Maynard 200 Mentors
Year 2022
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Executive Leadership

Ronnie Agnew

Ronnie, who recently joined New Jersey Advance Media as general manager, has spent nearly four decades in journalism and public media.

Ronnie, a Mississippi native, was the first African American editor of The Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, Miss., and the first person of color to run Mississippi Public Broadcasting, both with a statewide audience. He has devoted his entire career to the craft of journalism and to mentoring students and young professionals across the country. While editor of The Clarion-Ledger, he worked with the newspaper’s noted civil rights reporter to bring to justice 1960s criminals who believed they had escaped prosecution.

As head of Mississippi Public Broadcasting, Ronnie worked to produce a documentary on Fannie Lou Hamer that has been shown on scores of public broadcasting stations across the nation. He also championed documentaries on Freedom Summer and the 1962 integration of the University of Mississippi.

Ronnie, 60, has been featured by the HistoryMakers with a video story housed at the Library of Congress and was in the inaugural class of the top 25 most influential African Americans in Mississippi. He has also been a Pulitzer Prize judge four times. In public media, he served six years on the PBS national Board of Directors.

Amanda Barrett

Amanda is vice president & head of news audience at The Associated Press in New York. She oversees digital news, news coordination and newsroom talent development.

The digital news team works with colleagues throughout the AP to produce award-winning digital storytelling and curates AP’s customer and audience platforms. She also leads the Nerve Center, the hub of AP’s global newsroom, which serves as a center for news coordination, editorial customer engagement and standards.

In 2020, she created an Inclusive Journalism Initiative focused on broadening the global AP news report to bring in more diverse audiences and viewpoints. She also works to recruit a wide range of journalists and mentors staff and colleagues across the industry as they seek to create fulfilling career paths.

Amanda started in journalism as a teenager when she attended a minority journalism program at The Roanoke (Va.) Times. She worked in sports there and at the Orlando Sentinel before spending 10 years at Newsday in New York in a variety of editing roles in the newsroom and for the news organization’s online sites.
Jahna Berry

Jahna is Mother Jones’ chief operating officer, based in San Francisco. Before joining Mother Jones, she was head of content operations at Wired, where she played a key role in developing strategies that increased digital subscriptions, and opened Wired’s first permanent retail store.

Earlier in her career, Jahna was Mother Jones’ director of product and managed the publication’s award-winning 2016 digital redesign. The project helped Mother Jones win the Magazine of the Year award from the American Society of Magazine Editors in 2017. She has been a writer and editor at several publications, including the San Francisco Business Times, the Arizona Republic, the Contra Costa Times (now called the East Bay Times), and the San Francisco Recorder.

Mark Contreras

Mark is an experienced chief executive officer and board member. He has spent more than 3 decades leading local media businesses for Capital Cities/ABC; Pulitzer, Inc.; The E.W. Scripps Company; Calkins Media and Connecticut Public Broadcasting.

He has served on the board of directors of three private companies—GFR Media, Woodward Communications, Inc and Highlights for Children—as well as top leadership roles at the Newspaper Association of America and The American Press institute. He serves on the board of Report for America and several other non-profits. Contreras holds an A.B. in History from the University of Chicago and an MBA from The Harvard Business School. He is a Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute.

Mark has been married to Marybeth Sughrue for 37 years and has one son, Michael, who lives and works in New York City.
Richard Green

Richard is an Ohio native whose first byline appeared when he was 15. For the past 40 years, he relentlessly protected the First Amendment, delivered consequential journalism and built high-performing teams that pursue and produce fair and fearless content.

Richard has been a reporter, assignment editor, senior editor and president/publisher in my career with stops at The Coshocton (Ohio) Tribune, Chillicothe (Ohio) Gazette, Cincinnati Enquirer, The Desert Sun in Palm Springs, Calif., the Des Moines Register, The Record in Bergen County, N.J., The (Louisville) Courier Journal and The Press Democrat in Santa Rosa, Calif.

He cherishes the responsibilities that come with being a journalist – making a difference for readers and recruiting/developing the next generation of reporters. Richard was proud to be editor of The Courier Journal when it won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news, a 2021 Peabody Award with ABC News for our joint investigation of the fatal police shooting of Breonna Taylor and a 2022 Pulitzer finalist for public service and breaking news for our exhaustive Taylor coverage.

Saira Joseph

Saira is a strategic and results-oriented digital media executive with experience in business development, strategic planning, financial plan achievement and new product development across multiple industries including, media, entertainment and non-profit industries. She is a highly driven leader with a proven track record of fiscal discipline and creating profitability in challenging environments and of building and leading teams to execute. Outstanding business partnering and influencing skills have enabled her success within complex, matrix environments.

Saira’s areas of expertise are in strategic deal negotiation, partner management, financial planning and management, product innovation, new media, subscriber acquisition and retention, content licensing and distribution, revenue and profit improvement, business strategy, general management (business operations, team building, leadership), marketing, consumer research, mobile, product development, video monetization, and e-commerce.
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, Susan 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.

Susan 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.

Delano Massey

Delano is an award-winning journalist with about 20 years of experience as a reporter, editor, producer, professor, and manager in print, broadcast, and digital media.

He currently works at Axios and has worked at CNN, the Associated Press, News 5 Cleveland, WKYT and the Lexington-Herald Leader.
Yasmin Namini

Yasmin is a digital media consultant and adviser to media companies worldwide. She is the former chief consumer officer of The New York Times where she led its print and digital consumer revenue business, marketing and consumer insights through March 2015.

Today, she advises leading media companies worldwide on strategic business and revenue development, digital transformation and direct-to-consumer monetization strategies.

Her global client roster includes distinguished media brands Aftenposten/Schibsted Media Group, Norway; Anandabazar Patrika (ABP) Group, India; El Tiempo, Colombia; Media24, South Africa; TVN24, Poland; Nikkei, Japan; and McClatchy, Gannett and Advance Local.

Yasmin is actively involved in the news media industry and a frequent speaker at industry events. She is a board member of The Bureau of Investigative Journalism (U.K.). She has a bachelor’s in Psychology from Maryland and a master’s in Applied Statistics from Villanova.

Raju Narisetti

Raju's current role as Leader, Global Publishing at McKinsey & Company, is the latest in a 32-year global career in media and publishing, during which he has created, reimagined and managed major media organizations in North America, Europe and Asia, as well as being on the frontlines of digital transformation challenges and new ventures in publishing.

Raju worked as a journalist at The Wall Street Journal where, over 14 years, he went from a Reporting Intern to be the Editor of WSJ Europe, and later Managing Editor, Digital, of the global WSJ, and part of a team that won the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News for 9/11 coverage. At The Washington Post, Raju was the Managing Editor who helped start and shape the newspaper's print/digital transformation. At both WSJ and Washington Post, Raju was the youngest and first person of color on their mastheads.

Raju is also the founder of Mint (livemint.com), India’s business news brand. After his journalism stint, as a media business executive, he was Senior Vice President of Strategy for News Corp, and later CEO of the Gizmodo Media Group, which then encompassed a group of digital journalism sites that included Gizmodo, The Onion, Jezebel, DeadSpin, Lifehacker, and The Root. Prior to joining McKinsey in January 2020, he was a journalism educator, leading the Knight Bagehot Fellowships in Economics and Business Journalism at Columbia University, where he also was a Professor of Professional Practice at the School of Journalism.

An alum of the World Economic Forum’s Young Global Leader cohort, Raju is also a Board Trustee of the Wikimedia Foundation, which oversees and supports the global Wikimedia platform, and where he heads the Talent & Culture Board Committee. He lives in New York City.
Sonya Ross

Sonya is managing editor of Pulitzer Prize-winning non-profit newsroom Inside Climate News, and founder of Black Women Unmuted, a media start-up devoted to reporting on the political engagement of Black women in the United States. She launched Black Women Unmuted after a 33-year career at The Associated Press. She is The AP's first Black woman White House reporter and, in 1999, became the first Black woman elected to the board of the White House Correspondents Association.

Sonya was the pool reporter aboard Air Force One with President George W. Bush during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, also an historic first. In 2002, she became an editor for AP, directing Washington coverage of international affairs/national security, and domestic regional news. In 2010, she established specialty race & ethnicity coverage at AP that transformed the approach to gathering news for and about people of color.

She joined Inside Climate News in 2022 with an eye toward expanding and deepening coverage that focuses on the impact of climate change on people of color. She was inducted into the Society of Professional Journalists' DC Chapter Hall of Fame in 2018. Sonya was the founding chair of the political reporting task force for the National Association of Black Journalists and serves on the boards of the Washington Press Club Foundation, the SPJ Foundation and the National Newspaper Publishers Association Fund. She is a member of the Journalism & Women's Symposium.

Frontline Editors & Managers

Ernesto Aguilar

Ernesto is director of radio programming at KQED in San Francisco. He leads a range of content initiatives and ensures broadcast continuity at the Bay Area's top broadcaster. In addition, he writes the newsletter OIGO, which covers public media’s efforts to engage Latino audiences; and serves as treasurer of the board of directors of the Association of Independents in Radio.

Ernesto’s career has traversed daily newspapers and alternative weeklies to public radio news and program director roles. He joins KQED after serving as Executive Director of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters, where he served the content, revenue, engagement and organizational capacity endeavors of more than 200 stations nationwide for five years.

A 2019 Maynard Institute for Journalism Education Fellow (Advanced Leadership) and Sulzberger Executive Leadership Fellow, Ernesto has a B.A. in journalism, with minors in sociology and Women's Studies from the University of Houston.
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, she 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.

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

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. Maria was born in Washington, D.C., two years after her parents left Cuba in exile. She now lives in St. Petersburg, Florida with her husband, and they have two grown children.
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, Sandra 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.

Sandra 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.

Michael is a partner with Editors on Call LLC, a family-owned business that connects clients needing editorial and related services with the right talent.

Previously, he was vice president for diversity and inclusion at The Philadelphia Inquirer, where he had also been vice president and editor for reader engagement. He has also served as managing editor of The Inquirer.

For more than 10 years, he was editor of the Philadelphia Daily News. Under his leadership, the Daily News won numerous national, state and local awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting in 2010.

Michael has worked at The Wall Street Journal, The Courier-Journal in Louisville and the Democrat and Chronicle in Rochester. His professional career began with a year-long internship at the Minneapolis Tribune.

He is on the board of visitors at Temple University's Lew Klein School of Media and Communications and has been a Pulitzer Prizes juror. He has been honored twice by the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, receiving the President's and Trailblazer awards. He was given the Delta Sigma Theta sorority's Lillian Award for outstanding service to journalism. He received the Robert G. McGruder Award for Diversity Leadership from Associated Press Media Editors in 2014.
In 2016, he was selected one of 125 persons of distinction by his alma mater, Roman Catholic High School in Philadelphia, on its 125th anniversary. In 2017, he was inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame.

His first book, “Obama's Legacy: What He Accomplished as President,” was published in September 2016. He is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and has a master’s degree from the Missouri School of Journalism.

Leslie Eaton

Leslie is senior editor for investigations at The Marshall Project. Projects she edited won the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting, the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting, the Harry Frank Guggenheim Award for Excellence in Criminal Justice Reporting and the Collier Prize for State Government Accountability.

She ran the award-winning investigations team at The Dallas Morning News from 2016 through 2018. She previously served as Texas bureau chief for The Wall Street Journal and was a reporter at The New York Times from 1994 to 2008.

Shelby Grad

As deputy managing editor for news, Shelby supervises the Los Angeles Times’ daily report on all platforms. He manages a team that includes Audience Engagement, the News Desk, the Multiplatform Editing Desk, Utility Journalism and editors overseeing A1 and the weekend edition.

Shelby came to The Times as a community stringer after graduating from San Jose State University in 1993. He served as a county government and urban affairs reporter in the Orange County edition before becoming an editor. He worked on the Los Angeles city desk from 2002 to 2022, overseeing coverage of wildfires, earthquakes, epic rains, epic droughts, public corruption and celebrity misbehavior, among other things. Shelby ran the paper’s Pulitzer-winning coverage of the the USC sex abuse investigation in 2018, San Bernardino terrorist attack in 2015, the Bell corruption scandal in 2010, and the San Diego wildfires in 2003.

He served as city editor for a decade, launching L.A. Now and other digital efforts, and oversaw the California and Metro departments starting in 2014 as deputy managing editor until moving to his new role.
Jeremy Giblert

Jeremy is Northwestern University-Medill’s Knight Professor in Digital Media Strategy. Both his work and teaching focus on the content and revenue strategies of existing and emerging media companies. He explores the intersection of technology and media, examining how new tools and techniques will affect the creation, consumption and distribution of media. Jeremy also oversees the Knight Lab, a community of designers, developers, students, and educators working on experiments designed to push journalism into new spaces.

Prior to assuming the Knight Chair, Jeremy was The Washington Post's Director of Strategic Initiatives where he led an award-winning team that transformed The Post into an international, digital-first news organization. The team collaborated closely with the Post’s engineering, product design, graphics, audience, analytics and revenue teams by identifying, creating and executing unique digital products and storytelling methods. His past roles included developing a digital strategy for National Geographic, oversaw the design of The Poynter Institute industry-leading website and served as an art director for The Tampa Bay Times and The News-Press.

Andrew Heyward

Andrew is a nationally known news executive, award-winning broadcast news producer, and expert on the changing media landscape.

Andrew currently advises local TV stations on digital strategy. He is also a Research Professor at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University, where he recently completed a 3 ½ year project writing about innovation in local television news. He is now working on a new initiative developing guidelines to promote fair and accurate journalism in the “post-objectivity” newsroom. He is also a senior advisor at the Center for Constructive Communication at MIT.

Andrew was President, CBS News, from January 1996-November 2005. Before that, he was executive producer of The CBS Evening News, developed the weekly primetime program 48 Hours, and held other positions at CBS News and in local newsrooms. He is a magna cum laude graduate of Harvard with a degree in History and Literature.
Dalila Johari-Paul

Dalila-Johari is a senior editor at CNN Digital who leads the race and equality team, managing a team of digital writers. She was previously the overnight digital supervisor where she oversaw US coverage, setting news priorities for the morning shift and managing/coaching a small team of writers and editors.

She was originally hired as a news editor in 2016 for CNN Digital. The New York City native moved to Atlanta that year after working for several news outlets that included the Guardian and CNBC Digital. Previously, she held multiple editorial roles at The Star-Ledger in New Jersey. The avid reader developed her love for editing while at The Hartford Courant in Connecticut. Early in her career Dalila-Johari was a trainee at two TV news stations, but the Rutgers University graduate knew print, and now digital media, would be the best use of her talent.

A former Dow Jones newspaper fund alumna, the New York City native and Rutgers University graduate has also mentored high school journalists throughout the years.

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, John 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.

John 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.

Sudeep is senior managing editor of POLITICO, guiding national policy coverage across dozens of beats. Since joining POLITICO in 2017, he has led journalists on a wide range of teams including the White House, Playbook, digital operations, live events and audio. He also served as the lead editor for newsroom administration and directed the newsroom's diversity strategy.

Sudeep previously spent a decade in The Wall Street Journal’s Washington bureau, where he was an economics editor directing coverage of U.S. and international economic news. He joined the Journal in 2007 as a U.S. economics reporter covering the Federal Reserve and financial crisis and later served as international economics correspondent, covering developments across the White House, Treasury Department, IMF and World Bank.

He arrived in the capital as a Washington correspondent for The Dallas Morning News, covering a wide range of policy issues including energy, transportation, technology and immigration. He started his career in Texas as a reporter covering the energy industry and business issues before the Texas Legislature. A Texas native, Sudeep graduated from Brown University with a degree in biomedical ethics and history.

Debra Simmons

Debra is executive editor of History & Culture at National Geographic where she also helps direct editorial strategic diversity initiatives. She was a 2016 Nieman fellow at Harvard University.

Debra was managing editor and editor of The Plain Dealer in Cleveland for seven years before joining the newspaper’s parent company, Advance Local, as a vice president.

A 35-year news veteran, she has extensive reporting, editing and senior news management experience. She was editor of the Akron Beacon Journal and an editor and reporter at The Virginian-Pilot in
Norfolk, the Detroit Free Press, the Hartford Courant and the Syracuse Herald-Journal.

Debra, the immediate past board chair of the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education, has also been president of the Associated Press Media Editors Association and a board member of the American Society of News Editors and the International Women’s Media Foundation. She is a graduate of Syracuse University’s College of Arts & Sciences and the S.I. Newhouse

Julia Turner

As deputy managing editor for entertainment, audio and strategy at the Los Angeles Times, Julia runs coverage of culture and the entertainment industry. She also oversees the newsroom’s podcasts and works with newsroom leadership to develop and implement editorial strategy for the paper.

Before joining the Los Angeles Times in November 2018, Julia was the editor-in-chief of Slate. During her four years in that role, she expanded the online magazine’s audience, its podcast network, and its membership program, and the journalism Slate published earned numerous accolades, among them a Polk Award for “Sixteen Shots,” Jamie Kalven’s investigation into the killing of Laquan McDonald by Chicago police and a National Magazine Award for “Slow Burn,” Slate’s history podcast.

Julia first joined Slate in 2003, and also served as deputy editor, as culture editor, and as a reporter and critic covering television, media and design during her time there. For more than a decade, she’s also been one of the co-hosts of the Slate Culture Gabfest podcast.

Born in Boston, Julia is the daughter of two journalists who met working at the Boston Globe. She graduated from Brown, where she studied history, and got her start at Time Inc., where she worked first in magazine development and then at Sports Illustrated Women.

Benét Wilson

Benét is the director of the Poynter-Koch Media and Journalism Fellowship, a year-long program designed to train early-career journalists. She was previously a senior editor and travel/aviation writer for The Points Guy. She serves on the board of Mercer University’s Center for Collaborative Journalism and has served on the Online News Association and the National Association of Black Journalists boards. She is a strong advocate for media diversity, mentoring and career navigation.

Benét has moderated workshops and webinars on topics including resumes/cover letters, digital journalism, branding and social media. She graduated from American University in Washington, D.C., with a B.A. in broadcast journalism. She resides in San Antonio, Texas.
Investigative Storytelling

Ko Bragg

Ko is a writer and editor based in and focused on the U.S. South. She is currently an editor at The Markup, and you can find her work in The Atlantic, Harper's Bazaar, Mother Jones, Scalawag, Columbia Journalism Review, and more.

Reena Flores

Reena is the supervising senior producer on The Washington Post's audio team. She works as a senior editor and manager of The Post's flagship news podcast, "Post Reports." She has produced some of The Post's most ambitious investigative work, including the six-part podcast series “Broken Doors,” on the use of no-knock warrants by law enforcement.

She also led production on the Post's first long-form investigative podcast, "Canary: The Washington Post Investigates," on the aftermath of a sexual assault and its reverberations through D.C.'s criminal justice system. “Canary” was named one of Apple's best podcasts of the year in 2020 and was the recipient of a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award and a national Edward R. Murrow award. Before joining The Post, Flores was a video and podcast producer at Politico. She was also a digital political reporter and video producer for CBS News's Washington bureau.
Josh Hinkle

As director of investigations & innovation at KXAN-TV in Austin, Josh has led its duPont-Columbia and IRE award-winning investigative team on multiple platforms. He also heads the station's political coverage as executive producer and host of “State of Texas,” a weekly program focused on the Texas Legislature and election and seen in 14 markets statewide. His work on the show has been honored three times with the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism — in 2015 for coverage of the women’s health debate, 2017 for an exposé on border security funding and 2019 for an investigation into financial questions surrounding Texas oil and gas regulators. The show also earned seven consecutive Emmys.

In 2018, the Society of Professional Journalists awarded “Fallen,” an investigative documentary he produced about fatal police shootings and officers’ mental health training, a national Sigma Delta Chi Award for best large-market documentary. In the same year, “DENIED,” an investigative project he produced about police transparency during in-custody death cases, won an Emmy for investigative series.

In 2019, he launched “Catalyst,” the station’s first podcast series, which accompanies the multiplatform investigations “Mayberry Texas” about flaws in the state’s missing persons system, “A History of Mass Violence” about four decades of mass shootings in Texas and “Dead & Undone” about people dying in police custody. “Mayberry Texas” was a national finalist for an Online Journalism Award and Emmy winner for journalistic enterprise in 2019. The inaugural season of “Catalyst” won a 2020 National Edward R. Murrow Award, and a collection of “KXAN Investigates” digital projects he led won a national Murrow in the multimedia category that year.

In 2020, Josh and his team also debuted “Locked in Limbo,” a digital-first investigation highlighting mental competency challenges among Texas inmates. It won Emmys for investigative series and journalistic enterprise. In addition to its own podcast season, the project featured a solutions journalism approach to storytelling. It’s a concept Josh has helped to implement at KXAN and Nexstar through initiatives such as 2019’s “Save Our Students: Solutions for Wellness & Safety” and 2020’s “Pandemic PASS or FAIL: Solutions for Education Equity,” a nationwide project focused on the coronavirus and its disproportionate impact on some students. The latter was a national recipient of Mental Health America’s Media Award and a finalist for the National Association of Broadcasters Leadership Foundation’s Service to America Award.

Josh is on the Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE) board of directors and is a member of the Society of Professional Journalists and NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists. He has a bachelor’s in Journalism and Spanish from Oklahoma State University, a master’s in Broadcast Journalism and Public Policy from the University of Missouri and teaches Broadcast Journalism at St. Edward’s University.
Kamala Kelkar

Kamala is the deputy editor of investigations for NPR. She has 15 years of reporting and editing experience, including as head of investigations for KPCC/LAist, as deputy managing editor for Spotlight PA, and as a digital investigations reporter for PBS NewsHour.

Having lived and worked across the country and world, she recently returned to her homeland of Los Angeles. This is her second year as a Maynard 200 mentor. She knows that fellow BIPOC journalists are the ones charged with holding the industry accountable for its inequities, and that the key to thriving is through maintaining solid bonds that transcend organizations and bylines.

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.
Nina Martin

Nina is an editor at Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting. From 2013 through March 2021 she was a reporter at ProPublica, covering sex and gender issues, with a special interest in women's health and racial equity. Her "Lost Mothers" project with NPR, examining maternal mortality in the U.S., inspired sweeping changes to maternal health policy at the provider, state and federal levels and won numerous awards.

Previously, she worked at San Francisco and Health magazines, the Baltimore Sun, the Washington Post, the International Herald Tribune, the San Francisco Chronicle/Examiner, and New America Media. Nina has a B.A. in public policy from Princeton University and an MSJ from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. She is based in Berkeley CA.

Emmanuel Martinez

Emmanuel is an investigative data reporter for The Washington Post. He previously held the same position at The Markup, the nonprofit newsroom focusing on tech and algorithmic accountability.

His work has largely focused on access to homeownership. His investigative work at The Markup further exposed discriminatory lending practices that lenders had previously denied. The investigation sparked the Justice Department, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency to create a program to combat modern-day redlining.

While at Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting, Emmanuel analyzed 31 million housing records to prove that people of color were being routinely denied mortgages in 61 major U.S. metro areas.

He has also worked on a tool to help match unidentified bodies with missing person reports, reported on why wildfires in the West are growing larger and sparking closer to homes, and has investigated water shortages in California's Central Valley, which produces one fourth of the nation’s food.

He has won an Alfred I. duPont Columbia University Award, a George Foster Peabody Award and a Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting. In 2019, he was a Pulitzer Prize co-finalist in explanatory reporting.

A graduate of the University of California Irvine, Emmanuel has a master's from the University of Southern California, where he studied radio and data journalism.
Brenda Medina

Brenda is an investigative reporter with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. She worked on the Pandora Papers, the largest global journalism collaboration to date, based on a leak of millions of secret financial records. She also reported on the Uber Files, an investigation into the ride-hailing giant’s chaotic worldwide expansion.

Prior to joining ICJ in 2021, Brenda was a senior reporting fellow at ProPublica, in New York. Before that, she worked for the Miami Herald and el Nuevo Herald, where she reported in English and Spanish. At the Herald, she covered local government and immigration and worked on investigations about public corruption, housing and labor issues.

Brenda is from the Dominican Republic. She studied journalism and international studies at the University of South Florida and Hillsborough Community College, in Tampa.

Ileana Najarro

Ileana is a reporter for Education Week covering how race and opportunity play out in schools across the country. She previously wrote for the Tampa Bay Times and the Houston Chronicle.

She won the National Association of Hispanic Journalists’ Elaine Rivera Civil Rights and Social Justice award for a series on a Texas law’s impact on undocumented immigrants, and she reported in El Salvador as an International Women’s Media Foundation Adelante fellow. She grew up in Los Angeles, Calif., and is the daughter of Salvadoran immigrants.
David Neal

David is Indianapolis born and raised, Pike Township and Indiana University educated. He stayed in South Beach and Little Havana in adulthood, and his work life has been diverse as his family (Black, melanin-deficient, Native American, Christian, Jewish, Islamic, atheist).

Over 33 years at The Miami Herald, he made his name locally to one generation of readers covering the Florida Panthers and the National Hockey League and to the current generation writing about restaurants and supermarkets that fail inspection and food and product recalls.

David was part of our first wave of reporters into South Miami-Dade after Hurricane Andrew in 1992 and part of our early coverage of the Surfside high rise collapse in 2021. He also writes about professional misconduct in the medical and legal professions.

Herb Pinder

Herb started in January as editor of the Race & Justice Unit at WNYC and Gothamist, New York Public Radio. He spent the prior seven years at the Asbury Park Press, New Jersey, where as senior manager/content he worked with statehouse, specialty and local government writers, and helped guide investigative and accountability reporting. Earlier, he was the longtime opinion editor of The Journal News in Westchester, New York, where he wrote opinion/perspective articles and moderated hundreds of livestreamed community forums.

Earlier still, he took a detour from journalism to earn a law degree from Temple University in Philadelphia and practice in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Years earlier, as assistant state/region editor at The News Journal in Delaware, he directed statehouse, Washington Bureau, and city hall reporting, and served in reporting and editorial board roles as well. He lives in Manhattan, where he volunteers with Achilles International, which helps athletes with disabilities participate in mainstream sports.
Disha Raychaudhuri

Disha is a data journalist at Reuters where she works on legal data stories. Before joining Reuters, she was a data reporter at The Star-Ledger in New Jersey.

She moved to the U.S. in 2016 for a graduate degree at the University of Southern California, after a career in India and Bangladesh covering education and producing oral history projects. Her recent work has won several awards, including the IRE Freedom of Information Award, the ONA Knight Award for Public Service and the ONA University of Florida Award for Investigative Data Journalism. She has also been a finalist for the Livingston Award for Local Journalism.

Romina Ruiz

Romina is USA TODAY’s White House editor where she works to drive some of the biggest stories on the politics beat. She joined in 2020 as a national enterprise reporter.

Previously, she was an Investigative Fellow at the Miami Herald. She has worked in Paris, Cuba, and Israel for France24, El Mundo, and Haaretz. She was also a foreign correspondent out of Central America for CNN and The Associated Press.

Neena Satija

Neena is an investigative reporter for the Houston Chronicle. She was previously an investigative reporter and radio producer for the Texas Tribune and Reveal, a national radio show and podcast. In Texas, Neena’s stories about the Houston region’s vulnerability to hurricanes and torrential rainfall proved prescient when Hurricane Harvey hit months later.

She has also investigated corruption in Border Patrol, the failures of Texas foster care and the state’s broken indigent defense system. Her work has won a Peabody Award and two national Edward R. Murrow awards for investigative reporting.

Honors and Awards: Edward R. Murrow Award for Investigative Reporting, 2018; Peabody Award, 2017; Livingston Award for Young Journalists, Finalist, 2017; Edward R. Murrow Award for Investigative Reporting, 2017
Bernice Yeung

Bernice is the managing editor of Berkeley Journalism’s Investigative Reporting Program (IRP).

Previously, she was a reporter for ProPublica, where she was a member of reporting teams that uncovered flaws in the U.S. food safety system, examined the impact of COVID-19 on meatpacking workers, and chronicled the criminal justice system’s failures in handling sexual assault cases.

As a reporter with Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting, she collaborated with the IRP on two multi-platform projects, “Rape in the Fields” and “Rape on the Night Shift,” which exposed the extent of on-the-job sexual violence against immigrant farmworkers and night-shift janitors. Those projects led to her first book, In a Day’s Work: The Fight to End Sexual Violence Against America’s Most Vulnerable Workers (The New Press, 2018), which was honored with the PEN America/John Galbraith Award for Nonfiction and was a finalist for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize.

The collaborative reporting she has done as part of various investigative teams has been a finalist for the 2021 Pulitzer Prize, and has received honors such as a National Press Club Award, a George Polk Award, a Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award and a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award. In 2015-2016, she was a Knight-Wallace Fellow at the University of Michigan.

Media Entrepreneurship

Leroy Adams

Leroy is the Founder of The Buddy Pass, a travel magazine and podcast that provides Black millennials with travel tips and resources by way of inspirational storytelling and creative design.

Before starting The Buddy Pass, Leroy co-founded BLK GEN, a creative events brand in China. He also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia, where he led an international campaign to construct classrooms and participated in malaria awareness projects. After successfully connecting Black creatives and artists in Beijing with local businesses and building classrooms for high school students in Ethiopia, Leroy now publishes The Buddy Pass magazine, a publication that addresses the problems and scenarios of Black millennial travelers and want-to-be-travelers while also providing them with entertainment and news relevant to them.

Leroy enjoys traveling (obviously) and watching Black cinema from the 1990’s (come on Love N Basketball).
Sarah Allen

Sarah has 20 years of experience working in various areas of media; including video production, online media and writing. Shortly after graduating college, she moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in broadcast media and was hired as one of the first employees for a start-up network called the Tennis Channel, which has since been on the air for 20 years. She also got on the ground floor of the now defunct, Current TV, founded by former Vice President, Al Gore. She has a Bachelor’s degree in radio & TV from San Francisco State University, is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and has served as a board member for the Bay Area Black Journalists Association since 2011.

She has also served as a board member for the last 4 years at the Maynard Institute, a non-profit dedicated to promoting diversity in newsrooms nationwide. Sarah loves connecting people through community organizing and event planning. In August, 2019 she hosted a panel discussion in Miami at the National Association of Black Journalists convention with actor/rapper, Ice Cube and the BIG3 basketball league on Diversity in Sports. In October, 2019 she negotiated an autobiography book deal for former NBA player, Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf, called “In the Blink of An Eye” released by Kaepernick Publishing in October, 2022. She is an executive producer on Abdul-Rauf’s feature documentary, STAND, slated to be released on Showtime Network in early 2023.

Charmayne Brown

Charmayne is a Morning News Anchor for Good Day Virginia in Roanoke, Virginia. She is also an Associate Professor of Practice in multimedia journalism at Virginia Tech.

Charmayne is an award-winning journalist with more than 25 years of industry experience. She’s been a managing editor, producer, reporter; both general assignments and investigative, and an anchor. Charmayne has worked in Fort Myers and Jacksonville, Florida; Harrisonburg, Virginia; and both Charleston and Spartanburg, South Carolina. Throughout her television career, along with news of the day and human-interest stories, she has endured hours of hurricane coverage, a Super Bowl, and several Presidential Campaigns.

Charmayne graduated from The College of Charleston with a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications. She went on to receive a Master of Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University in Florida. She earned a Doctorate Degree in Rhetorics, Communication, and Information Design at Clemson University. Charmayne Brown is the proud mother of three young men. She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., The Links Incorporated, The National Association of Black Journalists, and a class of 2021 Maynard 200 graduate of Maynard Institute Journalism Education.
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.

Jon Funabiki

In a career spanning journalism, education and philanthropy, Jon is an emeritus professor of journalism at San Francisco State University, founded the nonprofit Renaissance Journalism, launched the Ford Foundation’s global grant program supporting the news media, and covered East and Southeast Asia for The San Diego Union.

Current projects include serving as producer of the documentary film, “Beyond Yellowface,” and designing an art exhibit, “The Lost Pottery of a Nisei Soldier.” The Northern California chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists honored him with the Distinguished Service to Journalism Award, and the San Francisco State University Journalism Department named him its Distinguished Alumnus. He was a Knight Fellow at Stanford University, a Jefferson Fellow at the East-West Center, and a NEH Professional Fellow at UC-Santa Barbara.
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.

Jonathan Higgins

Jonathan is an educator, professor, national speaker, freelance journalist, thought leader and media critic who is passionate about television and film. A Culture Strike 2021 Disruptor and Twitter Spaces Spark Creator, Dr. Higgins is a trailblazer who is creating, sharing, and crafting the stories their ancestors didn’t get to tell.

Jonathan has held positions at both Chernin Entertainment & Edith Productions and currently consults at United Artists, Amazon, and other media leaders. They have worked on inclusion projects with leaders in entertainment including Fox, the NFL, Apple, Disney, Instagram, Buzzfeed and GLAAD. They have also been a featured speaker for SXSW & TEDx and also competed on the latest season of Netflix’s hit show, “Nailed It”.

They are the creator, executive producer and host of the “Black Fat Femme Podcast” which was developed via IHeartMedia’s Next Up Initiative and named “top Black podcast to listen to” by Essence Magazine in 2022. Jonathan holds a doctorate in educational justice and regularly writes and lectures on what liberation means for Black, queer, fat, non-binary people.
Travers Johnson

Travers is the founder & CEO of Queerency, the leading LGBTQ+ business news source. He is an award-winning content strategist and editor with more than 14 years of experience in digital media, print publishing, and email marketing at companies including Penguin Random House, Edelman, Mailchimp, and Scholastic.

He was trained at Morehouse College and Georgetown University, and is passionate about helping people tell their stories across various mediums.

Bruce Koon

Bruce is a veteran news executive who has researched whether U.S. newsrooms value diversity and a part-time educator who has taught college and high school journalism students.

Bruce completed two market scans of U.S. newsroom diversity strategies in 2018 and 2019 and wrote a third paper in 2021 on journalism training programs for the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education. He taught “The Social Impact of Journalism” at San Francisco State University in 2019 and guest lectured for the “History of Online News” class at the University of California at Berkeley in 2022.

Bruce is a Senior Fellow of the University of Southern California Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership & Policy. Previously, Koon was News Director for KQED, an NPR- and PBS-affiliated station, for nearly eight years, and held editor positions during 11 years with Knight Ridder’s digital divisions, including Executive News Editor. He was a founding board member of the Online News Association. His newspaper reporter and business editor career included the Wall Street Journal, the National Observer, San Francisco Chronicle, San Francisco Examiner and the Oakland Tribune.
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 to 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.

Diana Lu

Diana is the Director of the Knight-Lenfest Local News Transformation Fund, an independent joint venture of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and The Lenfest Institute for Journalism. With a focus on national efforts and the Philadelphia ecosystem, the Fund seeks to strengthen local journalism at scale by supporting journalistic excellence and serving the information needs of communities.

Diana has spent more than ten years in the nonprofit, public, and media sectors working on economic development, placemaking, and resource redistribution. She is also the Community Engagement Editor for Root Quarterly, a Philadelphia-based print journal. Previously she managed the Germantown Info Hub, a community-centered journalism project that shares information for and by Germantown residents, and served as the Community Engagement Editor for WHYY’s PlanPhilly. Prior to media, Diana worked in economic development as the Director of Partnerships and Outreach for Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses, a public-private initiative focused on strengthening businesses through revenue generation and local job creation.

Diana holds a Masters in City Planning from the University of Pennsylvania Stuart Weitzman School of Design and a B.A. in Urban Studies and French from Vassar College.
Micaela Rodriguez

Micaela is the managing producer of podcasts at KERA, the NPR member station in Dallas. She leads the on-demand audio department at the station.

Before joining KERA she made podcasts at Roll Call, POLITICO, NPR and LWC Studios. She is a member of NAHJ, ONA, a previous Maynard 200 fellow and an alum of the Next Generation Radio fellowship.

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.