

**STUDENT**  
**AWARDS**  
**COMPETITION**



**BAPTIST  
COMMUNICATORS  
ASSOCIATION**

2024 FALL FORUM



# STUDENT AWARDS COMPETITION

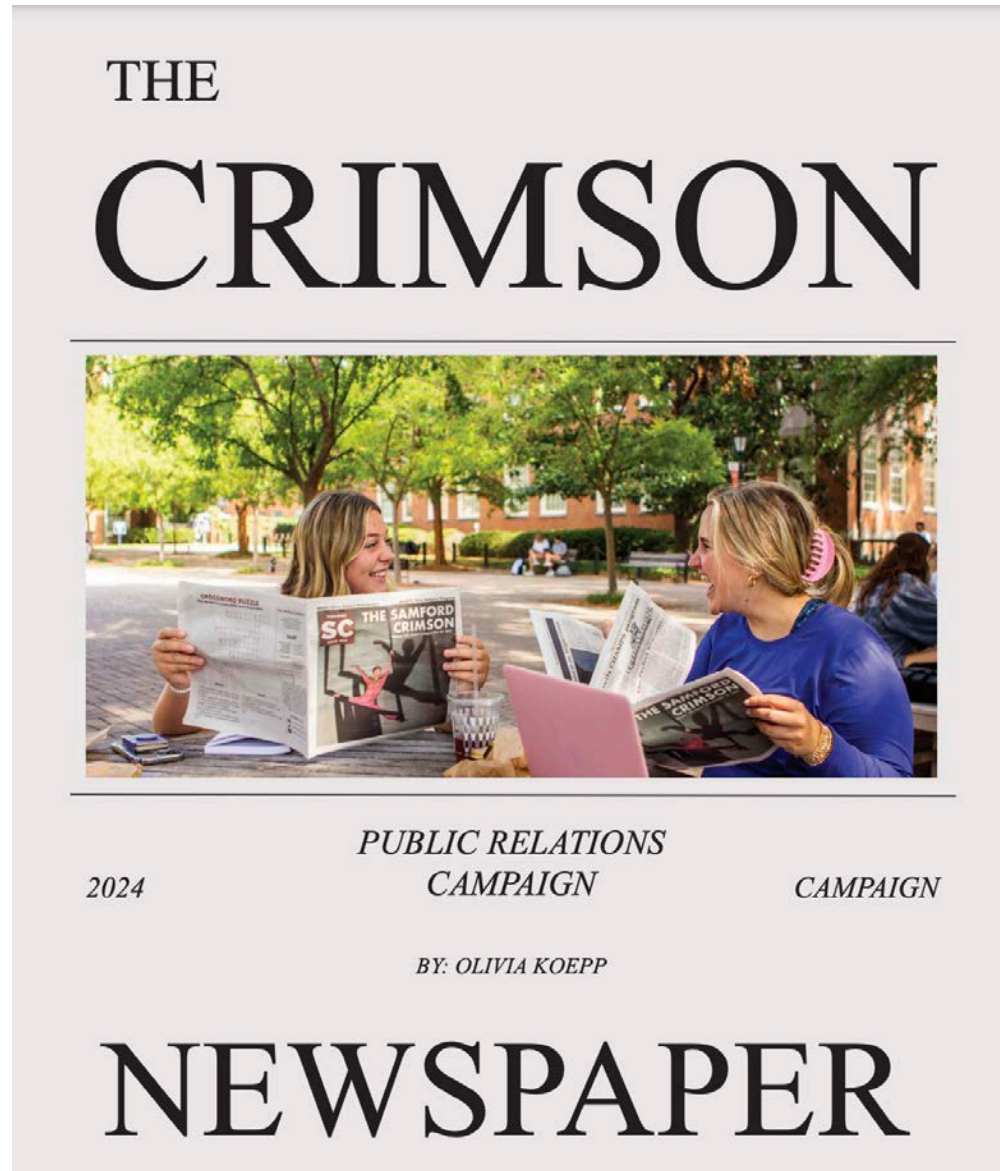
PRESENTED AFTER THE BCA FALL FORUM  
ONLINE, OCTOBER 17, 2024

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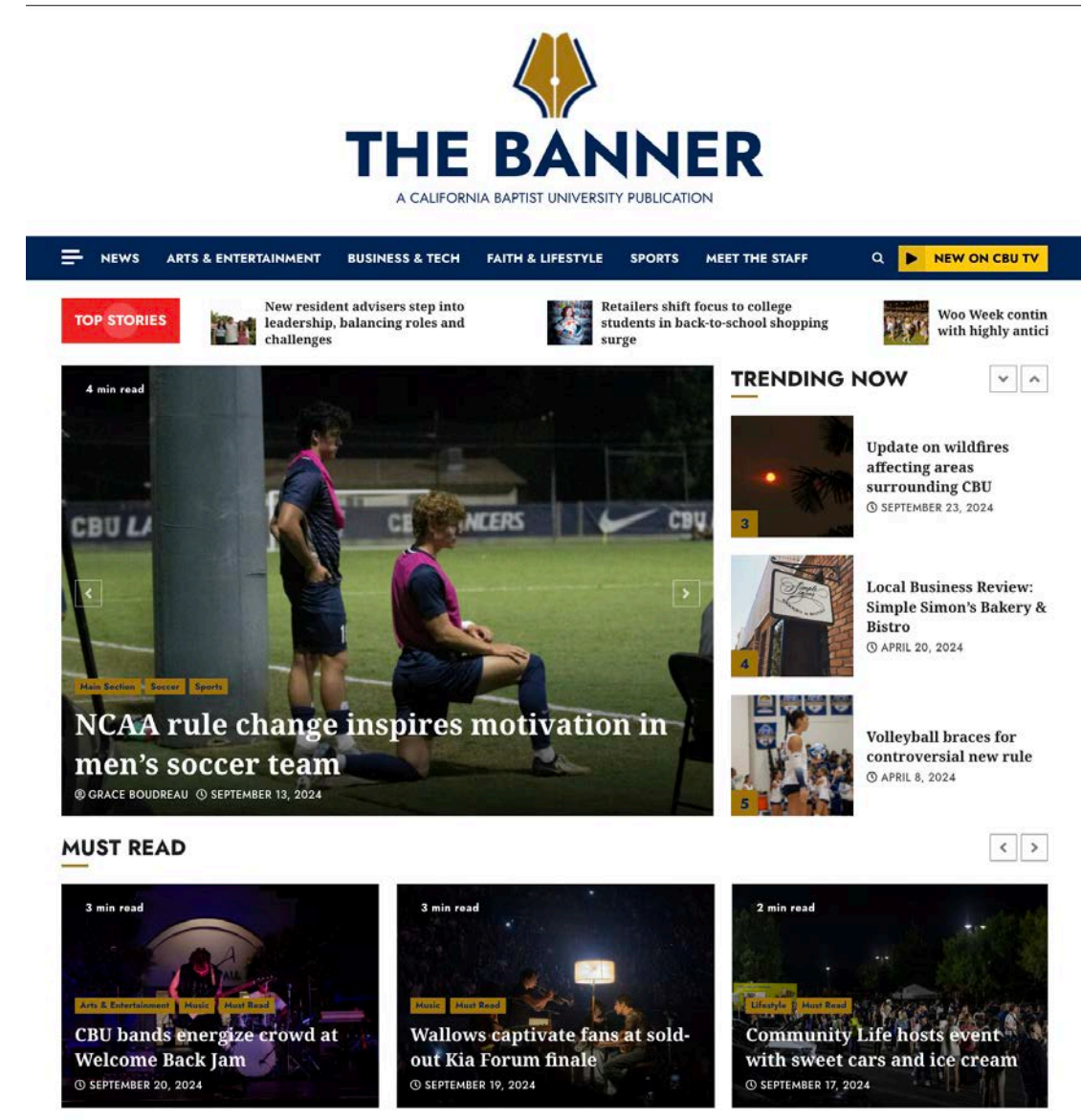
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Awards coordinated by:  
Kathleen Sparks, BCA Awards Chair 2024-2025



GRAND PRIZE For Exceptional Achievement in Public Relations

Samford Crimson public relations campaign  
Olivia Koepf, Samford University



GRAND PRIZE for Exceptional Achievement in Interactive Communications

The Banner  
Banner Staff, California Baptist University



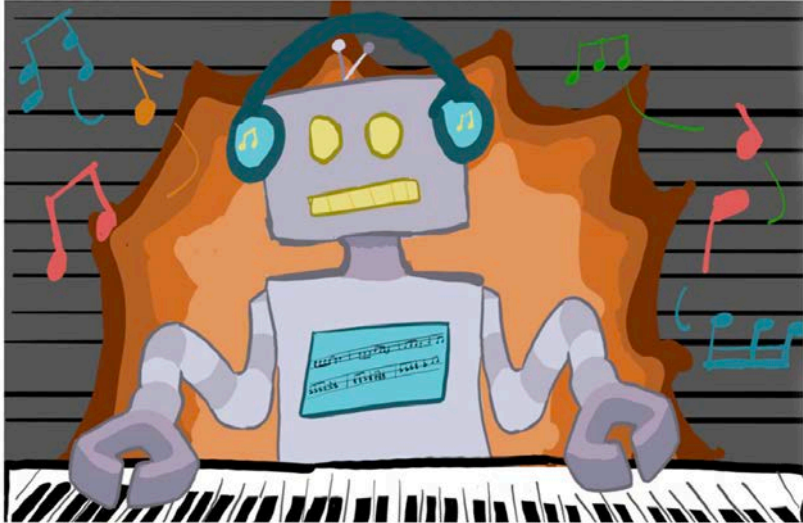
**BAYLOR LARIAT**

News Arts & Life Opinion Sports Lariat TV News Multimedia Advertising

Home Arts and Life

### Music ex machina: How artificial intelligence is shaping what and how we listen

By Emma Weidmann — February 8, 2024 — Updated: February 8, 2024 — ARTS AND LIFE — No Comments — 9 Mins Read



*AI is moving into the music industry, from remixing music all the way to writing songs. Cassidy Tsikitas | Photo Editor*

By Emma Weidmann | Arts and Life Editor

In 1961, the machine sang its first words.

Surrounded by engineers and programmers, the IBM 7094 became the first computer to carry a tune. Now, as artificial intelligence sings covers of songs and creates them from nothing more than a prompt, we have come a long way since the earliest babbling of machine-generated music.

**A MORAL MACHINE**

GRAND PRIZE for Exceptional Achievement in News Writing

AI is shaping what, how we listen  
Emma Weidmann, Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

# Bikes By The Bomb Shelter

Written by Avery Chenault  
Photographed by Avery Chenault and Rebekah Marcotte





I visited the Gaza Envelope for the first time in May 2022 as part of a study tour with Parsons Israel, which I now work with. The Gaza Envelope is defined as the area within four miles of the Gaza Strip. One reason for the day was to learn about the geopolitics of Israel, but I left the border that day having learned far more than that.

On that first morning at the border, I learned the words *Kibbutz* and *Tzura Adam* on the same day.

*Kibbutz* - a small community in Israel founded on communal values, shared land and living life together.

*Tzura Adam* - Red Alert, run to the shelter immediately.

There has been an escalation in this area. In each community, there is a constant threat of war - a constant reminder you only have 15 seconds to run to the shelter when the siren sounds.

Many community centers are built with reinforced concrete walls, functioning as both places to gather and places to hide from incoming rockets. A network in the town square of Sderot, Israel is built from the ruins of houses destroyed by Hamas, combining both tragedy and tradition. When Israeli soldiers hear the Red Alert siren, they instinctively throw their hands in the air, reaching to be carried to safety, the heartbreaking reality of childhood in a warzone.

During my time at the Gaza Envelope, I saw communities filled with constant reminders of war that also saw communities with every right to be fearful and bitter but hold hope for peace.

I watched an Israeli guard at the rooftops of Gaza City that peeked over the border wall.

"A boy in Gaza has never seen an Israeli like me," a man said at the border while shouting over the sound of gunfire as IDF soldiers practiced firing in the base next door. "Maybe he thinks I am a monster. I hope he doesn't."

Visiting the Gaza Envelope was an experience that forced me to consider the realities of the Middle East in new ways.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict was no longer 8,000 miles away. It was in the gravel underneath my feet. In the face of the people I met. In a rocket lying in a woman's garden. In children's bikes propped up against a bomb shelter. It was in the innocent gaze in this region constrained against immense hope for the future. At the Gaza border, I learned that having to never cry and having to a war zone is even harder, yet here, I could not it visually before my eyes.

Several months after this encounter at the border, the Gaza Envelope was at the forefront of my mind again as Hamas began firing thousands of rockets into Israel and viciously intruding into Israeli communities, brutally killing and kidnapping hundreds.

As I finished up a late night closing shift in the student commons on Oct. 7, 2023, the Israelis I had met at the border were waking up to the deadliest day of their lives.

As I watched a war unfold through my phone screen, I immediately wondered of those I had met weeks ago.

Was the woman I met at the Gaza border safe? The woman who stood on her front porch and spoke of a future of peace? Were the toddlers with their arms up in the air being carried to the bomb shelter safe? The toddlers who ran on the playground that cool morning in May?

I wrote a few hours later to the news that Israel had declared war on Hamas, and the aftermath of Oct. 7 was too horrific to describe.

Images of the Gaza Envelope manifested again. The two communities I had spent the morning at were now destroyed. I remembered sitting in Kibbutz Kfar Aza underneath a sprawling tree that named people from pre-war to the present. I recognized a photo in the news of the same spot. There were no flowers this time, only destruction.

While at Kibbutz Aza, I learned that each time a period of conflict between Israel and Gaza concludes, the tight-knit community comes together to celebrate the conclusion of the fighting. They eat together and drink together and celebrate a break from constant running to the bomb shelter. I long for this community to experience this again, but I also mourn for the dozens of empty seats that will be at the table when they do.

There is beauty in seeing a slew of children's bikes waiting to be eagerly watched from the ground after school. There is brokenness when you look closer and see exactly where the bikes are resting.

Some of the strongest people I have ever met live in the Gaza Envelope. Running to the shelter is their instinct. Despite all they have experienced, maybe hoping in their darkest too heavy military presence, withholding and tearing to duty are normal sights for the people of southern Israel. Amid the violence, hope shines through the rubble.

An Israeli woman will plant a garden in her yard knowing that at any given moment, Hamas may fire a rocket into her home. And yet, she sows and cultivates a corner of beauty in the shadow of a terrorist organization.

Israeli children will run wild through a playground and race their bikes down the street knowing at any moment a rocket could fly overhead. And yet, they appear and share and wait eagerly to ride their bikes after school even if they must not their bike by a reminder of conflict.

**By a bomb shelter in the Gaza Envelope.**

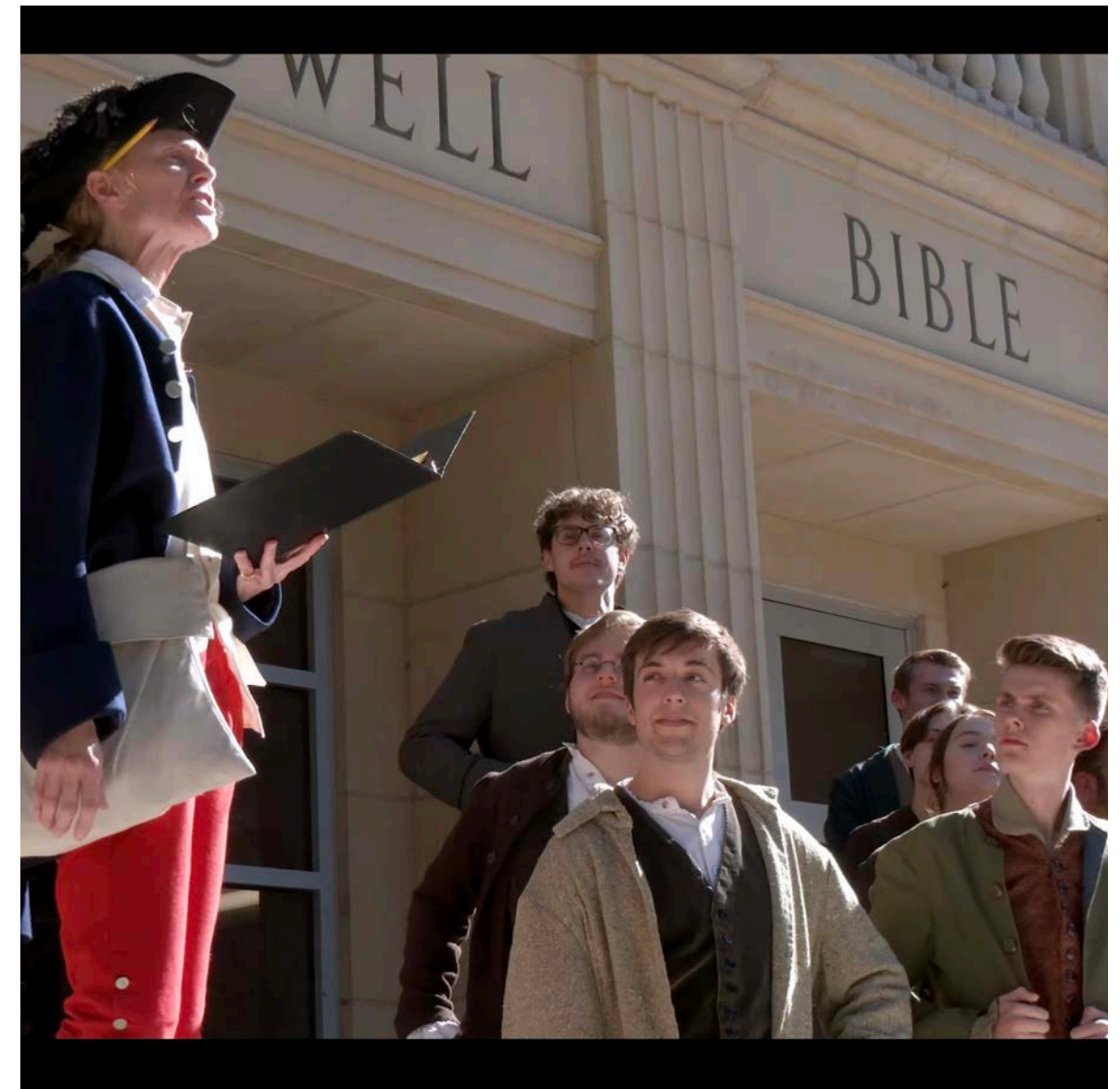
GRAND PRIZE for Exceptional Achievement in Feature Writing

Bikes By The Bomb Shelter  
Avery Chenault, Union University



## GRAND PRIZE for Exceptional Achievement in Photography

*Helping Hands: Breaking ministry barriers through sign language*  
**Charissa Graves, California Baptist University**

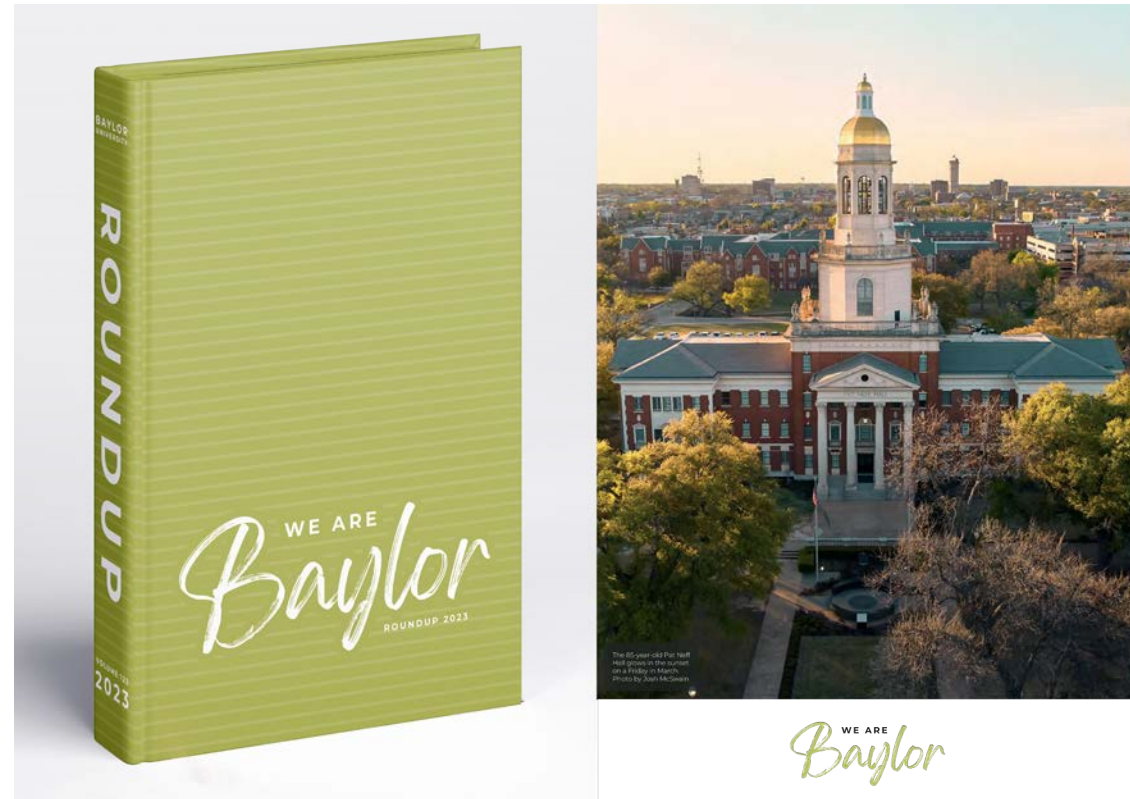


## GRAND PRIZE for Exceptional Achievement in Audio-Visual Communications

*Brazos Tea Party*  
**Abbey Ferguson, Baylor Student Media, Baylor University**



# GRAND PRIZE AWARDS



GRAND PRIZE for Exceptional Achievement  
in Print Media and Design

*Baylor Roundup 2023: We Are Baylor*  
**Roundup Staff, Baylor Student Media, Baylor University**

**Total Public Relations Campaign or Marketing Strategy** \_\_\_\_\_

**1ST PLACE**

*Samford Crimson public relations campaign*

Olivia Koepp

Samford University

**2ND PLACE**

*Hannibal Alliance for Youth Success*

HAYS PR Campaign Team

Hannibal-LaGrange University

**Website** \_\_\_\_\_

**1ST PLACE**

The Banner

Banner Staff

California Baptist University

**Social Media:Single Post** \_\_\_\_\_

**1ST PLACE**

*Samford Crimson promotional post*

Olivia Koepp

Samford University

**Social Media: Campaign or event** \_\_\_\_\_

**1ST PLACE**

*Love, LMG*

Anna Clara, Beretta Zeni, Destiny Jimenez, and Emelie Macias

California Baptist University

**2ND PLACE**

*The Local - magazine launch promotion*

Noelle Neader and Faith Holley

Samford University

## Video: Storytelling - 1-3 minutes

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### 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE

*Annika Brooks: Be Nice To People And Wear What You Want*

Toby Forehand and Ethan Voss

Union University

### 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE

*Milk Mondays*

Claire Goodyear

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

### 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE

*Gen Z keeps vinyl industry spinning*

Abbey Ferguson

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

## Video: Storytelling - More than 3 minutes

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### 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE

*Homesick - House of Glass I Official Music Video*

J. Dawson Kinchen, IV

Union University

### 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE

*Macy Izatt - What I Can't Do I Official Music Video*

J. Dawson Kinchen, IV

Union University

## Video: Promotion - 1-3 minutes

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### 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE

*St. John's Lutheran K-8*

Advanced Video Production Group (St. John's)

Hannibal-LaGrange University

### 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE

*West Jackson: David & Callie Cooper Missions Video*

J. Dawson Kinchen, IV

Union University

### 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE

*St. John's Pre-K Promo*

Andrew Cole, Josiah Motta, and Deryk Carey

Hannibal-LaGrange University

## Video: Promotion - More than 3 minutes

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### 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE

*West Jackson: Generations Interview Video 2024*

J. Dawson Kinchen, IV

Union University



**Video: Event Coverage - 1-3 minutes**

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**1ST PLACE**

*Brazos Tea Party*

Abbey Ferguson

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2ND PLACE**

*Once-in-a-lifetime eclipse*

Kaitlin Sides

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**3RD PLACE**

*Riverside City Council gears up for 2024 election*

Nohemi Solorzano

California Baptist University

**Video: Event Coverage - More than 3 minutes**

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**1ST PLACE**

*Bellevue: 4th & 5th Grade Camp 2023 Recap*

J. Dawson Kinchen, IV

Union University

**Video: Broadcast/Podcast - Overall Show**

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**1ST PLACE**

*Lariat TV News Today*

LTVN Staff

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**Video: Broadcast/Podcast - Individual Episode**

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**1ST PLACE**

*Lariat TV News Today: Feb. 2, 2024*

LTVN Staff

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2ND PLACE**

*News Beat Fall 2023 Red Show*

News Beat Fall 2023 Team

Hannibal-LaGrange University

**Audio: Broadcast/Podcast - Overall Show**

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**1ST PLACE**

*Don't Feed the Bears*

Foster Nicholas, Joe Pratt, Jackson Posey

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2ND PLACE**

*The Cardinal & Cream Podcast*

Cardinal & Cream Staff

Union University

**Audio: Broadcast/Podcast - Individual Episode**

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**1ST PLACE**

*Don't Feed the Bears: Sept. 25, 2023*

Foster Nicholas, Joe Pratt, Jackson Posey

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

Feature: Single

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**1ST PLACE**

*Camel ye faithful*

Ken Prabhakar

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2ND PLACE**

*Lunechi Da Barber*

Ken Prabhakar

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**3RD PLACE**

*Cirque-tacular*

Mackenzie Simms

Samford University

Feature: Series

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**1ST PLACE**

*Barra de Pan: A hidden local gem celebrates Mexican culture and cuisine*

Josselyn Guillen

California Baptist University

**2ND PLACE**

*Tiny House Living (The Local)*

Grace Watters

Samford University

News: Single

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**1ST PLACE**

*Students spring into action for WooFest*

Charissa Graves

California Baptist University

Promotional or Advertisement: Single

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**1ST PLACE**

*CBU TV and Lancers Noticias Promotion*

Ruth Bonisoni

California Baptist University

Event Coverage: Single

---

**1ST PLACE**

*Athletics Divider: Basketball*

Elijah Hickman

California Baptist University

**2ND PLACE**

*Southern Conference basketball tournament*

Meg Robinson

Samford University

Event Coverage: Series

---

**1ST PLACE**

*Dunk Dreams Unleashed: CBU's annual Midnight Madness event kicks off basketball season*

Elijah Hickman

California Baptist University

**2ND PLACE**

*Coverage of Step Sing 2024*

Meg Robinson and Will Crawford

Samford University

**Portrait: Studio**

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**1ST PLACE**

*Romanticizing Media Article Portrait: David Alcazar*

Lyla Dietz

Union University

**2ND PLACE**

*Portrait of Chriss Doss (The Local)*

Faith Holley

Samford University

**Portrait: Field**

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**1ST PLACE**

*Portrait of Mike Yeakle (The Local)*

Grace Watters

Samford University

**2ND PLACE**

*For His Glory: CBU dance team shares their journeys as student athletes*

Josselyn Guillen

California Baptist University

**Photo Illustration**

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**1ST PLACE**

*Helping Hands: Breaking ministry barriers through sign language*

Charissa Graves

California Baptist University

**Single Article: Breaking**

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**1ST PLACE**

*First day of testimony centers on sexual assault scandal, Title IX policies*

Jenna Fitzgerald

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**Single Article: Non-Breaking**

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**1ST PLACE**

*Narcotics offenses in Waco spike*

Josh Siatkowski

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2ND PLACE**

*Pink on Parade raises funds for cancer awareness*

Sarah Murphy

California Baptist University

**3RD PLACE**

*Second silent protest held during convo hour*

Harper Harwell

Samford University

**Single Article: Arts & Entertainment** 

---

**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*AI is shaping what, how we listen*

Emma Weidmann

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

*'Murder on the Orient Express': CBU puts new twist on classic mystery*

Sarah Murphy

California Baptist University

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE**

*Weekend Watch: Speed Racer (2008) -- Destroying Film Burnout*

Ethan Orwig

Union University

**Single Article: Sports** 

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**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*Baylor men's basketball falls to Clemson*

Foster Nicholas

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

*The NCAA Transfer Portal Is A Black Hole*

Hunter Santoscoy

Union University

**Series or Package** 

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**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*Coverage of mono on campus*

Kate Seaver and Sydney Pulliam

Samford University

**Opinion/Editorial** 

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**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*Calling Is A Simple Thing*

Katherine Anne Thierfelder

Union University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

*You don't need to have an opinion*

Alexza BahnMiller

California Baptist University

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE (TIE)**

*Title IX response lacks reach, humility, engagement*

Jenna Fitzgerald

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

*Conversations sparked about TikTok ban*

Courtney Robeson

Samford University



## Single Article

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### 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE

*“Nobody wants to leave their home”: Seeking asylum in Birmingham*

Rebekah Crozier

Samford University

### 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE

*First deaf church in Central Texas*

Jackson Posey

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

### 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE

*The Workplace, Home and Hard Work*

Abigail Bello

California Baptist University

## Series or Package

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### 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE

*Coverage of Step Sing 2024*

Staff, The Samford Crimson

Samford University

## First-Person Column/Blog

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### 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE

*Bikes By The Bomb Shelter*

Avery Chenault

Union University

### 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE

*Items deserve to hold more meaning in our lives and our culture*

Michael Marks

California Baptist University

### 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE

*Judge Baylor statue should be relocated*

Sarah Gallaher

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**Designed Elements: Illustration** 

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**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*Waco Underground*

Gracie Speer

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

*2000s Rom-Com Quiz*

Kiskos Ward

California Baptist University

**Designed Elements: Infographic** 

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**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*The state of AI in 2023*

Josh McSwain

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

*Riverside remains a top city for entrepreneurs*

Alexza Bahnmler

California Baptist University

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE**

*Mechanics of Melody*

Ashleigh Jones and Faith Holley

Samford University

**Designed Elements: Editorial Cartoon** 

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**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

Imposter syndrome

Gwen Henry

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**Print Publications: Newspaper - Single Issue** 

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**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*The Banner, Vol. 71, Issue 4*

Alexza Bahnmler, Connor Ryan, Madison Sardana, and Lauren Vincent

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

*The Samford Crimson*

Staff, The Samford Crimson

Samford University

**Print Publications: Newspaper - Front Page** 

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**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*March Madness*

Jenna Fitzgerald

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

*The Banner, Vol. 71, Issue 2*

Alexza Bahnmler, Connor Ryan, and Madison Sardana

California Baptist University

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE**

*The Samford Crimson*

Staff, The Samford Crimson

Samford University

**Print Publications: Magazine - Single Issue**

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**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*The Local*

Staff, The Local

Samford University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

*Pursuit, Spring 2024*

Madison Kirkland, Zerenity Lopez, and Kia Harlan

California Baptist University

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE**

*Focus Magazine: Can you sense it?*

Mallory Harris and Rachel Chiang

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**Print Publications: Magazine - Cover**

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**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*The Local*

Staff, The Local

Samford University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

*Cardinal & Cream Spring 2024 Edition*

Faith Orr

Union University

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE**

*Pursuit, Fall 2023*

Madison Kirkland

California Baptist University

**Print Publications: Magazine - Spread**

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**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*Behind the Sound: How the Chapel band connects CBU through worship*

Lindsey Stumpf

California Baptist University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

*Tiny House Living (The Local)*

Grace Watters

Samford University

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE**

*Turn up the volume*

Rachel Chiang

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**Print Publications: Yearbook - Single Edition****1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

Baylor Roundup 2023: We Are Baylor  
 Roundup Staff  
 Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

Angelos 2024  
 Kassidy Blount, Valerie LaPonza, Adrian Talamantes, and Josselyn Guillen  
 California Baptist University

**Print Publications: Yearbook - Cover****1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

Angelos 2024  
 Kassidy Blount, Evelyn Melgoza  
 California Baptist University

**Print Publications: Yearbook - Spread****1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*It's time to BeBaylor*  
 Cayli Clack  
 Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

*Fortuna Bowl*  
 Kassidy Blount  
 California Baptist University

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE**

*Entre Nous*  
 Alison Williams  
 Samford University

**Mixed Media Coverage****1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*Texas State dominates early, upends Baylor football*  
 Michael Haag, George Schroeder, and Ken Prabhakar  
 Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

*Samford Adds New Culinary Advisor*  
 Aly Durban  
 Samford University

**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE**

*Living In The 'Middle Space'*  
 Katherine Anne Thierfelder, Emmeline Arehart, and Luke Barnard  
 Union University

**Electronic Publication****1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE**

*The Morning Buzz: Oct. 17, 2023*  
 Lariat Staff  
 Baylor Student, Media Baylor University

**2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE**

*The Samford Crimson*  
 Staff, The Samford Crimson  
 Samford University



Print Publication: Magazine

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**1ST PLACE**

*Pursuit*

Pursuit Staff

California Baptist University

**2ND PLACE**

*Cardinal & Cream Spring 2024 Edition*

Samuel Stettheimer, Editor-in-Chief

Union University

**3RD PLACE**

*The Local*

Staff, The Local

Samford University

Print Publication: Newspaper

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**1ST PLACE**

*The Banner*

Banner Staff

California Baptist University

**2ND PLACE**

*Welcome Back 2023*

Lariat Staff

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**3RD PLACE**

*The Samford Crimson (March 26, 2024)*

Staff, The Samford Crimson

Samford University

Print Publication: Yearbook

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**1ST PLACE**

*Baylor Roundup 2023: We Are Baylor*

Roundup Staff

Baylor Student Media, Baylor University

**2ND PLACE**

*Angelos*

Angelos Staff

California Baptist University

**3RD PLACE**

*Entre Nous*

Staff, Entre Nous

Samford University



**SHANNON BAKER**

Shannon Baker, former president of BCA and the Association of State Baptist Publications, is the director of communications and editor of BRN United for the Baptist Resource Network of Pennsylvania/South Jersey. She previously held similar roles with BaptistLIFE for the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware and as PR director at NOBTS, following corporate experience in management and technical writing. She holds an MA in Ministry Leadership from SEBTS, a BA in Journalism from UNC Chapel Hill, and is a DMin candidate at Gateway Seminary.



**MARGARET COLSON**

Margaret Colson became the consulting communications editor for the Florida Baptist Convention in April 2022, bringing extensive experience in sharing God’s work in Florida. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in journalism from the University of Georgia and both a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. A leader in denominational communications, she has served as executive director for the Baptist Communicators Association and the Association of State Baptist Publications. Margaret is married to Keith Colson.



**ADAM COVINGTON**

Adam Covington serves as the vice president for marketing and communications at WatersEdge in Oklahoma City. This role follows a 17-year tenure in the communications department at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. His passion for photography began at age 12 with a Zenit film camera he bought in Russia, sparking a lifelong journey that has taken him across the globe to capture and share stories through images and videos.



**BRANDON ELROD**

Brandon Elrod serves as a public relations consultant with the North American Mission Board focusing on internal and external written communication. Brandon holds a BA in English with a concentration in Writing from the University of North Georgia, an MDIV in Christian Thought and an MA in Philosophy from NOBTS. He enjoys relaxing at home with his wife and toddler son, watching sports, reading, and writing. He and his family are heavily involved in serving their church.



**WILLIAM HAUN**

William Haun has been shooting photos and videos for the International Mission Board for 17 years. He and his wife have lived and served in northeastern Ghana for over a decade. Prior to the IMB, he worked in marketing and as a concert photographer in the United States. His media work has taken him to over 50 countries and is published by IMB, Send Relief, Baptist Press, WMU, Lifeway and many other online and print publications.



**CAITLYN JAMESON**

Caitlyn Jameson is a skilled graphic designer with over a decade of experience, currently contributing her expertise at the IMB. Previously, she honed her design skills at SWBTS, working on the Southwestern News magazine, marketing materials, and books for Seminary Hill Press. A graduate of Baylor University, Caitlyn is passionate about crafting visually compelling designs for diverse audiences. In her free time, she enjoys reading mystery and fantasy novels, knitting, and relaxing with her cat, reflecting her creativity and attention to detail both in and outside of work.



**PHILIP KING**

Philip King is an international creative triple threat, specializing in graphic design, photography, and occasionally videography. For the past 18 years, he and his family have served as missionaries with the IMB, living in Germany, the Czech Republic, and now Austria. A native of Texas, Philip holds degrees in Graphic Design from West Texas A&M University. He’s intrigued by a designer water brand in a can from a nearby town that’s gained global popularity. Philip also deeply misses Tex Mex, brisket, and Dr. Pepper.





**ISHMAEL LABIOSA**

Ishmael Labiosa serves as associate pastor for Liberty Baptist Church in Appomattox, Va. He previously served more than 800 churches for 13 years through the SBC of Virginia. Ishmael began his career as a news reporter for WSET ABC 13 News in Lynchburg before God called him into ministry. The Lord blessed Ishmael with his wife, Sara, and four boys: Ethan, Jayden, Rylan, and Deacon. One of his favorite Bible verses is Jesus telling his disciples in John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”



**ANN LOVELL**

Ann Lovell is a Public Relations professional with over 30 years of experience, and is accredited through the PRSA. Currently, she serves as Corporate Communications Manager at the IMB, focusing on internal communications and entity relations. With more than 20 years at the IMB, she has worked as a media missionary in the Philippines, South Korea, and Thailand. Previously she was in corporate communications positions at LifeSpire of Virginia, the U.S. Department of Energy, as well as serving as a federal investigator with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.



**LISA MISNER**

Lisa Misner, a Missouri native, has served Southern Baptists in Illinois for nearly 28 years with the Illinois Baptist State Association (IBSA) in Springfield. As the Social Media/Public Policy Manager and a contributing editor for the Illinois Baptist newspaper, she focuses on relevant legislation and policy. A member of BCA and the Evangelical Press Association, Misner also volunteers at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and serves as an Illinois Baptist Disaster Relief chaplain. She holds a BA in History and Political Science and an MA in Communication.



**STEPHEN ROUNTREE**

Stephen Rountree has spent his career in content creation across print, web, and social media. Formerly the Graphics Director of U.S. News & World Report, his work has appeared in National Geographic, Smithsonian, Popular Science, and WIRED. He has consulted for organizations like the UN, the Pew Research Center, and the U.S. Navy. He has taught information graphics for journalism as an adjunct at VCU and the University of Richmond. He now serves as Creative Director at the IMB and pastors a small church in the Mid-Tidewater region of Virginia.



**TESSA SANCHEZ**

Tessa Sanchez is a seasoned writer with 19 years of experience, including over 15 years at the IMB. She began as an intern and served as a missionary and media specialist in Chiang Mai, Thailand, before becoming a U.S.-based writer. Tessa holds a journalism degree with a minor in Asian studies from Baylor University, where she also wrote for their newspaper, The Lariat. As the daughter of missionaries, Tessa grew up in Taiwan, Hong Kong, China and Thailand. She enjoys adventures with her husband and daughter, along with reading and traveling.



**SUE SPRENKLE**

With 30 years of multi-media journalism experience, Sue Sprenkle has traveled to more than 100 countries. Renowned for her “human touch” in storytelling, she has covered international crises from tsunamis to genocides and significant events like the Olympics. She was a college professor of mass communications and advised student publications. Her students won numerous national awards, including Pacemakers, Pinnacles and Writer of the Year. Now living in Oklahoma, she is a writer for the IMB, she enjoys gardening, reading, and sipping hot tea in her free time.



**NEIL WILLIAMS**

Neil Williams has been a professional photojournalist and cinematographer for 15 years. He has freelanced, worked as a camera operator and editor for Limelight Cinema, and served as a senior staff photographer at SWBTS. Currently, he is the Lead Coordinator and Multimedia Specialist for Texas Baptists. A two-time recipient of BCA's Fon H. Scofield Award for Exceptional Achievement in Photography, Neil lives in Dallas, TX, with his wife Sarah and their three wonderful children. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and gardening.

