

Ball State University | School of Journalism & Strategic Communication

NATIONAL WRITING & ALUMNI AWARDS PROGRAM

Alumni Center | Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025



WELCOME

Geoffrey S. Mearns

President, Ball State University

SPEAKERS

Johnny Sparks

Director, School of Journalism and Strategic Communication

Kristen McCauliff

Dean, College of Communication, Information, and Media

Rick Martinez

Vice President, SJSC Alumni Society

Ava Monroe

Student, School of Journalism and Strategic Communication

SJSC ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: David Studinski, '07, '09

Past President: Tom Gayda, '98, '05

Vice President: Rick Martinez, '84

Secretary/Treasurer: Megan Carrico, '12

School Director: Johnny Sparks

Faculty Representative: Gabriel Tait

Alumni Association Liaison: Ashlee Anderson, '04, '06

Members:

Gerry Appel, '01, '03

Kyle Ellis, '09

Kiersten Flint, '21

Heidi Kroft, '00

Eddie Metzger, '19, '20

Monica Miller, '81, '94

Corey Ohlenkamp, '14, '20

Nick Paulenich, '98

Brandon Pope, '14

John Ratz, '09

Casey Smith, '18

Taylor Williams, '19

AWARDS & RECIPIENTS

PAGE 4

National Journalism Writing Award

Jeff Seidel

PAGE 6

Indiana Journalism Award

Casey Smith

PAGE 11

Majeri Award for Innovation and Leadership

Denise M. Reagan

PAGE 12

Joseph Costa Courtroom Photography Award

Michael M. Santiago

PAGE 15

John R. Emens Award

Betsy Meyer

PAGE 16

Marilyn Weaver Scholastic Journalism Award

Lauren Wagner

PAGE 18

Young Alumni Awards

Leigh-Ann Richardville

Tyson Bird

PAGE 20

Outstanding Alumni Awards

Jeffrey Furticella

Johnny Smith Jr.

PAGE 22

SJSC Hall of Fame

Navbahor Imamova

Quinn Klinefelter





National Journalism Writing Award

Jeff Seidel

Detroit Free Press

The National Journalism Writing Award recognizes excellence in storytelling. The focus of this award is on outstanding writing, a skill critical to informing and connecting people across the globe.

Jeff Seidel has spent more than 27 years at the Detroit Free Press, building a body of work defined by his narrative reporting and an ability to find the human heart of complex stories. Seidel specializes in immersive human-interest journalism, often spending months or even a year following subjects to tell full, nuanced stories that challenge easy answers and honor lived experience.

His multi-year reporting on Amedy Dewey, an individual who survived an act of violence that transformed her life, exemplifies this approach. Seidel's coverage moves beyond the event itself to trace recovery, the often-fractured path of healing and the quiet resilience of people rebuilding their lives. Those stories model journalism's capacity not just to inform, but to deepen public understanding and restore dignity to those whose lives become public narratives.

Alongside his features, Seidel has produced sports coverage and major-event reporting, including assignments at three Olympic Games. His work has been recognized with prestigious honors, including a National Headliner Award, three Livingston Award finalist nods, and four Associated Press Sports Editors (APSE) awards, placing him among the nation's top writers in both feature and column categories. Across every beat, Seidel's prose is notable for its clarity, compassion and craft.

PAST RECIPIENTS

NJWA

- 2024** Georgea Kovanis,
Detroit Free Press
- 2023** Timothy Egan,
The New York Times
- 2022** Esmé E. Deprez,
Bloomberg News
- 2021** Hannah Dreier,
The Washington Post
- 2020** Mark Johnson,
Milwaukee Sentinel Journal

Eugene S. Pulliam National Journalism Writing Award

- 2019** Kristen Gelineau,
The Associated Press
- 2018** Eric Hoover,
Chronicle of Higher Education
- 2017** Robrt Pela, Phoenix News Times
- 2016** Mark Johnson, Milwaukee
Journal Sentinel
- 2015** Alan Prendergast, Westword
- 2014** Eric Adler, The Kansas City Star
- 2013** Rukmini Callimachi,
The Associated Press
- 2012** Crocker Stephenson, Milwaukee
Journal Sentinel
- 2011** Rukmini Callimachi,
The Associated Press
- 2010** Helen O'Neill,
The Associated Press
- 2009** Maureen O'Hagan,
The Seattle Times
- 2008** Lee Hill Kavanaugh,
The Kansas City Star
- 2007** Janet Kelley, Lancaster New Era
- 2006** Amy Schatz,
The Wall Street Journal
- 2005** Amy Dockser Marcus,
The Wall Street Journal
- 2004** Rinker Buck, Hartford Courant
- 2003** Lee Hill Kavanaugh,
The Kansas City Star
- 2002** Christine Evans,
The Palm Beach Post
- 2001** Elizabeth Leland,
The Charlotte Observer
- 2000** Christine Evans,
The Palm Beach Post

Nixon Newspapers, Inc. National Journalism Writing Award

- 1999** Crocker Stephenson,
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
- 1998** Walter Isaacson, Time
- 1997** Tom Hallman Jr., The Oregonian
- 1996** David Dudley,
Baltimore Magazine
- 1995** Ron Suskind,
The Wall Street Journal
- 1994** Tom Koetting, The Wichita Eagle
- 1993** Judith Valente,
The Wall Street Journal
- 1992** Rob Hiaasen, Palm Beach Post
- 1991** Tad Bartimus,
The Associated Press
- 1990** Barry Bearak, Los Angeles Times
- 1989** Susan Ager,
The Detroit Free Press
- 1988** Robert Jones, Los Angeles Times
- 1987** Barry Michael Cooper,
Spin Magazine
- 1986** Bill Norton,
Kansas City Star Magazine
- 1985** Susan Harrison,
The Muskegon Chronicle

National Journalism Writing Award

- 1984** Michael Matza
- 1983** Gannett News Service
- 1982** The Chicago Sun-Times
- 1981** The Detroit Free Press
- 1980** Robert Kapler
- 1979** Hoag Lewis
- 1978** The Chicago Sun-Times
- 1977** Investigative Reporters
and Editors
- 1976** Gannett Foundation
- 1975** The Wall Street Journal
- 1974** National News Council
- 1973** The Washington Post
- 1972** The New York Times
- 1971** The Courier-Journal and
The Louisville Times
- 1970** Dow Jones and Company
- 1969** Theodore M. White
- 1968** Kelly Smith
- 1967** Eugene C. Pulliam
- 1966** Today
- 1965** The Newspapers Publishers Syndicate
- 1964** The Associated Press
- 1963** Marquis Childs
- 1962** Harrison Salisbury
- 1961** Irving Dillard
- 1960** William A. Shirer



Indiana Journalism Award

Casey Smith

Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Indiana Journalism Award recognizes outstanding achievements in Indiana journalism among writers, reporters, columnists, editors, publishers, foundations, media outlets and auxiliary organizations.



Students from the Ball State Daily News recruit new members during SuperParty, CCIM's yearly activity fair, connecting aspiring journalists with on-campus media opportunities.

PAST RECIPIENTS

- 2022** Hon. Marianne Vorhees
- 2021** Katrice Hardy
- 2020** Steve Key, HSPA
- 2019** Kelsey Timmerman
- 2018** IndyStar Investigative Team
- 2017** Dave Bangert
- 2016** Gerry Dick
- 2015** Ruth Chin
- 2014** Henry Bird
- 2013** Woman's Press Club of Indiana
- 2012** The Herald-Times
- 2011** Bob Segall, WTHR-TV
- 2010** Matthew Tully and Danese Kenon, The Indianapolis Star
- 2009** The Columbus Republic
- 2008** Emmis Publishing
- 2007** Dennis Ryerson
- 2006** John Robinson
- 2005** Scott C. Schurz
- 2004** Jack Ronald
- 2003** William Nangle
- 2002** Jon Schwantes, The Indianapolis Star and WTHR Channel 13
- 2001** Juli Metzger
- 2000** The Indianapolis Recorder
- 1999** "State of Secrecy Project": The Times of Northwest Indiana; The Indianapolis Star; The Evansville Courier; South Bend Tribune; The Star Press Muncie; The Tribune Star, Terra Haute; The Journal Gazette, Fort Wayne
- 1998** David Stamps, Hoosier State Press Association
- 1997** The Indianapolis Star News Election Reporting Team
- 1996** Morry Mannies
- 1995** Larry Lough
- 1994** Bob Collins
- 1993** Howard Caldwell
- 1992** Eugene C. Pulliam
- 1991** Jim Davis
- 1990** Harold Trulock
- 1989** John Rumbach
- 1988** Randy West
- 1987** Andrew Lippman
- 1986** Gerald Stewart
- 1985** Greensburg Daily News
- 1984** Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame Association
- 1983** Ernest E. Williams
- 1982** Hortense Myers
- 1981** The Gary Post-Tribune
- 1980** The Shelbyville News
- 1979** John Blair
- 1978** Wendy Gilford
- 1977** Ed O'Neel
- 1976** Boyd Gill
- 1975** Robert Barnett
- 1974** William Harley Bierce, Richard Cady
- 1973** Robert O'Bannon
- 1972** The South Bend Tribune
- 1971** Richard Blackledge
- 1970** Richard W. Cardwell
- 1969** The Wabash Plain Dealer
- 1968** Robert Gamble
- 1967** Hoosier State Press Association
- 1966** James Neal
- 1965** Herb Silverberg

CITATION AWARDS

Special citations are awarded by the School of Journalism and Strategic Communication to recognize people or organizations for outstanding accomplishments and/or significant contributions within their fields.



Katey Rusch

Investigative Reporting Program - UC Berkeley

Brad Byrd
*Retired Lead Anchor of
Evansville's Eyewitness News*



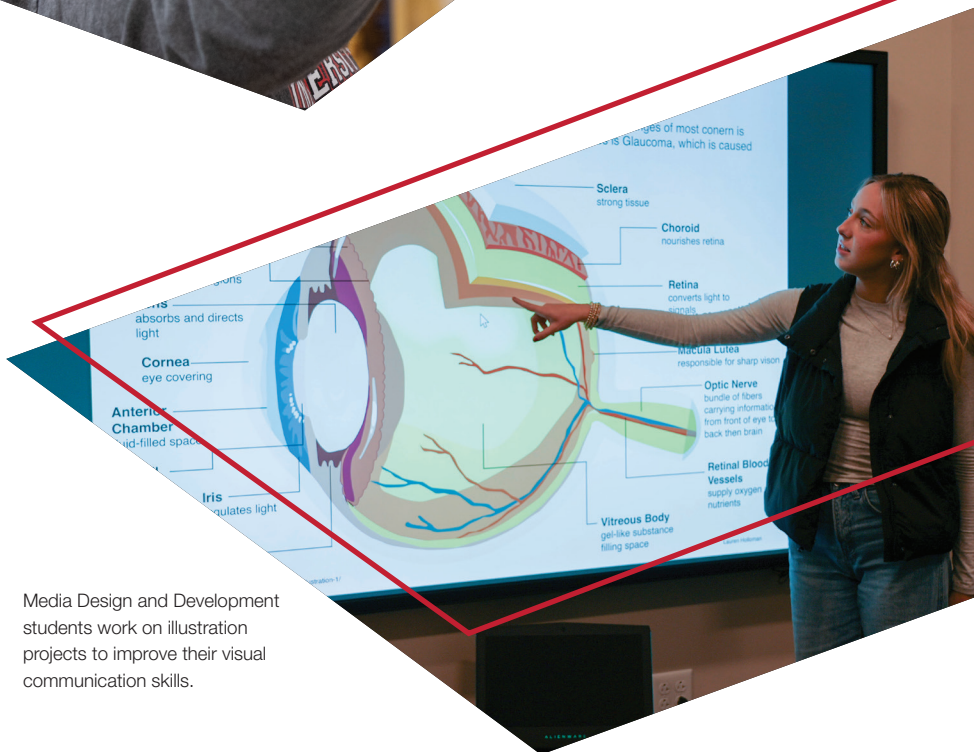
Susan Walsh

Former Associated Press Photojournalist

PAST RECIPIENTS

- 2018** Bob Heisse
- 2017** Jim Shella
- 2015** Bona and Lawrence Press
- 2013** William Nangle
- 2011** The Herald
- 2010** Stephen Key
- 2009** Tony Snow (posthumous)
Edward D. Feigenbaum
- 2008** Virginia Tech Collegiate Times, Indiana
Collegiate Press Association, Rhoda
Weiss
- 2007** Dennis Cripe, SND Ethics Team
- 2006** David Clark, Fred Bagg,
Times-Picayune Staff
- 2005** Terry Coomer
- 2004** Anne Mullin O'Connor, Jeff Smulyan
- 2003** Anne Condran, Chicago Tribune
- 2002** Gov. Frank O'Bannon
American Society of Newspaper
Editors
- 2001** The Washington Post
- 2000** Ron Lemaster, John Robinson and
The House of White Birches,
John E. Worthen
- 1999** Mark Dominiak and
Eugene S. Pulliam
- 1998** Newseum
- 1997** Hoosier PRSA Chapter and
National Scholastic Press Association
- 1996** Phil Ball alias Charles F. Coldwater, M.D.
- 1994** Anton (Tony) Majeri Jr.
- 1993** Karen Randolph, Tim Carroll
and Dana Wichern
- 1992** Rita Winters
- 1991** Justice William J. Brennan Jr.
- 1990** Thomas Engleman
- 1989** Sister Ann Christine Heintz
- 1988** Bob Barnet
- 1987** The Butler Collegian and James
Parham
- 1986** Central Newspapers Foundation and
the Richmond Palladium-Item
- 1985** Barbara Poore
- 1984** Society of Professional Journalists and
Tri-State University
- 1983** Glen W. Robinson and
The Columbus Republic
- 1982** John A. Boyd
- 1981** Bill Thornbro, Frank Walsh, William
Du Bois Jr., Janet L. Powell,
Louis J. Gregory and Guy L. Johnson
- 1980** Louis E. Ingelhart, Nixon Newspapers
Inc., Jean Otto, Joseph Costa and Earl
C. Yestingsmeier Jr.
- 1979** Marilyn Augburn Sharp and
Vern C. Schranz
- 1978** Martin Weinberger and Jerry Stewart
- 1977** Paul A. Bennett
- 1976** Ann Ely
- 1975** The News-Sentinel, Fort Wayne
- 1973** Joseph C. Wagner, The Marion
Newspapers Inc. and
Nixon Newspapers Inc.
- 1972** The Daily News and Jack Anderson
- 1968** The Nashville Tennessean

In the School of Journalism and Strategic Communication students turn ideas into impactful stories that improve lives.



Media Design and Development students work on illustration projects to improve their visual communication skills.



Majeri Award for Innovation and Leadership in Graphic Journalism

Denise M. Reagan

The 5 & Dime Theatre Co.

The Majeri Award recognizes innovation and leadership in the profession of graphic journalism and for creating a body of work or a singular piece that demonstrates innovation in news design or graphics reporting. This

award is named for Anton Majeri Jr., a former senior editor for design and graphics at the Chicago Tribune. Under Majeri's leadership, the Chicago Tribune won more than 100 awards for design and graphic excellence from the Society for News Design.

PAST RECIPIENTS

2024 Ryan Hildebrandt	2010 Michael Price
2023 Marco Hernandez	2009 New York Times Graphics Dept.
2022 Chiqui Esteban	2008 Pegie Stark Adam
2021 Javier Zarracina	2007 Nigel Holmes
2020 Suzette Moyer	2006 Scott Horner, Don Wittekind
2019 Janet Michaud	2005 Kay Addis
2018 Alberto Cairo	2004 Mario Garcia
2017 Joe Ward	2003 Richard Curtis
2016 Joey Marburger	2002 Karl Gude
2015 Steve Dorsey	2001 Tim Harrower
2014 David Kordalski	2000 Harris G. Siegel
2013 Sara Quinn	1999 Deborah Withey
2012 Lou Silverstein	1998 Chicago Tribune Department of Photography, Design and Graphics
2011 Martin Gee	



Joseph Costa
Courtroom Photography Award
Michael M. Santiago
Getty Images

This award recognizes photographers who have used their cameras to accurately and carefully document the action of the courtroom. The winning entry demonstrates the use of this communication tool in what is a highly sensitive area. As a founder of the National Press Photographers Association, Joseph Costa, who taught in Ball State's School of Journalism and Strategic Communication in the 1970s and 1980s, was one of the first to fight for the photographer's right to be in the courtroom, and it is his pioneering spirit that lives on in this award.

PAST RECIPIENTS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2022 Sean Krajacic, Kenosha News | 1999 Scott Wiseman, Palm Beach Post |
| 2020 Tom Fox, The Dallas Morning News | 1998 Jock Fistick, Tampa Tribune |
| 2012 Matthew Berry, Lancaster Eagle Gazette | 1997 Scott Wheeler, The Ledger |
| 2011 Michael Wilson, The Ledger | 1996 Sandy Hill, The Associated Press |
| 2009 Lou Toman, freelance | 1995 Kurt E. Smith, Post-Intelligencer |
| 2008 Marc Campos, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin | 1993 David Burnett, Time |
| 2007 Mark Hertzberg, The Journal Times | 1992 Kelly Jordan, Sun News |
| 2006 Mark Hertzberg, The Journal Times | 1991 Faye Ellman, New York Law Journal |
| 2005 Ethan Miller, The Las Vegas Sun | 1990 Tony Ranze, Lakeland Ledger |
| 2004 Tony Giberson, Pensacola News Journal | 1989 Jim Lavrakas, Anchorage Daily News |
| 2003 Gary McCracken, Pensacola News Journal | 1988 Kenny Kemp, The Charleston Gazette |
| 2002 Sheila Springsteen, freelance | 1987 Mark Hertzberg, The Journal Times |
| 2001 Mark Hertzberg, The Journal Times | 1984 Karen H. Sherlock, The Milwaukee Sentinel |
| 2000 Ethan Miller, The Las Vegas Sun | |



Students in the photographic storytelling concentration have opportunities to shoot Ball State athletic and campus events.



Photography students provide professional headshots for peers to practice portrait and studio photo techniques.

Student designers for The Agency at Cardinal Media work on social media graphics, advertisements, publication designs, posters and digital designs.



Students are recognized at the annual Louie Awards for their hard work and dedication to the fields of journalism and strategic communication.



John R. Emens Award
for Support of a Free Student Press

Betsy Meyer
The Agency at Cardinal Media

This award recognizes a college or university administrator who has demonstrated support of a free student press on their campus. The award is named in honor of Dr. John R. Emens, president of Ball State University from 1945 to 1968. President Emens

supported the concept of a free student press on the Ball State campus. As a national leader among higher education administrators, he encouraged others to support a free press at their campuses as well.

PAST RECIPIENTS

2005 Florida Atlantic University
Administrators
2003 Dianne Bailiff
2001 Richard H. Wells
1999 Everett Frost
1998 Gerald O' Connor
1993 Deryl Leaming
1991 Thomas Meredith
1987 F. Jay Taylor

1984 Committee of Concerned
Professors, University of
Minnesota
1982 Rev. John Richardson
1981 Jay F. Ebersole
1980 Martin B. Garrison
1979 Jerry P. Williams
1978 Wendell H. Nedderman
1977 Porter L. Fortune



Marilyn Weaver
Scholastic Journalism Award

Lauren Wagner

Zionsville Community High School

The Marilyn Weaver Scholastic Journalism Award recognizes individuals or organizations who make outstanding contributions to scholastic journalism. This award is named after Marilyn Weaver, Chair and professor emerita of the School of Journalism and Strategic Communication, formerly the Department of Journalism at Ball State University. During her tenure, Weaver garnered a national reputation for being a staunch supporter of scholastic journalism.



Students work in the Unified Media Lab on different design opportunities with our student publications, including Ball Bearings Magazine and the Ball State Daily News.

PAST RECIPIENTS

2024 Jim McCrossen
2023 Justin Peeper
2022 Sarah Nichols
2021 Carrie Wadycki-Cruz, Sarah Verpooten
2020 Ryan Gunterman
2019 Mary Beth Tinker

Indiana Scholastic Journalism Award

2018 Ed Clere, Ed DeLaney
2017 Indiana Planning Committee for 2016 JEA/NSPA Fall Convention
2016 Jim Streisel
2015 Jill Lyday
2014 Kathy Craghead
2013 Candace Perkins Bowen
2012 Tom Gayda
2011 Carey Kehler
2010 Broad Ripple Magnet High School
2009 Y-Press
2008 Mary Andis
2007 Student Press Law Center
2006 Kim Green
2005 Diana Hadley
2004 Jack Dvorak
2003 Richard Johns
2002 Pam Essex
2001 Tony Willis
2000 North Central High school
1999 Journalism Education Association
1998 Mark Haab
1997 Wendy Kruger
1995 Louis E. Ingelhart
1994 Dennis Cripe
1993 H. L. Hall
1992 Hurley Goodall
1991 State of Indiana Planning Committee for the JEA/NSPA Convention
1990 Thomas Engelman
1989 Nancy Ruth Patterson
1988 Mark Goodman
1987 Joseph A. Jungblut
1986 David Massy
1985 Marilyn Athmann
1984 Larry Glaze
1983 Nancy Hastings
1982 Wilma Taylor

1981 Rod Vahl
1980 Terry Nelson
1979 Joseph W. Glowacki
1978 Marilyn Weaver
1977 Jerry Woodring
1976 Quill and Scroll Society
1975 Joan Lentczner
1974 Pat Clark
1973 Robert Chupp
1972 Jayne Staley and The Indianapolis News
1971 Kenneth J. Atwell, John M. Butler
1970 Joseph M. Murphy
1969 Mary Benedict
1968 Frances Halberstadt
1967 Ruth Marie Griggs
1966 James Dold and Mary Dold
1965 Gretchen Kemp
1964 Edgar Henderson
1963 Dean Speicher, Robert Heintzelman
1962 Earl Johnson
1961 John Boyd

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARDS

Awardees have achieved significant recognition or accomplishment in their chosen field (e.g. journalism, media, strategic communication, business, academia, etc.), community service, or university service. Awardees are under 36 years of age and majored or minored in one of the areas taught in the School of Journalism and Strategic Communication or worked for student agencies/media within the school.

PAST RECIPIENTS

2024 Brittany Forrest, Maris Schiess	2011 Rachel Perkins, Stephen Salcedo, Todd Witkemper
2023 Ellen Gilmer, Kate Burnett Sarlitto	2010 Deana Haworth
2022 Grace Hollars, Jennifer Prandato	2009 Navbahor Imamova
2021 Dawn Araujo- Hawkins, Amy Cavenaile, John Ratz	2008 Heidi Monroe-Kroft, Justin Gilbert
2020 Becky Rother, Jacob Lane	2007 Rachel Allen, Scott Navarro
2019 Chelsea Kardokus, Alberto Pimienta, Natalie Steger	2006 Jennifer George-Palilonis, Steven Patterson
2018 Kyle Bentle, McKenzie Clift, Justin Friend	2005 Tom Gayda, Trish Taylor-Jones
2017 Matt Kelly, Megan McNames, Katie Smith Allen	2004 Michael S. Kellams, Rowan Benecke
2016 Danny Gawlowski, Adam Maksl, Jacque Smith	2003 Attila Schillinger
2015 Kim Maxwell Vu, Nicole Danielle Reinhart, Rebecca Berfanger	2002 Daniel Swenson
2014 Christopher Campbell, Andrew Pollen	2001 Michael Marker
2013 Rachel McCarver, David Studinski	2000 David A. Haugh
2012 Matthew Perry, Jonathan Seidel, Irving Washington III	1999 Emily A. Holmes
	1998 Julie-Allyson Ieron
	1997 Sonja Popp, Don Yaeger
	1996 Michael Price, Joseph Hernandez
	1995 Bradley Wilks
	1994 Scott McCarty
	1993 Beth Harris
	1992 Vance N. Meyer
	1991 Mark A. Kornmann
	1990 Timothy M. Andrews



Young Alumna Award

Leigh-Ann Richardville
Hirons



Young Alumnus Award

Tyson Bird
American City Business Journals



2022 Young Alumna Award winner, Jennifer Prandato, was the keynote speaker at Ball State's 70th JDay+/CCIM+ conference on April 25, 2025. This one-day journalism, media and communication conference for middle and high school students and teachers brings more than 1,000 participants from around the region to Ball State's campus.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARDS

Awardees have established a distinguished career in their chosen field (e.g. journalism, media, strategic communication, business, academia, etc.), community service, or university service. Awardees majored or minored in one of the areas taught in the School of Journalism and Strategic Communication or worked for student agencies/media within the school.

PAST RECIPIENTS

2024 Malina Simone Bacon, Irving Washington	1992 Myra Borshoff
2023 John Ketzenberger, Jeff Robinson	1991 Holly Miller
2022 Stephen Beard, Deana Haworth	1990 Marilyn Weaver
2021 Oseye Boyd	1989 Phil Schermerhorn
2020 Sonja Popp-Stahly	1988 Kristine Sandrick
2019 David Haugh	1987 Brian T. Usher, Sandra Usher
2018 Rachel Greene	1986 Fred Blevens
2017 Brian Peiritsch	1985 Beverley Pitts
2016 Lori Rader-Day	1984 Betsy Ross
2015 Kendall Monahan	1983 Alan G. Lisle
2014 Margaret Walter	1982 Debbie Marquardt
2013 Michelle Linn-Gust	1981 Michael P. Smith
2012 Beth Harris	1980 Dala "Dee" McKinsey
2011 David Sullivan	1979 Samuel P. Smith
2010 John Dye	1978 Deborah Taylor Givens
2009 Erik Johnson	1977 Eugene Policinski
2008 Jason Whitlock	1976 Robert Goebel
2007 Bernie Kohn	1975 Nancy Green
2006 Paul Nussbaum	1974 Richard P. Johns
2005 Amy Ahlersmeyer	1973 Kathleen Meehan
2004 Raymond S. Begovich	1972 Marie McCarty Geary
2003 Karen Garloch	1971 Don Park, Michael Rogers
2002 Terry Nelson	1970 Robert Heintzelman
2001 Bradley D. Wilks	1969 Marilyn Walker
2000 Don Yaeger	1968 William Du Bois Jr.
1999 Bruce E. Konkle	1967 Dale Burgess
1998 Douglas E. Toney	1966 Homer W. King
1997 Milbert O. Brown	1965 Glenn M. White
1996 Timothy M. Andrews	1964 Ralph J. Whiting
1995 James Yunker	1963 Dean Detweiler
1994 Jon Hughes	1962 James Rohrabough
1993 Peter Nye	1961 J. William Click



Outstanding Alumnus Award
Jeffrey Furticella
New York Times



Outstanding Alumnus Award
Johnny Smith Jr.
Roche Diagnostics



2021 Outstanding Alumna Award winner, Oseye Boyd, speaks at JDay+/CCIM+ to share her professional experience and inspire students to pursue careers in journalism.

SJSC HALL OF FAME AWARD



SJSC Hall of Fame Award

Navbahor Imamova

Voice of America

Inductees have demonstrated a long-term commitment and reputation of excellence in their chosen field (e.g. journalism, media, strategic communication, business, academia, etc.), community service or university service. Inductees majored or minored in one of the areas taught in the School of Journalism and Strategic Communication, worked for student agencies/media within the school, taught in the school, or provided outstanding support to the school.

PAST RECIPIENTS

2024 Dan Waechter, Juli Metzger	2002 Sam Smith
2023 Dr. Frederick Blevens, Dr. Milbert O. Brown Jr.	2001 Myra Borshoff, Mary Dale Walters
2022 Don Yaeger, Leisa Richardson	2000 Jon Hughes
2021 Bernard Kohn, Stephenie Overman	1999 John Butler, Gary Hengstler, Homer Smith
2020 Kathy Barks Hoffman, Jason Whitlock	1998 Beverley Pitts, Betsy Ross
2019 Beth Harris, Phillip McFarren, Gardi Wilks	1997 Earl Conn
2018 Casey Nichols	1996 Holly Miller
2017 Michael Price	1995 Michael Smith
2016 Karen Wessel Garloch	1994 Emmett Smelser
2015 Erik Johnson	1993 Edward Lewis, Paul Ingels
2014 Kim Green	1992 Larry Horney
2013 Gary Graham	1991 Edgar Henderson, Eugene Policinski
2012 Douglas Toney	1990 William Du Bois Jr., Marie Geary
2011 Marilyn Weaver	1989 Marie Fraser, Richard Johns
2010 David Knott, Hank Nuwer, Jim Wright	1988 Nancy Green
2009 Brad Wilks	1987 J. William Click, Ralph Kramer, A. Dean Speicher
2008 Anton (Tony) Majeri Jr.	1986 Joseph Costa
2007 Timothy Andrews, Mark Popovich	1985 Sharley DeMotte, Louis Ingelhart, Kathleen Meehan
2005 Mike Lopresti	
2004 Nancy Hastings	
2003 Jan Clark	

Navbahor Imamova is a leading journalist on Central Asian geopolitics and development whose reporting has connected audiences in information-scarce regions with authoritative, on-the-ground coverage for more than two decades. A Ball State graduate (M.A. '03), Imamova helped launch Voice of America's (VOA) Uzbek television programming in 2003 and has since anchored, produced, and reported editions of the weekly program Amerika Manzaralari, over a thousand episodes that blend news, analysis, and service journalism for Uzbek-speaking audiences.

Imamova's work stands out for its mix of regional expertise and groundbreaking access. She is the first and only U.S. journalist accredited to report from inside Uzbekistan, offering firsthand coverage of political transitions, social change and daily life in a country otherwise closed to outside media. Her reporting has revealed the complexities of human experience across Central Asia, translating those dynamics for U.S. and international audiences.

Driven by her belief in journalism as a public service, Imamova uses VOA and other platforms to bridge the gap between policy and people, making geopolitical shifts understandable and personal stories visible. Her work has earned her recognition as a leading voice both inside the region and in global discussions about Central Asia's present and future.



SJSC Hall of Fame Award

Quinn Klinefelter

Detroit Public Radio

Quinn Klinefelter is a seasoned radio journalist and editor whose reporting and anchoring have shaped civic conversation across Detroit and beyond. A Ball State alumnus ('86) who earned an M.A. from the University of Missouri, Columbia, Klinefelter brings nearly three decades of experience to his role as host and Senior News Editor at 101.9 WDET. He anchors midday newscasts and prepares reports heard on WDET as well as partner outlets, including NPR and the BBC.

Klinefelter's journalism centers on government and politics, and his reporting has included interviews with numerous presidential candidates, multiple Michigan governors and every Detroit mayor elected in the 21st century. That depth of access reflects both his institutional knowledge of Michigan politics and a reputation for fair, rigorous questioning.

His work has earned more than fifty awards from organizations such as CBS Radio, the Associated Press, the Wisconsin Broadcast Association, the Michigan Association of Broadcasters, and the Society of Professional Journalists, a testimony to his range and sustained excellence across beats and formats. Whether anchoring a midday newscast, producing an investigative segment, or crafting a field report, Klinefelter combines clarity, context, and a steady newsroom ethic that informs listeners and strengthens public discourse.



SJSC students involved with student media cover events in the community, keeping Muncie residents informed.



Emerging Media Design and Development students frequently collaborate with community partners on projects, such as the Remnant Trust, gaining real world experience and opportunities.

National Public Relations Achievement Award

Established as a “first” national public relations award for individuals who demonstrate excellence in their public relations experience, contributions to the profession, and encouragement of public relations education.

2021	Bruce Berger	1996	Daniel J. Edelman
2016	Glen Cameron	1995	Ann Barkedew
2013	Virgil Scudder	1994	James B. Strenski
2012	David Shank, Marilyn Shank	1993	James Little
2011	William Whitman	1992	John D. Graham
2010	Bill White	1991	W. Howard Chase
2009	Ginger Hardage	1990	Chester Burger
2008	MaryLee Sachs	1989	Robert L. Dilenschneider
2007	Robert Grupp	1988	Harold Burson
2006	Richard Edelman	1987	David Ferguson
2005	Kathy Lewton	1986	Edward L. Bernays
2004	James Lukaszewski	1985	Philip Lesly
2003	Ofield Dukes	1984	Patrick Jackson
2002	Amanda Brown Olmstead	1983	Denny Griswold
2001	David Drobis	1982	Betsy Ann Plank
2000	John Paluszek	1981	Jim Haynes
1999	John M. Reed	1980	Allen H. Center
1998	Lawrence G. Foster	1979	Frank W. Wylie
1997	Tim Traverse-Healy	1978	Maurice L. Denton
		1977	Ellen Hall

President's Award

The President's Award recognizes extraordinary service to Ball State's School of Journalism and Strategic Communication and the SJSC Alumni Society. This award is selected and given by the SJSC alumni society board president in collaboration with school leadership. Award recipients are not notified of their selection in advance of the recognition.

2021	Arlene Shirk	2014	Sarah Maisto, Juli Metzger
2019	Brian Hayes, Daniel Waechter	2013	Jim Grim, Charlotte Shepperd



NOMINATE DESERVING ALUMNI FOR AWARDS



**BALL STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**School of Journalism and
Strategic Communication**



The School of Journalism and Strategic Communication partners with the SJSC Alumni Society each year to recognize faculty, alumni and friends who are making a lasting mark on the industry and support our students and school initiatives.