62nd Annual Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition

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STUDENT AWARDS BANQUET

Back to Black and White When Everyone Read

Union University | October 22, 2026



BAPTIST COMMUNICATORS ASSOCIATION

62nd Annual Wilmer C. Fields Awards Competition

STUDENT AWARDS BANQUET

Back to Black and White When Everyone Read

BCA President
Kathleen Sparks

Student Awards Chair
Myriah Snyder-Garrett

BAPTIST COMMUNICATORS ASSOCIATION

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Letter from the Student Awards Chair

Dear Students,

I hope you are as proud of the work you do as we are of you.

You are the next generation of Baptist communicators, and we recognize both the responsibility and the incredible opportunity that comes with that. More than anything, we're excited about what lies ahead for you.

As you've probably gathered from this year's theme, Back to Black and White When Everyone Read, we've had a little fun looking back at the good old days of communications. Days when everything was analog, Google was the stuff of dreams, and one wrong keystroke on a typewriter could mean starting an entire page over again. (Personally, I'm thankful for the backspace key.)

But as much as we appreciate a little vintage nostalgia, there's something even more exciting about looking forward.

You are entering a field that is changing faster than we can fully comprehend. Artificial intelligence, emerging technologies and new ways of telling stories are reshaping how we communicate and connect with the world. We don't know exactly what the future of communications will look like. But after seeing the work you've submitted, I can tell you this: We believe that future is in good hands.

Your creativity, talent and dedication give us confidence that you will carry the work of Baptist and evangelical communications forward with integrity, excellence, objectivity, compassion and a commitment to truth. You'll find new ways to tell stories that matter, reach people who need to hear them and use the tools of your generation to make a meaningful difference.

We trust you. We're thankful for you. And we're cheering you on.

As you look through this booklet and celebrate your accomplishments, I hope you take a moment to recognize just how much you have to offer. Be proud of the work you've done, encouraged by the recognition you've earned and inspired to keep growing in your craft.

The tools may change. The stories may look different. But the calling to communicate truth with clarity, creativity and purpose remains.

We're excited to see where you take it from here.

With gratitude and congratulations,

Myriah Snyder-Garrett
Student Awards Chair

GRAND PRIZE



Public Relations & Development Division

NGU Homecoming History Tour

Aurora Agency

North Greenville University

Interactive Communications Division

Lariat coverage of TPUSA and All Are Neighbors

Sophia Monson, Christina Ikhbeis, and Savannah Ford

Baylor University Student Media Department





Audio-Visual Communications Division

The Hot Seat Ep 4: The Church Camp Effect

Norah Taylor, Jenna Booker,
Molly Sha Luttrell, and Darby Robinson

Union University



Photography Division

Hawkins bobbles a pass in the end zone after losing his helmet

Alyssa Meyers

Baylor University Student Media Department

News Writing Division

Camp Mystic counselors return to Baylor, reflect on flooding tragedy

Mackenzie Grizzard

Baylor University Student Media Department



Grand Prize Awards

Featured Writing Division

A letter to the victims of sexual assault

Mackenzie Grizzard

Baylor University Student Media Department

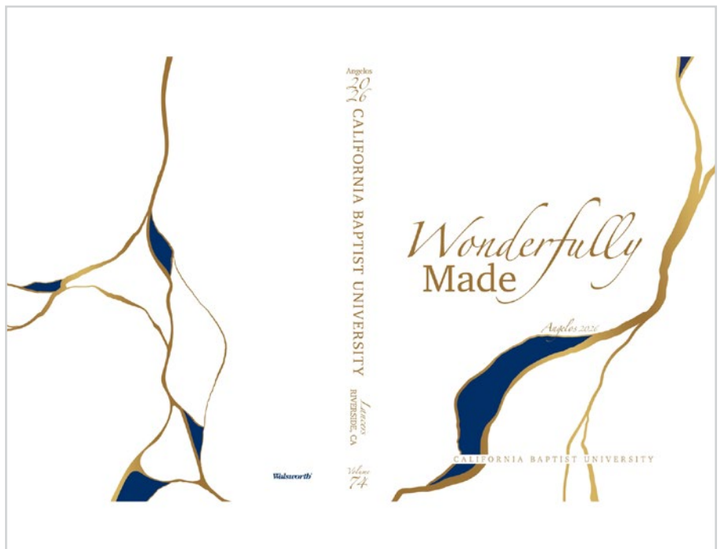


Design Division

Angelos Yearbook 2026 "Wonderfully Made"

Angelos Staff

California Baptist University



Total Public Relations Campaign or Marketing Strategy

1st Place

NGU Homecoming History Tour

Aurora Agency

North Greenville University



2nd Place

Wonderfully Made Memories Campaign

Lancer PR Staff

California Baptist University

Interactive Communications

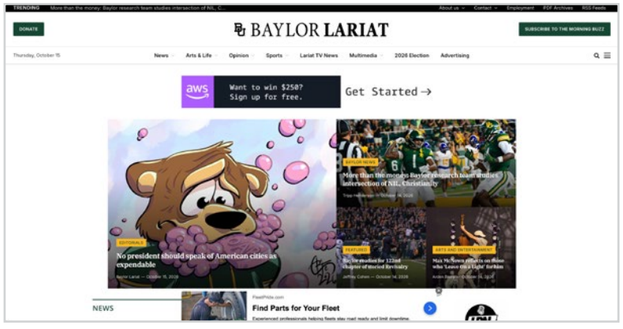
Website: Large site (25 pages or more)

1st Place

The Baylor Lariat's website

The Baylor Lariat Staff

Baylor University Student Media Department



2nd Place

The Banner Online

The Banner Staff

California Baptist University

Social Media: Single Post

1st Place

Fashion Done Wright

Lancer PR Staff

California Baptist University



Social Media: Campaign or Event

1st Place

Lariat coverage of TPUSA and All Are Neighbors

Sophia Monson, Christina Ikhbeis, and Savannah Ford

Baylor University Student Media Department



2nd Place

Social Media Campaign

Lancer PR Staff

California Baptist University

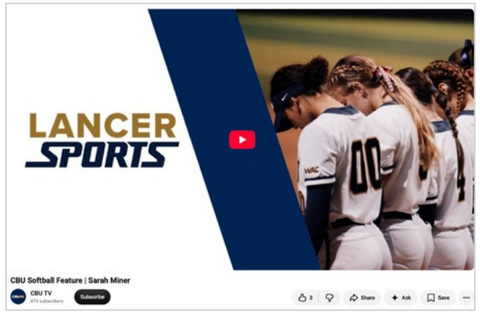
Video: Storytelling - 1-3 minutes

1st Place

CBU Softball Feature

Sarah Miner

California Baptist University



2nd Place

From Waco Hall to Super Bowl: Baylor alumnus transcends boundaries

Irma Pena

Baylor University Student Media Department

3rd Place

Adams Motorsports Park

Erica Dennis

California Baptist University

Video: Event Coverage - 1-3 minutes

1st Place

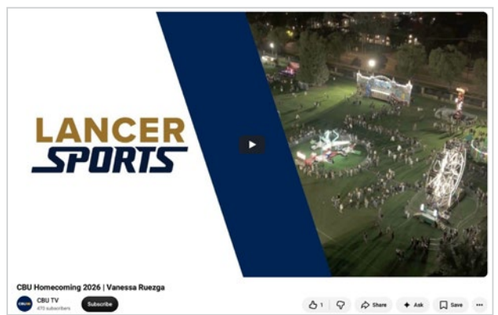
CBU Homecoming 2026

Vanessa Ruezga

California Baptist University

2nd Place

Baylor students join in prayer for Charlie Kirk, unity in country



Marissa Muniz

Baylor University Student Media Department

Video: Broadcast/Podcast - Individual Episode

1st Place

The Hot Seat Ep 4: The Church Camp Effect

Norah Taylor, Jenna Booker, Molly Sha Luttrell, and Darby Robinson

Union University



Audio: Broadcast/Podcast - Individual Episode

1st Place

Bear Newcessities: New Congressional map, brewery at Foster and Baylor esports title

Jacob Stowers and Mackenzie Grizzard

Baylor University Student Media Department



Feature: Single

1st Place

Stories of Step Sing 2026

Avery Abruzzo
Samford University



2nd Place

Lauren Daigle sings faith, love to families

Brady Harris
Baylor University Student Media Department

3rd Place

Looking into the creative world of Jordan Woolfork's digital art

Josiah Alvarado
California Baptist University

Feature: Series

1st Place

Athletic Purgatory

Brylee Williams
Union University



2nd Place

Step Sing 2026

Avery Abruzzo and Lorelai McLean
Samford University

3rd Place

Built by Generations

Elissa Garcia and Josiah Alvarado
California Baptist University

News: Single

1st Place

Waco 'No Kings' protest

Mary Thurmond
Baylor University Student Media Department



Event Coverage: Single

1st Place

Hawkins bobbles a pass in the end zone after losing his helmet

Alyssa Meyers
Baylor University Student Media Department



2nd Place

Focus: ETBU Softball

Demondre Williams
East Texas Baptist University

Event Coverage: Series

1st Place

Step Sing 2026

Avery Abruzzo and Lorelai McLean

Samford University



2nd Place

'No Kings' protesters call for 'positive populism,' 'community' in younger generations

Jake Schroeder, Hannah Webb, and Christina Ikhbeis

Baylor University Student Media Department

Portrait: Studio

1st Place

Fashion Done Wright

Elissa Garcia

California Baptist University



Portrait: Field

1st Place

Baylor coach Scott Drew draws up final instructions

Mesha Mittanasala

Baylor University Student Media Department



2nd Place

From Blank Walls to Lasting Stories

Natalie Tanaka

California Baptist University

Photo Illustration

1st Place

125 years of student journalism at Baylor

Mary Thurmond

Baylor University Student Media Department



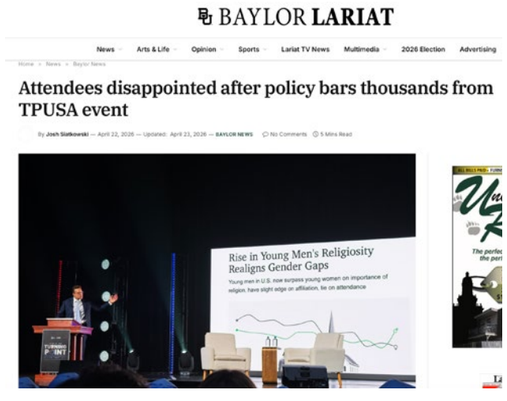
Single Article: Breaking

1st Place

Attendees disappointed after policy bars thousands from TPUSA event

Josh Siatkowski

Baylor University Student Media Department



2nd Place

The sandwich effect that's sucking value out of a Baylor education

Josh Siatkowski

Baylor University Student Media Department

3rd Place

'No Kings' protest brings life to otherwise quiet Capitol Hill

Ashlyn Beck

Baylor University Student Media Department

Single Article: Non-Breaking

1st Place

Camp Mystic counselors return to Baylor, reflect on flooding tragedy

Mackenzie Grizzard

Baylor University Student Media Department



2nd Place

Penland staff trio goes beyond the meal in decades of service

Josh Siatkowski

Baylor University Student Media Department

3rd Place

Larry Milner soars into aviation at age 73

Arianna Bultsma

California Baptist University

Single Article: Arts & Entertainment

1st Place



Water Coolers & Fire Hydrants: A Modern Meditation On Monoculture

Macie Smith

Union University

2nd Place

How homecoming has shaped three generations of alumnae

Kalena Reynolds

Baylor University Student Media Department

3rd Place

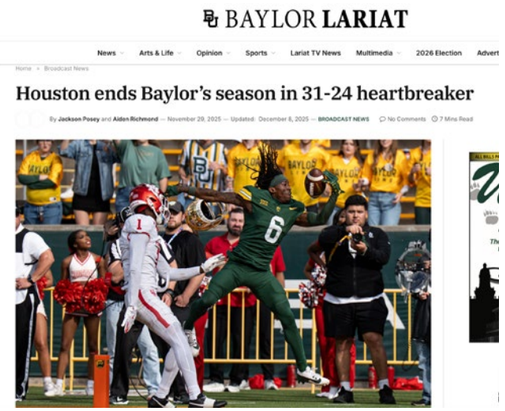
Women in film make history at the 98th Academy Awards in LA

Yedid Fuentes

California Baptist University

Single Article: Sports

1st Place



Houston ends Baylor's season in 31-24 heartbreaker

Jackson Posey

Baylor University Student Media Department

2nd Place

Athletic Purgatory: Union in the NIL Era

Luke Dalton

Union University

3rd Place

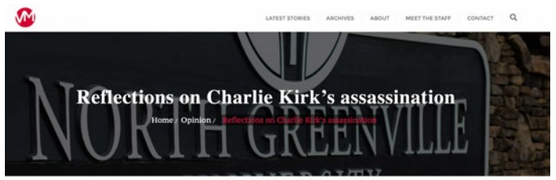
Architect of a sport, heart of a dynasty

Marissa Essenburg

Baylor University Student Media Department

Opinion/Editorial

1st Place





Reflections on Charlie Kirk's assassination

Treasure Hardwick

North Greenville University

2nd Place

We don't agree with TPUSA tour coming to campus — here's why

The Baylor Lariat Staff

Baylor University Student Media Department

3rd Place

There's No Place Like My Room

Margee Stanfield

Union University

Investigative Reporting

1st Place

Small town risks paying price of Waco data center dispute

Josh Siatkowski

Baylor University Student Media Department



2nd Place

Jeffrey Epstein visited Ken Starr on Baylor's campus in 2012

Mackenzie Grizzard

Baylor University Student Media Department

Single Article

1st Place

Meet the Bryants, the last family on 11th Street

O'Connor Daniel

Baylor University Student Media Department



2nd Place

More than paint and pixels: When creating becomes worship

C.J. Lytton

North Greenville University

3rd Place

From Blank Walls to Lasting Stories

Anna Clara Beretta Zeni

California Baptist University

First-Person Column/Blog: Single Entry

1st Place

A letter to the victims of sexual assault

Mackenzie Grizzard

Baylor University Student Media Department



Designed Elements: Illustration

1st Place

The Fruit of the Spirit

Samantha Meyeres

North Greenville University



2nd Place

Evidence for God in the Physical World

Carolina Busch

North Greenville University

Designed Elements: Infographic

1st Place

Bite-Sized Halloween Facts

Katie Beth Bostic

North Greenville University





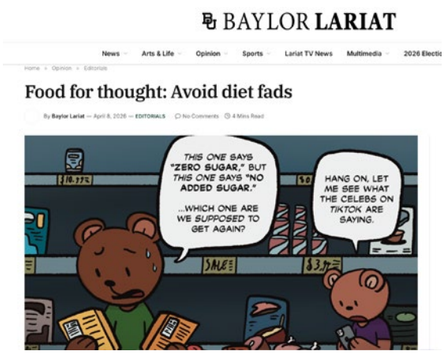
Designed Elements: Editorial Cartoon

1st Place

Food for thought: Avoid diet fads

James Ellis

Baylor University Student Media Department



2nd Place

Finding the perfect roommate is hard; Baylor can help

James Ellis

Baylor University Student Media Department

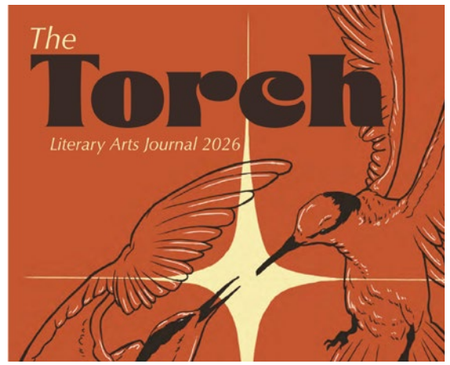
Print Collateral: Brochure or Booklet

1st Place

The Torch Literary Arts Journal 2026

Claira Forrester and Joshua Kelley

Union University



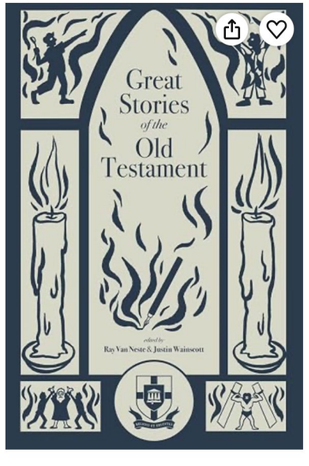
Print Collateral: Specialty Item

1st Place

Great Stories of the Old Testament Book

Claira Forrester and Josh Kelley

Union University



Print Collateral: Advertisement

1st Place

ETBU Softball: American Southwest Conference Tournament Hosts

Demondre Williams

East Texas Baptist University



Digital Collateral: Social Media Graphics

1st Place

Mallory Pyle NFCA Golden Glove Award

Demondre Williams

East Texas Baptist University



2nd Place

Forever a Lancer

Lancer PR Staff

California Baptist University

3rd Place

Angelos Photo Days Announcement

Lancer PR Staff

California Baptist University

Print Publications: Newspaper - Single Issue

1st Place

The Banner Issue 4

The Banner Staff

California Baptist University

2nd Place

The stories of Step Sing 2026

Samford Crimson staff

Samford University

Print Publications: Newspaper - Front Page

1st Place

The Banner Issue 4

The Banner Staff

California Baptist University



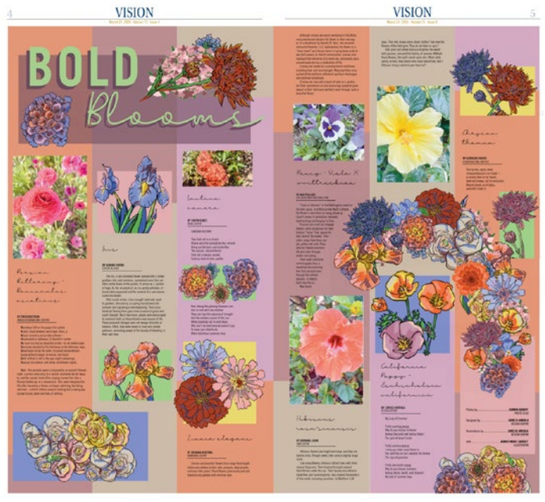
Print Publications: Newspaper - Spread

1st Place

Bold Blooms

Lorelei Arriola

California Baptist University



Print Publications: Magazine - Single Issue

1st Place

Pursuit Magazine Spring 2026

Pursuit Staff

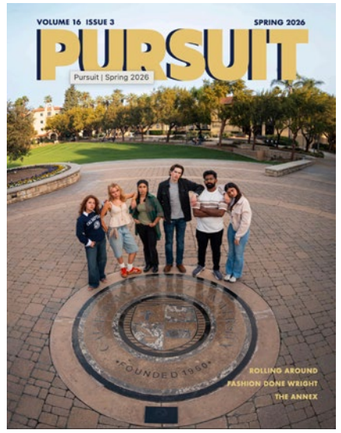
California Baptist University

2nd Place

Cardinal & Cream Magazine: Fall 2025

Abby Thomas

Union University



Print Publications: Magazine - Cover

1st Place

Pursuit Magazine Spring 2026

Pursuit Staff

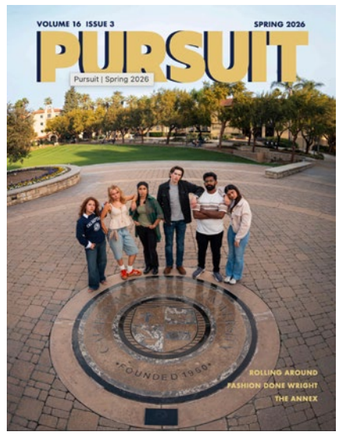
California Baptist University

2nd Place

Cover of Cardinal & Cream Magazine: Spring 2026

Brylee Williams and Abby Thomas

Union University



Print Publications: Magazine - Spread

1st Place

Fashion Done Wright

Javid Becerra

California Baptist University



2nd Place

The Digital Church: We, Not Just Me

Abby Thomas

Union University

Print Publications: Yearbook - Single Edition

1st Place

Angelos Yearbook 2026 "Wonderfully Made"

Angelos Staff

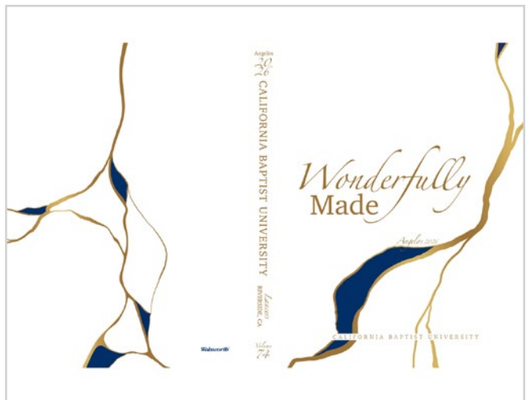
California Baptist University

2nd Place

Game On: Entre Nous 2026

Madison Johnson, Hanna Allen, Ellie Chapa, Madi Capson

Samford University



Print Publications: Yearbook - Cover

1st Place

Angelos Yearbook 2026 "Wonderfully Made"

Angelos Staff

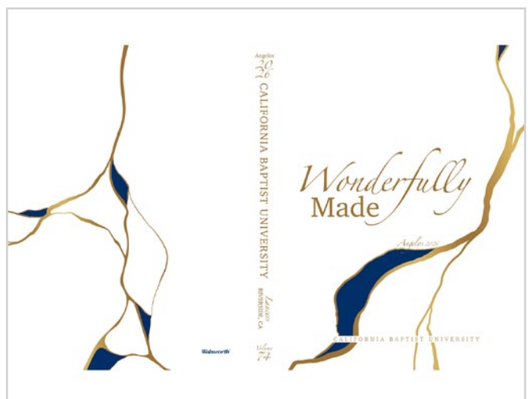
California Baptist University

2nd Place

Game On: Entre Nous 2026

Madison Johnson

Samford University



Print Publications: Yearbook - Spread

1st Place

Football 2026

Hanna Allen

Samford University



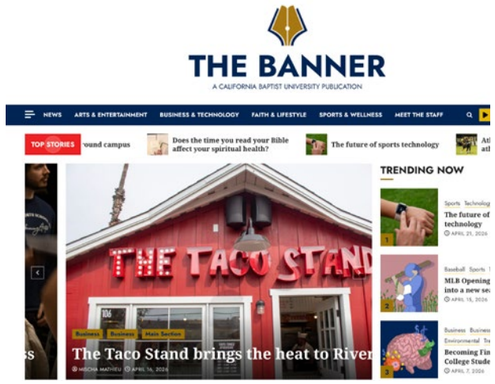
Electronic Publication

1st Place

The Banner Online

Banner Staff

California Baptist University



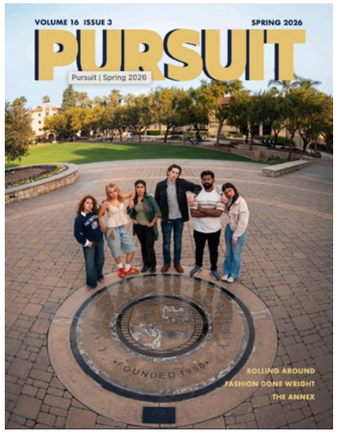
Print Publication: Magazine

1st Place

Pursuit Magazine Spring 2026

Pursuit Staff

California Baptist University



2nd Place

Cardinal & Cream Magazine: Spring 2026

Margee Stanfield, Editor-in-Chief

Union University

3rd Place

The Local

Zoe Scontras, Local staff

Samford University

Print Publication: Newspaper

1st Place

The Banner Vol. 73 Issue 4

Banner Staff

California Baptist University

2nd Place

The Baylor Lariat, April 23, 2026

The Baylor Lariat Staff

Baylor University Student Media Department

3rd Place

The Samford Crimson

Samford Crimson staff

Samford University



Print Publication: Yearbook

1st Place

Angelos Yearbook 2026 "Wonderfully Made"

Angelos Staff

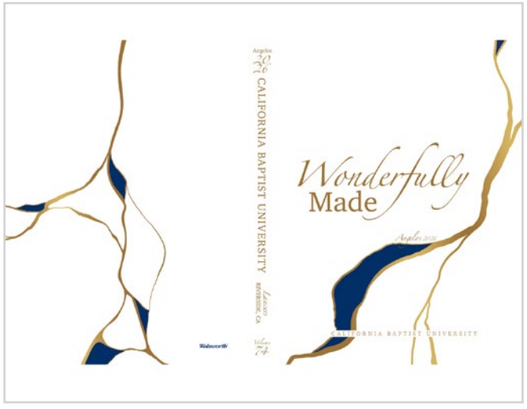
California Baptist University

2nd Place

Game On: Entre Nous 2026

Madison Johnson, Hanna Allen, Ellie Chapa, and Madi Capson

Samford University





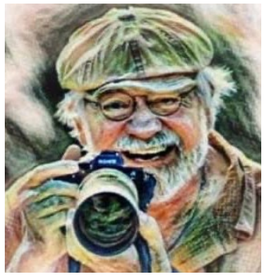
Aaron Earls

Aaron Earls is the senior writer for Lifeway Christian Resources. He graduated with a bachelor's in mass communication: journalism from North Greenville University and a master's in apologetics from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. Aaron has been published in numerous outlets, including The Washington Post, Christianity Today, World Magazine, and The Gospel Coalition. He has won Evangelical Press Association awards for both writing and graphic design.



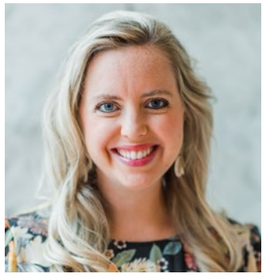
Alyssa Rummel

Alyssa Rummel is a photographer and graphic designer who is passionate about using visual and written media to tell the story of God through the stories of His people. She is the Director of Marketing and Communication at East Texas Baptist University. Alyssa also serves as an adjunct professor, teaching photography and design. Before joining ETBU, she spent six years in church communications at Mobberly Baptist Church in Longview, Texas. Alyssa holds a Master of Arts in Strategic Communication from ETBU and a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Studio Art from Baylor University.



Bill Bangham

Bill Bangham is a retired photojournalist, writer, and magazine editor. He is a past president and lifetime member of BCA. His work has been recognized by Pictures of the Year International and Best of Photojournalism. Two years he received three top honors in BCA competitions. He considers his greatest honor being adopted by a Native American indigenous tribe. He lives in Memphis, Tennessee, with his wife Dianne near their two daughters, grandson and son-in-law. He occasionally teaches.



Elizabeth Bristow

Elizabeth Bristow serves as the press secretary for the ERLC. Elizabeth oversees public relations and media operations for the organization. She received a B.A. in Public Relations and Marketing from Union University in 2010. She is a native of Tennessee and resides in Lebanon, Tennessee, with her husband and two children.



Holly MacKay

Holly MacKay serves as the manager of content marketing at GuideStone, overseeing editorial, social media, and select public relations opportunities. In her tenure of 13 years, she's worked in customer solutions, new business development and marketing, leading projects for the Minister's Tax Guide, the GuideStone Magazine, and content for the Start Well Initiative. Holly came to know the Lord at a young age and seeks to honor him with her life. She and her husband, Wes, are members and volunteers of Northway Church in Dallas, Texas.



Jeremiah Massengale

Jeremiah Massengale is an assistant professor of communication and media arts at the University of the Cumberlands, where he teaches courses in journalism, media history, graphic design, video production, and crisis communication. His work has appeared in numerous publications, including USA Today, RELEVANT Magazine, and PopMatters. Massengale also advises The Patriot, the university's student newspaper, helping student journalists tell the stories of their campus and community. He has been a featured speaker at the National College Media Convention and the Comic Arts Conference at San Diego Comic-Con.



Jim Veneman

For twenty-five years Jim has served as a university professor of photojournalism. He has covered many national and international stories. In 2011 he received the National Press Photographers Association's highest award for teaching photojournalism, the Robin F. Garland Educator Award. Photography has provided a way for Jim to share the stories of people in relationship with one another, and encourages viewers to make a difference in the lives around them.



Kathleen Sparks

Photographing the present with intention and preserving it for the future, Kathleen Sparks has been behind the camera since age 9 and professionally for 25 years. She is senior photographer and photo archivist for IMB and president of BCA. She holds an MFA in photography, previously taught at Union University and worked at SWBTS and TEDS. She loves helping student communicators sharpen their craft.



Lesa Moore

Lesa Moore serves as the Vice President for Marketing and Communications and Assistant Professor of Marketing for the University of Mobile. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the University of South Alabama and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Mobile, where she was presented with the Dr. William K. Weaver Jr. Honorary Fellows Award.



Macala Mays

Macala Mays stepped into her current role as the communications associate and associate editor of BRN United in 2025, following her work as a communications consultant for the Baptist Resource Network (BRN) for three years. Macala is often the voice behind BRN podcasts, articles, social media posts, and the BRN's weekly e-newsletter, BRN United. She has written over 60 articles for the BRN, with several being nationally published by Baptist Press and The Baptist Paper. In 2024, her production of the BRN podcast Celebrating Cooperative Missions was awarded second place for overall show during BCA's annual professional awards competition. Macala holds a master of arts in communications from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania as well as a bachelor of arts in journalism/public relations.



Myriah Snyder-Garrett

Myriah Snyder-Garrett is a writer, storyteller, and firm believer that words matter. With a background in Baptist journalism and communications, she now serves as Corporate Communications Strategist at Lifeway Christian Resources. She holds a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in theology. As BCA's Student Awards Chair, she loves celebrating the next generation of communicators and the stories they'll tell.



Pam Henderson

Pam Henderson has served in church and denominational ministry for more than 20 years, including churches in Missouri, Kentucky and Arkansas. Most recently, she and her husband traveled the nation as correspondents for National Woman's Missionary Union and TAB Media Group/The Baptist Paper. An award-winning photographer and videographer, Pam is a graduate of Taylor University. She currently lives in Indiana where she serves as a women's Bible study leader in her local church.



Sarah Graham

Sarah Graham heads up the Office of Communications for the California Southern Baptist Convention where, as she puts it, she oversees everything that has to do with "words and pictures." Her team has accumulated many BCA wins for both written and visual communication, including blog writing, newsletter design, graphic design, and video/audio production. She has a bachelor's from Azusa Pacific University, a Master of Leadership and Management Studies from California Baptist University and is currently pursuing her DMin from Gateway Seminary.


BAPTIST
COMMUNICATORS
ASSOCIATION