54th Annual Whitmer C. Fields Awards Competition

Embassy Suites by Hilton • Old Town Alexandria
Washington, D.C. Workshop • April 18-21, 2018
54th Annual
Wilmer C. Fields Awards

Presented during the 64th Annual BCA Workshop
in Washington, D.C., on April 20, 2018

Awards coordinated by the
Office of University Communications
at Union University
Naomi* said, her voice thick with emotion. The middle-aged woman narrated a recent telephone conversation with her oldest son, 21, who was arrested and deportation incentive offered by the International Mission Board (IMB). They accepted a voluntary retirement from their careers with the Baptist Mission Board (BMS). Former career missionaries with the church in Bangkok became aware of the refugee ministry started by a small apartment near Bangkok’s city center as Naomi told Biblical Recorder.

One of the church’s early initiatives was a clothing drive. The church offered free clothing to refugees, and the outreach by word-of-mouth spread. Hundreds of asylum seekers arrived in the area in search of help.

Six years ago, Calvary Baptist Church in Bangkok became aware of the growing refugee crisis in their region. The church had a strong passion for providing critical aid and compassion to those in need. They decided to remain on staff at the church and contribute to the mission of helping refugees.

Many of these refugees are from Sri Lanka and Sri Lankan refugees, but the church has also helped people from Nigeria and Pakistan. Without a doubt, the church is home to some of the country’s most vulnerable people. It is the second largest city. The region has seen an influx of people fleeing conflict and persecution.

The refugee ministry started with a clothing drive. The church offered clothing to refugees, and the outreach by word-of-mouth spread. Hundreds of asylum seekers arrived in the area in search of help. The church listened to all reports of refugees in need and provided them with clothing, shelter, and compassion.

A news report said more than 200,000 refugees had fled to Thailand. This church has helped several Sri Lankan refugees, but it built up a collection of往事. The church had a strong passion for helping refugees, and they were overjoyed to be able to provide aid.

One of the church’s early initiatives was a clothing drive. The church offered free clothing to refugees, and the outreach by word-of-mouth spread. Hundreds of asylum seekers arrived in the area in search of help. The church listened to all reports of refugees in need and provided them with clothing, shelter, and compassion.

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Overall Public Relations or Development Program/Department
No Awards Given

Total Public Relations or Development Campaign
Less than $25,000 budget
1st Place  A Lifetime of Hope – Stella Prather, Arkansas Baptist Children’s Homes and Family Ministries
2nd Place  2017 Mission Illinois Offering Communications, Illinois Baptist State Association

More than $25,000 budget
1st Place  Be the Difference Office of Communications, Gateway Seminary
2nd Place  Mission:Dignity Total Campaign Mission:Dignity and Brand Development Staff, GuideStone Financial Resources

Communications and/or Marketing Strategy
Less than $25,000 budget
1st Place  Texas Recruiting Campaign Office of Communications, Ouachita Baptist University – Arthur S. Davenport Award Winner
2nd Place  Running of the Pigs Employee Emphasis – Mission:Dignity and Brand Development Staff, GuideStone Financial Resources
3rd Place  The Summit 2017: Rescue...NOW! Communications Team, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

More than $25,000 budget
No Awards Given

Public Relations for Special Events
Less than $25,000 budget
1st Place  ICare 5k/Kid’s Dash – Stella Prather, Arkansas Baptist Children’s Homes and Family Ministries
2nd Place  The Big Invite – Communications Team, Georgia Baptist Mission Board
3rd Place  Pioneering Spirit: 2017 IBSA Annual Meeting – Communications, Illinois Baptist State Association

More than $25,000 budget
No Awards Given

“It was great to see the diversity of campaigns and ways members are sharing their projects/missions with audiences. There were good examples of researching and identifying the target audience, setting objective goals, carrying out the plan and measuring effectiveness.”

“Solid research and a deep understanding of the key publics informed the most impressive programs, campaigns and projects. I was impressed at how much these communication professionals did with their resources.”
“The passion, ideas, creativity and collaboration that were apparent in these projects, reminded me of Proverbs 27:17 - ‘Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.’”
Audio-Visual Communications

Video (including podcast)
Editorial Feature, Less than 3 minutes

1st Place  Chicago: Portrait of a Neighborhood
           Creative Team, North American Mission Board

2nd Place  Go: Bringing Hope to Hurting Children – Maria Estes, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

3rd Place  GOTM 2017-18 Baptist Collegiate Ministries ETSU – Communications Team, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

Editorial Feature, More than 3 minutes

1st Place  Chad Vandiver Profile Video
           Marketing Department, GuideStone Financial Resources

2nd Place  Houston Strong – Innovative Faith Resources

3rd Place  Church Planting – Dixie Jackson
           Arkansas State Missions Offering
           Nick Burt, Arkansas Baptist State Convention

Promotion, Less than 3 minutes

1st Place  Ouachita’s Campus Life Highlights Promotional Video – Office of Communications, Ouachita Baptist University

2nd Place  School of the Arts at Samford University – Samford University

3rd Place  Distinctly GuideStone Video
           Marketing Department, GuideStone Financial Resources

Promotion, More than 3 minutes

1st Place  SAVED – Blake Ragsdale and Randy Durham, Baptist Children’s Homes of North Carolina and Credence Pictures
           M.E. Dodd Memorial Award Winner

2nd Place  “Why Beeson?” Overview – Beeson Divinity School, Samford University

3rd Place  Forever Samford, Parents Scholarship Fund – Samford University

Audio (including podcast)
Editorial Feature

1st Place  Ted DiBiase, The Price of Fame
           Jon Graham, Georgia Baptist Mission Board

2nd Place  Leadership Podcast – Office of Communications, Gateway Seminary

Promotion

No Awards Given

Other

1st Place  Devlin Hodges Shoots for the Walter Payton Award – Samford University

2nd Place  Merry Christmas from North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry!
           Carol Layton, North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry

3rd Place  Speak 2017 Wrap-up – Doug Rogers, Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

Other

1st Place  Life With Purpose Radio
           Rod Hampton, Jon Graham, Ron Lawson, Georgia Baptist Mission Board

2nd Place  Bach Among the Theologians – Beeson Divinity School, Samford University

3rd Place  The Grind Podcast – Arkansas Baptist State Convention

“The power of modern media is in broadcasting seeds using Christ’s methodology of parable (story is king) and questions (not just answers). We do not have to answer all of the questions because people need to search out the mysteries of God for themselves (Proverbs 25:2), although we do need to lead them to ask the right questions. The winning videos this year attempted this and did well to move in this direction. Keep telling stories and asking the right questions.”
Many of you are on the right path or off to a great start to continue working towards creating and capturing impactful images that can make a difference in the world! Always ask yourself if the photo or photos you’re capturing will communicate the story you’re trying to tell without the assistance of a caption.
Feature Writing

Single Article
Less than 750 words

1st Place  Pressing On! – Carol Layton, Help for the Journey, North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry

2nd Place  Teen Walks for Freedom – Lisa Sergent, Illinois Baptist

3rd Place  Columbus Church Sign Goes Viral, Howbow Dah? Scott Barkley, The Christian Index

750-1,500 words

1st Place  Into the City: Miami – Marilyn J. Stewart, Vision, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary – Leonard Holloway Award Winner

2nd Place  Sex Trafficking: One Click Led NYC Church to Action – Grace Thornton, Shawn Hendricks, Baptist Press

3rd Place  Uncle Cudjo – Grace Thornton, The Alabama Baptist

More than 1,500 words

1st Place  The Face of DACA, The Hands of Georgia Baptists Joe Westbury, The Christian Index

2nd Place  God Loves a Cheerful Giver – Bonnie Longwell Pritchett, Southern Baptist TEXAN

3rd Place  Road to Redemption – Grace Thornton, The Alabama Baptist

Series or Package

1st Place  Faith and Family – Carrie Brown McWhorter, TAB Staff, The Alabama Baptist

2nd Place  Illinois Baptist – Reformation@g00 Communications, Illinois Baptist

3rd Place  Mission:Dignity Couple Served Others for a Lifetime, Now Are Served by Georgia Churches Joe Westbury, The Christian Index

First-Person Column

1st Place  Child of an Addict: How Children of Addicts Hurt, Heal and Grow – Hayley Folk, Pursuit Magazine, California Baptist University

2nd Place  Prayers of a Preschool Parent – Brian Kaylor, Word&Way

3rd Place  Caught in Bro. Ray’s Crosshairs – Chris Turner, Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

Blog

Single entry

1st Place  Tennesseans Say No to Racism – Lonnie Wilkey, Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

2nd Place  Lord of the Move – Karen Kinnaird, Baptist Messenger of Oklahoma

3rd Place  Something More Important Than Football – Lonnie Wilkey, Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

Series

1st Place  Millennial Monday – Emily Howsden, Baptist Messenger of Oklahoma

Scripts (speech, ceremony, AV production, etc.)

1st Place  Promotional Video Script – Office of Communications, Gateway Seminary

2nd Place  A Litany of Thanksgiving – Doug Rogers, Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

3rd Place  Alabama BCA Beach Medley – Doug Rogers, Alabama Baptist State Board of Missions

“It warmed my inner journalism geek to see BCA writers trying new things and pushing the boundaries of traditional feature writing. Every story deserves to be told uniquely.”
Forced Resignation – Jennifer Davis Rash, The Alabama Baptist

Giving Up Tradition for a Cause – Marc Ira Hooks, Encourager Magazine, CBA Church Network

The Gatlinburg Fires – One Year Later
David Dawson, Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

Honored Guests Enjoy Their Special ‘Night to Shine’ – Shannon Baker and Sharon Mager, BaptistLIFE, Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware

Disney’s ‘Gay Moment’ Sours Many Christians
Diana Chandler, Shawn Hendricks, Baptist Press

The Face of DACA, The Hands of Georgia Baptists
Joe Westbury, The Christian Index

Moore: ‘The Conscience of the SBC?’
Caleb Varbrugh, Arkansas Baptist News

The Ripple Effect of Cooperative Program Giving
Lonnie Willey, Chris Turner, Baptist and Reflector, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board

Baptists Serve Bangkok’s ‘Little Lahore’
Seth Brown, Biblical Recorder – Frank Burkhalter Award Winner

Samford Controversy – Jennifer Davis Rash, Bob Terry, TAB Staff, The Alabama Baptist

The Loss of Sarah Harmening – Margaret Colson, Jennifer Davis Rash, The Alabama Baptist

Remembering “The Jesus Man” and His Voice for the Gospel – Scott Barkley, The Christian Index

Tired Schmired: Meet Horace Sheffield
Scott Barkley, The Christian Index

What Would Jesus Do About Harassment?
Eric Reed, Illinois Baptist

Mission:Dignity 100 Years Logo
1st Place
Marketing and Missions:Dignity Departments, GuideStone Financial Resources

FIRSTkids! Logo – Innovative Faith Resources
2nd Place

Youth Evangelism Conference 50th Anniversary Logo – Royce DeGrie, Corinne Rochette, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board
3rd Place

Live Your Purpose – Marketing and Communication, California Baptist University – Albert McClellan Award Winner
1st Place

Ouachita Baptist University “Invested in You” Recruitment Materials
Office of Communications, Ouachita Baptist University
2nd Place

3rd Place

Rescue NOW! Banners – Royce DeGrie, Tennessee Baptist Mission Board
1st Place

Mission:Dignity Wall Art
Judy Bates, Brittny McNally, Amy Van Vleck, GuideStone Financial Resources
2nd Place

Pioneering Spirit – Communications, Illinois Baptist State Association
3rd Place

“Design within Christian spheres often gets a bad reputation of being outdated and impersonal, and most of the entries went beyond my expectations and encouraged me that design in ministry is becoming more relevant, diverse, and innovative.”
Print Collateral (contd.)

Brochure

1st Place  Forever Samford – Division of Marketing and Communication, Samford University

2nd Place  SBTC Reaching Texas Brochure Allen Sutton, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

3rd Place  Transforming Lives – Marketing and Communications, Baylor University

Booklet

1st Place  Ouachita Baptist University Viewbook – René Zimny, Ouachita Baptist University

2nd Place  SBTC The True Path Booklet Allen Sutton, Southern Baptists of Texas Convention

3rd Place  State Missions Offering Activity Book – Hannah Hanzel, Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma

Annual Report

1st Place  2016 Annual Report – Marketing and Communication, Samford University

2nd Place  President’s Report – Marketing and Communication, California Baptist University

Invitation/Announcement

1st Place  President Livingstone’s Inauguration Announcement and Event Collateral Marketing and Communications, Baylor University

2nd Place  BCA 2018 Workshop Promo Card Innovative Faith Resources

Publications

State Baptist Newspaper

1st Place  TEXAN August 2017 – Russell Lightner, Southern Baptist TEXAN

2nd Place  Illinois Baptist – Communications, Illinois Baptist State Association

3rd Place  Biblical Recorder – Editorial Staff, Biblical Recorder

Newsletter, Other Newspaper or Tabloid

1st Place  Mission:Dignity At Home Newsletter Mission:Dignity and Brand Development Staff, GuideStone Financial Resources

Magazine

1st Place  Beacon Magazine Fall 2017 – Tracey Harrison, Mississippi College

2nd Place  Beacon Magazine Winter 2017 – Tracey Harrison, Mississippi College

3rd Place  The Great Commission Magazine of the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary – Fall 2017 – Ryan Thomas, Jenna Anderson, Maria Estes, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Newspaper Front Page

1st Place  TEXAN October 2017 – Russell Lightner, Southern Baptist TEXAN

2nd Place  Sanctity of Life – Design Team, Biblical Recorder

3rd Place  The Baptist Messenger – Hannah Hanzel, Baptist Messenger of Oklahoma

Magazine Cover

1st Place  Beacon Magazine Fall 2017 – Tracey Harrison, Mississippi College

2nd Place  Beacon Magazine Winter 2017 – Tracey Harrison, Mississippi College

3rd Place  Pursuit Magazine, Vol. 8, Issue 1 – Randy Flavjak, Kathleen Phillips, Katie Ring, California Baptist University

Redesign

1st Place  Generosity Magazine – The Baptist Foundation of Oklahoma

2nd Place  Word&Way – Brian Kaylor, Ken Satterfield, Word&Way
**Promotion and Advertising**

**Poster or Flyer**

**1st Place**
Faith + Sport Institute Retreat Poster
Marketing and Communications, Baylor University

**2nd Place**
Garaywa Missions Camps Poster
Communication Services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

**3rd Place**
Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) 2018 Postcard
– Innovative Faith Resources

**Media/Press Kit**

**1st Place**

**Direct Mail**

**1st Place**
Sic’Em-ology Post Card – Marketing and Communications, Baylor University

**2nd Place**
Scholarship Banquet – Tracey Harrison, Mississippi College

**3rd Place**
Baylor Admissions Junior Social Media Post Cards Series – Marketing and Communications, Baylor University

**Print Ad**

**Single**
No Awards Given

**Series**

**1st Place**
George W. Truett Ad Campaign
Marketing and Communications, Baylor University

**2nd Place**
Be the Difference Ad Series – Office of Communications, Gateway Seminary

**Digital Ad**

**Single**

**Series**
No Awards Given

**Specialty Item**

**1st Place**
ERLC Christmas Card – Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

**2nd Place**
Baylor Christmas Wreath Gift and Card – Marketing and Communications, Baylor University

**3rd Place**
Baylor Cardboard 3D-VR Viewer
Marketing and Communications, Baylor University

**Billboard/Banner**

**1st Place**
Student Missions Banner
Communications Services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

**2nd Place**
Ouachita Baptist University “Invested in You” Billboards – René Zimny, Ouachita Baptist University

**3rd Place**
Sharing Jesus in Mississippi Banner
Communications Services, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

**Digital Media Template**

**1st Place**
Ouachita Baptist University Website Template – Office of Communications, Ouachita Baptist University

**Illustration**

**Single**
Robert George Illustration – Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

**2nd Place**
Editorial Cartoon – Church Shooting
Gary Thomas, Arkansas Baptist News

**Series**
No Awards Given

“I was most impressed by some of the entries fusion of photography and typography, and found some of the pieces to be inspirational designs.”
The submissions showed great varieties of approaches to connecting with their target audiences. Overall, the biggest strength I saw was the use of individuals’ stories to highlight an issue or need.
Student Competition

**Interactive Communications**
Website, organization or company site
- **Adapted Template**
  1st Place
  BaylorLariat.com – Lariat Staff, The Baylor Lariat, Baylor University

Website, event or promotion site
- **Custom-built**
  1st Place
  Union Student Film Festival Website
  Christen Barber and Mary Scarlett LaBerge, Union University

- **Adapted Template**
  1st Place
  Women’s March Fills Nation’s Capital
  Didi Martinez, The Baylor Lariat, Baylor University

**Social Media**
Campaign or Event
- **1st Place**
  Racial Incident Sparks Outrage
  Lariat Staff, The Baylor Lariat, Baylor University

**Mobile Apps**
- **1st Place**
  Baylor Lariat App – Lariat Staff, The Baylor Lariat, Baylor University

**Audio-Visual Communications**
Video (including podcast)
- **Editorial Feature**
  1st Place
  Faculty Focus: Ted Kluck
  Alex Russell, Union University

  2nd Place
  Women’s March Fills Nation’s Capital
  Jessica Babb, The Baylor Lariat, Baylor University

  3rd Place
  Board to Decide on Task Force Recommendations
  - Jessica Babb, The Baylor Lariat, Baylor University

Audio (including podcast)
- **Editorial Feature**
  1st Place
  Don’t Feed the Bears: CFB Coaching Craziness
  - Thomas Mott, Jakob Brandenburg, Max Calderone, The Baylor Lariat, Baylor University

**Photography**
Single (promotion, news or feature)
- **1st Place**
  Firefight — Liesje Powers, The Baylor Lariat, Baylor University

- **2nd Place**
  Morris Taken Down — Jessica Hubble, The Baylor Lariat, Baylor University

- **3rd Place**
  Andy Roddick — Jacob Buwalda, Liberty Champion, Liberty University

Series (promotion, news or feature)
- **1st Place**
  Lord, Preserve My Life — Janelle Vest, Cardinal & Cream, Union University

- **2nd Place**
  Get Downtown — Dean Hinnant, Liberty Champion, Liberty University

**Portrait**
- **1st Place**
  Social Media Distortion — Katie Ring, Pursuit Magazine, California Baptist University

- **2nd Place**
  Rebuild — Hannah Neuman, Focus Magazine, Baylor University

- **3rd Place**
  Battles We Still Fight — Hannah Neumann, Focus Magazine, Baylor University

“There will always be differences in quality, style and values from one story to the next, but choosing to step out and produce something (anything) is sometimes the hardest part. It was encouraging to see so many individuals and organizations doing just that, and it was a pleasure to view all of their entries.”
News Writing
Single Article
1st Place Vegas Massacre Touches Inland Empire – Kaitlynn Labit, Alexandra Applegate, The Baylor Lariat, California Baptist University
2nd Place End of DACA Brings Concern for Some Liberty ‘Dreamers’ – Erin Covy, Liberty Champion, Liberty University
Series or Package
No Awards Given
Opinion/Editorial
1st Place #NoWall: It’s Not Logical – Gavin Pugh, The Baylor Lariat, Baylor University
2nd Place Hefner Was No Women’s Rights Advocate – Kristina Valdez, The Baylor Lariat, Baylor University
3rd Place Raised to Do God’s Work – Logan Price, Liberty Champion, Liberty University
Feature Writing
Single Article
1st Place Lord, Preserve My Life: Students Coping with Mental Illness Seek Physical and Spiritual Balance Ali Renoekens, Cardinal & Cream Magazine, Union University
2nd Place Social Media Distortion: Critical Influence of Social Media on Body Image – Kaitlynn Labit, Pursuit Magazine, California Baptist University
3rd Place Leaving His Marc on the Art World John Vence, Liberty Champion, Liberty University
Design
Publication
Newspaper-whole issue
1st Place The Banner – Banner Staff, California Baptist University
2nd Place The Baylor Lariat: The Good News & The Bad – Lariat Staff, Baylor University
Magazine-whole issue
1st Place Pursuit Magazine – Pursuit Staff, California Baptist University
2nd Place Focus Magazine: Rebuild – Hannah Neumann, Baylor University
Magazine Cover
1st Place Focus Magazine: Rebuild – Hannah Neumann, Baylor University
Overall Publication
Magazine (print or electronic)
1st Place Pursuit Magazine – Randy Plavajka, Kathleen Phillips, California Baptist University – Overall Best Student Entry
2nd Place Cardinal & Cream Magazine: Fall 2017 – Cardinal & Cream Staff, Union University
3rd Place Focus Magazine: Rebuild – Hannah Neumann, Lauren Friederman, Baylor University
Newspaper (print or electronic)
1st Place The Baylor Lariat 2017: Oct. 3, 10 Lariat Staff, Baylor University
2nd Place The Liberty Champion – Liberty Champion Staff, Liberty University
3rd Place The Banner – Kaitlynn Labit, Alexandra Applegate, California Baptist University

“I was impressed by the overall level of talent shown by the entries.”
Competition Judges

Dr. Kevin S. Trowbridge, APR, is an educator and professional, strategist, researcher, Learner®, Maximizer®, Relator® and all-around conversation enthusiast. He fuses those roles as a member of the public relations faculty at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn. He teaches a variety of core and elective courses, including Public Relations Principles, Social Media and Public Relations, Public Relations Cases and Senior Capstone. He also advises Tower Creative Consultants, Belmont’s student firm. Prior to going to Beloit in 2011, he taught public relations and journalism courses at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn., where he also advised the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA), coached two nationally recognized Bateman Case Study competition teams and oversaw the student media operations.

Julie Dodson Turner graduated from Union University, with a bachelor’s degree in journalism degree and then earned her master’s degree in journalism and public relations from the University of Memphis. She is a former reporter for The Jackson Sun and worked as the communications specialist for the Memphis Zoo. Julie also worked at two advertising firms in Memphis, Tenn., - Red Deluxe Brand Development and Good Advertising - as an account executive. Her clients included the American Lung Association, Duncan-Williams Investment Bankers, American Red Cross, Crescent, Memphis Police Department and the Riverfront Development Corporation. Julie is a freelance writer and editor based out of Memphis, Tenn., and she has most recently done work for Memphis-area newspapers, Hope Church, Crossroads Baptist Church and Missouri Baptist University.

Samantha Linkous is a brand strategist at the Birmingham, Ala., office of Lewis Communications, one of the South’s oldest advertising agencies. As a student majoring in public relations at Union University (’13) in Jackson, Tenn., Linkous worked on the college paper editorial staff and wrote for the university’s website and alumni magazine. At Lewis, she develops strategies for comprehensive campaigns for clients, with specialization in the medical and real estate industries.

Pamela Stanfield is an award-winning designer who has worked in marketing and advertising for more than 15 years. She recently joined the University School of Jackson (USJ) in Jackson, Tenn., as director of community outreach. Prior to her time at USJ, Pam spent a decade working with economic development clients at Younger Associates in Jackson, Tenn., where she served as director of creative services. Pam’s background also includes working as a designer in a small design boutique called Combustion for more than three years in Memphis, Tenn. In 2004, she received a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from Memphis College of Art. Pam is passionate about volunteering within her community, and she currently sits on the board of two local non-profits. Pam also enjoys photography and gardening. She and her husband, live on a farm just outside of Jackson, Tenn., with their daughter.

Originally from Murfreesboro, Tenn., Katie Howerton moved to Jackson, Tenn., in 2011 to study graphic design and drawing at Union University. In January 2015, she discovered Our Jackson Home, a non-profit organization dedicated to celebrating community, and she used it as a guinea pig for her senior design project, creating the first issue of the Our Jackson Home journal. After graduating, she was given leadership over Our Jackson Home. She supports of a local co-working space, theCO, where she now serves as editor-in-chief of the journal, blog, podcast and overall brand, as well as communications manager of theCO. She and her husband Jordan live in Jackson, Tenn., and are members of City Fellowship Baptist Church.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in religious studies and mass communications at Union University, and then a master’s degree in intercultural studies at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Adam Simpson moved his growing family to the Middle East. He developed a love for the people of Iran after living among Persians for several years while working with the IMB. Through this love, he was given a vision to serve the believers of Iran to reach their own people through media. Over the next few years, he set up a media company with the goal of raising the resources to fulfill this vision. He then joined Sat 7 Pars in Cyrus for three years to build a new television studio and to train their Persian production staff. This led to the beginning of the dream to produce dramatic films in Farsi. The goal is to follow Jesus’ example through using narrative dramas as parable and training media as discipleship to fulfill the Great Commission in our generation.

Brad Moore is a Nashville-based music, entertainment and commercial photographer/videoographer. Many people are familiar with Brad from his years at KelbyOne, as Scott Kelby’s assistant. In Brad’s case though, assisting Scott followed a few years of assisting another world-renowned photographer, Joe McNally. While assisting Joe, Brad worked on shoots for National Geographic, Sports Illustrated, FedEx, Nikon, Golf Digest, and more. Brad’s clients include companies like Red Bull, Walmart, FedEx, Nikon and Dodge Perfect to name just a few. When he’s not behind a camera, he can be found working at WELD, Nashville’s premiere co-working space, devouring a cheeseburger at Huk, or hanging at the dog park with his fiancé and her dachshund.

Holly Meyer is The Tennessean’s religion reporter, finding stories where religion intersects with politics, social issues and everything else. She joined The Tennessean in 2014 as a crime and breaking news reporter. Holly is a 2009 graduate of Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Ill., and began her professional journalism career at the Rapid City Journal in South Dakota. She moved to Appleton, Wis., in 2012 to work at The Post-Crescent where her faith-reporting earned her a national religion reporting award.

Jordan Buie joined The Tennessean as a breaking news/crime reporter on Nov. 1, 2015. He now covers state and national politics. His previous reporting beats include Williamson County (Tenn.), investigative, government, breaking news and features. In 2014, Jordan won the Malcolm Law Award for Individual Achievement in Investigative Reporting and First Place for Watchdog Journalism in the Best of Gannett division II quarterly awards at The Jackson Sun in Jackson, Tenn. As a life-long Tennessean, he writes about the issues, stories and culture of this state with the experience of a native.

Lori Johnston is a former Associated Press writer and magazine editor whose work has appeared in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, People magazine and HGTV.com. She lives with her husband, Andy, own and operate Georgia-based Fast Copy News Service. Their team of more than a dozen writers provides stories daily to media outlets and companies. Johnston has a bachelor’s degree in journalism and a master of fine arts in narrative media writing from the University of Georgia, where she is an instructor in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Small-town girl, Sue Sprockle, spent years discovering the world as a writer for the International Mission Board (aka Susie Rain). She returned to her hometown and now teaches digital media at a small college in rural Kansas. She remains active in Baptist life through freelancing opportunities.

Evan Logan serves as creative director of Germantown Baptist Church in Germantown, Tenn. After studying broadcast journalism at North Carolina State University, and then a master’s degree in film and video production at the University of Memphis. Having grown up as a minister’s kid, he has a heart for using art and technology to spread the gospel through the local church. Evan lives just outside of Memphis, Tenn., with his wife, Katie, and their four children.

Eric Murrell is communication director at Long Hollow Baptist Church, a large multi-site congregation just north of Nashville, Tenn. He is also the creator of Groups Engine, Prayer Engine, and Series Engine, and is one of the founders of the Creative Missions ministry. He resides in Hendersonville, Tenn., with his wife and two children.
Bramblett Group

The Bramblett Group marketing, advertising and public relations team includes professionals who serve customers through photography, videography, design, writing, digital advertising, branding and web and app development. The company is built on the understanding that the most important assets are people and relationships. When those thrive, creative energy and big ideas follow.

Before beginning Bramblett Group in 2006, Jason Bramblett worked in a variety of roles at agencies, ranging from intern to president. At Porter-Cable/Delta, he sat on the other side of the desk as a client for large advertising agencies; he managed a team of 17 people working on communication for more than 20 brands. With a bachelor’s degree from Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn. and a master’s degree from the University of Memphis, Jason spends his time dreaming up ways to make his community better... when he sits still for a minute.

Before Bramblett Group, Dawn Bramblett was director of alumni relations at Freed-Hardeman University (FHU) in Henderson, Tenn. for 12 years. That followed six years with her first entrepreneurial experience at PIP Printing in Union City, Tenn. Dawn graduated from FHU with her bachelor’s degree and from University of Memphis with her master’s degree. She has served as an adjunct instructor in communication for FHU and the University of Memphis. Volunteer work has been a big part of Dawn’s life, too, and the couple has two children, a son in 8th grade and a daughter in 7th.

Tajuana Cheshier has spent more than a decade as a news reporter and written hundreds of stories - from heartbreaking to heartwarming and everything in between. Tajuana says working on the public relations side at Bramblett Group allows her to still be surrounded by good stories and meet new people. Innately inquisitive, she never runs out of questions to ask. She earned her bachelor’s degree in broadcast and electronic communication from Marquette University in Milwaukee where she worked for the campus television station. Creative writing and the study of dramatic television were her favorite courses, which led to the realization that she would rather be behind the camera than in front of it. A reader, movie buff and lover of all things seafood, Tajuana enjoys spending time with her husband, family, friends and her 8-year-old boxer mix, Kizzie.

Courtnee Williams, artist and videographer, graduated magna cum laude in December 2011 with a bachelor of arts in mass media from Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn. After graduation, Courtnee spent one year working for Fox Radio Network in her hometown of Poplar Bluff, Mo., where she established a news department from the ground up. After a change of heart, she then worked with Poole Communications, a marketing agency based out of Hannibal, Mo. In 2015, she and her husband, Caz, moved to Henderson, Tenn., so she could begin her career at Bramblett Group where she films, edits and produces most of the firm’s video work and also designs print and web art. Courtnee and Caz have been married for nearly five years, and they are expecting their first child in July.

With over 15 years of application development experience, Michael Plyler has served as computer science faculty, university webmaster, and the director of development and operations in IT at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., since 2002. His academic areas of expertise include programming languages, database design, discrete event simulations of wireless sensor networks, and classroom technology. Since the beginning of 2015, Michael has worked with the Bramblett Group in designing/developing websites, information security, and problem solving/developing solutions for clients, and he is the general “go-to person” for all things technology. Michael is also passionate about K-12 STEM and loves spending time with his elementary-age daughters learning about technology and coding and helping them to develop their plans to take over the world.

Texas native Emily Ervin studied graphic design and photography at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tenn., and graduated in December 2015. She joined the Bramblett Group team for her first “real job” as a designer and photographer in January 2016. Emily has worked as a freelance photographer and designed a book that was published in Fall 2015. As a vegan, Emily is often on the hunt for recipes reminiscent of her former diet; her favorite vegan dish is macaroni and cheese. She seldom watches television, and spends her time writing and illustrating children’s books. An animal lover, Emily enjoys playing with her cats, Olive and Waldo. One of the highlights of her life was when she rescued a baby squirrel.
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