

N&O wins state press awards

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The News & Observer and its staff members won seven first-place awards in the N.C. Press Association's annual statewide competition, the association announced Thursday.

The paper's first-place awards included one for its "Tar Heel of the Year" feature on Molly Broad, president of the University of North Carolina system, written by Tim Simmons and Trish Wilson. It also won second place for general excellence, second place for overall appearance and design, second place for sports coverage and third place for general excellence of its Web site, www.newsobserver.com.

The paper won a total of 22 awards, tying The Charlotte Observer for first among the state's large papers. The Charlotte Observer also won the first-place award for public service. An awards presentation program scheduled for Thursday night was canceled because of snow.

Other first-place winners at The N&O were Barry Svrluga for a feature on UNC basketball coach Matt Doherty; Molly Hennessy-Fiske for a story about two blind parents raising a blind child; Todd Lothery for film criticism; Dennis Rogers for humorous columns; Judy Ogle for her design of the features section; and Yonat Shimron for a profile of a well-known divinity school professor.

The N&O's second-place winners

were Scott Lewis, for a photograph of a candlelight vigil just after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks; Shyam Patel for his graphics; Oren Dorell for a series about North Carolinians in Israel; Ethan Hyman for a photograph of an N.C. National Guard unit returning from Afghanistan; Dennis Rogers for serious columns; and the features staff for a special section on the arts.

Third-place awards went to Joe Miller for criticism; Chip Alexander and Dan Kane for a story about the Carolina Hurricanes hockey team's success in Raleigh; Tim Simmons and Susan Ebbs for a series on relationships between minority parents and schools; Ruth Sheehan for serious columns; and Ned Barnett for sports columns.

The N&O competed in a category of newspapers with a circulation of 35,000 and above. The only other Triangle newspaper in that category, The Herald-Sun in Durham, won 12 awards, including three first-place awards for sports coverage, sports news reporting and sports photography. The Herald-Sun also won four second-place awards and five third-place awards.

Newspapers owned by McClatchy Newspapers Inc., which owns The N&O, won a total of 61 awards. The other North Carolina newspapers owned by McClatchy are The Chapel Hill News, The Smithfield Herald, The Cary News, the Knightdale Times, the Wendell Clarion and the Zebulon Record.

MCCLATCHY WINNERS

- The Cary News: first place, general excellence, staff; first place, humorous columns, Sharon O'Donnell; first place, news feature writing, Ann Claycombe; second place, sports photography, Jason Ivester; second place, profile feature, Lisa Coston; second place, special section, staff; second place, sports feature writing, Lea Delicio; second place, sports news reporting, Lisa Coston; third place, feature writing, Lisa Coston; third place, general news reporting, Ann Claycombe; third place, sports columns, Alex Bass.
- The Chapel Hill News: first place, community service award, staff; first place, investigative reporting, Kirk Ross; first place, literacy feature, Jonnelle Davis; first place, sports photography, Grant Halverson; second place, feature writing, Dave Hart; third place, editorials, Ted Vaden; third place, special section, staff.
- The Smithfield Herald: first place, appearance and design, staff; first place, feature writing, Suzette Rodriguez; second place, general excellence, staff; second place, news feature writing, Suzette Rodriguez; second place, photo page, Becky Kirkland; second place, sports coverage, D. Clay Best.
- The Knightdale Times: first place, general news reporting, Kerry Watson; first place, general news photography, Kerry Watson; second place, literacy feature, Kerry Watson; second place, news coverage, staff; second place, use of photographs, staff; third place, sports columns, features.
- The Wendell Clarion: first place, photo illustration, Don Fuller and Caroline Upchurch; first place, special section, staff.
- The Zebulon Record: first place, feature writing, Solja Nygard; first place, literacy feature, Solja Nygard; first place, sports photography, Don Fuller; second place, photo illustration, Don Fuller; second place, feature photography, Don Fuller; third place, news coverage, staff; third place, sports coverage, staff.

