Southern California News Group journalists earn 42 OC Press Club Excellence in Journalism Awards

ANAHEIM, CALIF. -- September 16, 2020 -- Southern California News Group received a total of 42 OC Press Club 2020 Excellence in Journalism Awards.

The awards were announced on Thursday, July 30 in an online ceremony.

SCNG journalists earned awards in categories including Feature Story, Food/Restaurant Review, Religion Story, Business and Columnist, among others.

Writer Jeff Collins swept the Best Business Story category with first, second and third-place wins.

The full list of Southern California News Group’s honorees follows.

**Best News Story**
Second Place: Roxana Kopetman, “Migrant crisis spreads from border into Inland Empire”
Third Place: Erika Ritchie, “Family of military killed in training band together to push lawmakers into action”

**Best News Feature Story**
Second Place: Jonah Valdez, “A year later, borderline mass shooting victims families and survivors process grief”
Third Place: Teri Sforza, “Are sick ‘puppy mill’ dogs being disguised as rescues to sidestep new California law?”

**Best Series**
First Place: Jeff Collins, Nikie Johnson, Alicia Robinson and Jeff Goertzen, Housing in CA for the OC Register

**Best Beat Reporting**
First Place (TIE): Alicia Robinson, coverage of Angels Stadium
First Place (TIE): Scott Schwebke, coverage of the VA
Third place: Martin Wisckol, environmental news

**Best Public Affairs Story**
Second Place: Jeong Park, “Rancho Santa Margarita could lose nearly half its affordable housing supply”
Best Feature Story
First Place: Keith Sharon, “Former LAPD cop rushes home to find man from iconic 1992 riot picture on his porch after LA marathon mix-up”
Second Place: Susan Christian Goulding, “DNA kit reveals Tustin man's surprise siblings and family secrets”

Best Round-Up or Best Of
Second Place: Jeong Park, “Your Guide to Garden Grove’s newly named Orange County Koreatown”

Best Business Story
First Place: Jeff Collins, "Fallout from state’s rent control debate: More rent hikes"
Second Place: Jeff Collins, "Youths needed to fill construction jobs as openings rise"
Third Place: Jeff Collins, "A dynasty built on home sales: Curtain falls on Tarbell after 93 years"

Best Sports Story
First Place: Joey Kaufman, "Graham Harrell Tasked With Reviving USC Offense With Some Air Raid Flair"
Third Place: Susan Christian Goulding, “Seal Beach residents ask who’s responsible for car damage caused by flying golf balls”

Best Arts/Culture Review
First Place: Peter Larsen, “Kanye West premieres debut opera Nebuchadnezzar at Hollywood Bowl”

Best Music/Entertainment Story
First Place: Kelli Skye Fadroski, "Social Distortion’s Mike Ness Talks About Sobriety, New Music and Bruce Springsteen Before the Band Celebrates its 40th Anniversary in Irvine"
Third Place: Kelli Skye Fadroski, “Producer Linda Perry Says Her Grammy Nomination is Already a Win”

Best Music/Entertainment Review
First Place: Peter Larsen, “Paul McCartney Reunites With Ringo Starr at Dodger Stadium During Career Spanning Show”

Best Environmental News Story
First Place: Martin Wisckol, “Your recyclables are going to the dump and here’s why”
Second Place: Erika Ritchie, “California Dungeness crab industry to stop fishing three months early in legal settlement to help end whale, turtle entanglements”

Best Education Story
First Place: Susan Gill Vardon, “CSUF Clinic Helps Transgender Clients Find Their Voice, Confidence”

Best Food/Restaurant Story
Second Place: Anne Valdespino, “How Friendships Inspired Legendary Restaurateurs Ron Salisbury and Piero Selvaggio to Open Louie’s By the Bay in Newport Beach”
Third Place: Anne Valdespino, “Why Hot Sauce Addicts Are Willing to Pay Through the Nose for Sinus-Clearing Premium Sauces”

Best Food/Restaurant Review
First Place: Brad A. Johnson, “Knife Pleat teeters on the verge of greatness but isn’t quite there”
Third Place: Brad A. Johnson, “Have you made your reservation? CdM is a scene”

Best Travel Story
Third Place: Jessica Kwong, “Experiencing Italy’s Coast Requires Some Footwork”

Best Profile
Third Place: Theresa Walker, “A decade after Great Recession chewed him up, homeless DJ feels almost back”
**Best Religion Story**
First Place: Deepa Bharath, “Southern California United Methodist Congregations on the Brink of Schism Over National Church’s Stance on Homosexuality”
Third Place: Deepa Bharath, “After Swastika Photo With Students Went Viral, the Local Jewish Community Embraced and Educated Them”

**David McQuay Award for Best Columnist**
Second Place: Jonathan Lansner
Third Place: David Jerome

**Marjorie Freeman Award for Best Humorous Story**
First Place: Susan Christian Goulding, “The Loud Crowd”

**Best Food/Restaurant Story or Review**
First Place: Brad A. Johnson, “Where to Eat in Mexico City, part 2”

**Best Podcast**
First Place: Keith Sharon, Mom Vs. Murderer

**Best Graphic**
Second Place: Jeff Goertzen, “Deadly Stakes”

**Best News Photo**
First Place: Richard Koehler, SUV hits light pole, overturns
Third Place: Richard Koehler, driver missed parking spot

**Best Slideshow (online)**
Second Place: Steven Georges, paper football competition

**The Real O.C. Award**
First Place: Hayley Munguia, “A Long Beach Pilot Made History 55 Years Ago, But She and Her Beloved Plane Faded From Memory Until Now”

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**About the Southern California News Group**