

BIOS

Instructors, Guest Speakers and Staff

Laura Brache reports for WFAE/La Noticia, a joint project of the Charlotte, North Carolina, NPR affiliate and the largest Spanish language newspaper in North Carolina. She focuses on immigration and deportation issues affecting the area's booming Hispanic population and engulfing local governments and police. Brache is part of the team at WFMY News in Greensboro, North Carolina that won the Regional Edward R. Murrow Award for social media for its coverage of storm damage from a series of tornados. She is a multilingual multimedia journalist from North Carolina who was born in Massachusetts and raised in the Dominican Republic.

Roger Christman is the Department Chair of Art, Communication and SGD, and an associate professor, at William Peace University. He is currently working on a documentary about the Lacandones of Chiapas, Mexico, where he has spent several weeks filming. He has an extensive background in documenting for the U.S. Army as well. Christman has also created numerous media productions for UNC Hospitals, National programming for Kohl's and JC Penny's Department stores, The Pantry, Charles & Colvard and AER Controls. He's also created award-winning programs for I.B.M., Ford Motor Company, McDonalds, Glaxo Smith Kline, BB&T, Duke Energy and others.

Mary Cornatzer serves as the national editor at States Newsroom, a nonprofit based in Chapel Hill that supports newsrooms in 20 state capitols. Before joining States Newsroom, Cornatzer was a longtime reporter and editor at The News & Observer in Raleigh, where she was at various times responsible for coverage of both business and state government/politics. She was also the N&O's music critic.

Brandon Crews is an assistant professor of simulation and game design at William Peace University. He has been teaching in higher education since 2008 where he has developed non-linear instructional information and video tutorials for digital art and game design. Crews is a technical animator who focuses on 3D character rigging, animation and motion capture for video games and entertainment media. Crews has worked on M.U.S.E. Episode 1: Beyond The Shadow for iOS and Android platforms as well as Fortnite for all current platforms. He has extensive experience in traditional drawing and painting techniques, digital 2D and 3D art asset creation, animation for film and video games, and game design.

Sommer Ingram Dean is a graduate of Georgetown University Law Center who has long been an advocate for students' speech and press rights. Sommer was a student journalist at the Tiger Times at Texas High School and The Baylor Lariat in college. After college, she was a legislative and legal reporter for The Associated Press and Dallas Morning News. Sommer has worked for NPR's legal affairs correspondent, The Washington Post, and served as a law clerk for a federal judge.

Sharif Durhams was named managing editor of The (Raleigh) News & Observer and The (Durham) Herald-Sun in December after serving as an online editor for The Washington Post and a senior editor on the global programming team for CNN Digital. He is president of NLGJA: the Association of LGBTQ Journalists, an organization he joined in 2000, and he served as co-leader of the Poynter-Washington Post Leadership Academy for Diversity in Media. He was the first social media editor and digital strategist at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and a reporter at the Charlotte Observer. Sharif was the first African American editor of the University of North Carolina's student paper, The Daily Tar Heel.

Cooper Elias is director of digital strategy & analytics at MDO Holdings, where he previously served as digital marketing manager. Elias has also served as social media specialist and digital and social marketing manager for the Carolina Hurricanes. He attended NC State University for communication and public relations.

Ana Teresa Galizes is an adjunct professor and a wedding photographer from Lisbon, Portugal living in Raleigh. Galizes has turned her passion for art into a career teaching art appreciation at her alma mater, William Peace University. When she's not doing photography, she enjoys to go on nature walks with her husband and dog, visit new cities and countries and be in the front row at rock concerts.

Thomas Goldsmith writes about aging issues, government health policy and other topics. A native North Carolinian with roots in Scotland County, Goldsmith attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and got his start in journalism at the Tennessean in Nashville in 1983, coming to Raleigh in 2003. He spent 33 years as an editor and reporter for daily newspapers before retiring as Wake County editor at the Raleigh News & Observer in May 2016.

Alex Granados is senior reporter for EducationNC. Prior to joining EducationNC, Alex was a professional freelancer, writing for publications like The News & Observer, Business North Carolina and the Raleigh Public Record. Before

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that, he spent three and a half years as a producer for The State of Things on WUNC-FM. He started his career as a city government reporter, editorial page editor and reader representative for the News & Messenger newspaper in Prince William County, Virginia.

Marti Maguire is assistant professor of communication at William Peace University and adviser to The Peace Times. In her career as a journalist, she covered local and state government, education and other topics for The News & Observer and freelance clients including the Reuters News Agency. Before earning her master's degree from the UNC-Chapel Hill, she was a high school teacher and publications adviser in Florida. She earned her bachelor's degree in English at the University of Florida, with a minor in Spanish.

Victoria Mims is a junior at William Peace University and Editor-in-Chief of The Peace Times. She is majoring in communications with a concentration in public relations and a minor in marketing. She frequently speaks at events, including the closing speech at her high school graduation. She is serving as a resident assistant at WPU and served as an orientation leader in 2020. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career that involves writing, speaking, and impacting people's lives.

Joseph Neff, who currently works as a staff writer for the Marshall Project, is an investigative reporter who worked at The News & Observer of Raleigh, N.C., and The Associated Press. He was a Pulitzer finalist and has won awards including the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, the MOLLY National Journalism Prize, the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi and others. Neff was a John S. Knight Fellow at Stanford University.

Wade Newhouse is a professor of English and William Peace University's program director of theatre. In addition to teaching English, Dr. Newhouse is an actor and improvisational comedian whose troupe, Raleigh's Village Idiots, often performs at Peace.

Anna Pogarcic is a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill and the editor-in-chief of the independent campus newspaper, The Daily Tar Heel. She also co-founded the One Vote NC initiative, a collaborative of college newsrooms that covered the 2020 elections through a student-focused lens.

Mike Schmidt is an Emmy award winning Executive Producer on the video team at The New York Times. He has been an active leader at the intersection of digital storytelling, video and design during a time of major change in the industry. He has years of experience leading video, interactive and design teams and has developed some of the best digital projects around at places like National Geographic, CNN, Mashable and the pioneering iPad-only publication The Daily. In addition to leading the paper's design/animation work, he also leads a team of video producers and animators to develop visually innovative, high-impact editorial videos. Mike joined The Times in early 2017 to build and direct Snapchat Discover, a daily NYT edition tailored for Gen-Z on mobile devices.

Josh Shaffer has written and reported for The News & Observer for 17 years, mostly as a columnist finding offbeat people and places but more recently about the pandemic in general. He started at very small newspapers in his home state of Maryland and worked his way here and through Texas by writing thousands of stories on a daily deadline. The job is still indescribably rewarding and fun.

Olivia Slack is a junior at Meredith College. She is Co-Editor in Chief of The Meredith Herald, Meredith's student-run newspaper, and Co-Editor of The Colton Review, Meredith's literary journal.

NCSMA Director **Monica Hill** serves on the boards of the Southern Interscholastic Press Association and N.C. Open Government Coalition. She was former director of the Alabama Scholastic Press Association.

NCSMA Assistant **Meredith Ammons** is a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill. She is majoring in journalism with a concentration in graphic design.

NCSMA Assistant **Emma Davis** is a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill. She is double majoring in human development and family studies and linguistics, with a minor in speech and hearing sciences.

Teresa Leonard is former head of news research for The News & Observer in Raleigh where her job included providing research to the newsroom and maintaining the paper's digital archives. She also created and produced a local history site and a weekly book club column. She is currently on staff at the Orange County Public Library.

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NCSMA Assistant **Pete Villasmil** is a sophomore studying political science and journalism at UNC-Chapel Hill. In his free time Villasmil enjoys reading, listening to music, and discussing current events.

NCSMA Assistant **Hanna Wondmagegn** is a senior at UNC-Chapel Hill, majoring in photojournalism with a minor in food studies. During her time at UNC, she has worked on various photo projects and news stories in the local community for various publications and has studied abroad twice in 2019, traveling to 12 countries across four continents.