

Webinar Series – Critical Issues in Collegiate Athletics

Thursday, March 19, 2026, 2:00-3:30pmET

Webinar #55 - Investigative College Sport Journalism: Meet our 2026 Student Award Winners

Join us as student reporters who took top prizes in the 2026 Drake Group Education Fund Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting on Intercollegiate Athletics share their reporting and top journalists discuss the vital role of enterprise and investigative journalism on college campuses. The winners will talk about their stories with an esteemed panel of sports journalists and authors from The Associated Press, The New York Times, The Columbus Dispatch, and NBCSport.com who were the judges in this year's contest.

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Meet Our Winners



Mia Hilkowitz, is a senior at Indiana University majoring in journalism with a minor in human-centered computing. She is co-editor-in-chief of the Indiana Daily Student and an intern and board member for the Arnolt Center for Investigative Journalism.

Nathan Shriberg, is a sophomore at Indiana University majoring in sports media with a minor in sports marketing and management. He is a sports editor and men's basketball reporter with the Indiana Daily Student.



Savannah Slone, is a sophomore studying journalism with a minor in psychology at Indiana University. She is a sports editor and Indiana volleyball and women's basketball reporter for the Indiana Daily Student.

Kasey Watkins, is a sophomore at Indiana University majoring in sports media with a minor in sport marketing and management. She is a sports editor and men's basketball and women's volleyball beat reporter for the Indiana Daily Student.



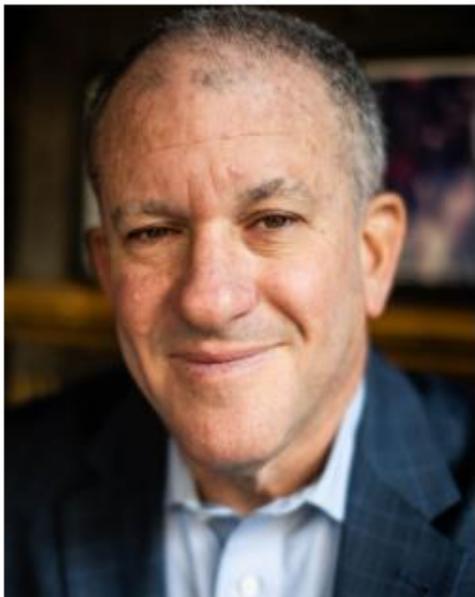
Meet Our Judges



Wayne Drehs, is a visiting associate professor of practice at the University of Iowa School of Journalism and Mass Communication, where he teaches sports journalism, feature writing and investigative reporting. He spent 23 years on ESPN's features and enterprise team, producing in-depth stories that used sports to explore broader societal issues, including race and gender equity, mental health, sexual abuse and global politics. A three-time Emmy Award winner, he was a Knight-Wallace Fellow at

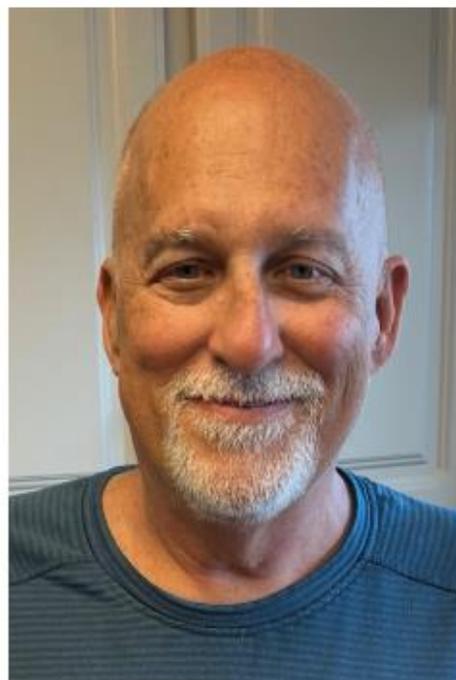
the University of Michigan and a distinguished alumnus of the University of Iowa.

Nicole Kraft, is a professor of journalism practice at The Ohio State University and director of Ohio State's Sports & Society Institute. She is the author of "Always Get the Name of the Dog: A Guide to Media Interviewing," "Writing Fabulous Features," "100 Years in Harness," and co-wrote the forthcoming "Storytelling Beyond the Scoreboard." An award-winning sports writer, she covers the Columbus Blue Jackets for The Associated Press, sports media for Forbes.com and horse racing for The Columbus Dispatch. She was named the 2024 Scripps Howard Teacher of the Year.



Allan Kreda, has spent more than three decades covering hockey for The Associated Press, Bloomberg News and The New York Times. He graduated from Brooklyn College with a degree in biology, earned a master's degree from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and began his career at the Daytona Beach News-Journal before joining the AP in 1989, where he worked across sports, business and international desks. He later covered sports business and the NHL for Bloomberg, wrote more than 400 hockey stories and co-authored "Miracle Gold, Four Stanley Cups and a Lifetime of Islanders Hockey" with 1980 U.S. Olympic defenseman Ken Morrow.

Mitch Stacy, is an award-winning journalist and 40-year veteran of newspapers and The Associated Press. He spent the final decade of his career covering sports in Ohio, reporting on major college and professional teams across the state. Over four decades, he built a reputation for steady, accurate coverage and deep knowledge of the sports landscape.



Brian White, is sports editor at The Columbus Dispatch, where he oversees coverage of Ohio's major college and professional teams. He previously worked as a reporter, columnist and editor at newspapers in Green Bay, Fort Myers, Wilmington, Delaware, and Fort Lauderdale, building a broad foundation in local and regional sports coverage. He also served as a lead editor at NBCSports.com and MSN.com, helping guide national digital sports content.

