

2023 Maynard 200 Fellows Biographies

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Investigative Storytellers

*Natalia
Alamdari*



Natalia has worked at newspapers and nonprofits throughout the country. Her reporting has taken her to small-town shooting ranges in Missouri, rallies against virtual school in Delaware and cornfields in the Nebraska Panhandle.

She has exposed state senators using racial slurs in emails, a local broadcaster who used her position to promote anti-abortion petitions and conditions inside overcrowded and understaffed prisons.

In 2022, she spent two weeks in Warsaw, Poland, following Nebraska volunteers who helped feed and shelter Ukrainian refugees.

Natalia covers rural Nebraska at the Flatwater Free Press, the state's first independent, nonprofit newsroom. She is a two-time graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia and a native Texan. When she's not reporting, she can probably be found reading, petting her cat or trying a new crafty hobby

*Dorine
Bethea*



Curiosity overload. Or annoying habit? After I relocated to start my career, mom would welcome me home from unfamiliar places with a big, warm hug. Within days, she had become irked by my nonstop, rapid-fire questions.

At a small daily in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and with help of editors in a slew of newsrooms since then, I had been trained to get details, ask smart questions, listen, follow up. That works when reporting a story. With mom, not so much. Yet, those traits steered me toward reporting for the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Covering crime in that southern city in the early 1990s had risks and rewards. My first investigative story revealed two serial patterns of women over 55 killed at home. Reports of shootings claiming one life escalated to those of double homicides, sometimes twice a day, and then a mass killing. Christopher Goins, 20, killed five people, three of whom were children ages 9, 4 and 3, and brought me to a breaking point and new beat.

Violence raised doubt about the wisdom of the African proverb "It takes a village to raise a child" and inspired my proposal, funded by NABJ, to explore the idea in Tanzania. With Poynter training in storytelling on deadline and later in leadership, my skill set expanded and prepared me to teach at Missouri School of Journalism.

Then I earned a place at the Orlando Sentinel, where I led professionals covering the Daytona Beach region.

Years later, after returning home for personal reasons, another pivot occurred. Maynard's copy editing program changed the game. Without that training, it's hard to imagine a path to my current

employer. A layoff forced another pivot from my first copy editing job to freelance work at Essence and then a job, job cut and more freelancing.

In between, a Wharton School seminar and a New York Times program added to my business acumen. In Maynard Media Academy at Harvard, our team created the winning business model for a digital startup. Now I work at The Washington Post and teach at Howard University.

Janet H. Cho



Janet is an experienced business journalist at Barron's, where she covers breaking news, writes business stories and reports for The Barron's Daily morning newsletter for investors.

She was a 2020 Knight-Wallace fellow at the University of Michigan and is a career daily newspaper journalist. She was an award-winning business reporter for The Plain Dealer in Cleveland where her stories about failed retailer InkStop helped 629 workers recover \$660,000 in wages.

She also was an adjunct lecturer at John Carroll University's Boler School of Business and managing editor and copy editor of Northeast Ohio Parent magazine.

Previously she worked as a city news reporter for the Sun Sentinel in Fort Lauderdale, as a general assignment reporter for the Democrat & Chronicle and Times-Union in Rochester N.Y., and as a states news editor for USA Today.

She was selected for East-West Center reporting fellowships to China, South Korea and Taiwan.

Janet was also national vice president for print of the Asian American Journalists Association and as an AAJA representative and board member of UNITY: Journalists of Color. She is a graduate of the University of Chicago, Northwestern University's Medill School and AAJA's Executive Leadership Program..

Sheila Dang



I'm a social media reporter at Reuters, where I cover companies including Twitter, Snapchat, TikTok and Meta. I helped lead Reuters' coverage of Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter, including scoops detailing how Twitter was struggling to keep its most active users' attention and how ads were being promoted on accounts trading links to child pornography. For this work, I was part of a team nominated for Reuters' Journalist of the Year award in the business beat coverage category.

Previously, I reported on the advertising industry and telecom companies. Together, my work has given me broad experience covering many facets of the tech industry that impact day-to-day lives, from people's phones to ads they see.

I'm a first-generation American and a Texan born and raised. I gained my first journalism experience by joining the yearbook staff in high school. That led to devoting college years to working on the

school newspaper. My first job after graduation was at a small, Dallas-area website in Dallas geared toward retail investors.

During that time, I became interested in learning about personal finance but found it difficult to locate reputable resources and ones that didn't assume prior knowledge about investing and saving for retirement.

That experience led me to apply to the master's program at Columbia Journalism School with a focus in data journalism. I wanted to learn how to clearly explain complex topics and make them accessible to readers.

While my beat has shifted to tech reporting, I still desire to develop further the skills to uncover stories and explain to readers how major tech companies shape the content we watch and information we see.

I am passionate about helping my newsroom recruit more diverse talent and have represented Reuters at AAJA's annual conferences and interviewed students at journalism school career fairs..

Angela Dennis



Angela is a race and social justice reporter for the Knoxville News Sentinel-USA Today Network covering issues at the intersection of race and equity through historical and contemporary lenses. An East Knoxville native, she was raised in Florida but ventured back to her Appalachian roots of Tennessee a decade ago.

She attended St. Petersburg College and Hampton University and began her media career as a founding member of Black With No Chaser, a black-owned culture and media outlet. She co-hosts the nationally renowned Black in Appalachia podcast that highlights the history and presence of African Americans in the rural mountain South.

Angela is a recipient of a national award, the Gannett Greatest Award in 2021 for Community Cultivation presented to media professionals who strive to foster deeper relationships with marginalized and diverse communities to impact their newsrooms and deepen coverage.

She was a Knoxville 40 under 40 recipient in 2021, YWCA Tribute to Women finalist, United Way Change Leader and Young Professional Nominee, AHERN Reporter of the Year in 2022 and is a member of Leadership Knoxville's Class of 2023.

She has awards for feature reporting from Tennessee Press Association and Tennessee SPJ's Golden Press Card.

As the daughter of an immigrant father and American mother with deep multiethnic and racial roots, she has a unique cultural perspective and experience that contributes to her journalism.

In spare time, she enjoys being with her 12-year-old daughter, traveling and exploring Black history. She is a staunch advocate for social justice and advancing Black people's lives in her community and in America..

Rachel Hinton



Rachel is a 2017 graduate of DePaul University in Chicago where she served in various roles at The DePaulia, the student paper. She was chief political reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times before joining the Better Government Association in January 2022.

She is the enterprise Reporter of The Illinois Answers Project, the newsroom side of the Better Government Association, which also has a policy side.

Troy Johnson



Troy, a seasoned journalist, is the Emmy-nominated evening anchor for 16 WAPT News at 5, and 16 WAPT News at 9 on Me-TV Jackson. He joined the Mississippi station in October 2018 after a successful stint in radio and television news in Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Troy's interest in media started early, and he got his first radio job at age 19 as a board-op and production director working for his father in Indianapolis. He later took his first on-air job in St. Louis before landing in Baltimore in 1999 to cohost what became the city's top-rated morning show on Radio One's 92Q.

Talent and hard work led him to other media opportunities. He hosted a news and current affairs talk show on CBS' FM Talk station and was interim executive director of People 75TV, Baltimore's public access station. He became heavily involved in NABJ as a two-term president of the Baltimore chapter, a Region II director and a current member of the Jackson Association of Black Journalists (JABJ). He also held National Press Club membership.

Troy's expertise and experience made him a valuable asset to newsrooms in Washington, D.C. He was an on-air personality and news anchor at Howard University's WHUR-FM and CBS Radio's all-news WNEW. He also filed a weekly Talk Around Town report on NBC 4 for over four years.

He is an avid cyclist, a history buff and enjoys traveling and finding great places to eat. His roots are in his hometown of Chicago, and he attended Central State University.

Troy's work has been recognized with an Emmy nomination and other awards, but his commitment to bringing accurate and compelling news to viewers is always at the forefront.

Michael Lyle



Michael (MJ) Lyle is an award-winning journalist with Nevada Current, an online outlet in the States Newsroom network of nonprofit newsrooms.

Covering topics including local and state politics and the legislature, he has focused on housing and homelessness. His coverage of homelessness and the prison system has earned awards and recognition from organizations including the Nevada Press Association and ACLU of Nevada.

Michael's career started at the Las Vegas Review-Journal in 2010, and he was named 2011 Journalist of Merit by the association.

After leaving the Review-Journal in 2017, he worked as a freelance reporter. His byline appeared in The Washington Post, Desert Companion and Vegas Seven magazine.

Michael has a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is working toward a master's in communications and journalism via an online program at Syracuse University.

Josh McGhee



Josh is an investigative reporter covering the intersection of criminal justice and mental health with emphasis on public records and data reporting. For the last decade, he has covered Chicago on beats that included criminal justice, courts, policing, race, inequality, politics and community news. He has reported at DNAinfo Chicago, WVON radio, The Chicago Reporter and most recently Injustice Watch.

Jaisal Noor



Since 2008, Jaisal has covered politics, racial justice, housing, public education and criminal justice for outlets such as The Atlantic, Democracy Now!, The Real News Network, Baltimore Beat and The Progressive and Yes! magazines.

He is democracy cohort manager at Solutions Journalism Network. There he provides training and support to the 21 newsrooms transforming how they cover politics in the 2023 Advancing Democracy fellowship.

Kaila Philo



Kaila, an investigative reporter based in Washington, has worked as an investigative reporter for Talking Points Memo, the government and political institutions reporter for Grid News, and the Justice Department correspondent for Courthouse News Service.

Her work on politics and the justice system has also appeared in Politico, Vice News, The Appeal and The Atlantic.

*Farida
Jhabvala Romero*



Farida is a labor correspondent at KQED radio for which she previously covered immigration. In 2022, she was named one of the 10 Most Influential Latina Journalists in California by the California Chicano News Media Association.

Her work has won awards from SPJ Norcal and a national and regional Edward M. Murrow Award for the collaborative reporting projects “Dangerous Air” and “Graying California.”

Before joining KQED, Farida worked as a producer at Radio Bilingüe, a national public radio network. She has a master’s in journalism from Stanford University.


*Helina
Selemon*




Helina is a health and science journalist and news researcher who likes making science make sense. A science reporter for The Blacklight, a new investigative unit for New York Amsterdam News, she is reporting on COVID-19, climate change and public health responses to gun violence.

She has spent the last five years training journalists in news and investigative research skills while working with the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting, UC Berkeley and the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY.

In eight years in the industry, Helina has spent significant time in audience development and engagement, most recently for the Associated Press health and science team. She was a freelance reporter, fact checker and audience specialist at health and science publications including Popular Science, Spectrum (an autism news site), The Trace Since Parkland project) and WBAI.

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| | <p><i>Beyond making science make sense — and science/health journalism more visible and engaging — Helina enjoys her sci-fi books by authors of color, playing D&D, coffee roasting and hosting traditional Ethiopian coffee ceremonies</i></p> |
| <p>Kristoffer Tigue</p>  | <p><i>Kristoffer is a New York City-based reporter for Inside Climate News covering environmental justice issues. He writes the Today's Climate newsletter, a twice-weekly analysis of the latest climate news with an accountability focus.</i></p> <p><i>His work has been published by Reuters, Scientific American and Mother Jones, among others. He has a master's in journalism from the Missouri School of Journalism, where his feature writing on the revitalization efforts of rural America won several Missouri Press Association awards. He has two cats that have stolen his heart and maimed his furniture.</i></p> |

Frontline Editors and Managers

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| <p>Diego Barahona</p>  | <p><i>Diego has more than 25 years of journalism experience in multiple fields as a reporter, broadcaster, TV anchor, producer, screenwriter, editor and author in his native Ecuador and the United States.</i></p> <p><i>He is editor of La Noticia, North Carolina's largest Spanish-language newspaper system, and LaNoticia.com.</i></p> <p><i>From 2016 to 2022, the National Association of Hispanic Publications named him the most awarded Spanish media journalist in the United States.</i></p> <p><i>He is author of the Amazon.com best-selling book "¿Cómo leer a las personas?"</i></p> <p><i>Last year, he was named president of the Organization of Hispanic Journalists of The Carolinas.</i></p> <p><i>In his free time, he enjoys being with his wife and two children. He is an avid reader and loves to walk surrounded by nature.</i></p> |
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Scott Bell



Scott, breaking news editor of The Dallas Morning News, leads nine reporters and three editors tasked with being top-of-funnel leads for the newsroom. They handle breaking and trending news and general assignment enterprise offers.

Soon after that position, he led a cross-department team creating the Breaking News Playbook, a guide to teach staffers best practices for various breaking news situations.

Previously, Scott spent 12 years on the core management team of SportsDay, the paper's award-winning sports department.

He oversaw coverage areas including high schools, colleges, NBA/Mavs, NHL/Stars, soccer, golf and boxing. He also led the team's digital strategy.

Scott helped create a college contributor network utilizing student journalists to provide on-campus updates at several in-state institutions. He also led development of SportsDay Talk, a smartphone app that partnered with the DFW market's top-rated sports talk radio station and exceeded 100,000 downloads.

He helped train and contribute to the DMN's real-time high school football live scoring program, the first of its kind.

Scott has also been interim audience development editor and a leadership role in newsroom training and analytics.

He spent 2-1/2 years at the Detroit Free Press as a sports writer and web producer.

April Bethea



April is a deputy education editor at The Washington Post guiding coverage of colleges and universities. She joined the education team in fall 2020, editing on a range of topics including the pandemic's disruption of campuses, student loan cancellation, college admissions and enrollment trends and the influence of politics on campuses.

She joined The Post in 2016 as a night homepage producer and later was a national homepage editor. She moved into assignment editing in 2019 as night local editor.

Her career began at The Charlotte Observer. As an award-winning reporter, she covered varied beats including education and county government. She was also an online producer helping curate newsroom digital platforms and advise on social and breaking news practices. Later she was a digital editor working with a team of breaking news reporters.

April is an NABJ and SPJ member and on the SPJ Foundation board. She is a graduate of the News Leaders Association's Emerging Leaders Institute and a past fellow for the Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs Journalism.

Born and raised in Charlotte, she has a bachelor's in journalism and political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Momo Chang



Momo is co-director of Oakland Voices at the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education and has extensive experience in writing, editing, producing and teaching. She is also a freelance journalist based in the East Bay. Her work focuses on healthcare, immigration, education, Asian American communities, food, and culture.

She is a former staff writer at the Oakland Tribune. Her stories range from uncovering working conditions in nail salons to stories about "invisible minorities" like Tongan youth.

Momo has received SPJ awards for investigative reporting and from AAJA among others. Her reporting has appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle, Wired and The New York Times, among others. She is primarily a print journalist who also produces audio and visual stories for documentary film and radio.

She is a senior contributing editor for Hyphen magazine and former content manager at the Center for Asian American Media.

Melinda Coleau



Melinda Coleau is the Planning Manager at NBC 4 WRC / Telemundo 44 in Washington, D. C. As a journalist her daily goal includes sharing stories of unheard voices that may be missed otherwise, representing the entire viewing area.

An award-winning story creator, she helped plan coverage of the 2015 papal visit to the United States, the 2016 opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Inequality in America specials and stories, pandemic coverage, presidential inaugurations and more.

She is a production assistant supervisor, where she is managing hiring, schedules, and creating early career development opportunities. She assists with recruiting and retaining talented young journalists and future media leaders.

In alignment with the company's DEI initiatives, she is hub leader for the Black Employee Network in D.C. She drives the master calendar that includes planning special events and addressing inequality issues nationwide and in newsrooms and developing networking opportunities for employees.

Melinda believes in community building and is honored to serve as board treasurer for UJIMA, The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community. The center's mission is to mobilize municipalities to respond to and end domestic, sexual and societal violence in the Black community.

Melinda was born and raised in sunny Southwest Florida in a Christian and loving family. She has a bachelor's in media communication from Florida State and a master's in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She is a sports enthusiast who loves time with her village and is very thankful to her supportive husband, family and friends..

Nia Decaille



Nia is an SEO editor on the audience team at The New York Times where she also writes for Styles.

She has worked at the intersection of editorial and the internet for the last seven years. Her work is best described as a years-long experiment with how news and media organizations can engage diverse audiences.

Her journalism career began in 2017 as an audience editor at The Washington Post specializing in search engine optimization and contributing to award-winning journalism.

Her work with Post columnist Michelle Singletary on a series about race and personal finance titled "Sincerely, Michelle," won a 2021 Gerald Loeb Award for commentary.

Decaille has reported on various topics including challenges for beauty professionals during the pandemic, Black women in the music industry and violence against transgender women of color.

Karim Doumar



Karim oversees editorial newsletter operations at the Los Angeles Times. He oversees a talented team of newsletter editors and writers, and he collaborates with other newsletter writers and editors across the newsroom.

He works with product, marketing and other business teams to align strategy around newsletters with broader subscription, retention and engagement goals.

Previously, he worked at ProPublica for four years as deputy newsletter editor, assistant editor for audience and local reporting network audience fellow.

Christine Hendricks



Christine is an accomplished marketing professional with a passion for local media and a proven track record in fostering strong publisher relationships and driving business growth. As vice president of marketing at the Local Media Consortium (LMC), she leads the strategic marketing initiatives to strengthen local media companies and help them thrive in a competitive landscape.

Since joining the LMC in 2015, Christine has demonstrated expertise in various aspects of the industry, including marketing, communications and events. Before LMC, she honed her skills in publisher relations and business development through work at WorldNow and LiveIntent.

In her early years at LMC, Christine was instrumental in leading member and partner relations. Her ability to identify opportunities and address needs of members and partners led to creation of new revenue streams for the organization. This success was the eventual transition to her current role.

Christine's leadership and marketing skillset has helped local media companies find new ways to grow and succeed. She has led numerous marketing initiatives designed to elevate the LMC and its members and partners. She is committed to success of local media and dedicated to empowering these organizations with tools and resources needed to excel in the fast-paced digital landscape.

Christine is an alumna of the University of the Pacific with a bachelor's in Sport Management. In 2021, she was recipient of Editor & Publisher magazine's '25 under 35' award.

Christine lives in Raleigh, N.C., and enjoys spending quality time with her dog, Jippy, exploring new destinations through travel and passionately following college basketball.

Yihyun Jeong



Yihyun, a deputy metro editor at The Seattle Times, covered politics for The Tennessean in Nashville and law and justice, politics, education and immigration issues at The Arizona Republic.

She has a master's from Arizona State University, a specialization in transborder issues and with minors in political science and international relations.

She is a proud AAJA member and graduate of the 2022 Executive Leadership Program.

*Alejandro
Martinez-Cabrera*



Alejandro, education and urban affairs editor at The Texas Tribune, is based in Austin and is a native Spanish speaker.

Previously, he was a digital editor at KUT.org, breaking news editor at the Austin American-Statesman and content editor at the University of Texas' Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas. He had worked as a reporter for several English- and Spanish-language publications covering the U.S.-Mexico border, drug violence, immigration, technology and public safety.

He has a bachelor's in journalism from UT and grew up in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

He likes to play Dungeons and Dragons in free time and is not proud of having impossibly high standards when it comes to tacos al pastor.

Daniel Moattar



Daniel, an articles editor at Mother Jones in San Francisco, edits accountability reporting on law, justice and the economy in print and online.

As an editor, reporter and researcher, he has helped produce award-winning feature investigations with wide-ranging impact. Previously, he was the magazine's research editor and fellowship director training early-career journalists in reporting tools and practices.

From 2016 to 2019, he was a Chicago-based accountability reporter. He has reported for outlets including The Guardian, The American Prospect and Vice News, and published reviews and essays in Guernica, The Baffler and The Nation.

He lives in the Bay Area.

*Angelica
Obioha*



Angelica, managing editor of The Sacramento Observer, has over a decade of experience as a reporter and editor creating wide-ranging stories for radio, television and digital platforms.

She came to the Observer from iHeart Media's 24/7 News Network. A graduate of Michigan State University School of Journalism, Obioha began her reporting career at HOMTV in Lansing, Mich.

She has held editorial roles at WILS and WQHH radio handling day-to-day production details and aspects of reporting — from how stories are conceptualized to how they engage affected communities.

Rheaa Rao



Rheaa is a markets editor at Bloomberg News where she guides and shapes stories across different verticals including crypto, cross-asset corporate debt and municipal finance. She has been published in Financial Times and The Wall Street Journal.

She has a master's from Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY where she focused on data-driven journalism. She grew up in Mumbai, India, and lives in Queens, N.Y., with her husband and dog Starburst.

*Walter Smith
Randolph*



Walter is investigative editor and director of The Accountability Project at Connecticut Public Broadcasting. He leads five investigative reporters who produce reports for Connecticut's PBS and NPR stations.

He spent a decade reporting at local TV newsrooms in Elmira-Ithaca, N.Y.; Flint and Kalamazzo, Mich., and Cincinnati, specializing in accountability and watchdog reporting for all locations.

A New York City native, he is NABJ's national treasurer elected in 2020 and re-elected in 2022.

He is an adjunct professor at Quinnipiac University and has taught journalism at Western Michigan and Northern Kentucky universities.

He is a graduate of Villanova University and the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY, where he was inaugural chair of the Alumni Board.

Executive Leaders

*Eva-Marie
Ayala*



Eva-Marie is Education Lab editor for The Dallas Morning News, overseeing coverage of how state and local policies impact students, how schools are addressing inequities in classrooms and how educators are addressing great needs brought on by the pandemic.

She is a veteran journalist who reported for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, her hometown newspaper. Eva is vice president of journalists for the Education Writers Association, a national organization dedicated to improving education coverage to better inform the public.

Previously, she served in various leadership roles in the DFW Hispanic Communicators organization. Eva is a data nerd, clumsy ukulele player and slow cyclist.

*Cynthia
Benjamin*



Cynthia is senior director for news learning & development in the Gannett-USA TODAY Network and a member of USA TODAY's core leadership team. She is Gannett's executive sponsor for Table Stakes. After working most of her career as an effective mid-level media leader, she elevated her ideas on DEI to a national level and has been promoted three times since 2019.



She inspired an award-winning DEI vision and teamwork that challenged Rochester's Democrat and Chronicle to evolve its coverage for communities of color and share more of these communities' richness.



In 2019, Cynthia became emerging audiences editor, Table Stakes team leader and lead editor for a "mobile newsroom" listening effort. The work connected journalists in person with community members in city neighborhoods. She drafted a team to develop relationships through subscription trials in a digital advisory group of community workers and completed an ASNE-Loyola leadership workshop in 2018, Emerging Leaders Workshop in 2019 and Washington Post-Poynter Leadership Academy for Diversity in Digital Media in 2021.



She also studied a one-year fellowship in the Poynter Media Transformation Challenge in 2021. She is a member of NABJ and NAHJ and raised more than \$10,000 in donations for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign. She is a 2023 Rochester Woman of Impact Nominee.

As a trust director for two years, she created national teams and collaborated on inclusion efforts. She authored Gannett's guidance for Spanish-language translations. She also relied on listening sessions with reporters and editors to create an equity checklist for journalists seeking best practices for DEI reporting. Cynthia was the original co-chair for African American Forward ERG in 2017-18 and chaired the company's accountability task force.

She completed an ASNE-Loyola leadership workshop in 2018, Emerging Leaders Workshop in 2019 and Washington Post-Poynter

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| | <p><i>Leadership Academy for Diversity in Digital Media in 2021. She also studied a one-year fellowship in the Poynter Media Transformation Challenge in 2021. She is a member of NABJ and NAHJ. She raised more than \$10,000 in donations for the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women campaign and is a 2023 Rochester Woman of Impact Nominee.</i></p> |
| <p>Khary Brown</p>  | <p><i>I'm from Silver Spring, Md., but have lived in the Oakland, Calif., area for most of my life. I'm deeply passionate about my family and community as I hope to provide opportunities not readily available to me when I was younger. I was a volunteer in the Oakland Heroes program designed to help children in the elementary school system with their academics and to provide mentorship.</i></p> <p><i>A graduate of San Francisco State University, I've spent most of my professional career with Mother Jones, starting as a publishing intern in 2004. I was introduced to the fast-paced world of advertising and marketing and have thrived in it. In five years, I went from supporting the department to directing the sales team in 2009. She has since transitioned ad sales strategy from print to digital to multiplatform, now including events and audio.</i></p> <p><i>I've also been associate publisher of sales and marketing, shifting my job more into a marketing position. In my role as vice president of media sales and partnership, I'm part of the seven-person leadership team for Mother Jones, helping to set strategy and generate revenue. I'm also heavily involved in our organization's DEI&B initiatives.</i></p> <p><i>I'm married and the proud father of two teenage girls..</i></p> |
| <p>Tercius Tarcisus Serrano Bufete</p>  | <p><i>Tercius is a content strategist, commerce specialist, people manager and service journalist.</i></p> <p><i>He is executive editor at Reviewed, USA Today's product review site where he manages the growth and content plan of his editorial team with a strong focus on service journalism. He guides 13 editors and writers to produce helpful and shoppable content on USA Today, reviewed.com and other Gannett properties.</i></p> <p><i>Tercius joined Reviewed in 2021 as a managing editor and has led initiatives that include creating a newsletter, an exclusive shopping event and cross-publication cooperation. He has led service-driven, timely content about baby formula, inflation and annual holidays. He pioneered the team's audience-minded, SEO-guided and metrics-driven strategy for shopping events such as Black Friday and Amazon Prime Day. He has successfully integrated under-performing teams and guided them into success.</i></p> <p><i>Before joining Reviewed, Tercius was an editor at Insider Inc., The Inventory and Consumer Reports where he reported on the high cost of printer ink, wrote product reviews, shopping and gift guides, FAQs and how-tos for print and online.</i></p> |

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| | <p><i>Previously, he paginated newspapers for a design center servicing newspapers in Northern California, photographed news events for local news outlets and produced radio stories.</i></p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Rachel James-Terry</i></p>  | <p><i>Rachel is director of public relations in University Communications and Marketing at Jackson State University.</i></p> <p><i>She has spent a combined 22 years in the media, public relations and corporate litigation industry. Her work has appeared in USA Today, the Detroit Free Press, The Clarion-Ledger, the Mississippi Center for Investigative Reporting and other major news outlets. She has helped to produce segments and manage appearances for national shows including Good Morning America, MSNBC, the Biden inauguration and Sway in the Morning.</i></p> <p><i>A creative and innovative public relations professional, Rachel heads a team responsible for developing public relations strategies that insulate and amplify the JSU brand through sharing effective best practices and ideas. These include publications, collaborations, media outreach, social media and marketing.</i></p> <p><i>She served with other distinguished media leaders on the strategic planning committee of the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education.</i></p> <p><i>The panel helped redefine goals for MIJE that led to new programs for national media organizations. She was also instrumental in critical roundtable discussions with the Kettering Foundation regarding media, public relations and diversity.</i></p> <p><i>At The Clarion Ledger, she helped change its approach to storytelling centered on the Black experience and to improve diversity and inclusion efforts.</i></p> <p><i>Rachel has bachelor's and master's of Art in English from JSU. She is a member of NABJ, Greater Jackson Chamber Brand Ambassadors and the JSU administrative council, among others.</i></p> <p><i>She is media relations director for award-winning Jackson Indie Music Week, the fastest growing seven-day independent music festival in Mississippi.</i></p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Nina Martin</i></p>  | <p><i>Nina is an award-winning editor and reporter for Reveal/Center for Investigative Reporting where she oversees coverage of sex and gender issues. Previously, she was a reporter at ProPublica where her groundbreaking "Lost Mothers" project with NPR, examining maternal mortality in the U.S., inspired sweeping changes to maternal health policy at federal, state and provider levels.</i></p> <p><i>It also won numerous awards, including the 2018 Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting, the National Academy of Sciences Keck Futures Award, a Polk and a Peabody. It was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. As part of a ProPublica team covering racial equity issues during the pandemic, she won a National Magazine Award and a second Polk.</i></p> |

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| | <p><i>Earlier, she held staff positions at San Francisco and Health magazines, leading newspapers including The Baltimore Sun, The Washington Post and the International Herald Tribune and BabyTalk, the digital parenting platform.</i></p> <p><i>Nina has a bachelor's in public policy from Princeton and a master's from Northwestern's Medill School. She is based in Berkeley, Calif.</i></p> |
| <p>Nicole Ortiz</p>  | <p><i>Nicole was most recently Adweek's senior story editor managing the copy desk and web production team and overseeing edits for all print, digital and newsletter content. She was also the biweekly magazine's features editor, assigning and editing feature and analysis print stories.</i></p> <p><i>She led newsroom initiatives on diversity and inclusion, style guide decisions and SEO.</i></p> <p><i>She was formerly community editor and built Adweek's Voice column, an opinion channel comprising guest contributions. Previously, she was managing editor of Best Lawyers magazine.</i></p> |
| <p>Megha Satyanarayana</p>  | <p><i>I'm a science journalist who believes that curiosity is one of mankind's greatest features. I'm chief opinion editor at Scientific American where I publish expert commentary on prevailing issues in life, physical and social sciences, as well as policy and politics related to those issues.</i></p> <p><i>Before that, I was a reporter at Chemical & Engineering News, covering biotech and pharmaceuticals and the pandemic.</i></p> <p><i>While much of my career has centered on public health and health-related issues, I've also covered urban life, education and technology for local newspapers. I'm a graduate of the UC Santa Cruz Science Communication Program and have a Ph.D. in molecular biology from UT Southwestern Medical Center and a bachelor's in biology from Tufts University.</i></p> <p><i>When not furiously typing, I'm hiking, kayaking, gardening and running small people around to dance and soccer. I'm first-generation American. My family hails from South Asia, and I'm committed to elevating our stories because they are part of the full American history.</i></p> |

Jacob Simas



Jacob is editor at The Oaklandside, a local nonprofit news organization dedicated to sharing information, amplifying community voices and investigating systems that impact people in Oakland, Calif. He began his media career as an apprentice in the early 2000s at KPFA radio in Berkeley.

He later served as a reporter, senior editor and director of youth media at New America Media (NAM), a nonprofit news organization supporting the national ethnic media sector. There he led a multiyear initiative to establish YouthWire, a network of youth-led outlets publishing community news in print and online in Richmond, Merced, Coachella, Fresno, Long Beach and Bakersfield. He was an NAM board director from 2015 to 2017.

Before joining The Oaklandside, Jacob managed social impact, youth and diversity initiatives for Univision Communications and Fusion Media Group. In 2016, he led the company's efforts to develop and launch a journalism training and mentorship program for youth and young adults in underrepresented communities in California.

The program graduated 24 young people of color who published over 70 articles and video reports covering community issues, reaching an audience of millions on Univision/FMG digital and linear platforms.

Before pursuing journalism full-time, Jacob spent seven years in youth development as a counselor and program director at Horizons Unlimited, a nonprofit serving Latino youth and families in San Francisco's Mission District. There, he helped launch and direct Mission Urban Arts, an after-school arts-education program in collaboration with CELLspace, a neighborhood artists' cooperative.

He is an advisory board member for Youth Beat, a nonprofit providing video production training and job opportunities to Oakland youth. Jacob has a bachelor's in sociology and master's in journalism from UC Berkeley.

*Ashley
M. Slayton*





Ashley is audience development editor for The Dallas Morning News which she joined in 2009.

She manages a team of award-winning journalists dedicated to reaching new and existing audiences and developing stronger connections with readers. She is passionate about making journalism accessible to readers and creating content for underrepresented communities instead of about them.

In 2020 and 2021, the audience team was first-place winner in the social media category of the National Headliner Awards.

Ashley has worked as a reporter, copy editor, blogger, page designer, digital editor and freelancer.

She worked for KLTV-7 and KTRE-TV in Tyler, Texas, where she led the launch of a new content management system, spearheaded a content strategy for a new all-day live streaming product and launched multiple mobile and OTT apps. During her tenure, the team

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| | <p><i>also launched East Texas Kitchen Live and The Red Zone Halftime Show, both revenue producers.</i></p> <p><i>She got her start covering suburban and breaking news at the Longview News-Journal and also worked there as a copy editor and designer for the News-Journal and for The Marshall News Messenger, its sister paper. In 2008, she blogged for BET.com's You(th) Vote, a nationwide campaign to educate young voters about the political process. The blog was awarded an NABJ Salute to Excellence.</i></p> <p><i>A graduate of Prairie View A&M University, she is a member of the Online News Association, NABJ and Sigma Tau Theta mass communications co-ed fraternity. She is a graduate of the Freedom Forum Diversity Institute, Robin Pou leadership training and Poynter's Leadership Academy for Women in Digital Media.</i></p> |
| <p>Matthew Tinoco</p>  | <p><i>Matthew is founder and publisher of Los Angeles Public Press, a new nonprofit newsroom for Los Angeles County residents. After securing a seed grant, he formed the corporation and has built a team that launched a multichannel digital publication.</i></p> <p><i>Previously, he was a staff and freelance reporter and editor. He was in-house reporter on homelessness for Southern California Public Radio, has fact-checked for Mother Jones and blogged for LAist.</i></p> <p><i>His freelance work has been broadcast by NPR, Marketplace and The California Report, and published by Curbed, Politico Magazine, Jezebel, LA Weekly, Los Angeles Review of Books and other outlets.</i></p> <p><i>In free time, you'll find him hiking in the hills of Southern California. He was born in Los Angeles.</i></p> |
| <p>Michelle Zenarosa</p>  | <p><i>Michelle has worked for nearly two decades with publications, schools, organizations and other media makers to tell stories that help shift culture and make change in the world.</i></p> <p><i>She was born and raised in Los Angeles and came of age in the 1990s when the city was heaven and hell for people of color. She is a child of Filipino immigrants, and her undocumented father was a hotel worker for over 30 years. Growing up in L.A., punk, rave and underground subcultures, have informed her work and approach as a scrappy and nimble journalist who can innovate on the fly and do a lot with very little funding.</i></p> <p><i>They has a bachelor's in print journalism and peace studies from California State University and a master's in public affairs journalism from the University of Maryland, but it's her work with youth that has taught her the most.</i></p> <p><i>They have worked with thousands of emerging journalists to tell compelling and nuanced stories for various media companies</i></p> |

including Fusion, New America Media, Everyday Feminism, LA Weekly and PBS.

She was named a Howard Simons Fellow for The Washington Post in 2008 and the Society of Features Journalists diversity fellow in 2017. They also participated in a yearlong Emerging Leaders program at the Nonprofit Partnership in 2012.

Michelle is just as comfortable in traditional media as in emerging technologies. In their last role at the Annenberg Innovation Lab, they led the MacArthur Foundation's civic media fellowship, working directly with scores of interdisciplinary storytellers at the intersections of media, technology and culture.

Michelle is deputy editor of Reckon News, an award-winning national news organization covering people powering change, challenges shaping our time and what it means for all of us. She still lives in L.A. with her queer family, including her nonbinary 6-year old, and is working on two children's books.

Media Entrepreneurs and Product Developers

**Priya David
Clemens**



Priya is an experienced television journalist and media professional with a strong record of anchoring, reporting and producing compelling news content across different platforms. Her passion for journalism and storytelling has led her to work for CBS News, NBC/MSNBC network news and local news outlets including KQED, KTVU, KOIN, WVTM and the Orange County Newschannel.

She started her on-camera career in 2003 as an embedded presidential campaign reporter for NBC/MSNBC. In 2008, she joined CBS News in New York as a correspondent and anchor covering lead stories for CBS Evening News with Katie Couric and The Early Show. She covered the 2008 financial crisis, hurricane devastation and did a series of reports from Malawi. Priya anchors KQED Newsroom for the PBS affiliate in San Francisco.

Priya is also the founder of the newly-formed Bridge Media Company, which produces GatherVerse News, a live streaming interview video podcast show about emerging technologies, and she has just been named as co-host of the upcoming Into the Metaverse video podcast series.

From 2014-19, she was public affairs director for the Golden Gate Bridge district in San Francisco, managing communications strategy and high-profile public information campaigns.

Priya has received several awards and honors, including Emmy nominations and an Edward R. Murrow Award. She continues to use her skills and expertise to produce high-quality, impactful journalism that informs and empowers people worldwide.

Priya has a bachelor's in anthropology from Westmont College, a master's in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Southern California and an International Baccalaureate from the International School of Brussels.

Brandy Collins



Brandy is a writer and self-proclaimed professional auntie living in the Bay Area.

She is a 2019-20 Oakland Voices cohort graduate and a Rooted & Written fellow of San Francisco's The Writers Grotto.

She is a contributing writer for Oaklandside, Berkeleyside-Nosh, SF Chronicle Datebook, Thrillist, KCET TV, The Bold Italic and SF Weekly.

Jazmin Goodwin



Jazmin is a multimedia storyteller and community builder passionate about bridging the worlds of media, tech and entrepreneurship. As a business reporter for prominent outlets such as CNN and USA Today, she has covered topics ranging from the economy and financial markets to startups and venture capital.

She has assisted program operations with Techstars' music accelerator and worked as a platform manager for January Ventures, the early-stage VC firm supporting founders building groundbreaking companies.

At the core of her work are unwavering commitment to championing women and minorities and desire to disrupt the entrepreneurship landscape and promote diversity in media. She is fascinated by the intersection of media and technology and takes great pleasure in telling impactful stories and building rich communities.

Jazmin has a bachelor's in Journalism and Graphic Design from Howard University and a master's in Journalism in Business and Economics reporting from the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY..

Ahmed Hamid



A big fan of the outdoors, Ahmed climbed Mount Kilimanjaro with his brother, a triumph that helped him realize that anything you put your mind to is possible. He is involved in using blockchain and Web 3 to enhance journalism with Refound Journalism, a startup he co-founded.

In December 2022, Refound won first place at the NEAR MetaBuild III hackathon. He has cultivated his passion to develop technological means to help creativity flourish and shed light on the urgent need for veracity in reporting. Hailing from Michigan, Ahmed has lived around the world including in the Maldives, Pakistan and China.

His travels from Lake Michigan to the Indian Ocean have exposed him to the tremendous diversity of thought in our world and the fragility of our free speech rights. He is very familiar with challenges and opportunities for progress in helping to keep lines of communication open for true reporting. He hopes to bring toolkits to make that easier for journalists working with Refound.

Caron LeNoir



Caron is an American journalist, producer, artist and advocate. Founder of CARONISMedia Group and The Centre for Sensual Arts, she examines life, love, relationships, sexual politics, faith and power dynamics through the arts and entertainment. She is known for relentlessly pushing boundaries and breaking barriers concerning the image, inclusion and representation of women worldwide.

She is also among women in history who have served in more than one branch of the armed forces (Navy and Army). She was a homeless, disabled veteran whose experience has informed her advocacy for female veterans, violence against women and mental health. She continues to motivate and inspire with humor and uncommon sense.

Alicia Ramirez



Alicia is founder and publisher of The Riverside Record, a nonprofit newsroom serving all of Riverside County, Calif. She started her career in the wake of the Great Recession as a general assignment reporter in rural South Texas. She covered everything that makes a community — public meetings, local businesses and events.

The Texas Press Association recognized her work as a reporter and editor. She won top honors in the general excellence category and second-place for best news photo.

She then had a brief stint as news editor for 22nd Century Media in suburban Chicago before being offered a designer/editor position with the Chicago Tribune. There she spent several years collaborating with editors, photographers and reporters to produce multiple suburban daily and weekly papers on tight deadlines. She was on the organizing committee of the Chicago Tribune Guild.

Weary of harsh winters, Ramirez relocated to Los Angeles where she was a CBS Los Angeles web producer writing breaking news, creating graphics and editing videos for the website and social media channels.

A native of San Antonio, she has a bachelor's in journalism from Loyola University Chicago and a master's in journalism from West Virginia University. She resides in Los Angeles with her long-term partner and is an adjunct instructor at USC Annenberg where she had been a faculty fellow.

*Karina Ramos
Villalobos*



Karina, a first-generation Salvadoran-American journalist, is committed to expanding story representation in local, community journalism for people of color. Her career goal is to uplift, celebrate and amplify voices not covered by mainstream media.

Originally from Escondido, Calif., she grew up in a Spanish-speaking household and translated her parents' paperwork, work inquiries and school documents. She takes pride in being a bilingual journalist who can write, speak and read the language to produce award-winning stories.

Karina hopes to create story representation specifically in the arts. She created Mundo De Scorpio, a storytelling platform dedicated to covering life, arts and culture with a creative look at multimedia projects to expand story representation in the artistic world.

Ryan Sorrel



Ryan is an artist, organizer, digital strategy consultant and media entrepreneur with a diverse background. His career includes consulting for globally-leading brands such as Meta, Samsung, Amazon, Harvard University and Google.

Ryan's commitment to social justice began in Chicago amid the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement. He learned from, and is inspired by, radical Black queer women in organizations such as The Black Youth Project and Assata's Daughters. He has dedicated his career to creating change — specifically abolition of carceral institutions — through intentional community and world building.

As COVID-19 swept worldwide in 2020, Ryan worked at his corporate job in Chicago. When protests of George Floyd's deaths began in May that year, he moved to Kansas City, Mo., to become a full-time community organizer. With his parents' support, he lived at home and built the city's largest direct action and mutual aid organization as protests swelled.

Frustration with how local news reported the protests and the Floyd racial reckoning led Ryan, with no background or experience in journalism, to found the most influential Black digital news outlet in Missouri and Kansas.

Under his leadership, The Kansas City Defender has broken over 10 national news stories, reached over 50 million people, grown a social media following of over 50,000 across platforms and shifted conversations regarding objectivity and traditional journalistic values in news.

Ryan's commitment to social justice also led him to give public talks at institutions such as University of the Arts London, NPR, PBS and Kansas City Art Institute. He is strongly inspired by the tradition of the Black press and believes it a necessity to philosophically reconceptualize the role and function of news in society.

Wendy Todd



When I was four years old, I asked my grandmother for a typewriter. She got me a yellow plastic one that I loved. I've always wanted to be a writer.

I wrote short stories in grade school in St. Louis and then for the high school newspaper. I also worked for the UC Santa Barbara paper, but it was short-lived because I was putting myself through school and had much to juggle with little support.

I graduated with a degree in religious studies, but looking back, I would rather have majored in English or creative writing.

In 2008, I started a blog centered on African-American pop culture. My content, point of view and celebrity interviews helped me stand out among the explosion of bloggers.

In 2010, I used blog posts as clips and got freelance jobs that included Sundance, Huffington Post and Ebony.com. I went to every networking event, panel discussion and talk.

I returned to St. Louis with no idea how to get a media job without a journalism degree in a city that wasn't a media hub. In 2014, I got a grant-funded position at St. Louis Public Radio. Still there in 2015, I wrote a blog post about Trevor Noah getting the "Daily Show" gig and asked a Washington Post editor I followed on Twitter if she wanted to see it.

She wanted to post it.

It went viral and resulted in me appearing on CNN with Don Lemon — the pinnacle of the writing career I felt hadn't even begun.

As years passed, I did all sorts of jobs, some in communication, some not and all toxic. When the pandemic hit, I had time to reflect and decided I didn't want to give up on writing.

I applied for a reporting job at a community newspaper and was hired on the spot. That helped me secure my current full-time job at University of Missouri-St. Louis.

I love my jobs but want more. I want my own company.