

## New Jersey Chapter Society Of Professional Journalists Excellence In Journalism Awards For 2011

We had to combine weeklies with dailies in categories because of the small response this year but had no premeditated intentions of doing so. We were surprised by the low turnout, and as the listing suggests, some judges (all out of state, of course) only made a First and Second Place, no Third, while others named only one winner.

### BUSINESS WRITING

- **First Place:** Linda A. Johnson, The Associated Press, "Generic Bonanza"  
**Comment:** "This story has broad appeal because few readers don't take some kind of medication. It is well written and very understandable for the average reader. Good job of explaining how the whole generic drug process works, including FDA approval. Sidebars are very informative."
- **Second Place:** Andrew Tangel, The Record, "Judge Tied to Foreclosure"
- **Third Place:** Wayne Parry, The Associated Press, "Monopoly Lost: Atlantic City's Rise and Fall"

### COLUMN WRITING

- **First Place:** Phil Anastasia, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Grief Multiplied"  
**Comment:** "This was an extremely difficult category to judge because of the excellence of a number of entries. Anastasia's account of high school students mourning the deaths of four boys in a car accident stood out above the rest."
- **Second Place:** Alfred P. Doblin, The Record, "An American Tragedy: The Rise and Fall of Corzine"
- **Third Place:** Matt Katz, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Good Show"

### EDITORIAL CARTOONING

- **First Place:** Tony Auth, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Don't Blame Me"  
**Comment:** "Tony Auth uses simple, direct images, often in multiple panels, to make his points. This winning entry

portrays the governor, police, firemen and the mayor of Camden all denying blame for budget cuts to the city, a process in which, as Auth says, the only winners are the muggers."

- **Second Place:** Stephen (Steve) Crooks, The Montclair Times, "Uh, Professor, I Think You'd Better See This ...."
- **Third Place:** Harry Trumbore, North Jersey.com, "Historical Houses," The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

## EDITORIAL WRITING

- **First Place:** Anthony G. Attrino, Verona-Cedar Grove Times, "Eye-opener on fracking"  
**Comment:** "Straightforward to-the-point lead addressing assertion by a national candidate on fracking, followed by reporting that informed the reader about the issue and what it means locally and nationally for the present and future generations."
- **Second Place:** Alfred P. Doblin, The Record, "Bench Yourself"
- **Third Place:** Josh Gohlke, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Forget traffic jams" Enterprise, Series, Investigative Reporting

## ENTERPRISE, SERIES INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

- **First Place:** Scott Fallon, The Record, "Toxic Landscape" series  
**Comment:** "This was a well-written and extensively researched series on the effect of long-time chromium leaking into a large residential area of the county where people are still living decades later. Scott tells the significant story in strong prose and with pictures and graphs. This is an important series for local residents as well as many in other areas."
- **Second Place:** George Wirt, The Montclair Times, "Food for Thought" series
- **Third Place:** Nancy Phillips, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Accusations about Bill Conlin" series

## ESSAY

- **First Place:** Greg Trevor, Rutgers Today, "A Survivor's Story"

**Comment:** "A well and tightly written essay that does a good job of conveying the writer's 9/11 experience and how it will always be with him."

- **Second Place:** Warren Boroson, NewJerseynewsroom.com, "Where Are The Movie Theaters of Yesterday?"
- **Third Place:** Jen A. Miller, Salon, "The Endlessly Bizarre Duality of New Jersey"

## BEST USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

- **Winners:** Lissa Atkins, Vance Lehmkuhl, Craig R. McCoy and Emilie Lounsberry, Philly.com, "Vince Fumo Resentencing--Live Blog"

**Comment:** "Good coverage of the recommencing of a powerful Pennsylvania politician."

## INDEPENDENT BLOG

- **Winner:** Mark Hrywna [Hriv-na], Rahway Rising  
**Comment:** Rahway Rising's use of web tools such as Google maps, and links to outside sources, show a good understanding of the internet format, while the topic matter and research provide solid information for readers interested in learning more about redevelopment in Rahway.

## MEDIA-AFFILIATED BLOG

- **First Place:** Marnie Hall, Nick Grieves, John Anderson and George Anastasia, Philly.com, "Mob Scene"  
**Comment:** "This is so well produced that the viewer would like to see more. The graphics and overall design are impressive...as is the information the stories impart."
- **Second Place:** Anthony Buccino, Belleville Patch, "Don the TV Man," "Penny Candy from the Corner Store," and "Gary's English Racer vs. My Schwinn"
- **Third Place:** Pat Summers, nj.com/pets "Pet Blog" on The Star-Ledger's Online Pets and Living Pages

## FEATURE PHOTOJOURNALISM

- **First Place:** April Saul, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "A Stray

Bullet, A Shattered Life"

**Comment:** "For April Saul's photo essay about a young Camden boy who lost an eye to a stray bullet, the photographer obviously spent a great deal of time with the boy. Yet, her photos are in no way intrusive. The photographs convey a sense of compassion, showing the boy as he lives and recuperates with his family and community around him."

- **Second Place:** Sharon Gekoski-Kimmel, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "A Rare Pair"
- **Third Place:** John Munson, Inside Jersey magazine, "Seasons of Remembrance"

## FEATURE AWARD

- **First Place:** Mike Newall, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Shoes he can fix – but Camden?"  
**Comment:** "A compelling story about a university-educated engineer who has dedicated himself to the old-fashioned craft of shoe and hat repair, and refused to leave the shop his father established nearly 80 years ago in a neighborhood most other businesses have abandoned."
- **Second Place:** Jessica Smith, The Examiner, General Media Newspapers, "Millstone eighth graders go back in time"
- **Third Place:** Geoff Mulvihill, Associated Press, "Rescued from Camden's Tent City: ..."

## HEALTH, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING

- **First Place:** Lindy Washburn, The Record, "Woman Battling Cancer Risks Odds for Motherhood"  
**Comment:** "A story heartbreaking and hopeful that shows both sides of an extremely difficult health choice. Well-written with medical information made easy to understand."
- **Second Place:** Sandy Bauers, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Getting coal power to clean up its stacks"
- **Third Place:** Todd B. Bates, Asbury Park Press, "Nanoparticles: Boon or Bane to Our Health"

## ONLINE SPORTS REPORTING

- **First Place:** Kate Fagan, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Inquirer

Sports Blockbuster: Jimmy Fredette"

**Comment:** "This had great video that held your attention throughout. An example of a good idea with excellent execution, editing and use of multimedia."

- **Second Place:** Matt Mullin, Mike Potter, Josh Cohen, Matt Romanoski, Philly.com, "Winter Classic"
- **Third Place:** Mike Potter, Michael Gold, Phil Anastasia, Marc Narducci, Chris Melchiorre, Philly.com, "South Jersey Boys Basketball Preview"

## WEB DESIGN

- **First Place:** Frank Wiese, Philly.com, "Assault on Learning"  
**Comment:** "This examination of violence in Philadelphia's city schools is stunning both in context and presentation. This must have been a difficult project to stage, given the voluminous material presented the designer. Yet the staging, with its various multimedia components, is easy to navigate, comprehensive without being overly complex, and surprisingly attractive. Much thought was given to online organization, and the result is a user-friendly presentation that enhances the powerful content. This journalistic achievement is of the highest order. Well done!"
- **Second Place:** Frank Wiese, Philly.com, "Deep Drill"
- **Third Place:** Carla Cantor, Greg Trevor, Andrea Alexander and Karen Smith, Rutgers Today

## WEB VIDEO

- **First Place:** Thomas E. Franklin, The Record and NorthJersey.com, "Witness to History" and "Newfound Friends"  
**Comment:** "Most news websites in the country devoted time and resources to 10th anniversary retrospectives on 9/11. What set these videos apart was, on the one hand, the recollection of horrifying events in New York as witnessed through the lens of a camera and, on the other hand, an antithetical display of humanity bestowed upon strangers diverted to Gander, New Foundland. Together, these videos made clear the divergent emotions running rampant on one of America's darkest days. Both are engaging videos, with stories both heart-rending and heart-warming. The narratives are compelling, the b-roll seamlessly intertwined -- all to

great effect. Longer videos often lose viewers a minute or two in but not these. There's a "glue" factor at play; they command your attention. Terrific work!"

- **Second Place:** April Saul, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "A Stray Bullet, a Shattered Life"
- **Third Place:** Sharon Gekoski-Kimmel, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Conjoined Twins"

## SPORTS REPORTING

- **First Place:** Curtis Eichelberger, Oliver Staley, Bloomberg News, "Rutgers Athletics Grow at Expense of Academics Unlike Texas"  
**Comment:** "Winner was clear-cut. The Bloomberg team's research and presentation was off the charts. Equally impressive was the fairness displayed in such a sports report; that's not always the case anymore..."
- **Second Place:** Kevin Meacham, The Montclair Times, "Pieces of history ..."
- **Third Place:** Bill Alden, Town Topics newspaper, "Serving Others Selflessly on and off the Field"

## HEADLINES

- **First Place:** Bill Slossar, Twin-Boro News, "Wins Pillow Case"  
**Comment:** "This was the easy No.1, because it captured the story's essence perfectly and did so in a light and attention-grabbing manner. He nailed it."
- **Second Place:** Joe St. Arney, NJ Biz, "They don't take competition lying down"
- **Third Place:** Dan Prochilo, The Montclair Times, "Medical marijuana joint to open in Montclair"

## MAGAZINE OPINION

- **Winner:** Sally Friedman, SJ Magazine, "Class Notes: A Letter to the Teachers of My Grandchildren"  
**Comments:** "This column tugs at the heart strings while making its point about the vulnerability of today's students, regardless of age."
- No other winners

## MAGAZINE COLUMN

- **Winner:** Paul Clolery, The NonProfit Times, "Middle East Tea Party Will Revolts in Tunisia, Egypt come this way? "  
**Comments:** "The author provides a unique perspective of the Arab Spring."
- No other winners

## MAGAZINE REPORTING

- **First Place:** Nyier Abdou, Inside Jersey, "Exiles on Main Street"  
**Comments:** "This took on the complexity of a controversial subject by putting it in the context of the people fighting for the right to stay together as a family."
- **Second Place:** Danielle Shapiro, Inside Jersey, "The Kids Really Are All Right"
- No other winners

## MAGAZINE BUSINESS REPORTING

- **First Place:** Michael Shari, Risk Professional magazine, "If Only They Had Listened"  
**Comments:** "This article explores in depth the elements that created the perfect storm that was the financial crisis. It shows that the warning signs were there but fell on deaf ears. Many sources are used to get the big picture."
- **Second Place:** Jeff Schlegel, Financial Advisor magazine, "It's a Gas"
- **Third Place:** Mark Hrywna, The NonProfit Times, "Fiesta Bowl's Board Fumbled Oversight."

## MAGAZINE FEATURE AND PROFILE REPORTING

- **First Place:** Christopher Hann, Drew Magazine, "Uncommon Bond"  
**Comment:** "This story literally brought me to tears. It's an amazing story of strength, faith, and the humanity that's in us all. The writer brings the story to life without being melodramatic."
- **Second Place:** Jared Flesher, Edible Jersey magazine, "A Natural Calling....,"
- **Third Place:** Nick DiUlio, Super Lawyers, "Tenacious

Defender"

## NEWSLETTER

- **First Place:** Mitchell Seidel, Tony Mottola, Linda Lobdell, Jersey Jazz journal  
**Comment:** "Jersey Jazz is a quality newsletter with special attention paid to design, writing and variety of subject matter. It was a pleasure to read."
- **Second Place:** Mitchell Seidel, Jersey Jazz
- **Third Place:** Mike Mathis, Judiciary Times

## BEST INDEPENDENT ONLINE PUBLICATION

- **Winner:** Joe Malinconico and Charley Falkenburg, PatersonPress.com  
**Comment:** "The Paterson Press showed a clear ability to dig into the important issues in Paterson, NJ, and hold public officials accountable. The writing was clean and succinct."

## PUBLIC SERVICE ONLINE

- **First Place:** Joe Malinconico, Paterson Press.com, "Police Chief Retirement Fiasco"  
**Comment:** This package was truly a public service. The reporter sought to explain the retirement process for the city's police chief -- and ended up impacting the process through his thorough and unbiased reporting.
- **Second Place:** Jane Von Bergen, Phillynews.com "Looking For Work"
- No other winners

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- Online Feature Reporting

## PUBLIC SERVICE ONLINE

- **First Place:** Carla Cantor and Sandra Levine, Rutgers Today, "Rutgers Professor Makes His Way Back From a



Devastating Stroke"

**Comments:** The video and story together told a compelling story about a man recovering from a rare stroke. Good use of multimedia to show, rather than tell, how the professor is recovering.

- **Second Place:** Joe Malinconico and Charley Falkenburg, PatersonPress.com, "Paterson's Hookah Bars"
- **Third Place:** Andrea Alexander and Sandra Levine, Rutgers Today, "Debate over raw milk stirs up controversy"

## PAGE DESIGN

- **First Place:** Joe St. Arney, NJBiz, "The Brawl for Town Hall."  
**Comment:** "Clever and well executed, this page from NJ Biz is a standout. The layout is smart, attractive and draws the reader into the story."
- **Second Place:** Lisa Mansollilo Dalie, The Record, "Hidden Salt"
- No other winners

## PUBLIC SERVICE - DAILY

- **First Place:** Todd B. Bates, Asbury Park Press, "Radioactive Waste Leaking into U.S. Groundwater"  
**Comment:** "Todd Bates exemplified what it means it means to do strong public service work with his story on radioactive waste leaking into the groundwater. He provided a comprehensive look at the scale and potential dangers of the risk -- and what the future looks like."
- **Second Place:** John Sullivan, Susan Snyder, Kristen A. Graham, Dylan Purcell, Jeff Gammage, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Assault on Learning"
- **Third Place:** Karin Price Mueller, The Star-Ledger, "Ongoing coverage of alleged travel scammer Daryl Turner"

## RADIO ENTERPRISE

- **First Place:** Rachel Katz and Bill Zagorski, 89.1 WWFM the Classical Network, "Vera's Story"  
**Comment:** "This WWFM documentary about a Holocaust survivor, produced by Rachel Katz and Bill Zagorski, is sensitively done and beautifully produced. They let Vera tell her story clearly and well."

- **Second Place:** Paul Perrello, Rowan Radio 89.7 WGLS-FM, "Studio 89.7," Host Paul Perrello talks with legendary Philadelphia broadcaster, Jerry Blavat
- **Third Place:** Christina Maxwell and Philip Blandino, Rowan Radio 89.7 WGLS-FM, "Smoking Unfiltered"

## RADIO NEWS

- **Winner:** Victoria Haffner and Timothy Cullen Jr., 89.5 FM WSOU Radio, "September 11th: Seton Hall Students Remember"  
**Comment:** "This story is a example of a good use of sound bites. Haffner & Cullen use students' memories to conjure the anniversary of 9/11."
- No second or third place

## TV ENTERPRISE

- **First Place:** Walt Kane, with Matt Murphy, Anthony Cocco, Ryan Beckman and John Capriotti, News 12 New Jersey, "No-Show Policing"  
**Comment:** Excellent Watchdog Journalism. Kane and his team find and report on fraudulent overtime in the Union City Police Department. They stay on the story until the practices result in the resignation of the police chief.
- **Second Place:** Sandra King, Tania Ivanova, John Farmer Jr. and Raphael Caprio, Rutgers School of Law, "Exoneration: A Due Process Series."
- No third place

## TV NEWS

- **Winner:** Roxanne Evans, Karin Attonito, and Charles Werneke, News 12 New Jersey, "Fracking Fears"

## WEB VIDEO

- **First Place:** Thomas E. Franklin, The Record and NorthJersey.com, "Witness to History" and "Newfound Friends"  
**Comment:** This topic is timely and important. The story has varied and excellent sources and features a very good use of graphics.
- **Second Place:** Christine Duffy of WRNN-TV for "Flooded"

Again."

- **Third Place:** Walter Kane, Matt Murphy, and Anthony Cocco, News 12 New Jersey, "Newark Parking Meters"

## SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY (DAILY)

- **First Place:** Tyson Trish, The Record, "Back Flip!"  
**Comment:** "Talk about capturing a moment! The reader's stomach flips a bit when seeing Holmes' back flip. A memorable photo."
- **Second Place:** Chris Pedota, The Record, "Men Will Be Boys"
- **Third Place:** Kevin Wexler, The Record, "Quarterfinals"

## REVIEW WRITING DAILY

- **First Place:** Elisa Ung, The Record, "Steak Heaven"  
**Comment:** This is a very different--and useful-- restaurant review. Ung gives suggestion for how readers can navigate the new Capital Grille in order to get the best dining experience and value for meals that can run \$100 per person. Well written.
- **Second Place:** Craig LeBan, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Shore Dining"
- **Third Place:** Craig LeBan, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "Shore Dining 1"

## ONLINE NEWS REPORTING

- **First Place:** Staff, Philly.com, Hurricane Irene Coverage  
**Comment:** Excellent continuing online coverage of Hurricane Irene from before it hit until clean-up time. People could easily find the latest updates and information on such essential information as shelters, transportation, etc. The Inquirer served its large circulation base well.
- **Second Place:** Joe Malinconico, PatersonPress.com, Coverage of Council Hearings After Controversial Payments Made to Mayor and High-Ranking Officials
- **Third Place:** Darryl R. Isherwood, PolitickerNJ.com, "Port Authority Losing Millions on Swap"

## BEST LOCAL NEWS

- **First Place:** Nick Clunn and Richard Cowen, The

Record, "Paterson Hurricane Irene Coverage"

**Comment:** "An outstanding example of newsgathering, reporting and writing in covering a natural disaster and its effect upon the area and its residents. The reporters successfully met the many challenges such a situation creates when it comes to coverage and keeping the public informed."

- **Second Place:** E. Assata Wright, Hudson Reporter, Coverage of a Proposed Natural Gasline That Could Be Routed Through Jersey City
- **Third Place:** April Saul, The Philadelphia Inquirer, "A Stray Bullet"

## PROFILE WRITING DAILY

- **First Place:** Jason Grant, The Star-Ledger, "A Burden Too Great for Anyone To Bear"  
**Comment:** "This is a poignant profile of the man who was second in command for security at the World Trade Center and how the tragedy is still heavily with him 10 years later. Good use of quotes let subject, George Tabeeek, relive the day and the struggles that are still with him. Well written, this is the type of profile that stays with the reader long after the story has been read. "
- **Second Place:** Beth DeFalco and Geoff Mulvihill, Associated Press, "Combative Christie"
- **Third Place:** Andrew Segedin, Verona-Cedar Grove Times, "Forty Years Later, Runner Reflects on Life in the Fast Lane"

## SPOT NEWS PHOTOJOURNALISM

- **First Place:** Tariq Zehawi, The Record, "Christmas Fire"  
**Comment:** "This is a dramatic shot of a child being comforted after a Christmas fire. Zehawi also captured the grief and anxiety of the adult onlookers."
- **Second Place:** Nick Messina, The Gazette, "Stranded Dog Rescued from River"
- **Third Place:** Kevin Wexler, The Record, "In Safe Hands"

## BEST STATE OR REGIONAL

- **First Place:** Mark Mueller, Ryan Hutchins, James Queally, and Sue Livio, The Star-Ledger, "Why did Christiana have to

die this way?"

**Comment:** "What an outstanding package of journalism. It had all the elements we all hope to achieve. The dedication of the reporters and the newspaper to the story was impressive."

- **Second Place:** Jason Nark and William Bender, The Philadelphia Daily News, "Badass Boys"
- **Third Place:** Geoff Mulvihill, Associated Press, "Police layoffs equal fewer arrests"

## DEADLINE REPORTING

- **First Place:** Terrence Dopp and Christopher Palmeri, Bloomberg News, "Christie says he's not running as he slams 'Bystander Obama' "  
**Comment:** "Staying with the story pays off. Christie's future plans continue to capture the spotlight."
- **Second Place:** Elise Young and Terrence Dopp, Bloomberg News, "Christie's helicopter ride may crack cost-cutting image"
- **Third Place:** Jason Nark, The Philadelphia Daily News, "Scores hired to protect Camden fall victim to massive layoffs"

## BARTO AWARD: FOR FIRST-YEAR REPORTERS

### DAILY NEWSPAPER

- **Winner:** Jason Grant, the Star-Ledger

### WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

- **First Place:** John Clyde, Town Journal
- **Second Place:** Adriana Rambay Fernandez, The Hudson Reporter
- **Third Place:** Joshua Jongsma, Verona-Cedar Grove Times

## AWBREY AWARD

- **Winner:** Joe Malinconico, The PatersonPress.com, "Paterson Overtime Records"

## O'BRIEN AWARD

- **Winner:** Shawn Boburg, The Record, "Port Authority Hidden Salaries and Perhks"