

News Story

Division 1 - News Story

39 Entries

1st Place

CMU/ CM-Life

Professor regretful for intoxication on campus, takes leave of absence

Ben Solis

This story is well researched and stuck to the facts.

2nd Place

CMU/ CM-Life

Professors raise questions about safety of Smith Hall during public forum

Mark Johnson

Well written and researched.

3rd Place

GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho

'Once a Laker, always a Laker'

Ryan Jarvi

Excellent story.

Hon. Mention

EMU/ Eastern Echo

Local rapper instrumental in Detroit Dog Rescue

Lisa Swearingen

Great story! It kept me engaged until the end.

Division 2 - News Story

16 Entries

Judge did not comment

1st Place

FSU/ The Torch

Be the Match

Taylor Hooper

2nd Place

Cornerstone University/ The Herald

Campus turns eyes toward immigration

Brittany Jacobson

3rd Place

Hillsdale College/ The Collegian

Detroit Institute of Arts aims for independence

Micah Meadowcroft

Hon. Mention

Cornerstone University/ The Herald

'Honor the Fallen' event recognizes Michigan war veterans

Brittany Jacobson

Division 3 - News Story

42 Entries

1st Place

WCC/ The Voice

WCC Trustees opt out of township road proposal

Maria Rigou

2nd Place

University of Detroit Mercy/ The Varsity News

Professors may strike

Ian Thibodeau

3rd Place

MCCC/ The Agora

Monroe strikes back at heroin

William Miko

Hon. Mention

WCC/ The Voice

Campus Security looks into racial fight

Staff

Investigative Reporting

Division 1 - Investigative Reporting

26 Entries

In addition to the winners, there were several other worthy entries that made the final choice difficult. However, some very good stories were not truly investigative in nature.

1st Place

Delta Chi coverage

Justin Hicks, Ben Solis, Adrian Hedden, Nathan Clark

Thorough investigative coverage of frat's suspension for misbehavior at party. A foia request brought out the facts that were not being revealed otherwise. Balanced reporting with lots of input. Multifaceted approach worked well. Comments from readers following the stories were interesting. Timeline of events used in one story was helpful.

2nd Place

EMU/ Eastern Echo

Ypsilanti provides tax abatement to businesses

James Tatum

Story was well researched and tax abatement options were clearly explained. Examples were provided and opinions on the effectiveness of tax abatement in economic development were solicited. One good story.

3rd Place

CMU/ CM-Life

Disconnect between reported attendance, NCAA requirements

Malachi Barrett

The story's facts and figures did a good job of putting into perspective the different methods of calculating attendance and its implications.

Observations of those going to games brought home what the facts and figures were showing. It seems like a tough spot for a school to exist at the margin of division one football.

Hon. Mention

GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho

Following the paper trail

Ryan Jarvi

That's investigative journalism. What about paper use on campus? How much? From whom? Recycling? Well written story about a subject that is literally at the end of our nose.

Division 2 - Investigative Reporting

6 Entries

The award-winning entries in this category did a service to their readers and the community by taking the time to investigate important stories. Kudos to them.

1st Place

Cornerstone University/ The Herald

Human Trafficking

Cassie Daszko, Brittany Jacobson, Ava Dixon, Amy Etrheim

This series of stories on human trafficking were greatly aided by localized investigation that allowed people with personal knowledge of the situation to provide a real life viewpoint to the generalizations and statistics about human trafficking provided by experts and others.

2nd Place

FSU/ The Torch

Election Results Released

Taylor Hooper

The Torch provided a valuable service to everyone involved by filing a foia request to have the vote totals of student government elections released and then publishing them. An election without vote totals is hard to fathom, but it took the college newspaper to change things. The school's policy had been to simply release the name of the winner of the election. One thing the vote totals pointed out, as reported by Torch, was that less than one percent of eligible voters actually voted.

3rd Place

FSU/ The Torch

Election Results Overdue

Taylor Hooper

This was a good initial explanation of the situation involving the lack of transparency on the part of the student government and the university in not releasing vote totals in student government elections. It also outlined the foia request made by the Torch. This entry combined with the other entry on the same topic probably should've been submitted together, rather than as separate entries, to create a stronger overall entry in this judge's opinion.

Division 3 - Investigative Reporting**15 Entries**

Strong stories from the winners and a few others, but more than few stories seemed like they did not belong in the investigative reporting category. Those well-written stories probably should have been entered in another category.

1st Place**WCC/ The Voice****SOQs**

Natalie Wright

Student evaluations of faculty that were not being made available to public was a good choice for a story relevant to Voice readers. Perspectives of students, faculty and administration were well-covered. The FOIA request for the evaluations and the subsequent process to obtain them was also presented clearly.

2nd Place**MCCC/ The Agora**

College classes worry students, faculty

Melanie Jacobs-Davis

The Agora chose a relevant topic to students in cancelled college classes and how the process works. Also, the paper did well in addressing the effect the cancellations can have on students' plans.

3rd Place**MCCC/ The Agora**

Water sometimes murky, but safe

Katie Mullin

Water quality is increasingly relevant everywhere. In this story, the Agora addressed water in three university buildings that was colored with rust and dirt, as well as suffering from bad taste and smell. Officials assured the paper that tests showed it was safe to drink. Story could have benefited from some outside sources' evaluation of the water situation on campus. Still, it was a solid investigation of a situation you can see, taste and smell.

Hon. Mention University of Detroit Mercy/ The Varsity News

New details emerge

Curtis Pulliam

The Varsity News story provides plenty of details and background to the story of a coach's dismissal amidst allegations and counter allegations. While very informative, the story did not rise to the investigative effort of the other winners in the category. It was based almost entirely on material from the court record of civil suit brought by the fired coach.

Feature Story**Division 1 - Feature Story****37 Entries****1st Place****CMU/ CM-Life**

Under the shadow of history: Abandoned Native American boarding school brings to light one tribe's struggles

Adrian Hedden

Excellent work of integrating a historical narrative with present day storyline on an area near campus. I appreciated the photo slideshow with detailed cutlines. Great work.

2nd Place**University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

No easy choice: How student survivors of sexual assault manage the maze of options before them

Haley Goldberg

Multi-part stories with several narratives can become jumbled, but this article was informative. The first-person voiced worked in this case balanced with other sources. Great writing on a difficult and important topic.

3rd Place**WMU/ The Western Herald**

Dedication, practice led to World's Top Young Bassoonist's success

Blair Yankey

I appreciated the author's efforts to include many voices. Oftentimes profile pieces can be single-voiced, but this article told the complete story. I thought the details of how the instrument worked were great for the article too.

Hon. Mention*Gauging Success*

Carly Simpson

Digging into a portion of the student body who is not always represented on campus is important, and I think this piece accomplishes that.

Division 2 - Feature Story**24 Entries****1st Place****FSU/ The Torch**

Golden Dog

Harrison Watt

This article demonstrated how to cover news on a broader scale from a local angle.

2nd Place**Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**

Young Guns: family continues football dynasty

Hannah Leitner

I enjoyed the unique family take on the flag football team. It made the article much more than just a standard organization/team profile.

3rd Place**Cornerstone University/ The Herald**

Student equestrian with no hands trusts, praises God

Garret Craig

Division 3 - Feature Story**48 Entries****1st Place****Schoolcraft College/ The Connection**

From steel-toed boots to stilettos

Pete Hubbard

The opening paragraph of this story is explosive. Great use of visual description to pull the reader in! This story does a fantastic job of painting April Hudson's two lives for the reader, through interviews with co-workers and a history on how she got where she is today. The author does a fantastic job of dropping great adjectives throughout the story that are in line with the topic. I really enjoyed this feature because it does what newspaper features are supposed to do – show the ordinary as extraordinary. Great work!

2nd Place**WCC/ The Voice**

Watchdog cries out for sunshine

Natalie Wright

I really like how this article took Sunshine Week and brought it down to a local level. The opening paragraphs of "Watchdog cries out for sunshine" are pure gold. What a fantastic way to pull the reader in! The story does a great job of following Douglas Smith's journey to becoming a whistleblower. Nice work!

3rd Place**WCC/ The Voice**

Talking Trash

Staff

This article does a fantastic job of highlighting a big part of people's lives ? trash. I really enjoyed the multiple takes on the subject ? talking about recyclables ending up in trash, dumpster diving for food, a feature on the university custodian, commentary on food waste, and the trash-collecting class. I thought the commentary could be more concise and focused on ways to solve the problem. Overall though, the thing that really tied all of these together was the resounding theme that this is a problem that needs to be addressed. Great job on shining a light on this in such a creative way!

Hon. Mention**WCC/ The Voice**

Slum Tourism

Adrianna Velazquez

The language used is gripping and perfectly illustrates the story the author is telling. The adjectives used are fitting and the story has a very nice flow. Interviews fit in well and were all-encompassing (the explorers themselves, police, etc.). I really liked how the author included the past, present and future of these buildings, particularly when the interview with the city's emergency financial manager was included. It was also a nice touch to add the facts and figures about the building, because although facts and figures are often considered to be news, the tone of the story kept it a feature. Nice work!

Sports News/Features

Division 1 - Sports News/Features

15 Entries

There were multiple excellent entries in this category, and every entry was, at a minimum, a solid piece of journalism!

1st Place University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily

The last link to Bo

Matt Slovin

This was a great story from start to finish. The reporter did a great job just finding this angle, then did an even better job telling the story.

2nd Place GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho

From addict to tight end

Bryce Derouin

This was a very well told, detailed story of an athlete's addiction. One can only imagine other athletes and nonathletes whom this story may have helped.

3rd Place CMU/ CM-Life

A house divided: Titus and Corey Davis meet on the field after troubling childhood

Jeff Papworth

The writer did a good job finding and quoting multiple sources to tell the story of these two young men and the challenges they faced growing up.

Hon. Mention CMU/ CM-Life

Mr. Basketball: Two-sport athlete Blake Hibbitts has history of athletic ability, success

Dominick Mastrangelo

This story might not have carried the same weight as others in the category, but it was still well written and did a thorough job telling this athlete's story.

Division 2 - Sports News/Features

12 Entries

Stories were well done throughout this category, but the one glaring thing I noted was the need for better lead paragraphs. The five W's are still important, but some stories lend themselves better to getting a little more personalization and emotion into them.

1st Place FSU/ The Torch

Coach Benched

Harrison Watt

This was good coverage of what was no doubt a difficult situation for the campus. Good pursuit of all sources was shown. A solid job of journalism.

2nd Place Hillsdale College/ The Collegian

Hillsdale wins in 4OT

Monica Brandt

This was solid reporting of what obviously was a special game. Good use of quotes from multiple sources.

3rd Place Cornerstone University/ The Herald

Professors continue Notre Dame, U-M rivalry

Justin Geerts

The writer did a nice job finding this story and then treating it in a fun way.

Hon. Mention Hillsdale College/ The Collegian

Hillsdale's hand in the ALDS

Matt Melchior

A stronger lead and a little better description of the events would have helped this entry, but a solid job was done on this BIG story!

Division 3 - Sports News/Features

23 Entries

1st Place WCC/ The Voice

Dodge, duck, dip, dive – and dodge!

James Saoud

A catchy lead, good quotes throughout and decent writing helped earn this treatment of an unusual sport first place in this category.

2nd Place

A leader among us

Evan Paputa

The writer came up with a decent lead and had good quotes from multiple sources.

3rd Place University of Detroit Mercy/ The Varsity News

Former Titans

Derrick Jones

The writer showed some enterprise in contrasting the NBA-bound player with these stories of some "stars" who didn't quite make the big time.

Hon. Mention Schoolcraft College/ The Connection

Against the odds

Tara Gessler

This was a good story to tell, I just wish the writer could have pulled a little more insight and emotion out of the subject about his past.

Multimedia Reporting

Division 1 - Multimedia Reporting

8 Entries

1st Place CMU/ CM-Life

Zombie-run a blood filled brain eating good time for participants

Katherine Ranzenberger, Shannon Millard

This was the best overall package in this category, helped by the most creative video in the category but the story and photos were very well done too.

2nd Place University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily

At Gardner's alma mater, a school with no students

Everett Cook, Erin Kirkland, Austen Hufford

The story was the highlight of this package although the audio slide show also was done well.

3rd Place CMU/ CM-Life

Zombies-vampires-go-head-to-head-in-roller-derby-competition-this-weekend/

Megan Pacer, Katy Kildee

All aspects of this package. The story, photos and video. were well done!

Hon. Mention CMU/ CM-Life

Seeing without sight: Blind reporters rely on their curiosity and confidence to get the facts

Adrian Hedden

Good treatment of a great subject...a little more production and editing work on the video would have pushed this entry higher.

Division 3 - Multimedia Reporting

5 Entries

1st Place GRCC/ Collegiate

April Fools Day joke at Aquinas goes viral

Clayton Cummins

This was a fun story, and the coverage of it was really well done all around.

The follow-up interviews with the key players were of good quality. The video of the actual prank was a bit hard to hear, so good use of captioning to make sure the message was not lost.

2nd Place WCC/ The Voice

License to Love

Staff

The stories and photographs of this event were very strong. The videos could have been of better quality but, overall, good depth of coverage.

3rd Place WCC/ The Voice

Right on cue

James Saoud

This was the best produced video in this category. It was not a story which necessitated a lot of photos or sidebars, but the video helped this entry place.

Hon. Mention

Obama in Ann Arbor
Staff

Good coverage of Obama's visit. The video quality (especially audio) was lacking, but, again, solid overall presentation.

WCC/ The Voice**Column- Review or Blog- News or Sports****Division 1 - Column- Review or Blog- News or Sports****29 Entries****1st Place****GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho**

Free speech and the business model of education at GVSU

Lizzy Balboa

Gutsy yet reasonable expression of thought on a controversial topic (donor advertising) not uncommon in the public school setting. Very sound writing, argument and thought process.

2nd Place**GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho**

Review: Holocaust play sheds light on lasting effects, but lacks clarity

Audra Gamble

Refreshingly honest show review, not just for praise. Very well written and constructive critique, and convincing. You sound like you know your stuff.

3rd Place**EMU/ Eastern Echo**

English lost his team's respect, then his job

Eugene Evans

Strong writing and good use of quotations that had impact. Nice mix of facts and commentary.

Hon. Mention**GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho**

The top 5 pros and cons of the Mary Idema Pew Library

Kevin Joffre

Nice job taking a list of new facility features and faults and making them an entertaining read, even for a reader who has never been there. Quick and easy read. Also noteworthy, your Pendulum column was your biggest competitor for this honorable mention. You have a great ability to entertain the reader and to organize your thoughts in writing.

Division 2 - Column- Review or Blog- News or Sports**29 Entries****1st Place****Cornerstone University/ The Herald**

All wrong in NFL lawsuit

Garret Craig

Your NFL column stood out as number one in the whole group of competitors, and your high school sports was competitive as second place overall, also. Put your three together, and you dominated the category with solid writing and clear thinking, along with arguments that fairly recognized opposing views, too.

2nd Place**Cornerstone University/ The Herald**

World Vision causes controversy

Brittany Jacobson

Your World Vision column stood out the most of your three columns. Clear writing style. Bringing in other opinions and then commenting gave your column more strength. All three of your columns displayed your writing and thinking talents.

3rd Place**Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**

How Hillsdale can boost applications

Emily Schutzb

I felt your column about how Hillsdale can boost applications was a top three competitor. The decision to place you in third was made because you only had two columns entered. The top two places had three good entries, but I also felt that their entries fit the contest category a little bit better than yours did. Yours were still good columns. If you haven't already been told, you need to know that you have a writing talent above and beyond probably most people around you. Sometimes people do not realize this when it comes as a natural gift.

Hon. Mention**Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**

Both fake and not: A night with the National Wrestling Alliance

Joshua Andrew

I only found one column from you, but the category called for three. My top choices entered more columns than you did. I had your "fake wrestling" column sitting at the top of my list competing for the top three. So I thought you should still be recognized for great writing! You showcased the absurdity surrounding the whole event with humor and colorful descriptions, yet you were also able to observe the bigger picture of what people call "fake" in the physically demanding thing they call pro wrestling.

Division 3 - Column- Review or Blog- News or Sports**61 Entry****1st Place****WCC/ The Voice**

Ukraine: Where the heart is bigger than any conflict

Sofia Chesnokova

Your column stood way above the rest because you have a deeply personal story to tell that is relevant to today's headlines. Your piece had some errors in grammar and syntax which, I assume, result from English being a second language. I couldn't decide whether or not those errors should've been edited out. They added authenticity to the piece, but they were errors after all. I enjoyed this column.

2nd Place**University of Detroit Mercy/ The Varsity News**

Greyhound...

Tommy Zimmer

You shared a personal experience that is new to you and, I suppose, is new to many of us.

3rd Place**Olivet College/ The Echo**

ESPN losing hall of fame sportswriter

Mitchell Galloway

Lots of punchy writing in this piece, probably in honor of Rick Reilly's work. As we write intending primarily to communicate clearly, the trick is to keep it clear AND entertaining. Over the long term, it's not easy. Good luck.

Hon. Mention**WCC/ The Voice**

Hope and change, for an anxious mom

Christina Fleming

Many columns in this category take on hot-button issues without any sign that it affects them. Your personal story shows that today's hot-button issues affect real people.

Editorial**Division 1 - Editorial****18 Entries****1st Place****CMU/ CM-Life**

EDITORIAL: Trading tradition for Division I status

Editorial Board, Kyle Kaminski

Very strong editorial with a clear point, analysis, and proposals. Oftentimes weaker editorials just "complain" about something without offering any ways to "fix" it, but this piece does not do that. The critique is very direct but also gives some ideas to help solve the issue expressed. This local editorial included facts, numbers, and statistics to back its point. Very well done.

2nd Place**CMU/ CM-Life**

Professors actions have tarnished our image. CMU deserves better.

Ben Solis, Editorial Board

This is a very close-to-home editorial, and bravo for having the editorial brass to lay out and call out a problem. This is not always easy to do given the potential for repercussions or anger a newspaper and its staff may receive, but a paper cannot allow outside forces to sway its opinion, especially regarding serious topics such as this. The point was solidly backed up with names and facts, and even noting a journalism teacher (wow) shows the problem isn't just in one area. Nice job spreading out the names through the piece; it made it flow better and reaffirmed the point throughout the editorial.

3rd Place**CMU/ CM-Life***Keeping local business afloat*

Tony Wittkowski, Editorial Board

A nice editorial that bridges the university, the community, and the business community and shows the symbiotic relationship. ?Support the businesses that support you ? good, strong statement.

Keeping an editorial local is important and connects better with your readers, and naming local businesses in here helps drive the point. Good use of statistics as well; not sure if there were any stats for Mount Pleasant businesses, but the info used was a good idea.

Division 2 - Editorial**13 Entries****1st Place****Cornerstone University/ The Herald***Why church is a vital part of college*

Herald Staff

This is the best example of the entries that shows the purpose of an editorial: there is a clear stance, an opinion, and material to back it up.

Try not to be so heavy with quotes sometimes in editorials. It starts to read more like a story and, at times, begins to look like the paper's stance is only based on those you've interviewed.

2nd Place**Cornerstone University/ The Herald***Troubled former Disney darling*

Herald Staff

Another editorial where the stance was clear, and it provided some good examples to support its position. Keep in mind, though, that local topics in editorials are the best way to connect and reach your readers. Not saying that national or bigger topics can't be addressed, but don't forget to consider a local angle that might tie into that mainstream subject you're addressing.

3rd Place**Hillsdale College/ The Collegian***Campaign away, Student Fed hopefuls*

Sally Nelson

It took me a couple times reading this to grasp the argument/point, but it is there and is current and local ? both good qualities of an editorial. Keep in mind the general rule of journalism: You don't bury the lead of a story; don't do it with an editorial either.

This would have read better if not for the tongue-in-cheek writing and a bit more professionalism. Journalists and news staff are not above other people or better than them; so don't belittle them in an editorial.

Division 3 - Editorial**13 Entries****1st Place****WCC/ The Voice***Some students don't feel safe; security says it's 'cabin fever'*

Natalie Wright

This is the clear winner with a solid, pointed local editorial. What set this apart was the array of behind-the-scenes information about officials? response to the paper's information inquiries and that the paper took a firm, unapologetic stance in the midst of a campus controversy. Excellent walk-off line with, ?We're not laughing.? Kudos.

2nd Place**Delta College/ Delta Collegiate***Ghoulis costume goes viral*

Matt Brown

Good job for tackling a very sensitive issue ? it was interesting to see the editorial staff not focus on the issue of the woman wearing the costume but rather charging readers with trying to learn from the event and comment on another angle (i.e. social media and violence). One suggestion would be to grab readers with a stronger opinion at the beginning, but overall job well done.

3rd Place**WCC/ The Voice***Reflecting on 2013: We must do better*

Natalie Wright

This is a well-written editorial and provides some insight that may not be available to readers in standard news stories. Also appreciated showing

readers the value of a newspaper and the paper calling for itself to do a better job in the coming semester, too. Overall, good job

News-Only Photo**Division 1 - News-Only Photo****12 Entries****1st Place****GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho***2013 Homecoming Lipsync*

Nathan Kalinowski

Awesome photo; standout winner; captures all the emotions of the room

2nd Place**GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho***Snyder in Grand Rapids*

Robert Mathews

I like it. For something that looks common, it captures a moment which is the best thing you can ask. Balanced, beautiful. Well done.

3rd Place**University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily***Same-sex couples wed before emergency stay*

Ruby Wallau

A little grainy and the woman on the right has her head topped (which should never happen in a photo) but you have potential.

Hon. Mention**EMU/ Eastern Echo***King and Queen*

Adam Karr

Nice and clear photo of beautiful people but wish they were facing the camera instead.

Division 2 - News-Only Photo**13 Entries**

I think there was some confusion about how many photos to submit. Tough category; very competitive.

1st Place**Hillsdale College/ The Collegian***Hillsdale County Fair*

Anders Kiledal

These are all excellent. Winner is top middle of rodeo but Carsten Stems of crowd is also a terrific use of light. Both are excellent photographers-submit separately next time-you'll both win.

2nd Place**Hillsdale College/ The Collegian***Orchestra rehearsal*

Anders Kiledal

Just beautiful. Winner is panoramic photo on top but actually all of the photos of the orchestra are well done.

3rd Place**Hillsdale College/ The Collegian***The Color Run*

Sally Nelson

Great use of panoramic photo. Nice use of layout with photo.

Hon. Mention**Cornerstone University/ The Herald***CU breaks ground on Christ Chapel*

Karla Juarez-Gonzalez

Can only consider one photo but both by same photographer are very well done.

Division 3 - News-Only Photo**14 Entries****1st Place****WCC/ The Voice***Obama returns to A2, returns to students*

Kelly Bracha

You totally nailed it. Well done.

Division 3 - News-Only Photo**2nd Place****WCC/ The Voice***Equal and Married and Gay*

Kelly Bracha

Outstanding elements of color and proportion covering all the elements of this category.

3rd Place

Government Shutdown Porta-johns

Adam Lewis

*It grabs your attention; enterprising photo.***Hon. Mention**

Young journalist covers presidential visit top right photo

Erica Horoky

*Unfortunately there are too many photos here—I don't know which I am to judge, which isn't fair to others who are submitting one photo per entry. But the photos are very good.***WCC/ The Voice****GRCC/ Collegiate****Feature or Sports Photo****Division 1 - Feature or Sports Photo****13 Entries***There was some really, really good work in this category with at least half a dozen photos being real eye catchers. Good work!***1st Place**

Kentucky Block

Andrew Mascharka

*Great capture of a moment, great action, excellent focus on a fast play!***2nd Place**

Women's soccer loses senior Kaely Schlosser in season opener

Katy Kildee

*This is an emotion-packed photo of a difficult moment for the player but it certainly tells a story. Good job by the photographer to be in the right place at the right time!***3rd Place**

Big Sean concert

Taylor Ballek

*Whether by luck or design, this was a great angle and excellent capture of the moment and the colors to really put the reader at that concert.***Hon. Mention**

Women's basketball wins eighth straight with 82-67 victory against

EMU

Daytona Niles

*This was a really nice women's basketball photo. My personal preference would have been to have the basketball in focus, but still a fine photo!***EMU/ Eastern Echo****CMU/ CM-Life****CMU/ CM-Life****CMU/ CM-Life****Division 2 - Feature or Sports Photo****12 Entries***All solid photos, but a few quick words of advice. In general, get in tighter and/or crop tighter, and try to find more creative angles, especially on nonsports feature photos.***1st Place**

What's Happening

Sarah Boggs

*This photo was by far the most creative in this category and showed some enterprise on the part of the photographer. Well done!***2nd Place**

Pole vaulter at track meet

Anders Kiledal

*Nice shot and creative use of capturing pole vaulter at critical moment...***3rd Place**

CU Baseball Sweeps IWU

Garret Craig

*Good, crisp baseball photo...***Cornerstone University/ The Herald****Hillsdale College/ The Collegian****Cornerstone University/ The Herald****Division 3 - Feature or Sports Photo****26 Entries****1st Place**

Clean Slate photo

Sarah Davis

*It wasn't a difficult photo to capture, but someone showed some creativity to bring in the props and that is what makes the photo compelling and tells a good part of the story.***2nd Place**

Skaters

Ian Thibodeau

*The angle of this photo with the flag in the background really helps tell the story.***3rd Place**

Airborne Receiver

Kelly Bracha

*The photographer was in the right spot at the right time and was ready to capture a very nice sports action photo.***Hon. Mention**

With these hands cover photo

Sarah Davis

GRCC/ Collegiate**University of Detroit Mercy/ The Varsity News****WCC/ The Voice****GRCC/ Collegiate****Original Cartoon, Editorial or Entertainment****Division 1 - Original Cartoon, Editorial or Entertainment****1 Entry****1st Place**

Corporate sponsorship

Marelguij Briones

*This was the only entry in the category, but it was a nicely done message about the labeling of kids in society.***GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho****Division 2 - Original Cartoon, Editorial or Entertainment****6 Entries***I was a little surprised there were only 6 entries in the category. Perhaps separating the entries into two different categories -- Best Use of Illustration with Story or Section and Best Editorial Cartoon would be more appropriate.***1st Place**

'Mikado' Arts header

Hannah Ahern

*No explanation needed -- I got it right away. Nice use of color.***2nd Place**

Rosie the Riveter Arts header

Tracy Brandt

*Rosie needs a little work, but the guy's expression is priceless. Nice use of color once again.***3rd Place**

Keg event cartoon

Forester McClatchey

*I knew exactly that the keg was singing -- which is what the intent of the article was. Good job.***Hon. Mention**

Marijuana cartoon

Sally Nelson

*The artist tried to cram too much into the cartoon here. I get that it's a marijuana leaf but all the other stuff made it a little too cluttered. Remember scale and spacing are just as important as image and message in a cartoon.***Hillsdale College/ The Collegian****Hillsdale College/ The Collegian****Hillsdale College/ The Collegian****Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**

Division 3 - Original Cartoon, Editorial or Entertainment**9 Entries****1st Place****Delta College/ Delta Collegiate***Twelve Days of Delta*

Matt Brown

Nice variety of illustrations relating to everyday student life. I would have used a different font for the captions -- that "Dark Shadows" font is a little hard to read. Nice use of color as well.

2nd Place**WCC/ The Voice***Student Aptitude*

M.L. Sweeney

It seems like the artist knows these two intimately. There is a nice observation of human behavior that went into drawing these people, including genuine facial and body expressions. That's tough to get into a comic strip -- it is nicely done!

3rd Place**WCC/ The Voice***Michigan weather*

Tiffany Goodman

The best way I've seen to artfully complain about the weather. Nicely drawn and split into three panels.

Hon. Mention**LCC/ The Lookout***Martoons*

Maranda Zimmerman

I was expecting a little more than the pun at the end, but it is what it is.

Front Page Design**Division 1 - Front Page Design****8 Entries***Excellent, creative work being put into these front pages!***1st Place****GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho***Grand Valley Lanthorn Issue 52*

Ross Tanner

This is just a good, solid front page. Creative use of a statistical graphic, good use of color, multiple elements, good photography, pull quotes. Just has it all!

2nd Place**CMU/ CM-Life***Front page Jan. 13*

Staff

Another solid front page with plenty to entice the reader, including fun, creative graphics and a nice mix of hard and soft news.

3rd Place**CMU/ CM-Life***CM Life front page*

Mariah Prowoznik

Wasn't sure what was going on here at first, but the more I looked the more I liked! Bold treatment of a big issue is very appropriate.

Hon. Mention**University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily***Shot Down*

Carolyn Gearig

Excellent photo and layout and a good, solid front page.

Front Page Design**Division 2 - Front Page Design****4 Entries****1st Place****Hillsdale College/ The Collegian***February 13, 2014, A1*

Sally Nelson

I like a lot about The Collegian's front page. Good use of graphic elements on almost every story, solid editing, good use of block format, etc. I would prefer a little more space between stories and some better, bigger photos, but still a winner!

2nd Place**Cornerstone University/ The Herald***Issue 21 Page 1*

Garret Craig

This is another fine looking front page. Bigger and better photos would be nice and I might have played the college stories above an AP community story. Copy editing also is a little sloppy in spots, but still a good page!

3rd Place**Hillsdale College/ The Collegian***February 6, 2014, A1*

Sally Nelson

The same comments for your first-place entry would apply here.

Division 3 - Front Page Design**14 Entries****1st Place****WCC/ The Voice***No Confidence*

EJ Stout

This is a newsy, hard hitting front page. It is well put together and avoids being too busy. There is a lot for the reader to get into on this page.

2nd Place**Schoolcraft College/ The Connection***Issue 12*

Staff

This is a nice, clean front page with good photography and good use of the main headline.

3rd Place**LCC/ The Lookout***Issue 8*

Nikki Nicolaou

The Lookout offers a colorful, attractive front page with solid photography. I especially like the treatment of the readers' voices at the bottom of the page.

Hon. Mention**Olivet College/ The Echo***Front Page February 7, 2014*

Jacob Reinsmith

A very creative design highlighting a story which no doubt has great meaning to the students at your campus...well done!

Division 1 - Non-Front Page Design**6 Entries**

All entries in this category had good things going for them. Some just had more than others. There is some very creative page design going on here!

1st Place**CMU/ CM-Life***Inside Page Design*

Mariah Prowoznik

Wow, these are really, really well done opinion/editorial pages. Very graphically appealing and compelling reads.

2nd Place**CMU/ CM-Life***Inside Page Design*

Mariah Prowoznik

(same comments as first-place entry)

3rd Place**EMU/ Eastern Echo***Meet the Editors*

Vicki Behne

Fun page, good idea, graphically pleasing, good use of color, good photos. Just a nice, complete package!

Division 2 - Non-Front Page Design**12 Entries**

In general these pages were solid with some really, really good photography, but photo caption work was poor. Tell me who the people are in the photos and what is going on in the photos.

1st Place**Cornerstone University/ The Herald***Student tells of life in Kenya*

Cassie Daszko

This was by far the best entry in this category. Good use of a variety of elements and solid photography make for a very attractive layout.

Division 2 - Non-Front Page Design**2nd Place****Cornerstone University/ The Herald***Human Trafficking*

Cassie Daszko

The hands are a cool graphic element and the rest of the spread is solid. One or more photographs to match the tone of the topic (too many happy group shots here) would have helped the entry, but still very well done!

3rd Place**Cornerstone University/ The Herald***Happy Valentine's Day*

Cassie Daszko

I'm not sure how many of these elements were locally originated, but either way this took some work and is an attractive, enticing and fun page for the newspaper's readers!

Division 3 - Non-Front Page Design**22 Entries**

There was a lot of excellent work in this category. Very difficult judging decisions.

1st Place**Schoolcraft College/ The Connection***Grand Theft Auto*

Kate Mrla

This is a really well done page. Visually appealing, appropriate topic for audience but not sugar coated, good writing and layout.

2nd Place**WCC/ The Voice***Thunder over Michigan*

Peter Hochgraf

Superb photography and use of those photos really carried this page. Good choice on the headline font as well, and good choice to not place too many photos on the page as some entries tried to do.

3rd Place**LCC/ The Lookout***Issue 5, Page 12*

Nikki Nicolaou

Just a fun page! Good job localizing Halloween, and decent use of graphics to convey information.

Hon. Mention**Schoolcraft College/ The Connection***Destination Detroit*

Staff

This was a very well done page highlighting things to do in downtown Detroit and where to find them.

General Excellence**Division 1 - General Excellence****3 Entries****1st Place****University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily***General Excellence*

Staff

The best example of overall newspapering among the three entries. In general, good story selection, attractive layouts and matters of interest to students. TMD needs more arts art or photos and needs to break up its gray jump pages by using quotes or more photos. Other entries should look at TMD as the one to beat. Loved the 3 Things to Know! Please border all photos with a .5 point rule -- one of the hockey pix just kind of fell off the page because of a lack of a border.

2nd Place**CMU/ CM-Life***Central Michigan Life General Excellence*

Staff

There is a lot to like in CML, but some areas need improvement. Overall, there is nice packaging, nice use of subheads, but the 9-23 front, the P-shaped photo package violated a rule of layout. Ads in this package were attractive and well done but they could not overcome other shortcomings. All sports photos ran too small and were not properly cropped. For example, three pages of football but no Life section in the Sept. 23 issue? To quote Cris Carter, "Come on Man!"

3rd Place**Grand Valley Lanthorn**

Staff

Questionable use of color on the King feature (is he really tan?) and overpowering weight of headlines at bottoms of pages were among the many issues here. All photos should have been cropped tighter. The entries submitted had way too many 4 column headlines, which are the equivalent of 6 column banner headlines in broadsheet papers -- which you should almost never use. The editor ran a dead body story below the fold in the Sept. 26 issue -- really? The examples submitted contained way too many posed photos. Some headlines were too condensed like the History Journal headline in the April 17 issue. And a final no-no -- the editorial should ALWAYS appear above a personal column (April 17 issue).

Division 2 - General Excellence**1 Entry****1st Place****Hillsdale College/ The Collegian***Hillsdale Collegian General Excellence*

Staff

There is a lot to like about this entry -- but a lot more to be improved upon. Areas to be improved: All photos must have photo captions and credits. Do not place text above photos -- place the photos above text. Place head shots in the middle of stories and opinion columns. When using photos of subjects, have multiple photos to choose from. Avoid photo collages -- if you must run a package, put them into a block and run a photo caption next to them on the right or left. Be consistent with how color is used -- come up with a color palette for screened boxes (never more than 30 percent) and avoid use of yellow in screened boxes. Stay with a khaki screen. Please use pyramid layout on pages with ads (except center spreads) or at least stack everything from bottom to upper right on the page. Also remember to stay with a maximum of three headline fonts and make sure they are from the same family. The smallest a headline should run is 24 point. Also, get rid of artsy and italic fonts -- they are difficult to read on a good day. Move your city news up in the paper or get rid of it. Use color on both sports pages -- for that matter, throughout the remainder of the paper. Get more art and an online reader poll on the Opinion page to make it less gray. You should leave space between your columns and between elements. Remember that readers like boxes and packages -- you can do this with borders. All boxes should be .5 point lines -- heavier borders bring too much weight to the boxes.

Division 3 - General Excellence**7 Entries**

General comments: The front page is NO PLACE for opinion columns or cartoons. These are newspapers, not comic books or scandal sheets. The quickest way to lose credibility with readers is to shove your opinion down their throats.

1st Place**Schoolcraft College/ The Connection***General Excellence*

Staff

There is a lot to love here -- nice use of color; great use of headlines, crisp layout -- all strengths here. Nice work all around. Watch the spacing between headlines and subheads.

2nd Place**GRCC/ Collegiate***The Collegiate General Excellence*

Staff

Liked the redesigned flag. This paper is clearly the best of the rest. On some pages, white space may have helped, but there is a lot to like here. Keep up the good work and keep making design tweaks -- they are clearly working!

3rd Place**MCCC/ The Agora***General Excellence*

Staff

There were some mistakes in headlines and cutlines in this entry, which might have moved it up had they been corrected. The main reason this placed where it did was because of the reporting -- which was impactful and relevant to its college audience.

Hon. Mention **University of Detroit Mercy/ The Varsity News**
General Excellence
Staff

While there is a lot to be liked in this entry, there is also a lot that can be improved. Remember headline hierarchy -- most important headlines should be biggest and at the top of the page, while least important should be lighter (lower weight or point size) and located at the bottom of the page. More ways to draw readers into stories could also improve this entry -- pull quotes, head shots, charts, graphs, lists.

Single Ad

Division 1 - Single Ad

14 Entries

1st Place

CMU/ CM-Life

Slower Donkey's Festival

Advertising Staff

Very creative! Everything ties together well. Really stands out, great job.

2nd Place

GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho

Cozy

Lindsey VanDenBoom

My eye was drawn to the ad. Creative text placement and yet still looks clean and easy to read.

3rd Place

GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho

Dairy Queen

Ryan Muenchow

Color really makes the ad stand out, great job.

Hon. Mention

GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho

Be Prepared

Emily Hahn

Really creative text! Artwork was a little plain.

Division 2 - Single Ad

2 Entries

1st Place

Cornerstone University/ The Herald

New Creation Cupcakes Ad

Helen Blanchard

Creative artwork went well with the ad content. Made ad stand out.

2nd Place

Cornerstone University/ The Herald

Cornerstone Journalism Institute Ad

Alan Blanchard

Blue text went well with photo in background, ad was a little plain.

Division 3 - Single Ad

11 Entry

1st Place

Schoolcraft College/ The Connection

Schooldaze Fall

Kate Mrla

Stand out color scheme, great use of artwork, text/art all goes with theme, easy to read.

2nd Place

Schoolcraft College/ The Connection

Spoonful of SAO

Urmila Bilgi

Very creative! Nice bright colors, unique artwork and easy to read.

3rd Place

WCC/ The Voice

Help Wanted

Peter Hochgraf

Great use of color, really makes the ad stand out.

Hon. Mention

Schoolcraft College/ The Connection

Schooldaze Winter

Sabrina Keyes

Great use of artwork/text to go with carnival theme. All of the focus of the text in the middle is a little too cluttered.

Special Advertising Section

Division 1 - Special Advertising Section

3 Entries

1st Place

CMU/ CM-Life

Apartment Life

Advertising Staff

Very fun and colorful, pages were easy to read. Section really stood out, great job.

2nd Place

GVSU/ Grand Valley Lantho

Housing Guide 2014

Staff

Very trendy! Awesome color schemes, easy to read, interesting layouts, creative ads

3rd Place

University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily

Best of Ann Arbor

Staff

Fun colors and layout, creative ads, cover was a little plain compared to rest of the section.

Division 2 - Special Advertising Section

1 Entry

1st Place

FSU/ The Torch

Housing Guide 2014

Emily Lueken, Emily Noffsinger

Great concept. The look of the cover didn't really go with the rest of the section. Most ads stood out and looked very professional

Division 3 - Special Advertising Section

2 Entries

1st Place

LCC/ The Lookout

Sig Ad

Nikki Nicolaou

Simplicity of the individual ads went well with the busy photo on top which made the page easy to read and look over, not cluttered.

2nd Place

WCC/ The Voice

License to Love

Staff

Cover and back were a little plain but inside pages were nicely set up and background color was appropriate and made the pages stand out.

Online Newspaper

Division 3 - Online Newspaper

2 Entries

1st Place

WCC/ The Voice

Online Newspaper archives

Staff

It is understandable why this is an award winning paper. Lots of content and I liked the Issuu version available of the printed version of the paper. A lot more content than the second place entry.

This entry only had two entries as I understood it, although Washtenaw submitted three; the way I read the rules it was supposed to be one entry per paper.

2nd Place

LCC/ The Lookout

The Lookout website

Staff

A little concerning that sports is listed last on the home page. After clicking on sports, I might be able to understand because some of the photos were cropped incorrectly. Certainly there must be something happening in sports during the summer? It is also confusing when many of the stories are listed in multiple categories -- how can a news story also be arts? Average entry here -- could be better with some dedicated focus on sports, photo cropping and story labeling.