

Presented by

TKO

2026 APSE SUMMER CONFERENCE
Marriott Crystal Gateway
Arlington, Virginia
July 16-18

Washington D.C. - 2026



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Washington D.C. - 2026



WELCOME MESSAGE



From the President | Paul Barrett, The Seattle Times

Welcome to the 2026 APSE Summer Conference! Thank you for setting aside time in your busy schedules to join us in the Washington, D.C., area to reconnect, share and absorb some knowledge, honor the best in the business and, last but not least, have some fun with colleagues.

We have an outstanding conference planned, and I'm confident you'll find the sessions and workshops topical and useful. They include: where the industry is headed after this year's Washington Post layoffs; where we're at with NIL legislation; and best practices with time management, for reporting on LGBTQ+ issues in sports and for making FOIA requests.

We'll get together Thursday night for our opening reception, which will be hosted by the Washington Mystics before we attend their game against the Portland Fire.

And we'll celebrate great journalism – on Friday with the presentation of the Red Smith Award to Boston Globe columnist Dan Shaughnessy and on Saturday night with our annual APSE Contest awards banquet.

I'm looking forward to spending time with you all again, and I hope you have an amazing week!

**The Seattle
Times**

Notable Locations |

Office: Crystal Boardroom Registration: Grand Registration Desk Banquet: Salons A-B

General Sessions: Salons A-B Workshops: Salons D-E, F-G, J

Welcome Reception: CareFirst Arena

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15 -----

Sports Events in the D.C. Area

It is the All-Star break, and there aren't any live sports going on as people arrive. However, there is plenty to do near the hotel, including:

[Crystal City Sports Pub](#)

[Lucky Strike Bowling](#)

THURSDAY, JULY 16 -----

Officers Meeting

When: 10 a.m. Where: Crystal Boardroom

Registration

When: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Where: Grand Registration

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

When: 12-1:45 p.m. Where: Salons A-B

Presiding: Paul Barrett, APSE president

GENERAL SESSION | Washington Post layoffs: Where do we go from here?

When: 2-3:30 p.m. Where: Salons A-B

The gutting of the Washington Post sports section sent shockwaves through the industry. What went wrong, and what does it mean for the future of sports journalism? If The Post got rid of its sports section, is there hope for any of us?

Moderator

Jason Murray, who served as Sports Editor for The Washington Post, is a Deputy Editorial Director at The Athletic, helping to drive daily news coverage across all North American sports. Before leading The Post's sports section, Jason oversaw coverage of the NBA, WNBA and college athletics.



Panelists

Ava Wallace is a senior tennis writer for The Athletic. She joined in 2026 after 10 years at The Washington Post, where she covered the NBA, WNBA, women's college basketball, tennis and the Olympics.



Emily Giambalvo is a data reporter for The Athletic. She previously worked at The Washington Post, where she wrote data-driven stories and covered college sports, gymnastics and the Olympics.



Joe Tone is a senior editor at The Washington Post, where he oversees a team of sports reporters who produce investigative reporting, narrative storytelling and other enterprise work. His work has been honored by IRE, ONA, APSE, PEN America and more. He joined The Post in 2019.



Matt Rennie is the Senior Managing Editor for Rapid Investigation at The Athletic. Previously, he worked for 26 years in the sports department of The Washington Post, the final 16 as deputy sports editor. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan.





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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

GENERAL SESSION | Time management: How to maximize our most precious resource

When: 3:45 - 5:15 p.m. Where: Salons A-B



Moderator

Tommy Deas is Sports Director/Senior Sports Strategist for the Center for Community Journalism in the USA TODAY Co. He oversees sports coverage for more than 120 markets across the country. He won a Pulitzer Prize while at The Tuscaloosa News for its team coverage of the 2011 tornado that killed more than 40 people and devastated the community.

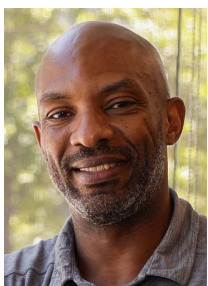
When: 3:45 - 5:15 p.m. Where: Salons A-B



Panelists

Amie Just is the sports columnist at the Lincoln Journal Star. Since graduating from the University of Kansas, she's earned 27 APSE Top 10s across nine categories in four divisions (A, C, D and student). Before returning to her native Nebraska, she worked in Montana and Louisiana, covering all sports at all levels.

Louisiana, covering all sports at all levels.



Rod Beard is the Senior Sports Editor for pro/college sports at the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, joining the team after 23 years at The Detroit News, where he was the sports editor, after serving as Pistons beat writer for seven years, Michigan basketball writer for five years and several roles before that.



Chris Thomas is Executive Editor, Sports, of the USA TODAY Network. He's an East Tennessee native whose previous stops include the Detroit Free Press, USA TODAY Network South Region, Alabama Media Group, Knoxville News Sentinel and the Clarion Ledger (Jackson, Miss.).

WELCOME RECEPTION | Portland Fire at Washington Mystics

When: 5:30 - 10 p.m. Where: CareFirst Arena

Opening reception is free and is at a location adjacent to the Arena.

Game time is 7 p.m. and we must purchase our own tickets.

To purchase tickets:

<https://www.gofevo.com/event/Apse2>



FRIDAY, JULY 17 -----

Registration

When: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Where: Grand Reception

Silent Auction

When: All Day Where: Salons A-B

The third annual APSE Foundation silent auction will be open for bidding starting Friday. The proceeds from the auction will support the APSE Foundation Fellowship, established in 2011 for mid-career sports journalists to prepare and support them for career advancement. Last year's auction raised more than \$2,000, which could pay for airfare and hotel rooms for four fellows at the summer conference. Much appreciation and gratitude to our generous donors.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

COFFEE TALK and PASTRY STATION

| Investing in high school sports coverage

When: 8 - 8:45 a.m. Where: Salons A-B



Moderator

Maria McIlwain is the women's sports editor (among other roles) at The Philadelphia Inquirer. She's held that role since 2022 and directs coverage of women's sports and women in sport from preps to pros in Philly and beyond. She is APSE's incoming Second Vice President.

Panelists

Jim Pignatiello is MassLive.com's Deputy Editor of Content. He has worked as the sports lead at the Advance Local media group since 2013. Jim is the outgoing APSE Northeast Region chair.



Lyz Stallings is a regional sports director for the USA Today Co. in Ohio and Pennsylvania. She earned an undergrad degree from Towson University and a master's from Millersville, both in sports management with a concentration in coaching.



GENERAL SESSION | NIL legislation:

Where we're at

When: 9 - 10:30 a.m. Where: Salons A-B



Moderator

Ross Dellenger joined Yahoo Sports in 2023 as its senior college football reporter after five years as a national college football writer for Sports Illustrated. Dellenger, who lives in Washington, D.C., also spent several years as a newspaper beat writer covering Auburn, Missouri and LSU.

Panelists

Charlie Baker assumed the duties as the NCAA's sixth president on March 1, 2023, after his term as the 72nd governor of Massachusetts. Baker is a graduate of Harvard, where he was a member of the men's basketball team.



Maria Cantwell serves as a United States Senator for the state of Washington. She was a successful businesswoman in Washington's hi-tech industry before being elected to the U.S. Senate in 2000, 2006, 2012, and again in 2018.



Eric Schmitt is serving his first term as a United States Senator from the state of Missouri. He has served in various roles in Missouri's state legislature, including State Senator, State Treasurer and Attorney General.



Lori Trahan represents Massachusetts' Third Congressional District. A former volleyball player at Georgetown, she is Co-Chair of the Democratic Policy & Communications Committee.



WORKSHOP 1 | Vertical video: Best practices

When: 10:45 - 12 p.m. Where: Salons D-E

Fans are increasingly relying on video to get their news — on Tik-Tok, Instagram or even a publication's site or app. But how can a news site cut through the noise and actually get users to watch? We'll present strategies to help your organization stand out and maybe even drive users to subscribe.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE



Moderator

Chris Korman is the Sports Editor of The Banner, a nonprofit newsroom covering Baltimore and D.C. sports. He has worked at USA TODAY's For The Win, The Baltimore Sun, The Herald-Times in Bloomington, Ind., and what was then known as The Patriot-News in Harrisburg, Pa.



Panelists

Paul Mancano is an audience engagement editor at The Baltimore Banner, specializing in sports coverage. He manages the sports social media accounts, creates social videos and graphics, hosts and produces Ravens and Orioles podcasts and writes stories. Mancano also

spent six years at the Mid-Atlantic Sports Network.



Krishna Sharma is an award-winning audience engagement editor at The Baltimore Banner. He creates and appears in social videos. Since its launch in 2022, he's helped grow the TikTok account to more than 90,000 followers and its Instagram account to more than 200,000 followers.



Madison Eades is a recent graduate from the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism. During her time there she served as an audience engagement editor for the digital student newspaper, The Diamondback. She is currently interning at The Athletic.

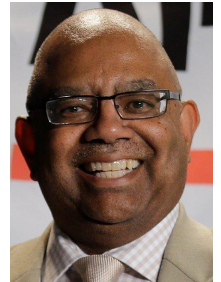
WORKSHOP 2 | Q&A: Best practices for FOIA requests

When: 10:45 - 12 p.m. Where: Salons F-G

You have a tip, an ongoing story or a hunch that there's a deeper story to tell with a public records request. How do you get it to the finish line at a time when resources are stretched amid competing demands in your newsroom? Here's how to own your beat through public record requests. The panel will emphasize how to follow the money in college sports in a way that yields meaningful results.

Moderator

Oscar Dixon of The Associated Press manages a global footprint that includes more than 100 staffers and more than 400 freelancers. Before arriving at the AP in March 2008, Oscar worked at USA Today, the Omaha World-Herald and with the San Antonio Spurs. He was the NBA editor at USA Today, is a former military journalist and has worked nine Olympics.



Panelists

Josh Hoffner is the global sports editor for The Associated Press. He was named to the position earlier this year after four years as the U.S. News Director, overseeing the AP's 50-state newsroom and a team of more than 200 reporters, photographers and video journalists. Before that he served in newsroom leadership roles in Arizona and New York.



Steve Berkowitz worked for USA Today for 25 years, first as the sports projects editor and then as a reporter with the department's enterprise and investigations group. He began his career at The Washington Post, where he worked as a news aide, copy editor, reporter, night editor and assistant sports editor.



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

WORKSHOP 3 | Reporting with accuracy and respect on LGBTQ+ issues in sports

When: 10:45 - 12 p.m. Where: Salon J



Moderator

Dan Spears is the deputy sports strategist for Gannett's Center for Community Journalism, focused on high school sports strategy for more than 100 mid-size and small newsrooms around the country in the USA TODAY Network. Dan has been involved in APSE for more than 15

years and is a past president.



Panelists

Katherine Fominykh has covered high school and college sports for Capital Gazette since 2018 and has won numerous APSE awards, including top Short Feature in Division C for 2025. She previously was a sports reporting intern for The Baltimore Sun and The Boston Globe.



Monica Lewis is a communications strategist with 30 years of experience leading media relations, executive communications, and strategic storytelling across higher education, government, healthcare, nonprofit, and media. She currently is Senior Director of Athletics Communications at Howard University.



Jonathan Lovitz is the senior vice president for campaigns and communications for the Human Rights Campaign. A nationally recognized leader in public affairs, economic policy, and strategic communications, he previously was Director of Public Affairs for the Department of Commerce and an executive for the

National LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

RED SMITH LUNCHEON |

When: 12:30 p.m. - 2 Where: Salons A-B

Sponsor: The Boston Globe

The Boston Globe

Presenting: Tim Kurkjian, ESPN analyst and senior writer



Honoree: Dan Shaughnessy, The Boston Globe



Presentation of the Jack Berninger Award for service to APSE

Repeats of Workshops 2 and 3 |

Q&A: Best practices for FOIA requests

When: 2:15 - 3:30 p.m. Where: Salons F-G

Reporting with accuracy and respect on LGBTQ+ issues in sports

When: 2:15 - 3:30 p.m. Where: Salon J

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

GENERAL SESSION |

Sports entertainment, and how we cover it

When: 3:45 - 5:15 p.m. Where: Salons A-B



Moderator

Tommy Deas is Sports Director/ Senior Sports Strategist for the Center for Community Journalism in the USA TODAY Co. He oversees sports coverage for more than 120 markets across the country. He won a Pulitzer Prize while at The Tuscaloosa News for its team coverage of the 2011 tornado that killed more than 40 people and devastated the community.

more than 40 people and devastated the community.



Panelists

In his fourth match, **Ethan Page** captured the WWE NXT Championship, then dethroned Ricky Saint to claim the North American Championship. Page made an impressive Raw debut in April, showing he's a contender by winning his match. With a razor-sharp wit, there's no

telling what the self-proclaimed "most entertaining" star from Ontario will do next.



At a family funeral, 14-year-old **Moria Novakoski** met a cousin who talked about riding bulls. Three weeks later, she climbed onto a bull – and never looked back. Now 15, the former national gymnast is pursuing an ambitious goal: becoming the first woman to compete in PBR.



From Philadelphia, **Kyle Daukaus** competes in the UFC's middleweight division, earning a reputation for his elite grappling skills, toughness and willingness to face top competition. After building an impressive résumé on the regional circuit, he reached the sport's highest level and, in 2025, added a memorable chapter

to his career by competing at Freedom 250 on the grounds of the White House.

BILLIE JEAN KING DOCUMENTARY SCREENING |

When: 5:30 - 7 p.m. Where: Salons A-B

Sponsor: APSE Foundation

ESPN Films presents a documentary capturing the remarkable story of Billie Jean King. The legacy of one of America's first women's sports stars is unrivaled, yet few people know the real Billie Jean: charismatic, mischievous, indignant, hopeful, stubborn, and determined as ever. This is the unfiltered, untold story of how she broke the rules and proved her critics wrong.



SATURDAY, JULY 18 -----

Registration

When: 8 a.m.- 12 p.m. Where: Grand Reception

Pastry Station

When: 8 a.m. Where: Salons A-B

Silent Auction

When: All Day Where: Salons A-B

The third annual APSE Foundation silent auction will be open for bidding starting Friday. The proceeds from the auction will support the APSE Foundation Fellowship, established in 2011 for mid-career sports journalists to prepare and support them for career advancement. Last year's auction raised more than \$2,000, which could pay for airfare and hotel rooms for four fellows at the summer conference. Much appreciation and gratitude to our generous donors.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

GENERAL SESSION |

Career Development

When: 8:30 - 10 a.m. Where: Salons A-B

Sponsor: The Athletic

The APSE Career Advancement committee will lead a session in which journalists of all experience levels and backgrounds can discuss how to get better at what they're doing, and what they'll need to do next. Resume critiques, interview advice, job hunting tips. Let's help each other grow, improve and reach our career goals



Moderator

Lisa Wilson is the editorial director for Talent and Development at The Athletic. A past president of APSE, Wilson is the chair of the career advancement committee and the executive director of the APSE Foundation.

GENERAL SESSION |

Ask the students

When: 10:15 - 11:45 a.m. Where: Salons A-B

Sponsor: APSE Foundation

Student journalists take the dais for a reverse panel as editors, reporters and others ask about how they consume news, the opportunities they see to reach younger audiences, etc.



Moderator

Katie McInerney is the senior assistant sports editor at The Boston Globe. She manages a team of producers responsible for Globe.com/Sports, as well as the Globe's women's sports coverage. She has worked in journalism for more than a decade in newsrooms

around the country and is a graduate of the APSE Foundation Fellowship.

LUNCH BREAK |

When: 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m.

GENERAL SESSION |

How we did it: Examining our best work

When: 1 - 2:30 p.m. Where: Salons A-B

Moderator

Perryn Keys is incoming APSE president and executive sports editor of The Buffalo News. Before that, he spent six years as executive sports editor of The Times-Picayune in New Orleans, The Advocate in Baton Rouge, and The Acadiana Advocate in Lafayette, La.



Panelists

A career that has spanned four decades in central Pennsylvania has allowed **Shelly Stallsmith** to meet high school, pro athletes, and everything in between. Stallsmith, a York native, has been at the Daily Record for nearly 10 years and loves being able to write for the outlet that provided her first professional paycheck as a high school sophomore.



Kevin Armstrong is an enterprise reporter for NJ.com. His work often focuses on the intersection of sports with business, education and legal affairs. Previously, he worked for the New York Daily News and Sports Illustrated. He was also an executive producer for "Killer Inside: The Mind of Aaron Hernandez," a Netflix Original Series.



Staff, Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism

The Shirley Povich Center's winning entry in Division D projects was a series of stories about where and how high school athletes can cash in on name, image and likeness deals across all 50 states, and the impact NIL is having on high school athletics in the U.S. The Shirley Povich Center is part of the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

CLOSING GENERAL

MEMBERSHIP MEETING |

When: 2:45 p.m. Where: Salons A-B
Presiding: Perry Keys, APSE president

AWARDS DINNER RECEPTION |

When: 6 - 7 p.m. Where: Sky View

Silent Auction

The third annual APSE Foundation silent auction will be open for bidding starting Friday. The proceeds from the auction will support the APSE Foundation Fellowship, established in 2011 for mid-career sports journalists to prepare and support them for career advancement. Last year's auction raised more than \$2,000, which could pay for airfare and hotel rooms for four fellows at the summer conference. Much appreciation and gratitude to our generous donors.

AWARDS BANQUET |

When: 7 p.m. Where: Salons A-B
Presiding: Erik Hall, APSE first vice president
Sponsor: NASCAR

CLOSING RECEPTION |

When: 9:30 - 11 p.m. Where: Salons C-E
Sponsors: NASCAR

**Major League Soccer
is proud to sponsor the
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The Athletic welcomes you to Arlington for the APSE conference!



Join leaders from The Athletic's newsroom for a career development workshop aimed at students and early career journalists.



Our future is bright and we are looking to add talented people to our team. We give you the time, resources, and freedom to do your best work.

See open positions at theathletic.com/careers

APSE LEADERSHIP



Paul Barrett, President

Paul Barrett has been The Seattle Times sports editor since 2016 and on staff there since 2015. Under his leadership, The Times has won three APSE Grand Slams, two Triple Crowns and multiple digital and writing awards.

Paul started his first full-time newspaper job in 1989 as a high school reporter at the Moscow-Pullman Daily News, while a student at Washington State University.

Since then he's worked at daily newspapers of all sizes in various areas of the country as a reporter, editor, designer and manager, including stints as night sports editor at The Arizona Republic and Miami Herald. Paul, a Seattle native, has been an APSE member since 2015 and a contest judge since 2017.

Perryn Keys, First Vice President

Perryn Keys was named sports editor of The Buffalo News in the summer of 2024, coming from the Times Picayune/The Advocate.

As the leader of The Advocate's sports department from 2019-2024, Keys' department was at the forefront of sports betting coverage, developing young writers into some of the industry's best. He also led strong print editions in Baton Rouge to focus on colleges, and New Orleans where the focus shifts toward the pros, and set a standard for how to cover a major university, LSU, that excels in high profile sports like football, basketball and baseball.



Erik Hall, Second Vice President

Erik Hall is the managing editor of The Telegraph in Alton, Illinois, where he leads a newsroom covering southwestern Illinois across print and digital platforms. Under his leadership, The Telegraph won the EPPY Award

for Best Daily News Website with fewer than 1 million unique monthly visitors in both 2024 and 2025 and earned statewide recognition from the Illinois Press Association, including back-to-back Patrick Coburn Awards of Excellence as the top publication of its size in Illinois.

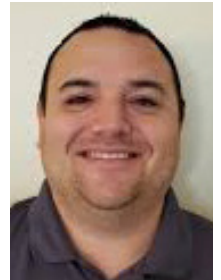
Hall attended his first Associated Press Sports Editors Summer Conference in 2012 in Chicago, an experience that helped shape his continued involvement in journalism organizations. He is currently vice president of print and digital for NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ+ Journalists. Hall has a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Illinois and a master's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri.

Tony Maluso, Third Vice President

Anthony Maluso is a copy editor for the Philadelphia Inquirer. He has been an APSE member since 2017. He worked seven years at an ESPN Radio affiliate in Youngstown, Ohio, before transitioning to print journalism.

Starting from a part-time role at a small daily paper in Salem, Ohio, he worked his way up to higher positions in bigger markets. He became a full-time sports writer at the Tiffin (Ohio) Advertiser-Tribune and was soon promoted to assistant sports editor. After four years in Tiffin, in 2015 he became sports editor at the Dalton (Ga.) Daily Citizen-News.

In 2018 he took over the sports editor's role at The Citizens' Voice in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Budget cuts and the pandemic moved him to a news editing role until he rejoined the sports world in 2022, becoming community sports editor at Baltimore Sun Media, where he ran sports for the Carroll County Times and Annapolis Capital Gazette. In 2025 he led the Capital Gazette to an APSE grand slam and the Carroll County Times to a triple crown.



APSE LEADERSHIP



John Bednarowski, Conference Coordinator

John Bednarowski is the sports editor at the Marietta Daily Journal where he is about to celebrate his 20th anniversary at the metro-Atlanta news organization.

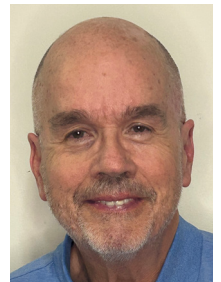
The MDJ has won six triple crowns under his leadership. Individually, he has won first place APSE awards for breaking news (2016), columns (2019) and event coverage (2023), and has claimed more than 90 other state and national awards.

Bednarowski is a former APSE president (2018-19) and is in his first full year as conference coordinator.

Bill Eichenberger, Executive Director

Bill Eichenberger retired last year after serving for two years as an editor at Sportico, a sports business website based in New York City.

He has also served as a senior editor at Bleacher Report, as well as New York sports editor at the Wall Street Journal. He has been sports editor at the Las Vegas Review-Journal, Newsday, the Akron Beacon Journal and the Macon Telegraph. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia and was president of APSE for the 2003-04 term.



RED SMITH AWARD

Dan Shaughnessy | 2026 Recipient

By Joe Sullivan

Measuring the power of a sports columnist's words can be a nearly impossible task. In the case of Dan Shaughnessy, however, there is a convenient tape measure.



It is his column from Oct. 30, 2005, in the Boston Sunday Globe about the sometimes-contentious relationship between Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein and team CEO Larry Lucchino despite the team's success on the field.

Epstein was prepared to sign a new contract; a news conference had been scheduled for Halloween. The column so incensed Epstein – he blamed Lucchino for it, thus proving Dan right – that he resigned instead of signing. The news conference was canceled. With media assembled, Epstein somehow found a gorilla costume at Fenway Park and wore it so he could leave undetected.

Few columnists can say their words triggered that kind of reaction. Shaughnessy could and often did.

It's work like that and much more over a 53-year career that has earned Shaughnessy the 2026 Red Smith Award.

Shaughnessy grew up in Groton, Mass., about 35 miles west of Fenway Park. His love of Boston sports comes naturally. His knowledge and experience are unquestioned. But as a sports columnist, he has long been a polarizing figure.

"He views himself as the ombudsman for the fans," said Bob Ryan, his fellow Globe columnist and a Red Smith Award winner, too. "He definitely feels that his job as a columnist is to afflict the comfortable. He inherently challenges authority. He knows there's going to be pushback. He doesn't mind it; he can take it. He is fearless in that regard."

Nothing ever stopped him from writing what he believed needed to be said. He is known for biting criticism, but he is a gifted writer when crafting a poignant, touching tale.

"Whatever he was doing, whether as a beat writer or a columnist, he would always know what story was the most important one to write," said Don Skwar, the Globe sports editor who named Shaughnessy a columnist. "He's a really good reporter and he knew what people wanted to read about. He had a bead on what was most important."

Despite his reputation, not every reader, fan, athlete or coach dislikes Dan. In fact, perhaps the grumpiest of all, Bill Belichick, likes him. During one Super Bowl week,



Belichick agreed to take a survey Dan devised, featuring questions of incredible importance, such as Coke or Pepsi? Mary Ann or Ginger?

He has been named the Massachusetts Sportswriter of the Year 14 times and has earned APSE Top 10 columnist honors in the large-circulation category 15 times, including this year. He is the author of 13 books, most notably "The Curse of the Bambino," which chronicled the tribulations of the Red Sox as they failed to win the World Series from 1918 until 2004.

His columnist persona is also balanced by his charitable work, notably with The Jimmy Fund to and UNICEF. His connection to The Jimmy Fund is especially personal – his daughter Kate is a leukemia survivor. His co-workers will tell you he is a great teammate, someone willing to assist colleagues from the sports department's high school writers to its managers, and even the Globe's "Love Letters" columnist.

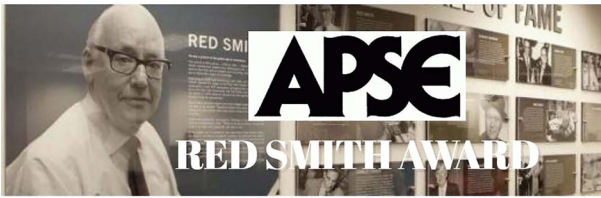
Shaughnessy was honored by the Baseball Hall of Fame with the BBWAA Career Excellence Award in 2016. He is the ninth person to win that award and the Red Smith, joining Red Smith, Shirley Povich, Jim Murray, Joe McGuff, Wendell Smith, Sam Lacey, Jerome Holtzman, Claire Smith, and Thomas Boswell.

Dan and his wife of 44 years, Marilou, have three children – daughters Sarah and Kate, and son Sam – and five grandchildren.

He is the sixth person associated with the Boston Globe to receive the Red Smith Award, joining Bud Collins, Dave Smith, Vince Doria, Leigh Montville and Ryan.

Joe Sullivan was sports editor of the Boston Globe from 2004 to 2018.

RED SMITH AWARD



Red Smith Award | Backstory

The Red Smith Award is presented for extended, meritorious labor in the art of sports journalism. It is named after Red Smith, longtime sports columnist whose career spanned five decades.

Past Winners

Year	Recipient	Publication	Year	Recipient	Publication
2026	Dan Shaughnessy	Boston Globe	2003	George Solomon	Washington Post
2025	Thomas Boswell	The Washington Post	2002	Dick Schaap	ESPN
2024	Bill Plaschke	Los Angeles Times	2001	John Steadman	Baltimore Sun
2023	Claire Smith	Philadelphia Bulletin	2000	Jerry Izenberg	Newark Star-Ledger
2022	Leon Carter	The Athletic	1999	Bud Collins	Boston Globe
2021	Sally Jenkins	The Washington Post	1998	Sam Lacy	Baltimore Afro-American
2020	Christine Brennan	USA Today	1997	Jerome Holtzman	Chicago Tribune
2019	Sandy Rosenbush	Sports Journalism Ins.	1996	Bill Dwyre	Los Angeles Times
2018	Terry Taylor	Associated Press	1995	Richard Sandler	Newsday
2017	Henry Freeman	USA Today	1994	Dave Anderson	New York Times
2016	Leigh Montville	Boston Globe/Sports Ill.	1993	Tom McEwen	Tampa Tribune
2015	Bob Ryan	Boston Globe	1992	Ed Storin	Miami Herald
2014	Wendell Smith	Chicago Herald-American	1991	Dave Kindred	National Sports Daily
2013	Dan Jenkins	Sports Illustrated	1990	Dave Smith	Dallas Morning News
2012	Frank Deford	Sports Illustrated	1989	Edwin Pope	Miami Herald
2011	Bill Millsaps	Richmond Times-Dispatch	1988	Furman Bisher	The Atlanta Journal
2010	Mitch Albom	Detroit Free Press	1987	Will Grimsley	Associated Press
2009	Vince Doria	ESPN	1986	Si Burick	Dayton Daily News
2008	W.C. Heinz	New York Sun	1985	Blackie Sherrod	Dallas Morning News
2007	Van McKenzie	Orlando Sentinel	1984	Fred Russell	Nashville Banner
2006	Joe McGuff	Kansas City Star	1983	Shirley Povich	Washington Post
2005	Mary Garber	Winston-Salem Journal	1982	Jim Murray	Los Angeles Times
2004	Jimmy Cannon	New York City columnist	1981	Red Smith	New York Times

The Jack Berninger Award



This award recognizes an individual who has given exemplary service to APSE. It is named after Jack Berninger, longtime executive director for APSE and former sports editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Year	Recipient	Publication
2025	Greg Brownell	The Post Star
2024	Bill Eichenberger	Las Vegas Review Journal
2023	Glen Crevier	Minneapolis Star Tribune
2022	Roy Hewit	Cleveland Plain Dealer
2021	Herb Stutz	Los Angeles Times
2020	Joe Sullivan	The Boston Globe
2019	Ed Storin	Miami Herald
2018	Colleen Berninger	
2017	Jack Berninger	Richmond Times-Dispatch



The third annual APSE Foundation silent auction will be open for bidding starting Friday in Salons A-B. The proceeds will support the APSE Foundation Fellowship, established in 2011 for mid-career sports journalists to prepare and support them for leadership and career advancement. Last year's auction raised more than \$2,000, which could pay for airfare and hotel rooms for four fellows at the summer conference. Much appreciation and gratitude to our generous donors.



FOUNDATION FELLOWS



The ninth class of the APSE Foundation Fellows include, top row, from left, Bria Manning, Carlos Silva Jr., Andre Fernandez and Isabella DiAmore. Bottom row, from left, Courtney Shultz, Lyric Swinton and Zoe Collins-Rath.

Bria Manning is the sports editor of The Montana Standard and previously served as copy editor at ESPN for over three years. She is an alumna of UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism, an amateur competitive archer and will be thru-hiking across Catalina Island later this year.

Carlos Silva Jr. is the sports editor of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal and CCJ Gulf Texas Sports Editor for USA Today. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso, and is looking to visit all MLB stadiums with his fiancée, Marie.

Andre Fernandez is the Deputy Sports Editor at the Miami Herald. He is also a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and Baseball Writers' Association of America. Previously, he worked as a beat reporter at The Athletic, covering the Miami Marlins, Miami Dolphins and Miami Heat, and at the Tallahassee Democrat covering Florida State University athletics. He is a graduate of the University of Miami, fluent in English and Spanish, learning Italian, and an avid pickleball player.

Isabella DiAmore is a sports editor at the Philadelphia Inquirer, where she primarily edits and writes content on college and high school sports. She also contributes to writing the Inquirer's sports daily newsletter and weekend editing. She served as an intern

at the Inquirer in 2021-2022, before being hired full time as an associate editor. Isabella is a graduate of Temple University.

Courtney Shultz is a Deputy Managing Editor for the Daily Desk at The Athletic. She is a graduate of Whitman College and lives in Seattle with her husband and three children. When she's not editing, she's either catching a Mariners game or working on her handicap.

Lyric Swinton is a freelance pro wrestling writer at The Takedown On SI. Previously, she was Editor of Newsletters & Emerging Platforms at The Post and Courier. She is a proud graduate of the University of South Carolina and has covered professional wrestling in some of the world's most famous venues across four countries and three continents.

Zoe Collins Rath, sports producer and reporter for the Austin American-Statesman, is a graduate of the University of Colorado and Northwestern. She has previously worked at nola.com and The Progress-Index.

APSE BULLETIN & 2026 SJI CLASS ROSTER

News and information about APSE and the summer conference, produced and reported by the Sports Journalism Institute Class of 2026, can be found by going to sportsjournalisminstitute.org and clicking on the “latest news” tab.

SJI CLASS OF 2026 |

Name	School	Class	Internship
Amanda Avila	Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo	Junior	The Oklahoman
Xavier Board	University of Maryland	Graduate	The Tennessean
Said Bravo	University of Illinois	Senior	Commercial Appeal
Xavier Burton	North Carolina A&T	Junior	Knoxville News Sentinel
Alyssa Cooper	Florida A&M	Senior	Minnesota Star Tribune
Kai Dizon	UCLA	Junior	Southern Cal News Group
Reiven Douglas	North Carolina A&T State University	Graduate	ESPN
Matthew Gomez	University of Texas	Senior	Houston Chronicle
Samantha Guillotte	Loyola University-New Orleans	Senior	Florida Times-Union
Gabriella Hartlaub	University of Wisconsin	Senior	Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Penelope Jennings	American University	Senior	Seattle Times
Latif Love	Bradley University	Senior	Kansas City Star
Alauna Marable	Norfolk State University	Junior	Detroit News
Ryan Myers	Arizona State University	Senior	Dallas Morning News
Vivian Yao	University of Pennsylvania	Senior	Baltimore Banner

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APSE CONVENTION SITES AND LOCATIONS

APSE Convention Sites

1974	New York	1992	San Francisco	2010	Salt Lake City
1975	Kansas City	1993	New Orleans	2011	Boston
1976	New Orleans	1994	Dana Point, CA	2012	Chicago
1977	Chicago	1995	Atlanta	2013	Detroit
1978	Dallas	1996	Cleveland	2014	Washington/Arlington VA
1979	Minneapolis	1997	St. Petersburg, FL	2015	San Diego
1980	Washington D.C.	1998	Richmond, VA	2016	Charlotte
1981	Denver	1999	Phoenix	2017	New Orleans
1982	Tarpon Springs, FL	2000	Chicago	2018	Nashville
1983	Santa Monica, CA	2001	Baltimore	2019	Atlanta
1984	Philadelphia	2002	Seattle	2021	Las Vegas
1985	Kings Island, Ohio	2003	Dallas	2022	Indianapolis
1986	Phoenix	2004	Philadelphia	2023	Las Vegas
1987	Orlando	2005	Orlando	2024	Charlotte
1988	St. Louis	2006	Las Vegas	2025	Minneapolis
1989	Portland, OR	2007	St. Louis	2026	Washington/Arlington VA
1990	Boston	2008	Minneapolis	2027	Denver
1991	San Antonio	2009	Pittsburgh		

2027 Dates

Feb. 28-March 4: Winter Conference and Judging; South Point Hotel, Casino & Spa in Las Vegas

June 10-12: Summer Conference; Doubletree Denver Cherry Creek in Denver

Plaques

To order additional plaques, contact Bunkie Trinite Trophies, 12 E. Grace Street, Richmond, VA 23219; (804)-648-2416 or Chris.Bunkie@globalweb.net.

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