

2022 Maynard 200 Faculty and Executive Staff Biographies

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Faculty

Jean
Marie Brown



Jean Marie is an associate professor of professional practice in the Department of Journalism at Texas Christian University. In addition to serving as a full-time faculty member, she is also director of student media.

A former newspaper executive, Brown spent most of her professional career working for Knight Ridder and later McClatchy newspapers.

She held management positions at The Fort Worth Star-Telegram and The Charlotte Observer.

Her management career included time as a deputy features editor, city editor, assistant managing editor and managing editor. At one time, she directed local news coverage for the Arlington and Northeast edition of the Star-Telegram. Her strengths as an editor were line editing, story idea generation and staff development. As a reporter, she excelled at covering local government and public policy. She began her career in the Chicago bureau of The Wall Street Journal where she covered agriculture, financial futures and U.S. farm policy.

Brown has a bachelor's from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and a master's from Texas Christian University.

Maria
Carrillo



Maria is a former enterprise editor at the Tampa Bay Times and The Houston Chronicle and, before that, managing editor at The Virginian-Pilot. She has edited dozens of award-winning projects, frequently lectures on narrative journalism, co-hosts a podcast (WriteLane) about craft and has been a Pulitzer Prize juror six times.

She is a board member of the Virginia Center for Investigative Journalism. Carrillo was born in Washington, D.C., two years after her parents left Cuba in exile. She now lives in St. Petersburg, Fla., with her husband, and they have two grown children.

Caroline Ceniza-Levine



Caroline is co-founder of the Dream Career Club, author of “Jump Ship: 10 Steps to Starting A New Career” and an executive coach. She has worked with professionals from Amazon, Condé Nast, Google, HBO, Riot Games, Tesla, Time Warner and other leading firms.

Caroline is a senior contributor to Forbes Leadership and has appeared as a repeat guest expert on CBS, CNN, CNBC and Fox Business. She has been quoted in major media outlets including Bloomberg Businessweek, Entrepreneur, Fast Company, Fortune, Inc, Newsweek and Success.

Caroline teaches professional development courses at Columbia University and is a coach for the Asian American Journalists Association and the Maynard 200 Fellows. Before starting her firm in 2008, she spent 15 years in strategy consulting, executive search and HR, including recruiting roles at Time Inc and HR consulting for Condé Nast, Disney ABC, TV Guide and AOL/Yahoo/Verizon.

A classically-trained pianist at Juilliard and Manhattan School of Music, Caroline stays active in the arts as a partner in FBC Films. She splits her time among Florida, New York and Costa Rica.

Julia B. Chan



Julia, editor in chief at The 19th, is a veteran multiplatform journalist. She held newsroom leadership positions at KQED News in the Bay Area and at Mother Jones after spending the first half of her career at Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting and, before that, the San Francisco Examiner.

Her digital and investigative work has won awards for innovation, and her dedication to building community was honored by the Online News Association. Outside of the newsroom, she is on the board of the Asian American Journalists Association and a founder of the Journalists of Color Slack. She is a proud alum of San Francisco State University and Foothill College.

Sandra Clark



Sandra is CEO of StoryCorps, the award-winning nonprofit dedicated to recording, preserving and sharing audio and animated stories of everyday people of all backgrounds. Since 2003, StoryCorps has captured and archived more than half a million stories. She joined the organization in February.

Previously, Clark was vice president for news and civic dialogue at WHYY, the Philadelphia region's leading public media outlet. She was on the executive leadership team and led the newsroom's strategies for partnerships, audience growth and diversification, and community engagement.

Clark was managing editor of The Philadelphia Inquirer before joining WHYY in 2016, leading the organization to a 2014 Pulitzer Prize in Criticism.

The Philadelphia Tribune listed her among 2021 Most Influential African American Leaders. She is a longtime advocate for diversity, inclusion, equity and closing the power and trust gap between journalists and communities of color.

She has worked as a leadership coach and mentor with the Poynter Institute, the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education and the Lenfest Constellation News Leadership Initiative.

Kari Cobham



Kari is The 19th's first director of fellowships to lead the groundbreaking [Frances Ellen Watkins Harper Fellowship](#). It seeks to create meaningful pipelines for those historically excluded from U.S. newsrooms. An abolitionist, suffragist, orator and mentor, Harper was one of the first African-American women published in the United States.

Cobham will play a key role in designing and recruiting for the program, which launches its first class of fellows in September 2022, and in partnering with Nikole Hannah-Jones and Howard University's Center for Journalism & Democracy to support fellows.

Kari comes to The 19th with almost two decades of experience in journalism, digital storytelling and newsroom leadership. Most recently, Cobham was senior associate director of The Carter Center's Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism and Media, overseeing the program in the United States and abroad. Under her leadership, the fellowship expanded its global training for journalists on mental health reporting and well-being, grew its Colombia-based program across Latin America, launched a local newsroom collaborative to enhance reporting on access to mental health care and drilled down on supporting mental health of journalists from historically excluded communities.

Previously, Cobham was senior manager of digital content at Cox Media Group and executive producer of social media at ABC affiliate WFTV-TV in Orlando. She covered government and women's issues in the Caribbean and Florida as a staff writer for the Trinidad and Tobago Guardian and The Daytona Beach News-Journal, worked with Chicas Poderosas on tools to aid refugees in Italy and managed media relations for former Philadelphia 76ers executive Pat Croce.

A graduate of Yale University's Thread media storytelling program, Cobham's work has appeared in The New York Times, CNN, Fortune, Huffington Post, Poynter, Caribbean Beat and SHE. Cobham is a renowned mentor to some of the most accomplished women in journalism and an alumna of the ONA-Poynter Leadership Academy for Women in Digital Media. She is a sought-after public speaker and cofounder of Media Moms, an online support group for mothers in journalism.

Cobham has a master's in mass communications from University of Central Florida and a bachelor's in public relations and advertising from Bethune-Cookman University, where she has been an adjunct professor.

Brickson Diamond



Brickson is a consultant with expertise in diversity, equity & inclusion, and works with clients across a range of industry and functional sectors on infusing that experience into executive search, leadership succession and development. He is based in Spencer Stuart's Los Angeles office and is a member of the firm's Telecommunications, Media & Technology Practice.

He brings 20 years of experience engaging with boards and C-level executives to build and transform businesses across industries, including entertainment, investment management and non-profits. He is also a well-respected thought leader and practitioner in discovering, developing and connecting leadership talent from historically underrepresented groups, and advancing DE&I in corporations and nonprofit entities across multiple industries.

He is engaged in a variety of board and community leadership roles, including serving as an investment committee member at the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands; trustee and member of the alumni affairs, development and investment committees at the Cooper Union for Advancement of Science and Art; board member and DE&I committee chair at Middlesex School; and board member of private software firm Gentreo. He received his undergraduate degree from Brown University and his MBA from Harvard University.

Caitlin Dickerson



Caitlin is an award-winning investigative reporter and feature writer for The Atlantic magazine. She has reported on immigration from three continents and dozens of American cities. She has broken news about changes in deportation and detention policy, and often profiles the lives of immigrants, including those without legal status. Previously, Dickerson spent nearly five years as a reporter at The New York Times, and five years as a producer and reporter for NPR. Caitlin is a Peabody and Edward R. Murrow Award recipient, and a three-time finalist for the Livingston Award. She is currently writing a book for Random House about the systemic impact of deportation on American society.

Catherine "Cathy" Eckstein



Cathy is founder and CEO of Cornerstone CMO, helping organizations develop a compelling strategy and strong systems of accountability and measurement to ensure attainment of the strategic vision. She often works as a part-time member of an organization's executive team, providing additional leadership, coaching and support as needed.

Cathy is also a general partner in the Sonoran Founders Fund that makes seed investments in technology startups with a focus on supporting underrepresented entrepreneurs. She has over 25 years of leadership experience with organizations ranging from startups to global Fortune 500 companies across a variety of industries, including technology, software, energy, consumer goods/services, financial, retailing and not-for-profits.

Before founding Cornerstone, Cathy was president of OneGuard Home Warranties, chief marketing officer of Insight Enterprises, SVP Marketing at Ingram Micro and held senior marketing positions with the Kellogg Company and The Clorox Company. She began her career as a CPA with Deloitte.

Cathy has a bachelor's degree in Industrial Management from Purdue University and an MBA from The University of Chicago. She is an Investment Committee member for Arizona Founders Fund, board chair for Glencroft Center for Modern Aging and is on the board of TTI Success Insights and Shepherd of the Desert Church.

Aaron Glantz



Aaron produces journalism that makes an impact. He is a two-time Peabody Award winner and was a co-finalist for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting for investigations into racial discrimination in banking.

His work has sparked new laws, dozens of congressional hearings and investigations by the FBI, DEA, Pentagon inspector general and the United Nations Special Rapporteur for extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.

Aaron is the author of three books on the war in Iraq — “How America Lost Iraq”, “The War Comes Home” and “Winter Soldier Iraq and Afghanistan.” A fourth, “Homewreckers,” which tracks hedge fund profiteering off the 2008 financial crisis, has drawn praise from leading thinkers, including Ta-Nehisi Coates. The New York Times said the book “skillfully tells a bigger story about American housing that is tortuous, confounding and ultimately enraging.”

Most recently, Aaron was senior investigations editor for The California Newsroom, a collaboration of public radio stations, NPR national and CalMatters. In one year, investigations he oversaw prompted enactment of two state laws and sped \$2.4 billion in relief on issues ranging from affordable homeownership to forest management.

Aaron is a former senior reporter at Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting and JSK Journalism Fellow at Stanford University. His work has appeared in The New York Times, Chicago Tribune, NBC News, Good Morning America and the PBS NewsHour. He is a visiting professor at UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism.

Waylae Gregoire



Waylae is editor in chief of NextShark, a leading voice in Asian American news and a Forbes 30 Under 30 Company Class of 2018. He also heads NextShark's business development and plays a creative role in Eastern People, its E-commerce partnership for cultural apparel.

He has a bachelor's in International Studies from University of California San Diego with a concentration in Chinese History and Communism.

Katrice Hardy



Katrice is executive editor of The Dallas Morning News. Previously, she was executive editor of The Indianapolis Star and Midwest regional editor for USA Today Network.

Katrice joined the network in 2016 as executive editor of The Greenville News and then took on responsibilities as the network's South regional editor overseeing news organizations in South Carolina, North Carolina, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Virginia.

She had worked for 20 years at The Virginian-Pilot where she started as an intern and left as managing editor.

Her IndyStar newsroom and its reporting partners The Marshall Project, AL.com and Invisible Institute were awarded the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting for "Mauled: When Police Dogs are Weapons."

She is a board member of the News Leaders Association and chairs its diversity committee. A member of the National Association of Black Journalists, she is a former president of its Hampton Roads, Va., chapter. She is also a former executive board member of the South Carolina Press Association.

Katrice believes strongly that a news organization's role is to shine light on wonderful people and organizations making a difference in local communities and to uncover the problems, ills, misuses and abuses to help make positive change

Felecia D. Henderson



Felecia is director of cultural competency at the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education. She is a coach on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging issues to 100-plus print and broadcast news organizations in the Knight-Lenfest Table Stakes digital newsroom innovation program.

She also leads Maynard's Fault Lines® training program and the cultural competency program for colleges and universities.

Before joining the institute, Felecia was an assistant managing editor at The Detroit News where she was a member of the senior management team responsible for newsroom operations. She began her journalism career at her hometown newspaper, The Courier-Journal in Louisville, KY, graduated from the Maynard's Editing Program for Minority Journalists at the University of Arizona and held editing roles at the Detroit Free Press and The Cincinnati Post.

Felecia has a bachelor's in Radio-TV/Journalism from Murray State University and a master's in Organization Development from Bowling Green State University.

Lily Jamali



Lily is a senior reporter at Marketplace, the American Public Media program. Before joining Marketplace, she spent three years as co-host and correspondent at KQED's The California Report that airs on NPR stations statewide. While there, she filed investigative reports on the 2019-20 of the PG&E utility bankruptcy, documenting its impact on tens of thousands of fire survivors.

Lily has anchored at Bloomberg TV Canada in Toronto and was a founding team member at Reuters TV where she covered finance and tech. She was part of Reuters teams covering the Aspen Ideas Festival and the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Lily has master's in Finance from NYU and Journalism from Columbia and a bachelor's in English from UCLA.

Gabriel Kahn



Gabriel has worked as a newspaper correspondent and editor for three decades, including 10 years at The Wall Street Journal, where he was Los Angeles bureau chief, deputy Hong Kong bureau chief and deputy Southern Europe bureau chief, based in Rome. He has reported from more than a dozen countries on three continents. In 1998, he launched Italy Daily, a joint venture of the International Herald Tribune and Corriere della Sera, based in Milan, Italy. He has covered the U.S. Congress for Roll Call and was an editor and writer at The Forward.

His work has appeared in Slate, Mother Jones, Salon, The New York Times Magazine, Los Angeles magazine, Pacific Standard, The National Law Journal, The American Prospect and other publications. He has been a guest on the BBC World Service, CNN, CNBC, BBC World Service, C-SPAN and numerous international news programs.

In fall 2010, he joined USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism where he jointly runs the Media, Economics & Entrepreneurship program. Its goal is to bolster students' understanding of economics and encourage innovation and experimentation with new ideas in communication and journalism. He also is on the research council of the Annenberg Innovation Lab.

In addition to teaching and reporting, Kahn studies economic models of the news industry and consults with startups and established news companies on strategy.

In 2018, he launched Crosstown, which has pioneered a new approach to local news through data. He also is on the advisory board of the news startup Worldcrunch.

Kahn has worked to enhance Annenberg's curriculum to include more opportunities for entrepreneurship among journalists. He also launched the economics and business reporting track in Annenberg's master of arts in specialized journalism program.

Azmat Khan



Azmat is a Pulitzer-prize winning investigative reporter whose work grapples with the human costs of war. She is an investigative reporter with the [New York Times Magazine](#), a [Carnegie Fellow](#), and [the Birch Assistant Professor](#) at Columbia Journalism School, where she is also the director of the [Li Center for Global Journalism](#).

Azmat is writing a book for Random House investigating America's air wars. Her investigations have prompted widespread policy impact and won more than a dozen awards, including the Pulitzer Prize, two National Magazine Awards, two Overseas Press Club awards, the Polk Award, and the Hillman Prize.

Jinah Kim



Jinah is a part-time correspondent for NBC News in Los Angeles, reporting primarily for NBC News Channel and MSNBC.

Also an inventor, she has created the NIKO Easy Wash Children's Car Seat Cover, awarded a full utility patent in 2021 and an Amazon Choice.

She is a past president of the Asian American Journalists Association's Los Angeles and San Diego chapters, sits on numerous national boards and mentors aspiring journalists, filmmakers and entrepreneurs. She was co-chair of two national AAJA conventions. She is a frequent guest speaker and emcee at dozens of major events in Southern California.

Jinah was born in Seoul, South Korea and immigrated to the United States with her family when she was 6. She grew up in the Los Angeles area and attended UCLA, where she graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa with a bachelor's in English Literature.

Her journalism career began with her high school newspaper and then the Daily Bruin at UCLA. She got her first full-time job at KTLA-TV in Los Angeles while finishing her last year at UCLA. She has also produced in Monterey, reported and anchored in Salinas, San Diego and Denver.

Jinah has won numerous prestigious national and regional awards as a journalist. Passionate about languages, she speaks, reads and writes Korean, German and Spanish.

Rob King



Rob, executive editor-at-large at ESPN, oversees editorial direction and special projects such as the ESPY Awards and ESPN Films. Since joining ESPN in 2004, he has been SVP, SportsCenter & News; SVP, Content, ESPN Digital & Print Media; VP and Editor-in-Chief of ESPN.com and senior coordinating producer in Studio Production.

A 12-time Sports Emmy award winner, Rob appeared on Forbes' list of "Most Influential Minorities in Sports" in 2016 and was named by Fast Company among its "Most Creative People 2014." He is a member of the Associated Press board of directors, board chair of the Center for Investigative Reporting and a member of the Poynter Institute's Board of Trustees.

King began his career in newspapers, including stints at The Philadelphia Inquirer; The Courier-Journal in Louisville, Ky.; the Courier-Post in Cherry Hill, N.J.; the Commercial-News in Danville, Ill., and The Washington Post.

He majored in English at Wesleyan University, where he played basketball and ran track. He and his wife Jen have three children: Eli, 18; Amani, 15; and Amanda, 14.

Arthur Korteweg



Arthur is a financial economist whose research interests include corporate finance, entrepreneurship, private equity, and alternative assets more generally.

He currently serves as associate professor of Finance and Business Economics at the USC Marshall School of Business.

Arthur is especially interested in studying investment decisions in alternative asset classes such as venture capital, leveraged buyout, real estate, and art.

His work has been published in leading journals including the Journal of Finance, the Journal of Financial Economics and the Review of Financial Studies, and has been cited in the Wall Street Journal, Financial Times, New York Times, and Forbes, amongst others.

Prior to joining USC Marshall in 2014, Arthur was an associate professor of Finance at Stanford's Graduate School of Business.

Joe
Lambert



Lambert and his staff have traveled worldwide to spread the practice of digital storytelling to all U.S. states and some 48 countries. He is author of "Digital Storytelling: Story Work for Urgent Times" (6th Edition, Digital Diner Press, 2020), and "Seven Stages: Story and the Human Experience" (Digital Diner Press, 2013).

In 2020, he celebrated his 37th year as an executive director of StoryCenter and its predecessor arts organization, having evolved his 1980s work in the performing arts to work in digital storytelling and media education in the 1990s.

Born and raised in Texas, Joe has been active in the Bay Area social justice and arts community for 45 years. In 1986, he co-founded Life On The Water, an innovative performing arts organization that blended experimentation with community activism to serve a diverse number of Bay Area communities.

Susan
Leath



Susan is chief operating officer for The GroundTruth Project. She has more than 30 years of experience in media management and organizational innovation for for-profit and nonprofit enterprises.

Previously, Leath led the Center for Innovation and Sustainability in Local Media at the University of North Carolina's Hussman School of Journalism. She was in charge of strategic, financial and operational success of the Center, which supports existing and startup news organizations through its dissemination of applied research and the development of digital tools and solutions.

Her portfolio includes working with key Hussman-based initiatives including ground-breaking US News Desert research, UNC-Knight Foundation Newsroom Table Stakes Program, Google News Initiative's Project Oasis, UNC Reese Innovation Lab and the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting.

Leath is former regional president of the USA Today Network media groups in Delaware and Maryland, where she directed strategic, financial and operational success of the network and its associated products, repositioning the brand as a multimedia platform in the minds of consumers and business leaders. She led the Delaware and Maryland teams to improved marketplace positioning and established sustainable value propositions managing/optimizing core and new growth revenue streams.

Patrick Lee



Patrick has been with CBS News for almost two decades. As an award-winning producer/editor for CBS News Sunday Morning, he has crafted pieces and produced stories such as the 20th Anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests and a brief history of tea. In 2011, he joined the editing staff at 60 Minutes and continued as a contributing producer for CBS News Sunday Morning. In 2010, he directed a short documentary on microfinance in Kenya, Africa. He also co-produced a documentary: "Changing the Face of Medicine", which was shown in various film festivals and broadcast on World Channel during the spring of 2017.

Patrick has written and directed "Xiang, Wash and Fold, Nights Without You", and "An Old Lady Who Says She Knows Kung Fu" for the Four Seas Players, a New York-based community theater group. In 2018, he co-wrote and directed a play, "A Salute to a Little Boy", performed at the Academy of Performing Arts in Hong Kong. In 2019, he was a member of the Dramaturg for City Contemporary Dance Company in Hong Kong for the "Little Dragon's Odyssey", a dance drama about the life of Bruce Lee.

Since 2013, Patrick has been involved with "Eye on the Future", a CBS News program for mentoring high school students. In 2018 and 2019, he served as a mentor at a week-long documentary filmmaking summer camp funded by Renaissance Foundation in Hong Kong. In 2018, Patrick was the keynote speaker at the University of Southern California for the Maynard 200 Fellows on journalism and storytelling. Since 2020, Patrick has been serving as one of the co-chairs of AMP, Paramount Global's Asian American and Pacific Islander Employee Resource Group.

Linda Lloyd da Silva



Linda is a marketing and communications strategist whose career spans private and public sectors across diverse areas including media, consumer technology and international development.

She began her career at the Los Angeles Times as a financial planning department analyst helping the Times wrestle with major strategic decisions such as market expansion and new product development. She then moved Gemstar-TV Guide International, a pioneering startup in the nascent mobile device industry. There she led marketing launches of products that helped reshape the way consumers interacted with screen-based content.

Linda later directed her interests back to international development and joined World Vision, one of the nation's largest nonprofits for which she held diverse senior roles communicating the impact of its humanitarian work. Most recently, she was the top communications executive at the World Intellectual Property Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations.

Linda has a bachelor's from Vassar College in French Literature and a master's in Education (international educational policy) and MBA (strategy & marketing) from Harvard University.

Dickson Louie



Dickson is principal of Louie & Associates, a Bay Area consultancy providing strategic planning, competitive analysis and executive development services to startups, nonprofits and Fortune 500 companies. He is co-founder, president and CEO of Time Capsule Press, a publishing imprint focusing on creating books from archival material.

He has over 25 years of professional management experience in news media, having worked as a planning and business development executive at the Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle and The Mercury News in San Jose. He helped to oversee launch of the Ventura County and Valley editions at the Times and the Viet Mercury Vietnamese-language weekly at the Mercury News. On the Times Mirror corporate staff, he oversaw finances of its \$2 billion newspaper division.

He was a research associate at Harvard Business School, where he authored over 20 management case studies for the second-year MBA course.

He is an adjunct at UC Davis Graduate School of Management and the Executive MBA Program at San Francisco State. He has a bachelor's in business administration from California State University, East Bay, and an MBA in finance, marketing and statistics from the University of Chicago. He is on the Maynard Institute board.

Ryan Mac



Ryan is a technology reporter for The New York Times and is based in Los Angeles. He covers corporate accountability across the global tech industry.

Previously, he was a staff writer at Forbes magazine covering the intersection of wealth and power in Silicon Valley. Most recently, he was a senior reporter for BuzzFeed News, where he covered large tech companies including Google, Twitter and Tesla, Inc. His coverage of Facebook at that publication won a 2019 Mirror Award and a 2020 George Polk Award for business reporting. Mac has written for or interned at publications including Bloomberg News, the Orange County Register, the Half Moon Bay Review and The New York Times Bay Area Blog.

He grew up in Southern California and attended Stanford University.

Michelle Manafy



In her role as editorial director, Michelle is responsible for Digital Content Next [DCN]’s content-related initiatives, including the website and [InContext](#) newsletter. She has two decades of publishing experience, more than half of which has been focused squarely on the business of digital content.

Her career has included leadership roles at the Media Industry Newsletter (min), where she concentrated on digital strategies and revenue channels for magazine media; UK-based digital publisher FreePint Limited, where she focused on the information industry; and Information Today, Inc.’s Enterprise Group, where she provided content direction on publications and events in the areas of content creation, management and delivery strategies and tools, enterprise search, and the business of content.

Michelle is also a [regular columnist at Inc.com](#), and co-author of the book [Standout Virtual Events](#). She is a lively and informative industry writer and speaker and holds a BA in journalism from San Francisco State University.

Kevin Merida



Kevin became executive editor of the Los Angeles Times, the largest newsgathering organization in the West, in June 2021. He oversees the newsroom as well as Times Community News and Los Angeles Times en Español.

Previously, Merida was a senior vice president at ESPN and editor in chief of the Undefeated, a multimedia platform that explores the intersections of race, sports and culture. He arrived at ESPN in November 2015 and launched the Undefeated in May 2016. Under his leadership, the Undefeated gradually expanded across Walt Disney Co. with a content portfolio that ranged from award-winning journalism to documentaries and television specials, from albums and music videos to live events, digital talk shows and two bestselling children's books.

During his ESPN tenure, he also oversaw the investigative/news enterprise unit, the television shows "E:60" and "Outside the Lines," and chaired ESPN's editorial board.

Before joining ESPN, Merida spent 22 years at The Washington Post as a congressional correspondent, national political reporter, longform feature writer, magazine columnist and senior editor in several roles. He led the national staff for four years during the Obama presidency and was managing editor overseeing news and features coverage for nearly three years. During his tenure as managing editor, he helped lead the Post to four Pulitzer Prizes, and the newspaper embarked on a digital transformation that made it one of the nation's fastest growing news organizations.

From 1983 to 1993, Merida worked at The Dallas Morning News as a special projects reporter, local political writer, national correspondent based in Washington, White House correspondent covering the George H.W. Bush presidency and assistant managing editor in charge of foreign and national news coverage. In 1990, he was part of a Morning News team that was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in explanatory journalism for a special report on the world's "hidden wars." Merida began his career at the Milwaukee Journal, where he worked from 1979 to 1983 as a general assignment reporter.

Merida is co-author of "Supreme Discomfort: The Divided Soul of Clarence Thomas" and the bestselling "Obama: The Historic Campaign in Photographs." He is a contributor to and editor of the anthology, "Being a Black Man: At the Corner of Progress and Peril," based on an award-winning Washington Post series he led. Merida's honors include being named Journalist of the Year in 2000 by the National Association of Black Journalists, receiving the Missouri Honors Medal for Distinguished Service in Journalism in 2018 and receiving NABJ's Chuck Stone Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020.

Merida is a 1979 graduate of Boston University and of the Summer Program for Minority Journalists at UC Berkeley. He is on the Pulitzer Prize Board, the Boston University Board of Trustees and the boards of WBUR-FM in Boston, the Kaiser Family

Foundation, the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland, the Wallace House at the University of Michigan and the Gwen Ifill College of Media, Arts and Humanities at Simmons University. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, award-winning writer and former Washington Post columnist Donna Britt. They have three sons: actor Darrell Britt-Gibson and screenwriter Justin Britt-Gibson, who also live in L.A., and podcast host and producer Skye Merida.

John X. Miller



John is senior editor for sports, business and features at The Dallas Morning News. He recently joined the staff after a six-year stint as senior editor for colleges, commentary and HBCUs for The Undefeated, ESPN's multimedia platform that reports on the intersection of race, sports and culture.

In Dallas, Miller will help oversee coverage in three critical areas of growth and with diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives and training in the newsroom.

At The Undefeated (now titled Andscape), he directed and edited coverage of historically Black colleges and universities, other colleges and commentary. He has been integral to the platform's "*Why Not Us*" documentary series about behind-the-scenes stories of sports programs at North Carolina Central (basketball) and Florida A&M (football).

A Winston-Salem native, he was the first African-American managing editor of the Winston-Salem Journal for three years before moving to ESPN in 2016. He is a veteran journalist of more than four decades, having been a top editor at the Detroit Free Press, USA Today, The Charlotte Observer, and The Sun News in Myrtle Beach, S.C. He was top editor at the Hickory (N.C.) Daily Record and The Reporter in Lansdale, Pa.

He was a founding USA Today staffer in 1982 and an original staff member of The Undefeated in 2016, making his decades-long career unique.

From 1999 to 2008, he was public editor at the Free Press and then director of community affairs at the Detroit Media Partnership. His primary responsibilities as public editor were writing corrections and handling accuracy, credibility, readership and ethical issues. He wrote a column in an ombudsman role.

He has awards for public service, general excellence, reporting, editorial writing, multimedia journalism, online breaking news, diversity, newspaper design and outstanding cooperation as an Associated Press member.

Miller is board chair of the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education and has served on ASNE and APME boards and committees. He has been a Pulitzer Prize juror, a facilitator at the American Press Institute and, in 2005, was the first Donald W. Reynolds Distinguished Visiting Professor of Journalism at Washington and Lee University.

He is among those honored by The HistoryMakers, the nation's largest African American video oral history archive.

A 1977 graduate of Washington and Lee University with a bachelor's in journalism, he is on the advisory board for its School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Ron Nixon



Ron is global investigations editor at the Associated Press and is based in Washington. He manages a team of investigative reporters worldwide and works closely with colleagues across the globe to conduct ambitious investigative and accountability reporting on a variety of topics.

Previously, he was homeland security correspondent for The New York Times, where he worked for nearly 14 years and covered border and aviation security, immigration, cybercrime and violent extremism.

He has reported from Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Canada, Belgium, Rwanda, Uganda, Senegal, South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, among other places. He is author of "Selling Apartheid: Apartheid South Africa's Global Propaganda War" and co-founder of the Ida B. Wells Society, which trains journalists of color in investigative reporting.

Nixon received the inaugural 2021 News Leader of the Year award from the News Leaders Association. He has overseen investigations that have won major awards including the Selden Ring, Investigative Reporters and Editors and the Anthony Shadid.

He is a Marine Corps infantry veteran who saw combat in the 1990 Persian Gulf War. He was part of the U.S. Marine Corps Security Force Battalion, the Corps' security and counterterrorism unit.

Tom Nixon



A presentation designer and coach, Tom has spent his career working with some of the world's most successful professional speakers, entrepreneurs, subject matter experts and senior executives.

He has designed live and online presentations for numerous small and large clients such as Visa International, The Coca-Cola Company, Hershey foods and Georgia-Pacific. His book "The Art of Presentation" offers a deep dive into his methodology for creating and delivering powerful, effective presentations.

Monique O. Madan



Monique is an investigative reporter for USA Today. Her latest project, "Left to Rot," uncovered botched construction and evidence of money laundering at the collapsed Surfside condominium building in south Florida.

Before joining the investigations team, Madan covered immigration for the Miami Herald, where she was honored for "Immigration Pandemic," her investigative series. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, The Boston Globe, the Boston Herald and The Dallas Morning News.

In 2019, she was a fellow at Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting. She is a graduate of Harvard University and Emerson College.

Steve Padilla



Steve is editor of Column One, the front-page showcase for storytelling at the Los Angeles Times. He joined the Times in 1987 as a night police reporter but soon moved to editing. He helped guide the Times' Pulitzer-winning coverage of a botched bank robbery in North Hollywood in 1997.

In 34 years with the Times, he has edited a wide variety of subjects, including national politics, international news, higher education and religion. He was director of Metpro, the Times' training program designed to bring diversity to newsrooms.

He was a reporter with the San Diego Union and editor of Hispanic Link Weekly Report, a newsletter on Latino affairs. He is a writing coach, lectures frequently on writing and devotes his Twitter feed ([@StevePadilla2](https://twitter.com/StevePadilla2)) to writing technique.

Marisa Porto



Marisa has been a strategic and operational leader in news media outlets, nonprofits and higher education institutions. She is assistant dean of the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications and Executive in Residence at Hampton University, providing administrative consultation and teaching leadership, entrepreneurship and management courses.

Porto spent most of her career in journalism. Her last position was as business and news leader of Tribune Publishing's Virginia Media operations, which included The Virginian-Pilot in Norfolk and the Daily Press in Newport News. She also held news leadership positions with organizations in Florida, Delaware and Ohio.

Marisa is a member of the news advisory council of The Trust Project, an international nonprofit devoted to media transparency. She is a past president of the Virginia Press Association and served a four-year appointment on the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.

Porto has a journalism degree from the University of South Carolina and a master of business administration from the University of Maryland Global Campus.

Ronnie Ramos



Ronnie is editor in chief of the Better Government Association, a Pulitzer Prize-winning newsroom focused on investigative and solutions journalism.

The BGA won a 2021 Pulitzer for its investigative stories with the Chicago Tribune that exposed Chicago city officials' failure to keep tenants safe from deadly fires in dangerous residential buildings.

Before joining the association, he was executive editor of the Daily Memphian, one of the largest nonprofit, online local news sites in the country.

Previously executive editor of The Indianapolis Star, he is an expert in digital storytelling and subscription growth. Under his leadership, page views, digital views and online subscriptions grew substantially each year.

The Star also led the investigation of USA Gymnastics, a multiyear effort that culminated with indictment and conviction of team doctor Larry Nassar on various sexual assault charges.

Nadine Selden



In a more than 30-year career, Nadine has been research manager at The Seattle Times, the Mercury News in San Jose and the Press-Telegram in Long Beach. She has done international development work for the Red Cross in Cambodia, the Balkans and Turkey. Her experience includes polling, development of Spanish and Vietnamese editions, ethnographic research and analytics of the interplay of print and digital audiences.

Nadine has a bachelor's in journalism and business from California State University Long Beach and has done graduate work in social science at University of California Irvine. She has had fellowships at Syracuse and Cornell universities. She is a part-time researcher for The Seattle Times.

Virgil Smith



Virgil, principal of the Smith Edwards Group, LLC, started the consulting firm in October 2015 after retiring from the Gannett company, where he worked for 24 years as a president and publisher at The Record in Stockton, California, and the Asheville Citizen-Times. He was also a corporate HR executive for Gannett/TEGNA. In that position, he focused on talent development, talent acquisition, talent management and diversity for broadcast, print and digital operations.

Before joining Gannett, Smith spent 20 years with the McClatchy company, where he held several executive positions, including director of consumer marketing and chief labor negotiator. He counts hundreds of professionals he has assisted with managing and achieving career and life goals.

He continues involvement with diversity and leadership issues, serving on the Fox News Workplace Professionalism and Inclusion Council, as a consultant and career coach for the Asian American Journalists Association Executive Leadership Program, the WAN-IFRA World Newspaper Congress and as executive-in-residence for the Maynard 200 Advanced Leadership Program.

He also is on leadership and journalism advisory boards for The Lillian Lodge Kopenhaver Center for the Advancement of Women in Communication at Florida International University, the Mayborn School of Journalism at the University of North Texas and the Global School of Global Journalism & Communication at Morgan State University.

Smith has bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of San Francisco and was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of North Carolina, Asheville, where he is trustee emeritus.

Pamela Spalding



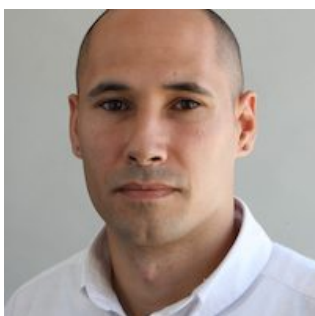
Pamela is business manager of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation where she leads a small staff responsible for all aspects of administrative operations — Accounting & Finance, Purchasing, Human Resources, Technology, Grant Administration and Facilities Management.

Established in 1936, the private foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all North Carolinians. In its 80-year history, the foundation has been engaged in forward-thinking philanthropy with over \$600 million invested in communities across the state.

Pamela has worked for nonprofit and for-profit organizations. Her career history at senior management levels in accounting and finance, operations and project management has allowed her to develop strong talents in budgeting, financial and operational excellence, problem solving, analysis and enterprise level thinking. Her for-profit work experience has included positions with Deloitte & Touche, Hanesbrands Inc., and Bank of America.

Pamela has a bachelor's in Accounting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and an MBA from Wake Forest University. She has worked as a certified public accountant and is Six Sigma Green Belt certified in process improvement. She lives in Winston-Salem with her husband and two children.

A.C. Thompson



A.C. is a senior reporter with ProPublica and a correspondent for the PBS documentary FRONTLINE.

His work has helped lead to exoneration of two innocent San Francisco men sentenced to life in prison, the prosecution of seven New Orleans police officers and a congressional investigation of the U.S. Border Patrol. His life was fictionalized on the HBO show "Treme."

Lam Thuy Vo



Lam Thuy Vo is a journalist who marries data analysis with on-the-ground reporting to examine how systems and policies affect individuals. She is currently a [Soros Justice Fellow](#), an [AI Accountability Fellow for the Pulitzer Center](#), and a [data-journalist-in-residence at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism](#). She has worked with Documented, ProPublica, the Guardian, the New York Times and ESPN as an independent reporter and was previously a journalist at BuzzFeed News, The Wall Street Journal, Al Jazeera America and NPR's Planet Money.

She has told stories at the intersection of economics, technology and society for more than a decade and has documented how power imbalances, when baked into systems, adversely impact those who are already living on the margins. She's won or been nominated for more than 30 awards for her work as a reporter, storyteller and leader in the field. Among the organizations that have recognized her work are the Overseas Press Club, the Online News Association, the Society of American Business Editors and Writers and the Poynter Institute.

She has also worked as an educator, scholar and public speaker for a decade, developing newsroom-wide training programs for institutions like Al Jazeera America and The Wall Street Journal; workshops for journalists across the US as well as from Asia, Latin America and Europe, and semester-long courses for the [Craig Newmark CUNY Graduate School of Journalism](#). She is also committed to helping her industry become more diverse. She co-administers a [slack community for journalists of color](#) and co-created a [resource guide](#) for journalists of color looking for career growth, salary data, demographics breakdowns of newsrooms and training opportunities.

A German-born Vietnamese immigrant, she made her way to New York City via London, Berlin, Hong Kong and Oakland and has adopted continuous learning as a way of life. She taught herself how to code by making [data visualizations about breakups](#); she learned how to use a hammer drill to build inclusive rock [climbing routes on the sides of the Rocky Mountains](#); and she will always mosey her way into the kitchens of 'aunties' and 'uncles' who are willing to show her how to make their favorite home-cooked meals.

Mark Walker



Mark is an investigative reporter in the Washington bureau of The New York Times. He was part of a team that won a Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of COVID-19 in 2020.

Previously, he was a training director for Investigative Reporters and Editors. Before joining IRE, Mark worked as a watchdog reporter focusing on law and order at the Argus Leader in Sioux Falls, S.D.

In 2016, he was named South Dakota Outstanding Young Journalist of the Year and won the South Dakota Newspaper Association's public service reporting award for the series "Locked in Limbo" on mentally ill criminal defendants languishing in jail because of delays in mental competency evaluations.

A graduate of Fort Valley State University in Georgia, he grew up in Savannah.

Maynard Institute Executive Team

**Odette
Alcazaren-Keeley**



Odette is director of the Maynard 200 journalism fellowship program of the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education. She is also a diversity communications and media executive.

She is president and founding partner of Global MediaX, a strategic multicultural and international media consultancy group headquartered in the Bay Area. Previously, she was a consultant for the Democracy Fund.

A respected broadcast journalist, Odette's career spans 20-plus years in the United States and the Philippines. Previously, at New America Media [NAM], she was the national media network director, television and radio news anchor/executive producer, as well as chair and co-emcee of the NAM Ethnic Media Awards. She hosted and produced NAM's weekly segment on 91.7 FM KALW in the Bay Area, the TV show "New America Now" and its monthly TV news magazine on Comcast Hometown Network [CHN] with the same program name. She was also an alternate anchor and segment producer for 'Upside' on Comcast Channel 104.

She was a regular commentator and featured panelist on KQED TV and radio programs in San Francisco including "This Week in Northern California" and "Pacific Time."

In the 9/11 aftermath, Odette led the core group that launched the U.S. news bureau of The Filipino Channel TV of ABS-CBN International, headquartered in the Bay Area. She simultaneously served as news executive producer, co-anchor and head writer for "Balitang America" [News in America], the network's flagship newscast. In the Philippines, she had worked in the network's parent company, ABS-CBN Channel 2, as a news reporter, associate producer and head writer for its various production, news and current affairs programs and broadcast affiliates.

Odette is a board trustee of the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of San Francisco.

She graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines Diliman, the country's premiere state university, with a bachelor's in Mass Communication and minored in Broadcast Journalism.

Evelyn Hsu



Evelyn joined the Maynard Institute in 2004 as director of programs. Most recently, she was senior director for programs and operations. She worked as a reporter at the San Francisco Chronicle and The Washington Post.

She was an associate director of the American Press Institute and a member of the Poynter Institute faculty. She is a past national president of the Asian American Journalists Association and a graduate of the Maynard Institute's Summer Program for Minority Journalists.

Martin G. Reynolds



Before being named to leadership of the Maynard Institute, Martin was a senior fellow for strategic planning for the institute, helping to oversee planning and implementation of the "MIJE Re-Imagined" project. He is co-founder of Oakland Voices, a community storytelling project that trains residents to be community correspondents. For his work there, he was named as Digital First Media's Innovator of the Year.

Before his Maynard fellowship, Reynolds was senior editor for community engagement and training for 18 years with the Bay Area News Group and editor-in-chief of the Oakland Tribune between 2008-2011. Reynolds was also a lead editor on the Chauncey Bailey Project, formed in 2007 to investigate the slaying of the former Oakland Post editor and Tribune reporter.

Reynolds is also director of the Reveal Investigative Fellowships from the Center for Investigative Reporting. He has helped to raise more than \$1 million from foundations to support reporting and community engagement initiatives. He conducts Fault Lines diversity training programs for media companies, colleges and universities. He is a sought-after speaker on the state of diversity, trust and inclusion in journalism.