

2008 JOURNALISTS OF THE YEAR AWARDS

WINNERS BY COVERAGE AREA

COMMODITIES AND ENERGY

Reporter of the Year: Polly Yam (Hong Kong)

Polly had a fantastic year of scoops and analyses, a mix of informed insight and market-moving breaking news that made her the must-read source of news on China's metals sector. She scored five best of the week, two best of the month, notched up seven interviews and almost doubled her output of analyses to one a month. Polly filed 14 beats, many of them market movers on everything from smelter shutdowns to government stockpiling. Polly consistently delivered important, insightful stories that set the agenda for the metals market and differentiated Reuters coverage from other agencies.

Story of the Year: Farming strike in Argentina

Argentina's four-month farming strike helped push up world crop prices during the global food inflation scare, held sway over Argentine financial markets and threatened to bring down the government. Reuters was ahead or alone on timings for most of the saga, moving Chicago grain and soybean prices on numerous occasions. Beats included the surprise March announcement by the new government of an export tax on soybeans, Argentina's main export; the start of the farmers strike; the economy minister's resignation and a government halt to grain exports. We were exclusive with big grains exporters declaring force majeure on shipments. A strong series of analysis on the political, social and economic implications was accompanied by a pictures slideshow anchoring the multimedia effort.

COMPANIES

Reporter of the Year: Emily Chasan (New York)

Throughout the year, Emily wrote incisive and accessible stories and analyses—ahead of our competitors—about arcane yet crucial developments in accounting, short selling, restructuring and bankruptcy. Her talents were never more important than during the financial crisis as business leaders bayed for changes to mark-to-market accounting rules, short-selling bans mushroomed, and a wave of bankruptcies hit home. Emily scored 22 major beats and exclusives, including: a series of ahead-of-the curve stories and columns on how new accounting rules would pulverize the already fragile balance sheets of U.S. banks, a column questioning the practice of fair value accounting days ahead of a front-page Wall Street Journal piece on the same subject, and coverage of corporate auction rate debt problems just days ahead of a shocking writedown by Bristol-Myers.

Story of the Year: The global auto industry

The global auto industry story was big in 2007 but it got huge in 2008, rocking governments, economies and the lives of millions of workers worldwide. In the struggle for survival by the three U.S. auto companies, the global autos team dominated coverage throughout the year. We had exclusivity, insight, vision, and speed, all in large doses. Detroit alone—led by Kevin Krolicki—recorded a remarkable 178 beats and exclusives

about the auto industry. A quarter of those were major, with some moving the entire stock market. The coverage stretched around the world.

GRAPHICS

Graphic of the Year: Simon Scarr's financial bailout graphic

This highly-effective visual made the mind-boggling numbers of the U.S. government bailout of the financial industry simple to understand. This graphic shows how a good original visual idea makes understanding a complex subject easy. We tried covering this story several different ways, and this solution was by far the most successful. One of Simon's great strengths is that he always tries to bring a fresh eye to subjects our desk has covered before.

LIFESTYLE AND ENTERTAINMENT

Reporter of the Year: Bob Tourtellotte (lead Hollywood writer)

As our lead Hollywood writer, Bob produced a top-class file in 2008 that covered the latest movies at the box office and their financial implications for studios, as well as a list of interviews with well-known and up-and-coming stars. Bob was also a key proponent of a multimedia file, working closely throughout the year with pictures and TV and producing video blogs from the Cannes and Toronto film festivals. He worked tirelessly to ensure that Reuters' entertainment blog, Fan Fare, became and remained one of the top three most popular blogs on Reuters.com, trying new, innovative ways to build a community such as running a Q&A session with comedian Adam Sandler exclusively on Fan Fare.

Story of the Year: Women in the workplace

This in-depth piece looked at women in the workplace and the reaction to one of the year's most talked about women—U.S. Republican Vice Presidential nominee Sarah Palin. Madeline Chambers looked at the global fascination with Palin, Alaska's governor and a self-described "hockey mom" with five children, and how women—and governments—across the globe are trying to balance work with family commitments.

POLITICS AND GENERAL NEWS

Reporter of the Year: Chris Buckley (Beijing)

Undaunted by the thugs who roughed him up at the end of 2007 for investigating the violent squalor of an "underground jail," Chris made it his business in 2008 to shine a light on the darker aspects of China's rise. Thanks to Chris's sharp eye, an impressive book of local contacts and a deep understanding of the country, Reuters broke a string of stories last year that provided crucial insight into the political, social and

investment strains tugging at the state, including: a story on Beijing's water needs ahead of the Olympic Games, a piece on an unearthed Communist Party think tank report warning that China risks dangerous instability unless it limits the power of the ruling Party, fosters competitive voting and reins in censors, and coverage of the Sichuan earthquake.

Story of the Year: Russia: The Bear growls again

Reuters coverage of Russian politics and government in 2008 showed all the qualities of initiative, insight and intelligence that is needed to make our news service a must-have for investors. It was a huge year for Russia and our coverage of this most complex and unpredictable emerging market. It brought in a new president, with Vladimir Putin switching to being prime minister, an extension of the presidential term that could allow the former KGB man to return to power in 2012, deep tensions with NATO, a war with neighbor Georgia, gas supply cuts to Europe, a flight of capital and steep currency devaluations. Reuters reporters charted every twist and turn, winning all the key market-moving timings and gaining unparalleled access to top decision makers.

big; we told it beautifully and rounded it off with great analyses, instant polls and an inside story on how they reached the historic decision. This was fantastic coverage of one of the most significant assaults by policy makers in the financial crisis. It demonstrated professionals at their very best—great sources, cool under pressure, global cooperation, seamless delivery, ability to tell a cracking tale and then to dig behind the headlines for the significance of the inside story.

SPORTS

Reporter of the Year: Alan Baldwin (Formula One)

Alan Baldwin covered the most exciting season yet in Formula One motor racing, culminating in Lewis Hamilton winning the championship on the last bend of the last race in a pulsating finale which saw him become the youngest man and the first black driver to win the title. Alan, who captured the drama perfectly, did not leave it so late. His immaculate and authoritative coverage of the race season and his succession of scoops, thanks to his unrivalled contacts with drivers, motor racing teams and the sport's bosses, marked him out as the must-read writer for racing fans well before the season was done.

Story of the Year: Beijing Olympics

The 2008 Beijing Olympics was one of the most important Games since the Olympics began, as China cemented its place of importance on the world stage with a dazzling display of showmanship and organization. Reuters dominated both the run-up to the Games (notably, with a multimedia effort from base camp of Mount Everest, where our team overcame freezing temperatures and altitude sickness to cover the controversial ascent of the Olympic torch to the top of the world) and the Games themselves, where we won all but five snaps on the hundreds of gold medals doled out. Perhaps more than anything, our coverage of the Olympics represented a highly successful team effort using multiple media and impressive speed to tell a story that the whole world watched.

TREASURY

Reporter of the Year: Eadie Chen

Eadie Chen was simply unparalleled last year in breaking economic news in China, one of the toughest countries in the world from which to report. Having patiently cultivated contacts in an area where getting scoops is not only difficult but also runs the risk of running afoul of the authorities, Eadie produced exceptional coverage and reeled off a number of exclusives, often weeks ahead of official government announcements, on GDP data, inflation and China's foreign exchange reserves. Her perseverance in pursuing and scoring so many market-moving stories is a tremendous accomplishment, especially in a communist country facing its biggest crisis in two decades.

Story of the Year: Coordinated rate cuts

Slashing interest rates in unison on Oct. 8 unmasked the depth of distress facing financial markets after Lehman's collapse and the readiness of G7 and China central bankers to unleash every weapon against a credit freeze that was destroying economic growth. Our treasury reporters owned the story. Actions this huge come only once a decade at best. We called the chances in advance; we won the timings

