



**Embargo: Do not release before 6:30 p.m., Thursday, January 31, 2019**

# Exceptional Journalism Honored in 2018 College Better Newspaper Contest

Members of the New York Press Association reviewed 765 entries submitted by 17 Michigan college newspapers this year and selected three college newspapers for creating great journalism.

**The 2018 “College Newspaper of the Year”** award is presented to the top college newspapers in three divisions based on points accumulated (100 for first, 70 for second and 40 for third) in all editorial contest categories (categories 1-13). Winners of those awards are:

College Newspapers of the Year		
Divisions	Total Points	College Newspapers
Division 1	1,470	University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily
Division 2	1,320	Michigan State University/ The State News
Division 3	720	Monroe County Community College/ The Agora

*Division 1 - Newspapers publishing more than weekly*

*Division 2 - Newspapers publishing weekly*

*Division 3 - Two-year college publications or newspapers publishing less than weekly.*

"It is more important than ever to recognize and encourage good, impactful journalism. That is what our college newspapers are doing, and with support and recognition from contests and professionals in the field, that will continue. Our experienced faculty and advisors will see to it as well," said Joanne Williams, associate professor of journalism and mass communication at Olivet College and a past MCPA president.

***The 2019 MPA/MCPA College Newspaper Contest opens August 1, 2019.***



## Best Photographer

### Division 1 - Best Photographer

#### 6 Entries

Sports, especially basketball, seems to dominate these photos. That is great but I would have liked to see more photos of the lives and the people in the towns and on the campuses. This is a very impressive pool of talent who are bringing their images to vital storytelling on every platform from print to social media.

**First Place** **Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**  
Cody Scanlan

Excellent closeup photos that capture a mood, a moment and send a message. Cody wins the trust of his subjects and is able frame them from the perfect angle and just the right light. Good Job!

**Second Place** **University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**  
Katelyn Mulcah

**Third Place** **Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**  
Quinn Kirby

**Honorable Mention** **University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**  
Alexis Rankin

### Division 2 - Best Photographer

#### 6 Entries

Each of the winners has 2 very good entries and an outstanding one, making it very hard to choose the order of finish. Congratulation to all!

**First Place** **Saginaw Valley State University/ The Valley Vanguard**  
Kyle Will

Strong photos that pull an individual to the center of attention. Excellent exposures with sharp focus of subjects in motion. Kyle has a good feel for the action and is mastering his camera. Great work.

**Second Place** **Michigan State University/ The State News**  
Sylvia Jarrus

**Third Place** **Michigan State University/ The State News**  
Matt Schmucker

**Honorable Mention** **Ferris State University/ The Torch**  
Abbey Good Work

### Division 3 - Best Photographer

#### 7 Entries

A group of very good photographers. They have talent and their own unique style.

**First Place** **Monroe County Community College/ The Agora**  
Vanessa Ray

A great eye for people and activities! Vanessa uses existing light and various angles to frame her subjects and draw you in.

**Second Place** **Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**  
Best Photographer  
Harrison DiCocco

**Third Place** **Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**  
Best Photographer  
Karl Blessing

**Honorable Mention** **Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**  
Best Photographer  
Najd Ayeri

**Best Photographer**

## Best Writer

### Division 1 - Best Writer

#### 11 Entries

**First Place** **University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**  
Maya Goldman

This was easily the hardest category I judged for this contest. Every single writer brought tremendous talent to the table. The work submitted by this writer does not include some of the flashier stories found in other

submissions but are nonetheless important and I didn't want to stop reading a single one.

**Second Place** **University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**  
Nisa Khan

I was completely engaged in each one of this reporter's stories which covered national issues as it manifests on campus and in lives of students. This is important work being done, and done well by an excellent writer who understands how to put a reader in the shoes of her subject in a meaningful way. An in-depth piece on potential misconduct, bias and harassment on campus is the kind of story that has the potential to bring about real change. Congratulations.

**Third Place** **University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**  
Dayton Hare

A columnist that loves the English language and all of the verbiage it has to offer is not uncommon. Highly intelligent writing is happening here and it is writing that taught me a lot about an unfamiliar subject. Thank you.

**Honorable Mention** **Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**  
Emma Dale

This is a versatile writer able of taking on breaking news with style and important news features. In other divisions, this would have been a first place entry.

### Division 2 - Best Writer

#### 15 Entries

**First Place** **Michigan State University/ The State News**  
Riley Murdock

I read a lot of coverage of Larry Nassar's sentencing in this category. This reporter offered not only the most detailed coverage, but the best written story on a very emotional, and troubling proceeding. But this writer is more than a courtroom reporter or one adept at breaking news he is an excellent news features writer, using data, personal stories to tell important stories that should be told on campuses across the country. The State News certainly has a talented staff.

**Second Place** **Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**  
Breana Noble

Of everything I read in this category, this editors piece, The Woman Who Smashed Codes, was by far my favorite. Great lede on this story. This editor also writes a mean hard news story. Your reporters are fortunate to have such a talent in its leadership.

**Third Place** **Michigan State University/ The State News**  
Marie Weidmayer

From her coverage of sexual misconduct at fraternities to Larry Nassar's trial to a farewell to a student lost too soon, this writer proves not only an excellent story teller, but an adept reporter capable of tackling tough subjects.

**Honorable Mention** **Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**  
Mark Naida

This a very good writer who moves easily from arts feature to quirky news.

### Division 3 - Best Writer

#### 14 Entries

There was a real variety of writers in this category and most brought tremendous talent to their work.

**First Place** **Monroe County Community College/ The Agora**  
Best Writer  
Erin Thomas

In over a dozen entries, this writer easily took first place with excellent in-depth reporting on a critical issue facing many communities across the country. I would have been thrilled to have published in my own newspaper as an editor and publisher. The piece includes an abundance of sources and research, is well organized and complimented by a writer of real skill. The writer brings the same level of attention and style to two additional pieces on less weighty subjects, proving her talent is not limited to work of tremendous consequence. Excellent work.

**Second Place Monroe County Community College/ The Agora**

Vanessa Ray Best Writer

Vanessa Ray

*It would seem challenging to bring tension to a piece on an online chemistry course, but this editor gives that piece the weight it deserves and developed an engaging page 1 story. She clearly knows how to draw readers into her work with strong ledes and clean writing style. The writer also demonstrates strong, clear editorial writing.*

**Third Place Spring Arbor University/The Pulse**

"God, Painting and Cars," "Principled Poetics," and "Stand Up Against Sexual Violence"

Elise Emmert

*While many journalists prefer feature writing, there are very few that are truly skilled at it, bringing language, style and reporting together to craft a story that is both engaging and informative. This associate editor demonstrates real skill in this arena, tackling three very different features in her entry with excellent writing, detailed reporting and a clear knowledge of the subjects.*

**Honorable Mention Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**

Gene Paxton to be Inducted into the Grand Rapids Sports Hall of Fame

Mike Staley

*Writing about yourself is hard. This writer does it with ease, humility and an introspection not many can bring to personal writing. He also proves a solid sports feature writer.*

**Column- Review or Blog- News or Sports**

**Division 1 - Column- Review or Blog- News or Sports**

20 Entries

**First Place Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

COLUMN: *Things do get better with depression, but only if you let them*

Mitchell Kukulka

*it grabbed me early and kept me there*

**Second Place Grand Valley State University/ Grand Valley Lanthorn**

Column: *Does GVSU have a school spirit problem?*

Robbie Triano

*Good piece on an age old problem*

**Third Place University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

Sports Monday Column: *One of the girls*

Betlehem Ashame

*Very Introspective*

**Honorable Mention University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

Sports Monday Column: *Times up*

Betlehem Ashame

**Division 2 - Column- Review or Blog- News or Sports**

43 Entries

**First Place Michigan State University/ The State News**

Column: *Laughing at a reporter for doing her job is just wrong*

Kara Keating

*As a former pro player, I believed this young lady nailed it.*

**Second Place Olivet College/ The Echo**

*42 a Home Run in More Ways Than One*

Marah Heikkila

*Well researched and presented in an interesting way.*

**Third Place Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**

*Net Neutrality benefits corporations, not consumers*

Madeline Fry

*A factual piece done in an interesting way.*

**Honorable Mention Saginaw Valley State University/ The Valley Vanguard**

*Not another gun control column: endless debate, no change*

Brian Fox

*Points out the futility of everyone writing the same thing.*

**Division 3 - Column- Review or Blog- News or Sports**

26 Entries

**First Place Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**

*Power Struggle: My Battle With Bulimia*

Dylan Vanderson

*His writing kept me riveted to the article.*

**Second Place Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**

*Being a parent in the current times*

Mike Staley

*Well written and goes to the heart of every father.*

**Third Place Lansing Community College/ The Lookout**

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Sarah Barney

*Writer is well versed in his genre.*

**Honorable Mention Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**

*(In)fertile Myrtle*

Tatiana Diaz

*Very well written.*

**Editorial**

**Division 1 - Editorial**

12 Entries

**First Place Western Michigan University/ The Western Herald**

*The Western Herald joins the call to #Save Student Newsrooms Staff*

*Wonderful, succinct editorial explaining the necessity of journalism on the college campus--and in general. It's extremely important in the current climate to remind our readers and the public in general about the role journalism plays in a healthy democracy. Keep up the great work!*

**Second Place Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

EDITORIAL: *Central Michigan University's mental health services must take top priority in academic reorganization efforts*

Jordyn Hermani, Editorial Board

*An incredibly important topic. The editorial captures perfectly the newspaper's role in advocating for the larger population in a straight-forward way. It makes a simple, yet strong call to action. Add more counseling staff now.*

**Third Place University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*From the Daily: Lets talk about Adderall*

Michigan Daily Editorial Board

*An important topic, for sure. But it's unclear what exactly the editorial is calling for. It would have placed higher if the call to action was stronger and if the editorial itself was verbose. An editorial should not be an article or read like an essay.*

**Honorable Mention Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

EDITORIAL: *Central Michigan University must stop requiring students to pay for FOIA requests*

Jordyn Hermani, Editorial Board

*Well thought out, compelling argument. We hope the university took notice and made some changes in the spirit of transparency.*

**Division 2 - Editorial**

24 Entries

*I was left wanting more advocacy and fewer personal stories.*

*(Housekeeping note: Michigan pieces on college prez and board needed to be paired)*

**First Place Michigan State University/ The State News**

*Editorial: Simon, enablers need to resign, so survivors can move on Rachel Fradette, McKenna Ross, Madison O'Connor, Souichi Terada, Sasha Zidar, Jonathan LeBlanc, Maxwell Evans, Marie Weidmayer, Casey Holland  
Strong, powerful advocacy. Pedal to the metal here. I'd be interested in a clock or a bell -- every day this goes on, it should be marked. What the hell is next? Paper could play a strong and thoughtful role.*

**Second Place Ferris State University/ The Torch**

*Depression lies to you  
Marley Tucker  
Good use of resources for those who might need them. Path to action.*

**Third Place Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**

*Collegian Weekly: Binge drinking harms more than the drinker  
Katherine Scheu  
Tricky. How do you talk about this without being the scold? But, community dynamic is helpful. Specific instances show this wasn't a one-off.*

**Honorable Mention Ferris State University/ The Torch**

*Cultures aren't punch lines  
Marley Tucker  
Good close. Always easy to punt on this, and the piece didn't.*

**Division 3 - Editorial**

**11 Entries**

**First Place Schoolcraft College/ The Connection**

*For \$24 you could buy  
Schoolcraft Connection Staff  
These were the cleanest editorials of the bunch I walked away with a clear understanding of the paper's position and thought process on what is locally an important issue with a second editorial tackling a national issue important to many. Great use of graphics too.*

**Second Place Spring Arbor University/The Pulse**

*Age Does Not Equal Influence: Why the March For Our Lives encourages the next generation to lead  
Staff*

*Informative and clear. I also really enjoyed the clean, not too busy layout of the page.*

**Third Place Lansing Community College/ The Lookout**

*Nassar  
Aaron Wilton  
Strong editorial position on an important issue. Added bonus: I got to read several of Haneen Hammads columns while reviewing editorials from this publication, which I really enjoyed.*

**Honorable Mention Adrian College/ The College World**

*Raising awareness for sexual assault victims  
Torrey Christopher  
I liked both of these editorials. One caveat: Even when an editorial is written by a specific reporter or editor, generally I would encourage staying away from the use of I. An editorial should be the position of the newspaper as a whole, not just the one penning it.*

**Feature Photo**

**Division 1 - Feature Photo**

**5 Entries**

*Capturing one moment at an event that describes the whole activity takes good shooting and editing.*

**First Place University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*Standing Room Only  
Alexis Rankin*

**Second Place Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

*Preacher vs. protesters  
Quinn Kirby*

**Third Place Eastern Michigan University/ Eastern Echo**

*Saturday's Show at the Pike Room*

Rolando Ybarra

**Division 2 - Feature Photo**

**17 Entries**

*Lots of attention to tight shot and good exposure takes these photos to the next level.*

**First Place Albion College/ The Pleiad**

*Senior Victoria Stewart at the Sept. 25 Demonstrations  
Beau Brockett Jr.*

**Second Place Ferris State University/ The Torch**

*Pizza party  
Kaitlyn Kirchner*

**Third Place Michigan State University/ The State News**

*VIM fashion show  
Sylvia Jarrus*

**Honorable Mention Albion College/ The Pleiad**

*Sophomore Isaac Verhelst at the Sept. 25 Demonstration  
Beau Brockett Jr.*

**Division 3 - Feature Photo**

**9 Entries**

**First Place Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**

*BORNS played sold-out show at 20 Monroe Live Sunday night  
Harrison DiCocco*

**Second Place Monroe County Community College/ The Agora**

*#metoo: You are never alone  
Carla Cohen*

**Third Place Monroe County Community College/ The Agora**

*Art Prize  
James Quick*

**Honorable Mention Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**

*Water lanterns lit up the night at Millennium Park  
Karl Blessing*

**Feature Story**

**Division 1 - Feature Story**

**31 Entries**

**First Place University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*An in-depth look at the accessibility of the arts and art spaces  
Max Michalsky*

*What really stood out what the issue at hand. You brought to light a true concern for people of disability that is not regularly talked about. I absolutely loved your call to action and the passion expressed in your explanations of the true purpose of art and how it unites us as a human beings.*

**Second Place University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*Rap is a woman's sport now  
Michigan Daily Music Writers*

*This was a very unique article, the subject matter is what really stood out. I has been a long time since I have read a well-written and in-depth view into the current female rappers.*

**Third Place University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*Double Consciousness: Black students discuss everyday experiences with race  
Elizabeth Lawrence*

*I thought this article brought to light a part of the racial struggle felt but not often spoken about, the internal struggle. What stood out was the student quotes and how you captured their feelings, but not of hatred. You helped to offer solutions and not aid in the problem.*

**Honorable Mention University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*Michigan Law student becomes first Black Editor-in-Chief of 116-year-old Law Review*

Sayali Amin

*What stood out to me was how noteworthy this is, yet how humbling the experience seems. You did a great job accurately representing the overall emotions with your words.*

**Division 2 - Feature Story**

**64 Entries**

*Overall, a strong field, but the topic three or four truly stood out for the quality of their writing and reporting.*

**First Place Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**

*Revitalizing Hillsdale, one business at a time.*

Julie Havlak

*An outstanding feature on a critically important topic. Great lead. Great photography. Well-reported.*

**Second Place Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**

*Summer's last drops of honey*

Jo Kroeker

*Love the topic. Excellent lead. Well-written and reported. Great job!*

**Third Place Michigan State University/ The State News**

*Jail might save their life, but treatment is the answer Nationwide opioid epidemic hits close to home.*

Casey Harrison

*An emotionally charged topic. Great work taking on a difficult topic. Excellent use of statistics.*

**Honorable Mention Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**

*Behind the portrait in AJ's Cafe*

Julie Havlak

*An emotionally compelling story, well-written.*

**Division 3 - Feature Story**

**32 Entries**

**First Place Spring Arbor University/The Pulse**

*It Matters How It Ends: How three Jackson organizations are providing hope to those at risk.*

Kayla Williamson, Hannah Shimanek

**Second Place Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**

*My Journey Through Heroin Addiction*

Mike Staley

**Third Place Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**

*"What's so funny 'bout peace, love and understanding?"*

Matt Meyle

**Honorable Mention Adrian College/ The College World**

*Exploring Washington D.C.*

Sam Robson

**Front Page Design**

**Division 1 - Front Page Design**

**14 Entries**

**First Place Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

Connor Byrne

*The photo selection and layout show that this is an extremely important story, and it's very clear what the story is about. Nice way of incorporating the photos and taken over the front page. Excellent job.*

**Second Place Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

Alyssa Templeton

*Great way of using colorful artwork to catch the eye and help tell the story before we even get to the story. There is no doubt what this story is about. Makes me want to read more.*

**Third Place University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*Rest in power: reflection's on Dr. King's true legacy*

Michigan Daily Design Staff

*Powerful way to use historic photos and squeeze in the headline at the top. Using the black-and-white photos with the color ones bridges the past to the present. Great job.*

**Honorable Mention University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily Bicentennial Cover**

Michelle Phillips

*This layout is a piece of artwork unto itself. Not familiar with the campus, it is hard to know what the relationship is between the artwork and the photos that are placed together. Still, it is very interesting visually and makes me want to read the story.*

**Division 2 - Front Page Design**

**15 Entries**

**First Place Michigan State University/ The State News**

*President Simon, Resign*

Daena Faustino

*Simple. Powerful. Great way to show the women and keep the white space at the same time. Excellent job.*

**Second Place Michigan State University/ The State News**

*Trustees, you're done.*

Lauren Gewirtz

*Nice job incorporating the photos of protesters. I can feel the anger in the room. Makes me want to read the editorial.*

**Third Place Ferris State University/ The Torch**

*Prideful confessions*

Sarah Massey

*The colors of the rainbow behind the text were placed in a way that I could still read the story, and the flag waving artwork at the bottom helped show some motion and emotion. Well done.*

**Honorable Mention Ferris State University/ The Torch**

*Beat the bug*

Jordan Lodge

*The graphic really makes this layout work. It was colorful and helpful.*

**Division 3 - Front Page Design**

**11 Entries**

**First Place Spring Arbor University/The Pulse**

*More Than Handprints*

Kayla Williamson

*Powerful. The photo itself helps tell the story, but the fact that she's looking back, with eyes toward the text, is well done as it moved my eyes toward the headline/kicker/teaser. Choice of font was excellent. This layout shows that simplicity can help tell a powerful story if done correctly. Makes me want to pick up a copy, and open it up to the story. Excellent, just excellent.*

**Second Place Lansing Community College/ The Lookout**

*LCC Gets Googled*

Nicole Cade

*This entry put me on a Google search page, and that's what stands out. Well done.*

**Third Place Lansing Community College/ The Lookout**

*Jailhouse Drama*

Nicole Cade

*It's the photo that really makes this layout sing, and the headline font choice worked well.*

**Honorable Mention Monroe County Community College/ The Agora**

*March 25, 2018 Front Page*

Vanessa Ray

*Nice way to incorporate a photo of the story subject. It screams, "This is the problem, folks!" That's helpful for people who keep hearing the word opiate but don't know what an opiate looks like.*

**Investigative Reporting**

**Division 1 - Investigative Reporting**

**16 Entries**

**First Place University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**  
*The Runaround: What it's like to file a bias report at the University*  
 Nisa Khan

Reading this story is reading the story of a million things gone wrong at institutions across this country. Reporting on first person experiences is the hardest journalism and these reporters and editors did an excellent job. I would expect this is the kind of journalism that has the ability to change policy or the lack of policy enforcement. This is the kind of work that pushes real journalists to do what they do. Great job.

**Second Place University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**  
*"They did not see us. We made sure they didn't.": Transgender individuals continue the struggle against possible military ban, healthcare complications*  
 Nisa Khan, Jennifer Meer

An important story that is well researched and well written.

**Third Place Eastern Michigan University/ Eastern Echo**  
*Students frustrated by high prices at on-campus food stores*  
 Olivia Grillis

Campus food prices ripe for an investigative piece? Talk to students and 100 percent it is. This story has a great lede, informative graphics and statistics and in general was a piece I wanted to read until the end. It isn't always the eye-catching subjects that deserve this kind of attention the day to day can often have an even greater impact on your readers than taking a local look at the bigger picture.

**Honorable Mention Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**  
*Changing Climate, Changing World*  
 Zahra Ahmad, Justin Bradford

This was the only entry shockingly so to offer several ways to understand the story from video to in-depth print stories and online content to a podcast. Partnering with another media company is a smart way to reach a wider audience.

**Division 2 - Investigative Reporting**

**10 Entries**

The four honorees were head and shoulders above the rest, and all great examples of staffs that are not satisfied with press releases--they dig. Good for them!

**First Place Michigan State University/ The State News**  
*Inside the Houses: The State News investigates sexual misconduct at fraternities*  
 Marie Weidmayer

A terrific examination of a crucial topic that, really, almost any college newspaper should tackle if there are fraternities on campus. The number of cases where victims choose not to cooperate is stunning. Of all the entries, this truly broke important ground, raised necessary questions and was every bit worth the staff's effort.

**Second Place Ferris State University/ The Torch**  
*Who's that next door?*

Angela Graf, Harley Harrison  
 It's information that's easily obtainable, but most people don't bother. And to see it so starkly rendered--25 registered sex offenders within two miles of the college campus--is startling. Great work.

**Third Place Michigan State University/ The State News**  
*Scholarship named after ex-MSU President Simon in 2015 wasn't distributed until after her resignation*  
 Riley Murdock, Kaitlyn Kelley

This seems like an example of bureaucracy simply losing track of a scholarship fund, but kudos to the newspaper for highlighting the mistake and holding their feet to the fire to correct it on behalf of the students who might have benefited from it. It shows that the story often isn't the big announcement (the scholarship)--it's what happens (or not) later, quietly.

**Honorable Mention Michigan State University/ The State News**

*How East Lansing Police enforce MIP, fake ID laws, and more*  
 Peter Atkins

This story was interesting, but it lacked a "nut graph"--why does it matter? The facts are nicely ferreted out, but it would have been beneficial to take the discussion one step lower: If it's notable that individual officers have so much discretion, why is it notable? What are the potential issues with that?

**Division 3 - Investigative Reporting**

**3 Entries**

Thank you for the opportunity to do this. It was nice to see the work of our up-and-comers.

**First Place Monroe County Community College/ The Agora**  
*Opiate Wars: Is MCCC doing its part?*

Erin Thomas  
 Sometimes the simplest solutions to major problems is overlooked. In this case the writer recognized the importance of having school security equipped with NARCAN a life saving drug for those who overdose and laid out her argument comprehensively. That's what a good investigative piece does.

**Second Place Spring Arbor University/The Pulse**  
*"Kindling Conversation" and "Illumination and Administration"*

Elise Emmert, Celeste Fendt, Kayla Williamson  
 I was struck by the art work that complimented the story beautifully. This was a piece that should help bring people together, a key role for journalists. Good job!

**Third Place Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**  
*GRCC student groups informational table containing free feminine hygiene products for students labeled fire hazard*

Tatiana Diaz  
 Holding officials' feet to the fire and putting a spotlight on the administrative double speak. Nice going!

**Multimedia Reporting**

**Open Class - Multimedia Reporting**

**33 Entries**

So many fantastic entries. This category had me taking notes on all sorts of papers and then repeating lookbacks to make sure I was ready to select. Everyone should be very proud.

**First Place Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**  
*WOMEN'S MARCH 2018*

Josh Barnhart  
 The Rosa Parks Circle "March for Our Lives" story is touching, emotional, serious... The entire compilation paired with the text, the photographs, the videos, use of social media and quality of execution all play into making this a true "multimedia" masterpiece.

**Second Place Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**  
*SUMMIT SESSIONS LIVE FULL MINI-DOC*

Alan Shi  
 Students are taught that challenging efforts do pay off. This crew shows how working together with others (both those you already know, some of your peers, as well as some that you've never met). These types of skills are vital in real life. Every effort from one group effects the others. What an incredible opportunity to be a part of. The struggle is rewarding. Be very proud.

**Third Place Ferris State University/ The Torch**  
*MLK Day at Ferris State*

Sid Sabo, Megan Lewton  
 Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Quality video executed in an extremely professional manner... Really liked the treatment of the fading from color to black and white and back again. Clean, crisp, great audio quality. Well done!

**Honorable Mention Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**  
*Groundhog's Day at The Bird*

Advertising Staff

*The piece really is outstanding. Super creative video. The concept behind the role playing of the different scenarios of how one event may play out is really entertaining and relevant to its audience.*

## News Story

### Division 1 - News Story

58 Entries

**First Place** **University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*Long story short: A look at how other universities address hate crimes*

Jennifer Meer

*In both segments of this series, the writer did a fantastic job of researching a complex story. This story adds a national perspective to a series of campus events. The writing is clean and direct and the reporting is comprehensive.*

**Second Place** **Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

*Seeking answers: Police, university struggle to understand what led to student's breakdown, double homicide*

Emma Dale

*There is tremendous depth to this reporting. Obviously, a campus shooting is compelling subject matter, but this writer went far beyond the timeline of what took place and brought in perspectives from the whole campus community and beyond.*

**Third Place** **University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*University moves to schedule Spencer request to speak on campus*

Andrew Hiyama, Riyah Basha

*This is really good, comprehensive coverage of a lively debate dealing with race, the First Amendment, and the campus climate. The poll and social media posts add to the story.*

**Honorable Mention** **Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

*June storm caused \$10-\$15 million in crop damage*

Mitchell Kukulka

*This is really good agricultural coverage from an unlikely source. Most college newspapers would ignore this story, but this writer really dug into a story that is clearly a big local issue to many in the area.*

### Division 2 - News Story

42 Entries

**First Place** **Michigan State University/ The State News**

*29 victims give emotional statements on first day of Nassar's sentencing*

Riley Murdock

*Powerful writing makes this story a clear winner. Although this story made national headlines, this story was as complete and well-written as any of the nationally-released reports on this case. The social media snapshots interspersed into the report gave additional context. Great job.*

**Second Place** **Ferris State University/ The Torch**

*Need for knowledge*

Angela Graf, Megan Lewton

*I believe there will be a lot of students at this school who learn a great deal about their futures because of this report. Excellent use of graphics add to the story telling.*

**Third Place** **Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**

*'Donna' the Triceratops comes to Hillsdale's Fisk Museum*

Madeleine Jepsen

*The authors clearly went out of their way to add depth and context to this piece. This could have been a simple news story about a donation to a museum. But the author went much further, making it a truly compelling and educational piece.*

**Honorable Mention** **Ferris State University/ The Torch**

*Clearing the water*

Harley Harrison

*This story is well-written and topical - particularly in Michigan. The writer did a great job of breaking down a complex process so readers get a full grasp of what is going on.*

### Division 3 - News Story

15 Entries

**First Place** **Monroe County Community College/ The Agora**

*Attorney answers fake news questions*

Vanessa Ray

*Never the biggest fan to open a story with a negative (see what I did there?), this was exactly the kind of story that would be the exception to the rule.*

*Starting off with fake stories that have circulated the internet was a fantastic way to kick off a story about fake news, and it continues strongly from there.*

*This is the kind of story that is educational as well as informative, and is very important in a day like today. If there is anything to be careful about, however, it would be providing too much detail in a story like this. For example, was the name of the First Amendment expert's speech that important? Did we need to know it was 45 minutes long, and then questions were taken afterward? But these are minor quibbles, and something that will develop over time.*

**Second Place** **Spring Arbor University/The Pulse**

*Ormston and Muffit Closing: Shutdown for 2018-19 year to determine maintenance needs*

Nathan Salsbury

*The lede was a bit factual, but still made a great effort to be colorful. It painted the kind of picture that entices the reader to keep going. The hardest stories to report are the ones we know are important, but that people wouldn't want to pay attention to. Closing a building for a year may not be the sexiest story a reporter can get assigned, but writing it in a way that is informative and interesting is a true sign of a solid journalist, and this is a story that makes you want to keep reading until the end.*

**Third Place** **Monroe County Community College/ The Agora**

*MCCC potentially loses students to bill*

Donald Thomas

*A solid, straightforward lede that allows the subject matter to sell the story, and it does it well. A bill that could remove students from a school? Don't stop there, keep going. There is a lot of detail in this story maybe too much detail. But this could've ended up placing a bit higher if some of the detail (even in a more general sense) was higher up. We don't actually learn why the bill could threaten the student body until seven paragraphs in and that's pretty far.*

**Honorable Mention** **Lansing Community College/ The Lookout**

*Terrorism Threat*

Aaron Wilton

*Cop stories are hard to write, especially for younger writers. And this reporter found a way to relay information accurately and completely. What could've helped it place higher, however, would have been taking some of the detail out of the immediate lede, and not take baby steps through the information (it was like one of those toys where they look like wooden dolls, you open it up, and there's a smaller doll inside). Get to the point this person was arrested. You don't need to spend a few paragraphs teasing this information. An incident happened, someone was arrested, and now here are all the details. But overall, this was solid reporting.*

## News-Only Photo

### Division 1 - News-Only Photo

5 Entries

*The close perspective is what makes these photos intense.*

**First Place** **University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*Students demand answers from Schlissel, administrators in night of protesting.*

Katelyn Mulcahy

*Strong centering, sharp focus.*

**Second Place** **University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*Students attempt to shut down speech by controversial social scientist Charles Murray.*

Alec Cohen



**Third Place** **University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**  
*Snyder delivers reflective final State of the State address*  
 Alexis Rankin

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

*Centering the image around one person makes these photos interesting and stronger.*

**First Place** **Michigan State University/ The State News**  
*Larry Nassar sentencing in Eaton County*  
 Annie Barker

**Second Place** **Michigan State University/ The State News**  
*Second Amendment March*  
 Annie Barker

**Third Place** **Ferris State University/ The Torch**  
*March for Our Lives*  
 Harley Harrison

**Honorable Mention** **Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**  
*March for Life header*  
 Madeline Fry

**Division 3 - News-Only Photo**  
**9 Entries**

*News photos with a different angle or lighting make them draw your focus into the story.*

**First Place** **Monroe County Community College/ The Agora**  
*MCCC hosts veterans' event*  
 Vanessa Ray

**Second Place** **Schoolcraft College/ The Connection**  
*Mastering charcuterie*  
 Alexandra Lachine

**Third Place** **Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**  
*About 4,000 West Michigan Residents gathered in Rosa Parks Circle for March for Our Lives*  
 Najd Ayari

**Non-Front Page Design**

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

**First Place** **Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**  
*Power of perseverance*  
 Staff

*The submissions in this category came down to the power of photography for the layout, and this entry rose to the top. The selection of photos for this story, and the way they were laid out, made a huge impact to a story that's already very interesting. Kudos to the photographer and the editor who made the right selections in the right places. Well done.*

**Second Place** **Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**  
*Professor's Offices*  
 Staff

*Glad there was ample room to show the variety of work spaces. The photos really made this entry rise close to the top of the submission list. I felt as though I was there. Thanks for giving me room to explore the offices.*

**Third Place** **Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**  
*Showcasing the future of fashion*  
 Rachael Kaiser

*The variety of photos and the way they were placed on the page helped tell this story very well. Nice choice for the lead photo and font; it really drew me into this piece.*

**Honorable Mention** **Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**  
*March 2 shooting*  
 Connor Byrne

*This entry showed a variety of layout tools to help tell the story, but what I liked the most was the way you created a timeline at the bottom. Nice job!*

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

**18 Entries**

**First Place** **Ferris State University/ The Torch**  
*Reduce and reuse*

Jordan Lodge  
*The impact of the graphic helps tell the story before we even read the story. Excellent job. Layout below the top story could have been better to help match what's above, design wise, but that did not hurt this entry.*

**Second Place** **Ferris State University/ The Torch**  
*Dia De Los Muertos*

Angela Graf  
*The graphic makes this page. Colorful, appropriate and well balanced. Well done!*

**Third Place** **Ferris State University/ The Torch**  
*Devastating testimonies*

Jordan Lodge  
*The flag-draped map of Nevada draws the eye into this page. White text on black background was an excellent choice to show mourning. Would have liked to see more thought into the design of the top story -- an important one -- other than big, bold type in order to match the well-designed Nevada story. Still, great job!*

**Honorable Mention** **Hillsdale College/ The Collegian**

Nov. 16 Culture  
 Hannah Niemeier  
*Creative way to present the text cutout into the impactful and colorful photo at the top. If more creativity was put into the layout of the bottom two stories, this entry would have risen closer to the top.*

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

**10 Entries**

**First Place** **Spring Arbor University/The Pulse**  
*Is it the most wonderful time of the year?*

Kayla Williamson  
*Brilliant double truck layout. Good color, mood, headline font. Clear that this is a holiday piece. Excellent use of photography with the layout. This one took some time, effort and creativity. Well done. Next time, don't forget the photo credit, especially in a spread like this that is integral to your layout design.*

**Second Place** **Lansing Community College/ The Lookout**  
*Vacay Just a Stones Throw Away*

Sarah Barney  
*Maybe it's because I'm a sucker for maps, but I loved this layout. Clear that it is a travel piece. Easy to read and very eye catching.*

**Third Place** **Schoolcraft College/ The Connection**  
*Arts & Entertainment Reviews*

Christine Begle  
*Excellent use of artwork with this design. Colors work well together, even though I'm not a big fan of that much orange; still, it works to catch the eye, and the text is readable. Nice job!*

**Honorable Mention** **Lansing Community College/ The Lookout**  
*Women's March*

Nicole Cade  
*This one caught my eye, not just because of the color but the font and symbols. The main photo supported the theme well, but overall the photos needed to be stronger, maybe some close-ups and medium shots. It would have made for a more impactful layout. Even so, this page was worth honoring in the contest.*

**Online Newspaper**

**Open Class - Online Newspaper**  
**5 Entries**

**First Place Ferris State University/ The Torch**

*Torch Web Editions*

Angela Graf, Sarah Massey, Harley Harrison, Alicia Jaimes, Marley Tucker, Brendan Samuels, Keith Salowich, Abbey Good

*Striking use of color, artfully framed pages, and generous space given to dynamic, sports-themed photos combine to make this one the leader of the pack.*

**Second Place Grand Rapids Community College/ Collegiate**

*n/a*

The Collegiate Staff

*Good headlines, but far too many mentions of "GRCC" in any given visual field; still, a winning combination of overall design, photos, and top-notch journalism.*

**Third Place Schoolcraft College/ The Connection**

*The Schoolcraft Connection Archives*

Schoolcraft Connection Staff

*With equal attention given to news, features, opinion, and events, this has the feel of a community newspaper I'd like to read, even while living far away from the action.*

**Honorable Mention Monroe County Community College/ The Agora**

*www.MCCCagora.com*

Agora staff

*Appealing alliteration and a clean, compelling, visual presentation make this one the worthy winner of an honorable mention.*

**Original Cartoon Editorial or Entertainment**

**Open Class - Original Cartoon Editorial or Entertainment**

10 Entries

**First Place Ferris State University/ The Torch**

*Samuel McNeill's Cartoons*

Samuel McNeill

*Samuel McNeill's work is dense with wit, wisdom, and cutting observations; the clear winner in a field of worthy candidates.*

**Second Place Monroe County Community College/ The Agora**

*Cheyenne Abel Original Cartoon*

Cheyenne Abel

*The facial expressions created by Cheyenne Abel tell the story and capture the reader. Excellent use of color.*

**Third Place Schoolcraft College/ The Connection**

*Michigan Weather*

Lauren Senkbeil

*"Doodles" doesn't do justice to this entry by Alexandra Lachine; great visual storytelling, and a nice payoff in the final panel.*

**Honorable Mention University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*How local leasing companies are sidestepping city ordinance*

Roseanne Chao

*Roseanne Chao's illustration could be set in any era of housing injustice, and takes its place in the great tradition of using the power of a lone image to editorialize.*

**Single Ad**

**Open Class - Single Ad**

7 Entries

**First Place Michigan State University/ The State News**

*Get a Paw Ahead with The State News*

Daena Faustino

*Everyone loves a dog but the clincher in this ad is the newspaper. THAT'S the effective piece of art! Perfect photo piece to peak someone's interest.*

**Second Place Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

*Housing Fair*

Staff

*Creative play on a comic book. Not sure what the super hero / villain theme has to do with a housing fair, but it draws the reader in.*

**Third Place Schoolcraft College/ The Connection**

*Club ads*

Kevin Ferguson

*Busy, but nice idea to give the impression of a patchwork quilt of clubs. Next time, if all the ads are presented in the same direction, it will make it easier for the reader.*

**Special Advertising Section**

**Open Class - Special Advertising Section**

4 Entries

**First Place Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

*Orientation*

Staff

*The layout for this piece was very well done. Great color-scheme, very good mix between full pages and articles. It was a well thought-out, attention grabbing section.*

**Second Place Michigan State University/ The State News**

*Martin Luther King Jr. Issue*

Rachel Fradette, McKenna Ross, Souichi Terada, Jonathan LeBlanc, Sasha Zidar, Nic Antaya, Casey Holland, Daena Faustino, Lauren Gewirtz, Mia Wallace, Raquel Mishaan

*Very educational and researched piece. Would have liked to see a little more color incorporated into this but it was very well done. Layout was great and very informative.*

**Third Place University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*Festifall Guide*

Daily Staff

*Well done piece, good layout. Would have liked to see a little bit more editorial content.*

**Honorable Mention Lansing Community College/ The Lookout**

*Full Page Ad*

Nicole Cade

*Very colorful but could have done without the back drop photo. It took away from the ads on the page.*

**Sports News/Features**

**Division 1 - Sports News/Features**

23 Entries

**First Place University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*Like grandmother, Allan hopes to make Olympic dream come true*

Aria Gerson

**Second Place Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

*Former CMU gymnast says offering statement in Nassar case was empowering*

Dylan Goetz

**Third Place Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

*Club baseball player died July 29 in car accident; remembered fondly by friends and family*

Andrew McDonald

**Honorable Mention Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

*Playing with purpose: Sophomore Zach Kohn pitches for father battling leukemia*

Evan Petzold

**Division 2 - Sports News/Features**

41 Entries

**First Place Michigan State University/ The State News**

*For safety Khari Willis, community involvement is his calling*

Jonathan LeBlanc

**Second Place Michigan State University/ The State News**

*Frozen Four to hockey hell: a decade-long tale of MSU hockey*

Kara Keating

**Third Place** **Albion College/ The Pleiad**

*Drew Harm: Fighting Against the Odds*

Andrew Wittland

**Honorable Mention** **Albion College/ The Pleiad**

*More Than a Family Affair For Three Britons*

Andrew Wittland

**Division 3 - Sports News/Features**

**11 Entries**

**First Place** **Spring Arbor University/The Pulse**

*Take a Knee or Take a Stand: Thoughts from SAU*

Alex Anhalt

*Looks at it better than many professional writers have.*

**Second Place** **Lansing Community College/ The Lookout**

*Men's Basketball*

Brodee Gillam

*Grabs early and makes an interesting piece.*

**Third Place** **Schoolcraft College/ The Connection**

*Bound for Nationals*

Christian Hollis

*The first sentence had me.*

**Honorable Mention** **Schoolcraft College/ The Connection**

*Player of the Year*

Casey Spencer

**Sports Photo**

**Division 1 - Sports Photo**

**6 Entries**

*Freezing the action and also the emotion makes for these very good sports photos.*

**First Place** **University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*Liverpool vs. Manchester United turned into a one-sided affair*

Alec Cohen

**Second Place** **Grand Valley State University/ Grand Valley Lanthorn**

*GVSU football team all smiles at Media Day*

Emily Frye

**Third Place** **University of Michigan/ The Michigan Daily**

*Michigan advances to Sweet 16 on Jordan Poole buzzer-beating prayer*

**Honorable Mention** **Central Michigan University/ CM-Life**

*Women's Basketball*

Allissa Rusco

**Division 2 - Sports Photo**

**16 Entries**

*Freezing the frame at a moment of peak emotion makes each shot say a lot more about the sport than just a final score.*

**First Place** **Ferris State University/ The Torch**

*Zach Hankins*

Keith Salowich

**Second Place** **Ferris State University/ The Torch**

*Anchor-Bone Classic*

Keith Salowich

**Third Place** **Michigan State University/ The State News**

*Michigan State Hockey*

Matt Schmucker

**Honorable Mention** **Albion College/ The Pleiad**

*Kingston, one of Albion College's Class of 2017 horses*

Gabby Henriksen

**Division 3 - Sports Photo**

**9 Entries**

*Sports photos with effort and intensity that let us really feel the commitments these athletes make.*

**First Place** **Schoolcraft College/ The Connection**

*Women's Soccer finished regular season undefeated*

David Vega

**Second Place** **Lansing Community College/ The Lookout**

*Men's Basketball*

Brodee Gillam

*Sports photos with effort and intensity that let us really feel the commitments these athletes make.*

**Third Place** **Lansing Community College/ The Lookout**

*Volleyball*

Brianna Bernstein