



## **Pittsburgh Black Media Federation**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Pittsburgh Media Group Announces Finalists for 2016 Vann Awards**

#### **Legacy and Literacy Champion Honorees Also to Be Recognized at May 19 Dinner**

**PITTSBURGH** (April 14, 2016) — The Pittsburgh Black Media Federation is proud to announce the finalists for its 2016 Robert L. Vann Media Awards.

With the Award of Excellence, the Vann program honors exceptional print, broadcast, photography, and online journalism coverage of the African-American and African Diaspora communities of Western Pennsylvania. The list of finalists is below.

“These awards help us to showcase and document the social diversity that is a part of the fabric of Western Pennsylvania,” said Ervin Dyer, co-chair of the Vann awards subcommittee. “These stories give voice to the aspirations and struggles of communities that are too often voiceless, and we are grateful to the journalists and their organizations for the time and resources invested in having these stories told.”

Award winners will be named during PBMF’s annual awards dinner, which will start at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 19, at the University of Pittsburgh’s O’Hara Student Center, 4024 O’Hara St., Oakland.

The Award of Excellence finalists were selected in 29 categories. Entries were published or broadcast between Jan. 1, 2015, and Dec. 31, 2015.

The entries were judged by professional journalists in Asbury, N.J.; Atlanta; Baltimore; Columbus, Ohio; Frederick, Md.; Long Island, N.Y.; Morgantown, W.Va.; Northern Virginia; Tulsa, Okla.; and Washington, D.C.

Also at the dinner, PBMF will present two special awards: the Legacy Award and the inaugural Literacy Champion Award. The honorees were selected by the PBMF membership.

Debbie Norrell, lifestyle editor at the New Pittsburgh Courier, will be given the Legacy Award for her distinguished and varied journalism and theatrical career, which includes local fashion and cultural commentary as well as engagement with national television and radio advertising.

PBMF’s Literacy Champion Award acknowledges an individual or organization that has shown a commitment to increasing literacy in the community.

The honor goes to Lorena Amos Brock, a retired English teacher, co-founder of the United Black Book Clubs of Pittsburgh, founder of book clubs for teens and adults, and literacy advocate.

Tickets for the Vann awards reception may be purchased online at [www.pbmf.org](http://www.pbmf.org). Tickets are \$15 each for PBMF members and \$20 each for nonmembers. Sponsorships packages are also available online.

Proceeds from the Vann awards help to fund college scholarships for graduates of PBMF's Frank Bolden Urban Journalism Workshop for high school students, as well as other federation programs.

For more information, contact Dyer at 412-624-4796 or [vannawards@pbmf.org](mailto:vannawards@pbmf.org).

Founded in 1973, PBMF is a nonprofit organization that advocates for diversity in newsrooms, hosts programs that recognize excellent media coverage of minority communities, and trains young people to enter the media industry. The National Association of Black Journalists named PBMF a chapter of the year in 2015.

## **2016 Robert L. Vann Media Award of Excellence Finalists**

### **Magazine Series**

- Ronald L. Fisher/Soul Pitt Quarterly/“Johnstown Spotlight”

### **Magazine Feature**

- Ervin Dyer/Pitt Magazine/“Rubbed by Light”
- Jeffery Fraser/h Magazine/“Rivertown Rebirth”
- Pamela Goldsmith/Pitt Magazine/“The Hope Maker”

### **Magazine Feature-Photography**

- Ric Evans/Pitt Magazine/“Among Kin”
- Scott Goldsmith/Pitt Magazine/“William Strickland, Social-Enterprise Entrepreneur”
- Scott Goldsmith/Pitt Magazine/“Hope Maker”

### **Magazine Public Affairs**

- Lauren Davidson/Pittsburgh Magazine/“You Should Know: Sabrina Saunders”
- LaMont Jones, Jr./University of Pittsburgh Bridges Spring 2015/“Race and Criminal Justice”

### **Newspaper Business News**

- Chris Fleisher/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“Minority Employment Repercussions Contemplated”
- Tim Grant/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“For African-Americans, Homeownership Lagging”
- Joyce Gannon/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Jumpstarting Homewood”

### **Newspaper Columns**

- Luis Fabregas/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“Concussion Research, Love of Football Present Conflict of Interest”

- Denise Johnson/New Pittsburgh Courier/“Second Time Around Is a Charm for Fences”
- Tony Norman/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Burgess Idea Would Get at Quiet Racism”

### **Newspaper Editorials**

- Susan Mannella/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Fair Hiring”
- Tony Norman/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Wilson Center Revival”
- Tom Waseleski/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Work Opportunity”

### **Newspaper Feature**

- Mark Kanny/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“Pearl’s Passion for Art Helps Aid Her Dancers”
- Marsha Keefer/Beaver County Times/“I Was Born to Barber: Even After 60 years, Longtime Aliquippa Barber Has No Intention of Retiring”
- Bill Schackner/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Putting Names to Faces”

### **Newspaper Feature Photos**

- Rebecca Droke/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Moving from Marches to Measurables”
- J.L. Martello/New Pittsburgh Courier/“Salute”
- Jasmine Goldband/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“Birthday Becomes Memorial”
- Andrew Rush/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Westinghouse Marching Band”

### **Newspaper Health, Science, Environment**

- Natasha Lindstrom/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“County to Recognize Haitian Hospital with Pittsburgh Origins”
- Mark Roth/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“The Roots of the Color of Our Skin”
- Ben Schmitt/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“Mold Derails Lung Patient’s Dream”

### **Newspaper Investigative/Enterprise**

- J. Brady McCollough (text), Michael Henninger (photo)/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Baseball Republic: Inside the Dominican Machine”
- Clarece Polke/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Cultural Crossroads: High School Students' Perspectives on Historically Black Colleges”
- Ben Schmitt, Jason Cato, Chris Adamski/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“Concussion’ Controversy”

### **Newspaper Picture Series**

- Michael Henninger/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Haitian Orphans Now Call Pittsburgh Home”
- Justin Merriman/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“Barnstorming Tour”
- Julia Rendleman/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Family Creates a Home for Ethiopian Adoptees Abused by Previous Parents”

### **Newspaper Print Series**

- Tom Fontaine/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“Hill District Civic Arena Site Development Stories”
- Natasha Lindstrom/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“Faith, Nonprofit Leaders Unite to Tackle Social Justice and Inequality”
- Chris Togneri/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“Our Town”

### **Newspaper Public Affairs**

- Clarece Polke/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Race Still a Factor in School Discipline”
- J.D. Prose/Beaver County Times/“As Landmark Bill Turns 50, ‘There’s Work in Front of Us””
- J.D. Prose/Beaver County Times/“National Report: Minorities Still Face Obstacles to Voting”

### **Newspaper Sports Features**

- Ed Bouchette (text), Peter Diana (photos)/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Jerome Bettis: A Hall of Fame Ride”

- J. Brady McCollough/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/ Behind the Madness: Colleges ‘Student-athletes’ Go by the Book Even During Tournament Time”
- Craig Meyer/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Coaching Pool Thin on Diversity”
- Paige Mitchell/New Pittsburgh Courier/“‘The Darlings’ of Steel City Express Track Club Head to Nationals”

### **Newspaper Spot News**

- Sharon S. Blake/Pitt Chronicle/“Papers of Jazz Pianist Erroll Garner Donated to University”
- Paige Mitchell/New Pittsburgh Courier/“Leon Ford Speaks out About Trial, Shooting, Life in Wheelchair”
- Liz Navratil/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Five Men Ordered to Stand Trial for Roles in T Station Beating”

### **Newspaper Spot News Photos**

- Steve Mellon/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Victim Identified”
- Stephanie Strasburg/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“Mother Loses Son”
- Guy Wathen/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“Life’s Not a Video Game”

### **Newspapers Sport News Photos**

- Sidney Davis/Pittsburgh Tribune-Review/“The Wilkesburg Tigers Football Team Walks Off of Graham Field for the Last Time”
- Peter Diana/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“McCutchen Makes the Catch”
- Matt Freed/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Newkirk Steals the Ball”

### **Print Illustration Graphics**

- Ben Howard/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Back Flip”
- Daniel Marsula/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Hands Up, Don’t Shoot”
- Steve Ziants/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/“Jerome Bettis: Numbers and Memories”

### **Radio Broadcast Feature**

- Marcus Charleston, Paul Guggenheimer, Rebecca Zook/90.5 WESA's "Essential Pittsburgh"/"A Tribute to Naomi Sims"
- Allegra Johnson/American Urban Radio Networks and Affiliate Stations/"Michael Vick Backlash"
- Kim Lampkins/American Urban Radio Networks/"40 Black Men Speak on Living, Leading and Succeeding"
- Danielle Smith/American Urban Radio Networks/"FOP President Talks Racial Profiling"

### **Radio Broadcast Public Affairs**

- Marcus Charleston, Paul Guggenheimer, Katie Blackley/90.5 WESA's "Essential Pittsburgh"/"Political Activist and Former Councilman Sala Udin Seeks Presidential Pardon"

### **TV Broadcast Documentary**

- Nathalie Berry/WQED-TV/"Renewal & Reality: Rebuilding Braddock"
- Jonas Chaney, Lisa Sylvester, Steve Fogle/WPXI/"Man Up, Not Out"

### **TV Broadcast Editorial**

- Charles W. Wolfertz III, president and general manager/WTAE/"Challenging Racism in the Workplace"

### **TV Broadcast Feature**

- Damany Lewis/WPXI/"3-Year-old Shot"
- Michelle Wright, reporter; Tim Lohle, photographer; Shawn Quinlan, editor/WTAE/"Pittsburgh Resident Making Impact in Israel"
- Mike Clark, reporter; Andy Cunningham, photographer; Shawn Quinlan, editor/WTAE/"Pittsburgh Doctors save Philadelphia Girl's Life"

### **TV Broadcast Investigative/Enterprise**

- Aaron Martin/WPXI/“East Liberty Residents Pushed Out”
- Bofta Yimam, reporter, and Dave Carulli, photographer/WTAE/“Police Chief Fired, After WTAE Exposes Email Using Racial Slur”

### **TV Broadcast Series**

- Olga George, producer/KDKA/“KDKA Celebrates Black History Month”

### **TV Broadcast Public Affairs**

- Melissa Nopwaskey, Jess Fera/WPXI/“Center for Victims PSA”
- Ty Miller, executive producer, writer, producer; Brian Cook and Jeanna Rizzo, hosts/Championship Chase TV, PCNC TV/“Safety’s Firsts — African-American Pioneers of Public Safety in Pittsburgh”
- Minette Seate/WQED-TV/“Renewal & Reality: Why Not Wilkinsburg?”

### **TV Broadcast Spot News**

- Courtney Brennan/WPXI/“Young Lives Lost”
- Dave Kaplan, reporter, Cary Toaso, photographer and editor/WTAE/“Family of Perry South Man Struck During Hit-and-run Wants Justice”

### **TV Broadcast Sports Feature**

- Lisa Sylvester and Ward Hobbs/WPXI/“The Jerome Bettis Story”
- Ty Miller, executive producer, writer, producer and host/Championship Chase TV/“Showdown in Seattle”
- Andrew Stockey, reporter, and Steve Pierce, photographer and editor/WTAE/“Barnstorming Team Pays Tribute to Negro Leagues in Pittsburgh”