



2025 Collegiate Newspaper & Website Competition Winners

The 2025 Ohio Collegiate Newspaper and Best Website Awards recognizes the talents of the state's top College newspapers and their editors, writers, photographers, designers and other colleagues.

This is the 16th year for the Ohio Collegiate Newspaper competition, with 16 collegiate newspapers taking part in the competition from universities and colleges across Ohio. The entries were divided into 2 divisions based on undergraduate student enrollment. Division A consists of student enrollment of 10,000 or more, while Division B is less than 10,000 enrollment. The entries were judged by professional members of ONMA and others in the industry in 10 categories.

Here are this year's winners along with comments from judges.

Category 01: News Coverage

Division A

3rd Place

The Post, Ohio University
Staff

Nice mix of campus, city, state news and beyond.

2nd Place

The Jambar, Youngstown State University
Staff

The Jambar does a good job of keeping its readers informed of the happenings on campus, from the new university president to how to use emergency buttons scattered around campus. I also like the stories on the different student organizations and their work.

1st Place

Kent Stater, Kent State University

Staff

Good mix of harder news stories and news stories that affect students' lives directly. I also liked the stories that sought to bring awareness and also inform students, such as the stories on how to vote in Ohio and the guide to low-risk investments for college students. The Kent Stater keeps its readers informed on a number of levels. The paper has a strong variety of articles.

Division B

3rd Place

The Exponent, Baldwin Wallace University

The Exponent Staff

The Exponent packs a lot of information into each issue. Good mix of stories. Liked the mix of campus and community issues. So glad The Exponent returned to print! Keep on providing a vital service to your university.

2nd Place

The Pulse, University of Findlay

Pulse Staff

Very informative college newspaper. The Pulse presented stories on topics I might not have considered before - like how athletes work with their professors and coaches on scheduling conflicts. I liked the updates on campus projects, and how construction in the community was affecting students. Fun to read about the Kiwibots! Campus life certainly has changed from when I attended, ha.

1st Place

The Newswire, Xavier University

Staff

The Newswire has a great mix of stories. I liked that not only were campus issues written about, but also matters in the community that would be of interest to or would impact the campus/students. The opinion pieces explored topics that were interesting and thought out. Fun Arts & Entertainment selection as well. If I were a student of Xavier, I'd be a regular reader of the Newswire.

Category 02: In: Depth Reporting.

Division A

3rd Place

The Lantern, The Ohio State University

Reinventing the Meaning of "Merit" in Higher Education

Amani Bayo

Well researched and great story telling.

2nd Place

The Jambar, Youngstown State University

Stories about YSU President Bill Johnson
Staff

Good research. Great job weaving together timelines and narratives.

1st Place

BG News, Bowling Green State University

Non-traditional artist and advocate

Andrew Kish

Well researched and well told.

Good use of how one person's story, and the policies that are set into place,
may reflect the story of many others.

Division B

3rd Place

Northern Review, Ohio Northern University

Mental Health First Aid: How you can help fight mental health challenges

Sam Schneider

Good research on and reporting, and weaving research with personal stories.

2nd Place

Northern Review, Ohio Northern University

Rite Aid Closure in Ada and Its Impact on Patient Care

Arin Wade

Great work on researching and collecting facts as well as personal stories and impacts to
community.

1st Place

The Newswire, Xavier University

Series about Students and Administration Clashing Over Campus Expression

Staff

Great research and tying together data, facts and narratives.

Category 03: Arts and Entertainment

Division A

3rd Place

The Jambar, Youngstown State University

Series on coffee, coffee shops

Sydney Fairbanks, Molly Burke

Engaging features on local coffee shops.

2nd Place

BG News, Bowling Green State University

Coverage of Live & Loud

Brynn Drabek, Carson DiSalvo, Elizabeth Criss

I imagine it must be challenging to write reviews of bands when your readers aren't listening to the music. Elizabeth Criss does a good job of describing the bands' sounds so we can determine as readers whether we want to check them out or not, while also highlighting their back stories and personalities.

1st Place

The Lantern, The Ohio State University

Lantern Arts and Entertainment

Samantha Harden, Lucy Lawler and Logan Nowlin

Three engaging articles. The writers really painted a visual picture with their words. Really liked the opening paragraph to The Last Dinner Party review.

Division B

3rd Place

Cedars, Cedarville University

Movies and Art

Ben Konuch, Katlynn Rossignol

All three of these stories had engaging ledes that had me wanting to read more. The writers explored their premises well, with a mix of quotes from others and their own thoughts.

2nd Place

The Newswire, Xavier University

What's Eating You: An Analysis and Explanation

Audrey Elwood

What a topic! A subheadline about cannibalism is immediately attention grabbing. This was a clever topic that demonstrated, wow, there really is a lot of cannibalism in media lately!

Thorough and engaging exploration of the topic. Made me think about it!

1st Place

Northern Review, Ohio Northern University

Northern Review's Arts and Entertainment

Carys Williams, Avery Petrie, & Michael Kirchner

"The Unforgettable Thrills of ONU's Ride the Cyclone" gripped me immediately with its description of the show and stage. Now I want to see it! Great use of language. Really painted a picture in my mind.

Category 04: Opinion Writing

Division A

3rd Place

The Miami Student - Miami University

Living in Luxembourg columns by Rachel Hirsch

This student had a unique opportunity and her opinions of her travels and the impact of studying abroad were presented well.

2nd Place

The New Political, Ohio University

Columns by Alyssa Gray

Engaging and thought provoking. Well written and timely pieces.

1st Place

The Miami Student - Miami University

Columns by Sam Norton

Nice style. Relatable. Engaging. Well-written. Rose to the top of the stack again and again.

Division B

3rd Place

The Exponent, Baldwin Wallace University

Columns by Emma Lambert, Sage Mullins

2nd Place

The Newswire, Xavier University

Columns by Jackson Hare

Solid writing with good points to ponder.

1st Place

The Newswire, Xavier University

Columns by Jesse Dolojan

Well written and insightful. The writer has a way with words and is confident in his delivery.

Category 05: Sports Coverage

Division A

3rd Place

The Post, Ohio University

Sports Staff

The layout, photos, and editorial work are all well-executed. There's a strong balance of backstory and current coverage, providing the reader not only with the facts of the story but also with a clear understanding of its significance and impact on the players, teams, seasons, and the community as a whole.

2nd Place

The Lantern, The Ohio State University
Staff

The layout is excellent, with impactful formatting that seamlessly integrates photos without overwhelming the reader. The stories are clear and engaging, leaving the reader with a strong understanding of its purpose and how it ties into that team's season. Great example of a lead-off story as it serves as an engaging and effective introduction to the sports section, capturing the reader's attention and setting the tone for the rest of the content found later.

1st Place

The Jambar, Youngstown State University
Staff

The Jambar delivers outstanding work, with strong layouts and impressive editorial appeal. The formatting is visually captivating, and the use of background images enhances the stories without overpowering the reader. Thoughtfully incorporated background information, analysis, and statistics come together to create engaging pieces that help readers better understand the teams, their seasons, and the long-term impact of the events covered. The black-and-white simplicity, paired with attention-grabbing color graphics, creates a perfect balance, making the sports section both visually striking and easy to navigate.

Division B

3rd Place

Northern Review, Ohio Northern University
Evelyn Megery, Gabriel Mott, and Arin Wade

While the action photos are strong, the content could be improved by offering a wider range of stories and by going beyond surface-level coverage to provide more meaningful and comprehensive insights into the sports and athletes portrayed.

2nd Place

The Exponent, Baldwin Wallace University
Nick Irelan

The coverage contains consistent quality, offering in-depth exploration of the story topics and enough background to capture and inform the reader. However, the format and layout became distracting due to inconsistent spacing via loose tracking and white space.

1st Place

The Newswire, Xavier University
Staff

The layout, photo quality, and content were all expertly presented, creating a visually engaging and cohesive experience. The use of statistics enhances the narrative without overshadowing it,

providing valuable context rather than being the focal point. There is excellent coverage of key moments within games, including game-deciding scores, pivotal innings, and critical time frames, ensuring that the most exciting and significant aspects are highlighted for the reader.

Category 06: Design

Division A

3rd Place

The News Record, University of Cincinnati

The News Record staff

Nice, clean look. Good use of color and pull quotes. I like how the stories are separated.

2nd Place

The Clarion, Sinclair Community College

Staff

Liked the look of both issues. The images on the front grab your attention. Nice use of uniform color throughout. The styling is engaging throughout, and not too busy.

1st Place

BG News, Bowling Green State University

Kyle Nelson, Abigail Gabe, Abbie Knauss

Nice consistent look and design throughout. Great use of graphics and charts. There's a lot of info packed in, but it doesn't feel overwhelming or cluttered as a reader. There's a creative look and feel.

Division B

3rd Place

The Chimes, Capital University

Staff

Good use of graphics and photos. This paper flows well and has a clean design.

2nd Place

The Exponent, Baldwin Wallace University

The Exponent Staff

Good use of boxes and lines to separate articles. Clean and easy to read. Photo sizes and location were appropriate.

1st Place

The Newswire, Xavier University

Staff

Nice uniform text style and formatting. Creative use of photos - liked the effects around them such as for the "Goodbye, Saints!" articles. Creative use of screenshots for "SGA Responds to

Men's Basketball Ticket Scalping." Also nice to see the paper make its own graphics like with "Who to Watch for at the 2024 Oscars." Cleanly designed and easy to read paper.

Category 07: Photojournalism

Division A

3rd Place

The Lantern, The Ohio State University

Caleb Blake

Great photo that captures a special moment in time. Readers feels the excitement of the moment. Great job.

2nd Place

The Post, Ohio University

Students call on university officials to divest, disclose investments in Israel

Abbie Kinney

Great images documenting events. Readers feels emotion from great photos that help to tell the story.

1st Place

The News Record, University of Cincinnati

Series of action shots by Maylea Salmon, Isabella Zinchini

Great action shots that also weave in emotion. Great job.

Division B

3rd Place

Cedars, Cedarville University

Cedarville Sports

Logan Howard

Great action shots! Reader feels inside the competition and events.

2nd Place

Northern Review, Ohio Northern University

2024 Greek Week

Evelyn Megery

Great blend of a variety of images from a variety of events. Reader can feel the emotion in these photos.

1st Place

Northern Review, Ohio Northern University

Polar Bears Celebrate Landslide Football Victory Amidst Homecoming Festivities

Evelyn Megery

Great action shots highlighting festive events.

Category 08: Headline Writing

Division A

3rd Place

The Jambar, Youngstown State University

Goodbye to Google

Staff

Good alliteration.

2nd Place

The Jambar, Youngstown State University

Write or wrong, critics belong

Staff

Good use of homophones. Enjoyed creative use.

1st Place

The Jambar, Youngstown State University

Reality of Realty Tower

Staff

Great use of homophones. Nice job.

Division B

3rd Place

The Newswire, Xavier University

Better Blend Has Smooth Grand Opening

Clare McKinley

Well placed pun. Nice work.

2nd Place

The Newswire, Xavier University

Carpe Denim: The Return of Jorts to the Mainstream

Ben Dickison

Creative headline. Nice job.

1st Place

The Newswire, Xavier University

Tell Tuition Hike to Take a Hike

Grace Hamilton

Puns and repetition. A great combination.

Category 09: Best Multi: Media Package

Division A

3rd Place

The Clarion, Sinclair Community College

Dayton Pride

Jaime Herzog

Nice utilization of various kinds of media along with back stories. Engaging.

2nd Place

The Jambar, Youngstown State University

Students to walk out on Johnson's first day

Molly Burke, Chistopher Gillett, Dylan Lux

Good mix of coverage for this story. With photos and video. Engaging.

1st Place

BG News, Bowling Green State University

Non-traditional artist and advocate

Andrew Kish

Great in depth piece complete with compelling written words along with photos and video.

Bravo.

Division B

3rd Place

Cedars, Cedarville University

Cedarville's Indian Mound park a place to hike, see history and study rocks

Staff

Well written and engaging topic. Presented well.

2nd Place

Northern Review, Ohio Northern University

Student Highlight: How the Art of Photography Has Impacted Anna Kate Jackson

Evelyn Megery

The video was great. The story was solid. The photo brought me into the story and the video kept me there.

1st Place

The Chimes, Capital University

Financial takeaways from university's tax documents

Adrian Suppes, Charlie Rinehart

The original graphics. The tools to understand with graphs. The story. It all comes together into what defines a good multi-media entry. Bravo.

Category 10: Best Website

Division A

3rd Place

The Clarion, Sinclair Community College
Staff

Nice website with good use of graphics.

2nd Place

The News Record, University of Cincinnati
The News Record staff

Nice website. Easy to navigate and filled with great content.

1st Place

The Miami Student - Miami University
Staff

Very engaging format. Nice photos. It is clear, concise, and easy to navigate.

Division B

3rd Place

Cedars, Cedarville University
Staff

Website had good info and nice spotlights. Great use of color.

2nd Place

The Chimes, Capital University
Tatiana Sullivan

Easy to navigate. Engaging. Bright colors and great photos to draw in the viewer's attention.

1st Place

T&C Media, Otterbein University
Staff

Easy to navigate. Clear top stories. Website flows well and is filled with information.