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North Carolina College Media Association

Erica Beshears Perel is the director of the Center for Innovation and Sustainability in Local Media. She graduated from the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media in 1998 and worked in local news for about 10 years before returning to campus to work on the professional staff at The Daily Tar Heel, UNC's independent student newspaper.

Rhema Bland joined UNC as the first permanent director of the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting. Prior to that, she spent four years working higher ed as a student media adviser for Florida Gulf Coast University and later as director of the student media program at East Carolina University. She is a veteran journalist, reporting and producing for CBS, the Florida Times-Union and the New York Daily News.

Jamey Cross covers public safety in Southeastern North Carolina at the Wilmington StarNews. Cross previously spent two years covering K-12 and higher education — and the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on education — at a daily paper in Virginia.

Tim Crothers has taught as an adjunct instructor of sportswriting and news writing at UNC since 2002. Crothers, a former senior writer at Sports Illustrated, is the author of the books *Queen of Katwe*, *The Man Watching* and co-author of *Hard Work*.

Brady Dennis is a national reporter for The Washington Post, focusing on the environment. He has also covered food and drug issues, public health crises and the economy. He previously worked for the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times and The Seattle Times.

John Drescher is a contributing editor at The Assembly, with a long career in news and management at The Washington Post, The News & Observer, The State Newspaper and The Charlotte Observer.

Adam Goldstein is senior research counsel at the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education. Goldstein was an attorney with the Student Press Law Center for 13 years, giving legal assistance to over 15,000 students, parents and others. While at the Center, he co-authored their legal textbook, *Law of the Student Press*.

Emily Burch Harris is a lecturer and newspaper adviser at N.C. A&T. She teaches advanced courses in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Allie Kelly is a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill and the university desk co-editor for The Daily Tar Heel. She previously served as the paper's assistant university editor and as a reporter for the university desk. Kelly has been a style writer for the UNC student-run fashion magazine, *Coulture*, and has been an assistant project editor and senior reporter for a project for The Trace newsroom.

Courtney Mitchell is the general manager and news adviser at The DTH Media Corp. She spent 17 years working as a writer and consultant in higher-education communications before returning to lead the DTH in 2021.

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Terence Oliver is an award-winning motion graphics producer in the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media. A pioneer in his field, Oliver has more than 30 years of experience in visual communication and developed the first collegiate motion graphics journalism courses in the United States at Ohio University and later at UNC-Chapel Hill.

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Anna Pogarcic is director of content at EducationNC, where she was previously a reporting and engagement fellow. A recent graduate of the Hussman School of Journalism and Media at UNC-Chapel Hill, she previously served as the city & state editor and the editor-in-chief of The Daily Tar Heel.

Kate Sheppard is a teaching associate professor in the UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media and a faculty fellow for the Reese News Lab. She is a senior enterprise editor at HuffPost, leading the environment and economy teams. Her writing has been recognized with awards from the Society of Environmental Journalists, the Online News Association and the Deadline Club, and featured in the Best American Science and Nature Writing.

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