

## News Release

### WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION NAMES 2005 AWARD WINNERS

**FOR RELEASE: April 8, 2005**

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Ron Fournier of the Associated Press and Susan Page of USA Today have won two of Washington's top journalism awards for their coverage of the 2004 campaign. In addition, Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams of the San Francisco Chronicle were honored for their superb series that drove public opinion on athletes' use of steroids and resulted in Congressional hearings that focused national attention on a serious and growing problem affecting not only professional athletes but amateurs, including high school students.

The awards, administered by the White House Correspondents' Association, are to be presented at the group's annual dinner Saturday, April 30, 2005.

Fournier won the Merriman Smith Memorial Award for crisp and timely writing. In the best traditions of the Associated Press and the wire services, he demonstrated the unusual ability to update the Election Day story an incredible 67 times. Fournier gave AP readers across the country a clear view of the voting trends.

Page won the Aldo Beckman award for stories on the presidency and the presidential campaign. She showed outstanding enterprise and took an original approach to the election not seen elsewhere, especially in her "Top Ten" story. Her interview with Teresa Heinz-Kerry broke the "Laura Bush never worked" flap that caused a retraction and apology.

Mark Fainaru-Wada and Lance Williams of The San Francisco Chronicle won this year's Poe Award for their superb series that drove public opinion on athletes' use of steroids and resulted in Congressional hearings that focused national attention on a serious and growing problem affecting not only professional athletes but amateurs, including high school students. The reporters persisted in developing exclusive stories despite threats of subpoenas from federal prosecutors trying to uncover their sources.

The Poe judges also gave honorable mention to Donald Bartlett and James Steele of Time Magazine for detailing how illegal immigrants, including some from Egypt, Iran and Iraq, continue to pour across the Mexican border despite heightened security concerns since 9/11. The cover story also outlines an official conspiracy of silence on the issue driven by corporate America's need for cheap labor.

The Smith Judges also gave Honorable Mention to Jackie Calmes of the Wall Street Journal for her ability on deadline to inform readers of the

difficulties facing the Bush Administration on trying to reform Social Security.

The Medill School of Journalism administers these awards.

The Smith judges were John W. Mashek, Gene Gibbons, and Frank Starr.

The Beckman judges were Ellen Shearer of the Medill School of Journalism; Drew Davis, the president of American Press Institute; and Lee Thornton of the Philip Merrill School of Journalism University of Maryland.

The Poe judges were Deborah Mathis of the Medill School of Journalism; Wes Pippert of the University of Missouri; and Jack Nelson of The Los Angeles Times (retired).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Contact awards committee chairman Doug Mills, The New York Times, 202-862-0384 or Julie Whiston at the White House Correspondents' Association, 202-452-4836.

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This page was last updated April 25, 2005.