

PULITZER PRIZES FACT SHEET -- 2013

Overview

- More than 2,500 entries are submitted each year to the Pulitzer Prize competition and only 21 prizes are awarded.
- The year-long process begins with the appointment of 102 distinguished jurors who serve on separate juries and make three recommendations in each of 21 categories.

Journalism

- In the 14 Journalism categories, 1,081 entries were submitted this year (32 fewer than last year).
- In Journalism, there was a robust competition with finalists coming from 25 different news organizations, two of them online news organizations. Winners represented 10 organizations.
- In 2009, the Journalism competition was expanded to include online-only news sites. This year, InsideClimate News, an online site in Brooklyn, N.Y., won its first Pulitzer Prize. It was for National Reporting. (California Watch, an online site in Berkley, Cal., was a finalist in the Public Service category.)
- Substantial online and multimedia content was submitted, most of it from newspapers.
- Digital content played a role in seven entries: Public Service, Breaking News Reporting, Local Reporting, Explanatory Reporting, National Reporting, Feature Writing and Breaking News Photography.
- In the arts categories, juries reviewed 1,327 books (123 more than last year). They also reviewed 157 Music entries and about 60 plays.

Board

- The Board is composed of 19 members, 17 of whom are voting members.
- Members serve a maximum of three three-year terms.

Juries

- Juries range in size. Journalism juries have five or seven members, depending on the volume in a category. Book juries have three members. Music and Drama juries have five members.

Procedure

- Each jury recommends three finalists – no more, no less – without statement of preference.
- The Board makes the final decisions after evaluating all the nominated finalists and considering jury reports.
- Prizes are awarded by majority vote of the Board but the Board is also empowered to vote “no prize” or by three-fourths vote to switch nominations among categories or to select any entry that has not been nominated by a jury.

Notable facts

- David Barstow, of The New York times, won his second Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting; the first was in 2009. His work also won the 2004 Public Service prize.
- Javier Manzano, a free-lance photographer, self-entered the single image that won the Feature Photography prize. The picture was distributed by Agence France-Presse.
- The last time a single photo won the Feature Photography prize was 1997.

Awards luncheon

- The prizes will be awarded at a luncheon on May 30 at Columbia’s Low Library.

Symbol of the Prizes

- The iconic Gold Medal is awarded each year to the American newspaper that wins the Public Service category. It is never awarded to an individual. However, through the years, the Medal has come to symbolize the entire Pulitzer program.