

Society of American Travel Writers Foundation

Lowell Thomas Travel Journalism Competition

Awards for Work Published in 2011-2012

Faculty members of the UNC School of Journalism and Mass Communication, coordinated by Monica Hill, judged the competition. There were 1,163 entries. In the following list of winners, numbers in parentheses denote number of entries in the category.

For questions, contact: Mary Lu Abbott, SATW Foundation administrator, 713-973-9985, or [awards@satwf.com](mailto:awards@satwf.com).

The results, along with judges' comments, also may be viewed online at the Foundation website, [www.satwf.com](http://www.satwf.com).

Category 1: Grand Award — Lowell Thomas Travel Journalist of the Year (24)

Gold: Jill Schensul, travel writer, The Record, northern New Jersey

Silver: Marcia DeSanctis, freelance writer

Bronze: Aaron Teasdale, freelance writer

Category 2: Newspaper Travel Sections (11)

2A — Newspapers with 350,000 or more circulation

Gold: The Washington Post, Joe Yonan, Travel Editor

Silver: The New York Times, Danielle Mattoon, Travel Editor

Bronze: Los Angeles Times, Catharine Hamm, Travel Editor

2B — Newspapers under 350,000 circulation

Gold: The Oregonian (Portland), Alex Pulaski, Travel Editor

Silver: The Record (northern New Jersey), Marc Schwarz, Travel Editor

Bronze: San Francisco Chronicle, Spud Hilton, Travel Editor

Category 3: Magazines (17)

3A — Travel Magazines

Gold: Afar, Julia Cosgrove, Editor-in-Chief

Silver: National Geographic Traveler, Keith Bellows, Editor-in-Chief

Bronze: Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel, Marc Peyser, Editor

3B — Travel Coverage in Other Magazines

Gold: Midwest Living, Kendra L. Williams, Senior Travel Editor, and Hannah Agran, Assistant Travel Editor

Silver: Southern Living, Jennifer Cole, Features Editor, and Travel staff

Bronze: Westways, Elizabeth Harryman, Travel Editor, and Leslie Yap, Editor-in-Chief

Category 4: U.S./Canada Travel Article (107)

Gold: W. Hodding Carter, "57 Feet and Rising," Outside

Silver: Ryan Knighton, "Riding Blind," Outside

Bronze: David Lansing, "Living With Kapu," Islands

Category 5: Foreign Travel Article (106)

Gold: Eric Hansen, "The Killing Fields," Outside

Silver: Ryan T. Bell, "Comrade Cowboy, Part 1," Western Horseman

Bronze: Marcia DeSanctis, "Green Pastures and the Ghosts of Rwanda," Overnight Buses Travel Magazine for iPad

Category 6: Photo Illustration of Travel (61)

Gold: Brown W. Cannon III, "Mauritius: The Smallest World," Islands

Silver: Piotr Redlinski, "Lost Cities, Found Anew," The New York Times

Bronze: Gary Arndt, "The Canary Islands," Everything-everywhere.com

Category 7: Special Package/Project (27)

Gold: Kim Cross, Erin Shaw Street and Rick Bragg, "What Stands in a Storm," Southern Living, print/online/video

Silver: Christopher Reynolds, "Machu Picchu," Los Angeles Times, print/online/video

Bronze: Jerry Soverinsky, "Bambino on Board," AOL Travel/Huffington Post

Category 8: Cruise Travel (41)

Gold: Margie Goldsmith, "Antarctica: Following Shackleton's Footsteps," The Affluent Traveler

Silver: Barbara Ramsay Orr, "Discover an Explosion of Colour on This Dutch River Cruise," The Globe and Mail, Toronto

Bronze: Barbara Ramsay Orr, "European River Cruise," West of the City magazine, Ontario

Category 9: Adventure Travel (56)

Gold: Bill Donahue, "Are We There Yet? Six Guys in a Capsule," Wired magazine

Silver: Mark Jenkins, "Big Cat Diary," National Geographic Traveler

Bronze: Alex Hutchinson, "Avoiding the Crowds on an Everest Trek," The New York Times

Category 10: Travel News/Investigative Reporting (41)

Gold: Gary Stoller, "FAA Limits Emergency Oxygen," USA Today

Silver: Ellen Creager and Jennifer Dixon, "Hub Premiums Cost Delta Fliers Plenty at Metro," Detroit Free Press

Bronze: Gary Stoller, "Fliers Refuse to Turn Off Devices," USA Today

Category 11: Service-Oriented Consumer Article (58)

Gold: Hannah Sampson, "Renting a Vacation Home? Beware Scams," The Miami Herald

Silver: Scott Mayerowitz, "Now Arriving in Alabama: Your Lost Luggage," The Associated Press

Bronze: Jean-Francois Legare and team, "One's Company," enRoute

Category 12: Environmental Tourism (38)

Gold: Joshua Hammer, "Shark Bait," Outside

Silver: Andrea Sachs, "Clean the World: Hotel Soaps That Care," The Washington Post

Bronze: Tim Neville, "Over the Alps on a Bike With a Boost," The New York Times

Category 13: Cultural Tourism (99)

Gold: Michael Luongo, "Ground Zero as Dark Tourist Site," Miller-McCune magazine (now Pacific Standard)

Silver: Joshua Cooper Ramo, "Reimagining Hangzhou," Departures

Bronze: Don George, "Japan's Past Perfect," National Geographic Traveler

Category 14: Personal Comment (128)

Gold: Andrew McCarthy, "The Cycle of Life," National Geographic Traveler

Silver: Marcia DeSanctis, "Masha," "The Best Women's Travel Writing 2011" (Travelers' Tales) and Recce: Literary Journeys for the Discerning Traveler

Bronze: Kimberley Lovato, "Lost and Liberated in the Dordogne," Gadling.com

Category 15: Special-Purpose Travel (101)

Gold: Clinton Etheridge, "What Is Africa to Me?" Swarthmore College Bulletin

Silver: Ryan T. Bell, "Comrade Cowboy, Part 3," Western Horseman

Bronze: Christina Rexrode, "Volunteering in Haiti: Good Intentions Not Enough," The Associated Press

Category 16: Short Article on Travel (67)

Gold: Bruce Newman, "Trains That Won the West," Via

Silver: Larry Bleiberg, "Selma, Ala: Crossing a Bridge Into Civil Rights History," Los Angeles Times

Bronze: Susan Farlow, "Sex and the River: Male or Female Waterways," San Francisco Chronicle

Category 17: Travel Book (22)

Gold: Kimberley Lovato, "Walnut Wine & Truffle Groves: Culinary Adventures in the Dordogne," Running Press

Silver: Scott Wallace, "The Unconquered: In Search of the Amazon's Last Uncontacted Tribes," Crown Publishers

Bronze: Anne Elizabeth Moore, "Cambodian Grrrl: Self-Publishing in Phnom Penh," Cantankerous Titles

Category 18: Guidebook (40)

Gold: Christian DeBenedetti, "The Great American Ale Trail," Running Press

Silver: Sharon Niederman, "Signs & Shrines: Spiritual Journeys Across New Mexico," The Countryman Press

Bronze: Douglas Peebles, "Photographing Maui: Where to Find Perfect Shots and How to Take Them," The Countryman Press

Category 19: Online Travel Journalism Sites (16)

Gold: Travel.nationalgeographic.com, National Geographic Traveler, Keith Bellows, Editor-in-Chief; Kathie Gartrell, Managing Editor, e-Publishing; Carolyn Fox, Senior Producer; Zain Habboo, Director

Silver: Fodors.com, Fodor's Travel, Arabella Bowen, Executive Editorial Director; Erica Duecy, Deputy Web Editor

Bronze: Afar.com, Afar Media, Greg Sullivan, Editorial Director; Derek Butcher, Vice President Digital; Davina Baum, Digital Content Director

Category 20: Travel Broadcast — Audio (15)

Gold: Rudy Maxa, "Rudy Maxa's World," syndicated radio travel show

Silver: Joseph Rosendo, "St. Vincent & the Grenadines," Travelscope.net podcast and radio

Bronze: Rick Steves, "Travel With Rick Steves: Steve Inskeep's Foreign Intelligence; Vienna a la Fred Plotkin; Listeners' Travel Resolutions," public radio stations and podcast

Category 21: Travel Broadcast — Video (12)

Gold: Small World Productions, "Richard Bangs' Adventures With Purpose — Pearl River Delta, Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong: Quest for Harmony," American Public Television

Silver: Ashley Colburn, "Takeoff: Thailand," WealthTV Network

Bronze: Joseph Rosendo and Julie Rosendo, "Guatemala's Semana Santa," PBS stations

Category 22: Travel Blog (36)

Gold: Kara Williams, Jennifer Miner and Beth Blair, [TheVacationGals.com](http://TheVacationGals.com)

Silver: National Geographic Traveler Digital Team, Keith Bellows, Editor-in-Chief, Intelligent Travel, [Intelligenttravel.nationalgeographic.com](http://Intelligenttravel.nationalgeographic.com)

Bronze: Scott Tharler, Fodor's Travel Tech blog, [Fodors.com/tech](http://Fodors.com/tech)

Category 23: Travel App (40)

Gold: Peter Landau, "Travel by Handstand (HST)," for iPad

Silver: George Steinmetz, "Above & Beyond," for iPad

Bronze: National Geographic Traveler, "50 Places of a Lifetime," for iPad, Keith Bellows, Editor-in-Chief; Kathie Gartrell, Managing Editor, e-Publishing