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Taylor University's student newspaper [The Echo](#) has won awards from the Evangelical Press Association (EPA), the [Society for Professional Journalists \(SPJ\) Region 5](#), and the [Indiana Collegiate Press Association](#) (ICPA) for overall excellence and individual writing.

The Echo's editorial staff learned of the awards in the past week. The EPA honored The Echo with the Award of Excellence, the ICA recognized The Echo with its Best Single Issue Award in Division 3, and the SPJ presented three awards to The Echo for stories which appeared in the paper which included:

- [Under the Radar](#) by Joe Friedrichsen, General Column Writing (small school)
- [No More Noodles](#) by Cassidy Grom, General News Reporting (small school)
- [The Irony of Silence](#) by Lincoln Reed, designed by Eric Andrews, Sports Writing (small school)

The stories are now eligible for competition in the SPJ national competition, scheduled next September in New Orleans, La.

"Each year an old staff leaves, I wonder how the new one could get any better. God continually sends just the people we need to make the newspaper the best it can be," said Dr. Donna Downs, Associate Professor of [Communication](#) and Echo Advisor. "I continue to be amazed year after year at the quality young people who come our way to be a part of a staff that strives for excellence. The students work long, hard hours to put out our weekly paper, and their desire to do everything well pays off not only each Friday, but in contests like this where their good work is recognized by others."

The SPJ honors are the latest awards to come to Taylor's Media Communication department. Last fall, Taylor's Public Relations program received three awards from the [Public Relations Student Society of America](#) (PRSSA) and the Marcom Awards.

Taylor's PRSSA team received the Dr. F.H. Teahan Chapter Award for Chapter Development, an award given based on excellent work in public relations publications, overall membership involvement, membership drives, fundraisers and newsletters.

The Taylor PRSSA team received the honor based on their work with TESOL professor Renata Kantaruk's ESL program at elementary schools in Marion, as well as through its planned field trips, a membership drive, and fundraiser.

Taylor University student writer Austin Lindner contributed to this report.



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