

North Carolina College Media Association

Legal Crash Course

Anne Marie Tamburro is program officer with the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression. She graduated with her J.D. from the University of Florida Levin College of Law in 2021 where she was a research assistant with Brechner Center for Freedom of Information.

Lindsie Rank is student press council for FIRE. She is a 2018 J.D./M.A. graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill's Law, Media & Communication dual-degree program.

Community News Panel

Tonya Jameson is senior manager of policy and community advocacy at Leading on Opportunity, an organization focused on advancing economic mobility in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg region. Before joining Leading on Opportunity, Tonya provided consultation and campaign management services. She managed winning campaigns for Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles, District Attorney Spencer Merriweather, State representatives Brandon Lofton and Becky Carney as well City Council members Larken Egleston and Julie Eiselt. She began her career in Charlotte as a reporter and columnist for the Charlotte Observer, and later worked as online editor for Radio One Charlotte.

Mary Ramsey is a service journalism reporter with The Charlotte Observer. A native of the Carolinas, she studied journalism, political science and history at the University of South Carolina. She has also worked as a digital producer for the Arizona Republic through the Dow Jones News Fund and as a producer and breaking news reporter for the Louisville Courier Journal. During her time at the CJ, the staff won a Pulitzer Prize for breaking news and was a finalist for the Pulitzer's breaking news and public service awards.

Evan Moore is a service journalism reporter for The Charlotte Observer. He grew up in Denver, North Carolina, a community about 25 miles north of Charlotte, where he previously worked as a reporter for the Denver Citizen. There, he covered local government, growth and development, education and community events. At the Observer, he has covered topics like COVID-19 vaccine rates, car-dependency and coyotes roaming the streets of Charlotte. He is a graduate of UNC Charlotte, where he studied communication and journalism.

Glenn H. Burkens is the founder and publisher of QCity Metro. Before launching QCity Metro, Glenn was business editor and later deputy managing editor for news at The Charlotte Observer. He's been a reporter at newspapers including The Wall Street Journal, Philadelphia Inquirer, St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times and Los Angeles Times.

Copy Editing

Craig Paddock spent 25 years in the newspaper industry, working as a copy editor and page designer at The State newspaper in Columbia, S.C. and the Charlotte Observer. He left the newsroom for the classroom in 2010 and now teaches journalism as a senior lecturer at UNC Charlotte.

Engaging and Retaining an Audience

Tamia Boyd is an audience growth producer with the Charlotte Observer. Before joining the Observer, she was a breaking news reporter with the Greenville News in South Carolina.

Erik Spanberg is the managing editor at the Charlotte Business Journal, where his reporting includes an emphasis on local and state government and the business of sports. He joined the paper in 1994 after covering the legislature in his home state of Louisiana. Erik appears regularly on Charlotte NPR affiliate WFAE as part of its weekly news roundup program and is a frequent guest host on the station's interview-news program, "Charlotte Talks."

Melissa Martin is a Charlotte native and has worked at WSOC, the #1 news station in Charlotte, for 14 years, producing coverage for the Democratic National Convention, Billy Graham's death and funeral, the NC-09 congressional race investigation and numerous severe weather events and protests. Melissa is currently the manager of coverage and content, leading a team of reporters and content producers who break the news, build sources and foster enterprise and investigative journalism. Melissa has won several national and regional awards for her work, including Emmys, a DuPont and a Cronkite.

Launching Your Career

Bradley Cole is a content coordinator at WSOC-TV in Charlotte.

P'Cess Young is a project management coordinator at Wray Ward, a Charlotte marketing agency.

Alexandria Sands is a reporter with Axios Charlotte. After graduating from UNC Charlotte in 2019, Alex was a reporter at the State Port Pilot in Southport and the Port City Daily in Wilmington.

Inspiration for Your Digital Designs

Belinda Ivey teaches graphic design at UNC Charlotte. After a long career in newspapers, she co-founded a creative agency, KarBel Multimedia.

Crisis Communication

Christy Jackson is UNC Charlotte's senior director of strategic communications and works with a team that executes the University's media relations, issue management, crisis communication, campus and community communications, and content development and storytelling efforts.

Photography 101

Khadejeh Nikouyeh is an award-winning staff photojournalist at the Charlotte Observer. She graduated from Randolph Community College with an associate's degree in photojournalism. She began her career at the Greensboro News & Record where she became passionate about covering marginalized groups in her community. Khadejeh was recently named 2021-22 Hugh Morton Photographer of the Year by the North Carolina Press Association.

Everything You Need To Know About Storytelling In Five Minutes

Tommy Tomlinson is the author of the memoir "The Elephant In the Room," about life as an overweight man in a growing America. He's working on a new book about the Westminster Dog Show. Tommy is the host of the podcast "SouthBound" at WFAE, Charlotte's NPR station, and he also does weekly commentaries for the station. He has written for publications including Esquire, ESPN the Magazine, Sports Illustrated, Forbes, Garden & Gun and many others. He spent 15 years as a columnist for the Charlotte Observer, where he was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize in commentary.


Partnering for a Better Democracy: Strategies for Coupling Content and Revenue

Niya Johnson is an account manager at Flytedesk, the largest campus advertising network in the United States. She has a bachelor's in psychology from UNC Charlotte and an MBA from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

Keynote | Empathy and the Quest for Truth: Developing Through a Marginalized Lens

John Nance is an assistant clinical professor and director of clinical field placements in the Counseling Program at UNC Charlotte. As a counselor and supervisor in private practice, he has worked with adult survivors of childhood sexual trauma and torture. John is a UNC Charlotte double graduate, receiving his master's in community mental health counseling and his Ph.D. in Counseling Education and Supervision. As a member of the American Counseling Association he currently serves as ACA Southern Region Chair and as immediate past president for the Association of Adult Development and Aging. John also served as chairs of the ACA Human Rights Committee, North Carolina Counseling Association and South Carolina Counseling Association.

Managing Stress and Burnout



Jalisa Lewis serves as the Coordinator for Community Intervention for the Multicultural Mental Health & Equity Initiative at UNC Charlotte. A licensed clinical social worker, she received a masters of social work from the University of New England.

Guide to Newsletters

Alexandria Sands is a reporter with Axios Charlotte. After graduating from UNC Charlotte in 2019, Alex was a reporter at the State Port Pilot in Southport and the Port City Daily in Wilmington.

Starting from Scratch: Creating a New Publication & Leveraging Internships

Claire Hambrick is founder and creative director of Midas, a lifestyle and culture magazine, at UNC Charlotte. She recently interned at Vice Media Group's Refinery29.

So You Want to Be a Podcaster

Joni Deutsch is an award-winning audio professional and NPR veteran with 10 years of experience as a project manager, podcast marketer and audience growth specialist with a leadership approach that fosters design thinking, collaboration, innovation and inclusion. She's currently the vice president of podcast marketing and audience development at The Podglomerate. You can find Joni on social media @achangeoftune.

Magazine & Yearbook Design: Finding Your Creative Genius

Belinda Ivey teaches graphic design at UNC Charlotte. After a long career in newspapers, she co-founded a creative agency, KarBel Multimedia.