

SOUTHERN PUBLIC RELATIONS HALL OF FAME

The Southern Public Relations Hall of Fame was established in 2010 to recognize the distinguished accomplishments, commitment, and leadership of professional public relations practitioners and educators from the southeastern United States, thereby promoting the PR profession. Inductees are current and former Southern public relations practitioners or educators who have brought honor to the PR field. Induction into the Hall of Fame is designed to recognize leaders in our industry who have made extraordinary achievements, accomplishments, and contributions to their organizations, communities, and the public relations profession. Co-sponsored by the Southern Public Relations Federation and the Mississippi State University Department of Communication, Media, and Theatre, the Hall of Fame is permanently installed outside the John Grisham Room in the Mitchell Memorial Library on the campus of Mississippi State University in Starkville. SPRF publishes profiles of each member of the Hall of Fame on its website, sprf.org.

HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

2025

Bill Moak, APR, Fellow PRSA
Lisa Darnell Frazier, APR
Mara Hartmann, APR
Tracy R. Sims, APR

2024

Kristie Aylett, APR, Fellow PRSA
Mary Cracchiolo, APR
Rick Looser
Jae-Hwa Shin, Ph.D., MPH, MBA, APR
Garland Stansell, MPPM, APR
George Winters, APR

2023

Caron Blanton, APR

2022

Marian R. Faulk, APR
Jennifer Jenkins, APR COL
Christian Patterson, APR+M, Fellow PRSA

2021

Melissa LaBorde, APR
Bob Johannessen

2019

Dr. Paula F. Furr
Patricia Yunker Hartman, APR
Stafford Wood, APR

2018

Elizabeth Gregory North
Donna Ritchey, APR

2017

Harold Burson, APR, Fellow PRSA
Checky Herrington, APR, Fellow PRSA
Bettie Warren Hudgens

2016

Daniel Gardner Eva Golson
John S. Hightower, APR
Steve Renfroe
Joseph V. Trahan III Ph.D., APR, Fellow PRSA

2015

Charles Barnette, APR
Allegra Brigham, APR
Suzanne Fornaro, APR
Betsy Ann Plank, APR, Fellow PRSA

2014

John E. Forde, Ph.D., APR, Fellow PRSA
Joseph W. Purka
Philip Shirley, APR
Sheila White

2013

Neal W. Cirlot
Betsie Gambel
Carol A. Mann, APR
Charles "Chuck" Saucier
John Wittig, Ph.D., APR

2012

Ron Council
Ken Hair

2011

Sherry Harlow, APR
William E. "Bud" Kirkpatrick
Yvonne McGehee Sorge, APR

2010

Philip R. Forrest, Jr.
Rex Kelly
William "Bill" Michelet

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REBECCA TODD MINDER

Rebecca Todd Minder is a storyteller, community leader, and advocate for preserving and sharing Alabama's history and culture. As Director of Alabama Heritage, the award-winning quarterly magazine devoted to the state's rich heritage, she leads strategic planning, fundraising, partnerships, and public engagement initiatives while working to make Alabama's stories accessible and meaningful to new generations. Since joining the organization in 2012, she has helped guide its growth through innovative programming, digital media initiatives, and statewide outreach efforts.

Throughout her career, Rebecca has combined a passion for history with a commitment to community service and civic engagement. Beyond her work with Alabama Heritage, she has played a significant role in projects that preserve and elevate the stories of Alabama's Civil Rights Movement. Her involvement with the Tuscaloosa Civil Rights Foundation has included initiatives that honor the courage and sacrifice of local changemakers, expand public awareness of civil rights history, and strengthen connections between communities and their shared past. She has also contributed to efforts that helped establish and promote a Tuscaloosa Civil Rights Trail, creating opportunities for residents and visitors alike to engage with important chapters of Alabama's history.



Rebecca's commitment to public history extends into documentary storytelling. She helped develop and produce an award-winning civil rights documentary that brought overlooked stories to broader audiences, demonstrating the power of media to educate, inspire, and preserve historical memory. Whether through print, film, digital platforms, or public programs, she believes storytelling can create meaningful dialogue and foster understanding across generations.

Her dedication to service is also reflected in her extensive volunteer and philanthropic work with local organizations and nonprofits such as Public Radio, Public Television, and her church's food pantry. Rebecca has generously shared her leadership, communication expertise, and strategic vision with community groups focused

on education, culture, civic engagement, and quality of life. Her ability to bring people together around a common purpose has strengthened numerous initiatives and helped organizations expand their impact throughout the region.

A graduate of The University of Alabama's American Studies program and College of Communication and Information Sciences, Rebecca remains deeply committed to mentoring future leaders and storytellers. She serves as an adviser to the digital media team for Mosaic, the University of Alabama Honors College's student-produced magazine, helping students develop skills in communication, creativity, and leadership.

Recognized for her collaborative spirit, dedication to service, and unwavering belief in the value of preserving history, Rebecca has devoted her career to connecting people through stories. Her leadership, community involvement, and commitment to cultural preservation continue to leave a lasting impact across Alabama.

Rebecca is honored to be recognized among a distinguished group of leaders whose work, service, and commitment have made a lasting difference in their communities and professions.

JAN SCHAEFER, APR

Jan Schaefer, APR, is an accredited and award-winning public relations professional whose career spans more than three decades of strategic communication, public service and leadership.

Schaefer serves as communications director for the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, where she leads internal and external communications, advises executive leadership and develops communication strategies supporting public education and environmental stewardship throughout Mississippi.

Her career includes senior public relations roles with the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services, Mississippi Attorney General's Office and Mississippi Department of Public Safety. She has led her own public relations consultancy and began her career as a news producer at WLBT-TV in Jackson, where she also served as assistant to the Public Affairs Director.



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Throughout her career, Schaefer has used strategic communication to address identified needs, build mutually beneficial relationships and create lasting impact. She helped launch Mississippi ABLE, which enables Mississippians with disabilities to save for their futures without jeopardizing essential benefits. She also created P.R.O.M. (Please Return on Monday), a statewide public safety initiative that has reached thousands of high school students by illustrating the full consequences of distracted driving, including lifelong disability and its impact on survivors and their families. Her work also includes Fear Stops Here, an anti-cyberbullying initiative developed to educate and empower Mississippi students.

Schaefer's work has earned numerous awards from the Public Relations Association of Mississippi and Southern Public Relations Federation. She was also named the 2024 SPRF Senior Practitioner and the 2023 PRAM Central Advanced Practitioner of the Year.

A member of PRAM and SPRF since 2008, Schaefer has held leadership roles at the chapter, state and regional levels, including president of PRAM Central, vice president of awards for PRAM and member-at-large on the SPRF board. She has served as a speaker at both SPRF and PRAM conferences and has judged professional awards programs for both. Through teaching public relations courses at Belhaven and Tulane universities and supervising internships throughout her career, she has taught or mentored more than 100 students and interns.

Schaefer's lifelong volunteer service has focused especially on causes that protect children and strengthen communities. Her service includes seven years of leadership with the Mississippi Human Trafficking Council, including chairing its Outreach and Awareness Committee, as well as currently serving as chair of the Mississippi Litter Prevention Task Force for the Office of the First Lady.

Schaefer holds a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism from the University of Southern Mississippi. While working full time and raising four children, she earned a master's degree in communication from Mississippi College—graduating Summa Cum Laude. She earned her Accreditation in Public Relations in 2023.

At MDEQ, Schaefer developed the public relations strategy supporting the designation of Mississippi Opal as the official state gemstone. The legislation passed with unanimous support from state lawmakers in 2023. Extending that accomplishment and her commitment to storytelling and education, she is the author of the forthcoming Miss Opal Shares Her Sparkle, an educational children's book scheduled for publication by Pelican Publishing in spring 2027.

A native of Byram, Schaefer resides in Madison with her husband, Terry Hedgepeth, and is the proud mother of four children: Schaefer, Blake, Kalli and Drew.

ROBIN STREET, APR, M.A., M.S.

Robin Street, APR, retired from the School of Journalism and New Media at the University of Mississippi after teaching more than 30 years, specializing in public relations. She continued to serve as an adjunct online professor until December 2025.

Students often praised her passions for teaching and for helping students. Many former students credit her with preparing them for their PR professions. Hundreds of them have written her thank-you notes for her lessons, compassion and inspiration. One former faculty member said of Street, “(She) is one those rare educators who can blow wind under the wings of our students.”

Her online PR classes won the University-wide award for best online class in 2017. Her teaching career was honored by the University in April 2026 with the first-ever “IMC Distinction in Service” award for, “a faculty member who has had a profound effect on SJNM IMC students.” In presenting the award, the Dean of the School said that as she travels to meet with alumni, she keeps hearing two words from them. “Robin Street.”



Street co-founded the Oxford, Miss., Chapter of PRAM and served that chapter in every officer position. PRAM and SPRF both selected her as Educator of the Year in 2009 and then as Professional of the Year in 2014.

In the PRAM Prism and SPRF Lantern competitions, Street was recognized 30 times, including winning Best in Show and Judges Choice twice. More than 100 of her students have won awards in the student PRAM competition. Every student “Best in Show” award given by PRAM before her retirement went to her students,

Nationally, Street led student teams to win the PRSA Silver Anvil award in 2018 and the runner-up award in 2012 for their internal campaigns. In Mississippi, Lifetime Television and Baptist Health Services named her a “Strong Woman Mentor.”

She also was a freelance journalist specializing in health and mental health topics. Her national publications include articles in Woman’s Day, Better Homes & Gardens, and Cooking Light. She has written health articles for multiple newspapers including more than 80 for The (Jackson, Miss.) Clarion Ledger. Street holds a M.A. degree in Journalism and a M.S. degree in Wellness, both from Ole Miss.