better with some human reaction.

Hooper Class 9: Best News Photo - continued

Division C

Some of the entries were not news photos, but soft features. It was disappointing these media outlets in small communities weren't making better use of their photographers to cover news. The photographers need to look for ways to make their pictures more visually interesting through use of lenses, moment, light, composition, etc. Many of the photos were not well crafted and looked like snapshots.

First Place: **The Gazette, Jefferson**
Dee Riley

Getting closer would have made the picture better, but at least this photo captured a real news event, unlike many of the other entries. It's too bad it received such poor play in the newspaper, even though its competition was mostly pictures of little kids in feature situations.

Second Place: **Morgan County Herald**
Janis Keller

Good use of lensing to create some interesting lines and simplify the composition. Photographer showed effort in trying to make a strong visual from the event.

Third Place: **Pike County News Watchman**
Dustin Magill

Good moment from local election coverage. Crop more from the top to get to the most essential information.

Division D

There have to be more news situations out in the smaller communities of Ohio for these photographers to cover. Three of five entries were not news photos ~ one was a multiple exposure, which is ethically questionable, and another was a headshot of a train.

First Place: **The Courier, Conneaut**
Shar Howe

The photo puts me out in the weather and helps me understand what it was like that night. While I'm not totally comfortable with the photographer shooting through their own windshield, it would be obvious to readers. Color is vibrant and the car in the lane ahead provides a visual focus.

Hooper Class 9: Best News Photo - continued

Second Place: The Courier, Conneaut

Martha Sorohan

Good localization of a national news event. Work to get closer and find a stronger visual focus for the picture. Concentrating on the workers clearing the mess is a good place to start.

Third Place: Yellow Springs News

Lauren Heaton

This has a nice feeling and texture ~ the photographer created some visual drama by putting the hands with the bug in the foreground.

Collegiate Category 9: Best Multi-Media Package

Judged by Karl Smith, senior vice president for Member Value at the Produce Marketing Association; former design editor and interactive media director

Division A

Really impressive breadth of topics covered in this category - fun, inspiring, newsy.

First Place: **The Post, Ohio University**
Gwen Titley, Olivia Young, Isaac Hale, Emily Harger
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTThyXYTctU>
Passion Works - Aiding Athens

Great depth and impressive use of multiple channels.

Second Place: **The Lantern, The Ohio State University**
Anna Duee
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQnr3rh7hy0>
OSU student bullied on Reddit

Third Place: **The Lantern, The Ohio State University**
Chelsea Spears
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtAN1pmSYk4>
RPAC offers Harry Potter themed classes

This video was linked from prominent “Harry Potter” fan websites and has been viewed more than 3,300 times on YouTube.

Division B

Excellent use of social media, video and other tools to convey some great content.

First Place: **The Collegian, Ashland University**
Elizabeth Bucheit, Chris Bills, Colin MacDonald
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XV2z_AbnkUA
AUWBB San Antonio: National Championship vs. Dowling

Really good package, enhanced by using social media and extended by a partnership with the local newspaper.

Second Place: **The Independent Collegian, University of Toledo**
Danielle Gamble
<http://www.independentcollegian.com/understanding-the-university-of-toledo-s-five-year-plan-1.2811527#.UtWrs7TuuZQ>

University of Toledo’s Five-Year Plan

Not flashy, but a lot of great information pulled together using a variety of tools.

Third Place: **Cedars, Cedarville University**
Crystal Goodremote, Zack Anderson
Cedarville Students Minister by Holding Open Chapel Doors

Hooper Class 10: Best Feature Photo

Judged by Mike Sweeney, director of graduate studies; Ralph Izard, professor emeritus, E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University

Division A

A good feature photo tells a story that emphasizes personal meaning. That's the point of human interest. Clarity of the presentation is important if a photo is to tell the story. This is important whether the photo stands alone or is used as a companion to a written piece.

First Place: **Chagrin Valley Times**
Hope Kinchen

The strength of this photo is in the very clear expressions on the faces of these young people. This photo shows job with clarity and action in context. It will capture attention, and it will convey a message.

Second Place: **Chagrin Valley Times**
Hope Kinchen

This photo conveys strong meaning in a context. It is well presented, cropped nicely and emphasizes both the flag and the man. It is personal in an obviously significant context.

Third Place: **ThisWeek Dublin Villager**
Chris Parker

The action of this photo is its strength. It would be well if we could see more of the two other men, but the photo itself provides a clear context and a strong personal focus.

Division B

Real emotion and real action, often accented by a short distance between camera and subject matter and a tight crop, makes these three photographs worthy of honors ~ as well as a second and third look by readers perusing their papers. These winners show how the small things ~ finding the right angle, waiting for the right moment, capturing something spontaneous and true ~ can make the difference between a good photograph and a great one.

First Place: **The Telegram, Jackson**
Pete Wilson

Nicely done. This is a staged event, so the photographer knows what's coming. Still, the shot is well organized and timed. The spray from the hose makes a halo framing the victim. Her reaction is caught at just the right moment. And the photographer's setup of the shot, with truck and onlookers in background, is excellent. The bright color also makes this pop off the page.

Second Place: **Putnam County Sentinel**
Becky Leader

This photograph captures movement and action. The lines are clean, the colors vivid. The dynamics of the action, accented by the photographer getting in close and cropping this tightly, draw the reader into the photograph. Very good.

Hooper Class 10: Best Feature Photo - continued

Third Place: The Telegram, Jackson

Brad S. Sherman

This photo nicely captures the sense of wonder and excitement of the children. It does not feel staged. Instead, the tight crop and the fact that the children have fixed their gazes at the lizard and at others outside the photo makes the reader feel like an onlooker bathed in real human joy and wonder.

Division C

Human interest is that quality of journalistic content that captures attention. Many of the submitted photos demonstrated that. The best ones, in my opinion, are those that depict meaning beyond human interest. That kind of photo will have impact whether it stands alone or is a companion to a story.

First Place: Perry County Tribune

Bill Rockwell

No reader will pass by without pausing to look at this photo. It has the elements of human interest. It has a context that tells a story, one that most of us share.

Second Place: Perry County Tribune

Bill Rockwell

The strength of this photo is the story that it tells and its action context. Something obviously important is happening, and you can see that importance on the faces of these people.

Third Place: Solon Times

Hope Kinchen

This is a quiet shot that shows action, both in the two people who are hugging but also in the group in the background and how they are dressed. The emotional quality of this picture is clear and it will attract attention.

Division D

These photographs demonstrate the crucial element of capturing the right light. All were shot in low-light conditions, yet all have their own unique mood. The mix of light, framing, and subject matter sets these apart from a pretty good group of entries.

First Place: The Photojournal, Vermilion

Wow. An impressive command of light and color. The exposure is short enough to stop the action of the bursting shell, but long enough to get the details of the people on the beach in low light conditions. Warm and rich, and a very inviting photo.

Hooper Class 10: Best Feature Photo - continued

Second Place: Yellow Springs News

Matt Minde

Love the lighting and the intent looks on the faces. A bold BW photo can still grab our attention in ways color cannot. Photographer is not afraid to get close in, and to shoot without a flash.

Third Place: Ada Herald

Ashley Lehman

Warm, soft light and a quiet moment of a studying child invite the reader to relax and soak in the mood of this photo. Nicely done. It would have had even greater impact if run larger and in color - but that's part of the negotiation between photographer and editor.

Collegiate Category 10: Best Website

Judged by Travis Siebrass, assistant news editor, *Daily Herald*, Arlington Heights, Illinois

Division A

Really impressive breadth of topics covered in this category - fun, inspiring, newsy.

First Place: The Lantern, The Ohio State University

www.thelantern.com

The Lantern has a great mix of campus news, sports, entertainment and opinion on its home page. The organization and story placement is excellent. The content, especially on the home page, is focused on the campus.

The site is easy to navigate. The navigation bar and search function at the top of the home page give users an easy way to move around the site and find information quickly.

Visually, the site uses pictures well. Photos are big enough that they're easy to read. Nice use of color-coding sections on the site.

Second Place: The News Record, University of Cincinnati

www.newsrecord.org

The site does a good job of presenting campus news. At times, the headlines weren't quite as clear as they could be. Stories on the home page would benefit from summaries.

Great navigation bar, it's the best of the competition. New users can easily find information and the layout is solid.

Visually, there are almost too many photos on the home page. The smaller photos are hard to read. A less is more approach might work better.

Third Place: The Post, Ohio University

Pat Holmes, Bekkie McKinsey, Joe Fox

www.thepost.ohiou.edu

The Post knows what its audience is coming to them for and they do a solid job of playing up campus stories.

Navigation bar is solid. Sections are clearly labeled as you scroll down the page. The Most Popular and Recent Comments widget is solid.

The site could benefit from more photos on the home page. Once you get past the top of the page, stories blend together because there is no headline hierarchy.

Collegiate Category 10: Best Website - continued

Division B

First Place: **Tan & Cardinal, Otterbein University**
www.otterbein360.com

Site has a clear focus on campus news. Good content on the site. They know what their audience is coming to them for, and they deliver it. Navigating the site is very easy. The navigation bar is great. Sections are clearly labeled. The rail down the right-hand side has some good information in it. I like where the calendar is displayed.

Second Place: **The Independent Collegian, University of Toledo**
www.independentcollegian.com

Content on the site is OK. With no headline hierarchy, it's tough to tell what's important, or what they feel is the top story on the page. News content could probably be updated more often. The navigation bar is really basic, but it gets the reader where they need to go. Site could use more hierarchy with photos and headlines. The summaries are a good touch.

Third Place: **The Jambar, Youngstown State University**
Luis Cestou, Cassondra Ohlin, Cory Bartek
www.thejambar.com

The content on the site is focused on campus events. Some of the headlines aren't clear. A reader should know what the story is about before they click on it. The site does feature some pretty good summaries for articles, though. The site is pretty easy to navigate. Some of the multimedia navigation features are difficult, though. A list of the videos below the rotisserie would be nice. Visually, the site would benefit from some hierarchy with photos and headlines. I like that the site has a multimedia section, but navigating it was frustrating.

Hooper Class 11: Best Sports Photo

Judged by Dan Caterinicchia, assistant professor, director of student media, *The Lantern*; Nicole Kraft, assistant professor; Tom Schwartz, associate professor, The Ohio State University

Division A

First Place: **ThisWeek Dublin Villager**
Jeff Mills

Good timing, great facial expressions. Right place at the right time, and ready to shoot. Good work!

Second Place: **Chagrin Valley Times**
Hope Kinchen

This picture well captures the emotion of the moment. Well exposed and framed well. I'd like to see tighter cropping and more faces.

Third Place: **ThisWeek Westerville News & Public Opinion**

A nice photo, but not overly original. Still, it is nicely lit, clear in focus and sharp.

Division B

First Place: **Putnam County Sentinel**
Charlie Warnimont

Terrific shot-well timed, well framed and with the good fortune of these wonderful expressions. A winner.

Second Place: **West Life, Westlake**
Ryan Kaczmariski

Terrific job capturing the heat of competition. Love how close we get and how much emotion we feel. A winner!

Third Place: **The Telegram, Jackson**
Red Thompson, Jr.

Good timing and well framed and exposed. Don't be afraid to get tighter on this. We don't need to see all the grass or the player in blue. Get us to the action.

Division C

First Place: **Morgan County Herald**
Janis Keller

A photo that is about far more than wrestling-these expressions, the referee are all priceless. Very nice shot.

Hooper Class 11: Best Sports Photo - continued

Second Place: **Pike County News Watchman**

Julie Billings

What a shot to catch at night and in traffic. good timing. Well framed. An overall good effort.

Third Place: **Morgan County Herald**

Janis Keller

I feel like I am in Friday Night Lights-way to capture a charged and action-focused moment. Good work!

Division D

First Place: **Yellow Springs News**

Megan Bachman

Corn makes interesting backdrop, and I like use of black and white. Well focused and expressions help make image.

Second Place: **The Ripley Bee**

Wade Linville

Good use of perspective and being in the right place at the right time. Good effort.

Third Place: **Ada Herald**

Carla Oberly

A lot of good pieces come together for strong shot. Balance out some of the red. Faces would make stronger.

Hooper Class 12: Best Headline

Judged by Jeff Fruit, professor, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Kent State University

In this class there are no divisions by circulation

Enjoyed reading these strong headline entries, many of which employed descriptive wordsmithing and effective use of space. Good headlines take extra effort for overburdened editors, so the best ones here get extra appreciation. Some really good ones were crowded in right below fourth place!

First Place: The Telegram, Jackson

Pete Wilson

Hundreds at BEO Meeting Say: Jesus Must Stay

Outstanding headline around a church and state controversy covered effectively by the paper. Well done.

Second Place: The Telegram, Jackson

Brad S. Sherman

Hundreds have a blast at Muzzleloader Club Trade Fair

The headline is a fine complement to effective design and photography.

Third Place: Chagrin Valley Times

Todd Nighswonger

Council splits check on final Joey's vote

Clever play on words draws readers into a routine local government story.

Fourth Place: The Telegram, Jackson

Brad S. Sherman

Jackson home puts the dead in dead end street

Hooper Class 13: Special Edition or Section

Judged by Dr. Michael Horning, assistant professor, Dept. of Journalism & Public Relations; Andrew Dinofrio, doctoral student, Media & Communication Graduate Program, Bowling Green State University.

Division A

We found it difficult to choose between the sections submitted for this division. The top finalists all created sections that were no doubt well received by their communities. They contained fresh and interesting content. Some submissions were stronger in terms of design and photograph than others. We thought that the first place winner paid a little more attention to small details related to the overall package. This included strong photographs, meaningful cutline, good writing, and well-balanced layouts.

First Place: ThisWeek Dublin Villager

As a preview guide for high school football, we found this special issue to contain everything you'd want to see in a sports section- compelling photos, strong writing and clean layout designs. The newspaper's photo choice for the front page immediately set this section apart. We did think that the background photo on page 2-3 distracted from the content, however. Yet, throughout the rest of the section we found the overall designs to be well balanced. For the most part, photography contained great facial expressions and/or action and was cropped well. A few seemed to have helmets cut at the top, which made those photos less appealing. The writing covered a wide variety of football topics from new coaches to team strategies to changes in team structures.

Second Place: The Press, Millbury

We found this special section to cover an important and timely topic that would be very informative to readers. The stories were interesting and covered several different aspects of Title IX. In terms of the layout, we saw stronger designs in this section and some papers paid closer attention to developing content in cutlines and photo composition.

Third Place: Chagrin Valley Times

What really stands out in the Chagrin Valley Times annual magazine is its photography and color. Many of the images capture a sense of liveliness and fun. Laura Gross's conversational writing tone helps to bolster this. But, from a design standpoint, there were many instances in which the use of tracking and kerning would have helped make for a cleaner looking document. Also, at times, the arrangement of images, titles and texts wasn't as successful as it could have been. For instance, on page 53 one of the photos overlaps another nearly cutting out one of the people in the bottom photo, and the title streaming across the top of the page seems a bit too separated from its content.

Hooper Class 13: Special Edition or Section - continued

Division B

This section contained a variety of submissions some of which used magazine formats and others more traditional newspaper formats for their design. Regardless of their approach, we found that the strongest submissions paid closer attention to details required for their chosen design format. These included general included such things as consistently including cutlines, using grids or columns in the design, strong content and good photography.

First Place: Geauga County Times Courier

Joseph Koziol Jr., Keli Boatwright, Todd Nighswonger

Overall this section contained some nice coverage of the county fair. The cover design had some nice visually appealing photos. The design was a little blocky for our tastes but still clean. In terms of content, we found this section offered a lot to readers on everything from a preview of the fair, to health topics, to information about competitions. We liked the attention to details like including cutlines with photos and photo credits. Layout designs were done well with heds diminishing in size as you moved down the pages and photos providing balance with content.

Second Place: The Telegram, Jackson

The Telegram's "A Better Today" has an excellent cover page. Also, the first two pages of the publication demonstrate an expert use of opacity, design concept and color. Both the theme and writing are quite strong in this submission. However, the middle pages of this news magazine style publication-from a design standpoint-don't quite live up to the promise of its beginning pages. Several missteps in related to choice of background color and font make the text difficult to read. This distraction is most glaring on the "Connect with the Telegram" page, which takes away from an otherwise well written story by Brad S. Sherman. Overall, his publication is, at times, impressively well done, but it lacks consistency.

Third Place: The Budget, Sugarcreek

We really enjoyed the front page layout of this special section. The section had interesting content and photograph for readers. We enjoyed looking through the history and imagine that your readers did too. We weren't a fan of the font choice for the 100 Years of Tasty Memories section. The font choice seemed to make the text a bit too difficult to read. In terms of the layout, there were a few pages where the text wrap made readers work too hard. Page 5, for example. We'd suggest wrapping short columns like the example in column two, and would encourage a redesign of this page. Similarly, pg 8 would probably be improved by cropping the bologna photo to the same width as the copy columns.

Hooper Class 13: Special Edition or Section - continued

Division C

Special sections here varied in terms of their overall content and design. The stronger pieces in this division included a wide variety of appealing photos, some strong special features or news pieces related to the theme and good layout and design.

First Place: The Gazette, Jefferson

Stefanie Wessell, Byron Wessell, Martha Sorohan, Doris Cook

The Gazette did a fantastic job of incorporating its theme into a comprehensive special edition series. The Gazette's Ashtabula County Fair coverage incorporated a mixture of vibrant images, a clean layout, teamwork and advertisements that reinforced its theme. While the quality of the writing, at times, varied and more cutlines could have improved the series, overall, the Gazette's work stood out in this division.

Second Place: Solon Times

From a design and pagination perspective, the Solon Connection shined. Solon created a lot of dynamic interplay with its use of fonts and images. That interplay helped reinforce its, generally, well-written stories. For example, the "Focus of Italian group, of course, is Italian food," story of Page 38 was quite eye catching and well written. However, there did not seem to be a consistent theme which is, generally, indicative of most special editions. Perhaps, this submission would have fared even better in another category more suited to yearly publications.

Third Place: Pike County News Watchman

Julie Billings

This special basketball section included some good content that was no doubt appreciated by a wide variety of community members. Overall, the stories did a nice job of breaking up team shots, which are always difficult to make interesting in a layout. On a few occasions, the design was a bit awkward. B2, for example, had an unusual transition from col 3 to col 4. I wouldn't make readers, read around a team photo. Overall though, we enjoyed the copy and headline writing.

Hooper Class 13: Special Edition or Section - continued

Division D

Overall there was a nice variety in this section. We found the writing and headlines to be very engaging. It would seem that it would reach a wide variety of readers. Photography varied from entry to entry. As a general observation, we found layouts often in need of improvement in terms of their design.

First Place: The Courier, Conneaut

Stefanie Wessell, Doris Cook, Martha Sorohan, Barbara Hamilton

Overall this section stood as the best in its division. The section displayed a number of strengths. Layout designs were strong. Stories were interesting in terms of both their headline writing and content and photography was generally composed well. Font variations were a bit too much for my tastes, but overall this was a nice package.

Second Place: The Photojournal, Vermilion

The theme and writing were strong, and the ads worked to reinforce the paper's desired theme. Wooley Bear was able to incorporate a lot of color and strong images into their design. Overall, this special edition was well conceived. However, the layout placement of the images in a straight-line row was a bit of a misstep, and the vertical four column design employed on some of the pages lacked contrast.

Third Place: The News, Pymatuning

Stefanie Wessell, Byron Wessell, Martha Sorohan, Doris Cook

This special section on the Great Outdoors offered a variety of interesting content for the readers. We really liked the map that provided a nice overview of things to do in the county. The layouts were generally good, though we think that photos were often fairly small and some needed cutlines. We noticed that the section had fewer photo elements as you continued through the section. It would seem like photography would be an important aspect of an Outdoor section.

Hooper Class 14: Community Awareness

Judged by David Martens, Owner/Manager, David B. Martens & Associates LLC
Anacortes, WA; publisher, *The York (PA) Dispatch*

In this class there are no divisions by circulation

The wide range of issues reflected in these entries demonstrates a real community awareness at each newspaper represented here.

First Place: Archbold Buckeye

Mary Huber

The Archbold Buckeye's Combating Cyber Crime project is an excellent example of community awareness. They gathered knowledgeable sources to educate their audience about the risks and protection measures to improve security.

Second Place: ThisWeek Dublin Villager

Jennifer Nesbitt, Jennifer Noblit, Pamela Willis

Reporters Jennifer Nesbitt and Jennifer Noblit along with photographer Joshua A. Bickel gave a clear overview of how local schools were dealing with security issues in the wake of tragic school shootings elsewhere. They explained in detail how the School Resource Officers look out for students.

Third Place: The Budget, Sugarcreek

Beverly Keller

Local Edition Editor Beverly Keller did a thorough job of reporting on many aspects of cancer. The Budget readers were well served with this educational series.

Fourth Place: Yellow Springs News

Megan Bachman

Village council decision whether to refurbish or replace the old water plant.

Hooper Class 15: Best Website

Judged by Hollis Towns, executive editor & vice-president, *Asbury Park* (NJ) Press

Independent Newspaper Websites

First Place: Bluffton News

Nice use of photos with stories that helps readers easily identify the topic.

www.blufftonnews.com

Second Place: The Telegram, Jackson

Use of video on page a good addition.

www.thetelegramnews.com

Third Place: Yellow Springs News

A good use of color and font to help the links and headlines pop on the page. The classified section was well organized.

www.ysnews.com

Group Newspaper Websites

First Place: ThisWeek Newspapers

Nicely laid out home and community pages. The social scene and sports were robust, and classified content was easily navigated.

www.thisweeknews.com

Second Place: Chagrin Valley Times

Ellen Jacob, Todd Nighswonger, Diana Nicolanti, Julie Craig, Bonnie McClurg

Good use of photos, stories, polls and community calendar. The classified search bar is a plus.

www.chagrinvalleytoday.com

Third Place: Ada Herald

The mix of community content, sports and editorial makes the home page a one-stop-shop for users.

www.adaherald.com

Hooper Awards
Newspaper of the Year

Division A

Chagrin Valley Times

Division B

The Telegram
Jackson

Division C

Solon Times

Division D

Yellow Springs News

Frank E. Deaner Award
for General Excellence in
Collegiate Journalism

Division A

The Lantern
The Ohio State University

Division B

Cedars
Cedarville University

