



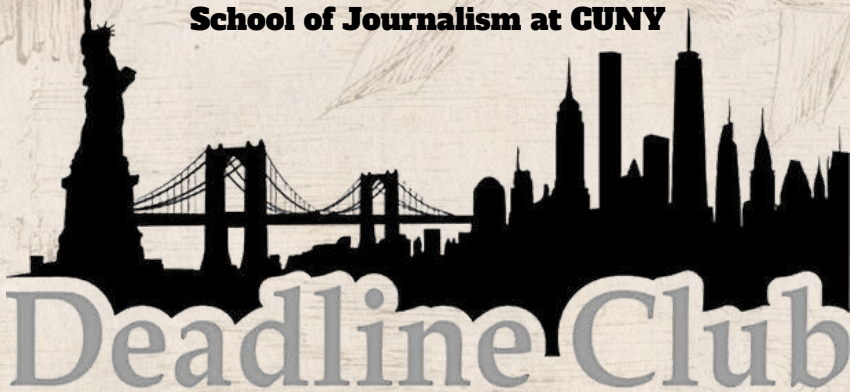
**SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL
JOURNALISTS
REGION 1 CONFERENCE**

**Reporting in
Turbulent Times**

**Hosted by The Deadline Club
of New York City**

May 2-3, 2025

**Craig Newmark Graduate
School of Journalism at CUNY**



NYC CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

A NOTE FROM OUR CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Welcome to the 2025 Region 1 Conference, hosted by the Deadline Club, the New York City chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

The conference theme, “Reporting in Turbulent Times,” reflects the increasing challenges to our profession. Now more than ever, journalists need to stand tall and stand together.

With 60 sessions over two days, the Region 1 conference offers endless opportunities for skill-building and networking. The program also includes a salute to student journalists with the SPJ Mark of Excellence Awards.

If you aren’t already a member of SPJ, we hope you’ll consider joining the nation’s most broad-based journalism organization, dedicated to encouraging the free practice of journalism and stimulating high standards of ethical behavior.

Thank you to the dedicated volunteers and presenters who believe in SPJ’s mission and helped make this conference a success. And happy birthday to the Deadline Club, celebrating a century as one of SPJ’s first professional chapters.

Claire Regan, Wagner College
Conference Chair

Michelle Watson, CNN
SPJ Region 1 Coordinator

Nick Hirshon, William Paterson University
Deadline Club President

Sanjana Bhambhani, Independent Journalist
Terry Parris Jr., The New York Times
Zhenjia Zhang, Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism
Conference Committee Members

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This year marks a milestone: the 100th anniversary of the Deadline Club. We gather this weekend in the spirit that inspired our founders: a belief that journalism matters, demands constant vigilance, and grows stronger when we learn from and support one another.

In its formative years, the Deadline Club met in The New York Times Tower in Times Square. This weekend, we honor both our past and our future by assembling again in Times Square—hosting tours of The Times and holding sessions at a journalism school whose students will help carry our club forward.

Thank you for being part of this celebration. I often tell my students that journalism is one of the most courageous professions. In turbulent times, I'm grateful that you continue reporting the truth and inspiring myself and one another.

Nick Hirshon
Deadline Club President



JOSEPH DE MARTINI

**FRIDAY
MAY 2**

9:00 - 9:50 AM

Protecting Highly Sensitive Sources: The Reporting Process With Whistleblowers, Immigrants, and Insiders

Location: Newsroom – 3rd Floor

Company whistleblowers, government insiders, immigrants at home and dissidents abroad. Journalists work with sources who put themselves at great risk to talk to us. This session uses real-world examples — Meta whistleblowers, an anonymous journalist in Afghanistan — to discuss challenges and best practices for collaborating with highly sensitive sources.

Meghnad Bose, Columbia Journalism Review

Introduction: Rochelle Estrada, Graduate Student at William Paterson University

Google Tools Overview Training Session

Location: Room 308

This hands-on training introduces journalists to free Google tools that streamline newsroom workflows and strengthen reporting—from real-time story discovery with Trends to visual storytelling with Maps and fact-checking with Explorer. Ideal for reporters and editors across all beats, the session delivers practical skills to cut through digital noise and uncover impactful stories.

Vix Reitano, Fractional Chief Marketing Officer

How AI is Unleashing a New Information Age

Location: Lab 438

Information rules the world. However, the way we consume and produce information is being revolutionized by AI, from an unquantifiable amount of AI-generated content to a flood of misinformation and disinformation. How can we stay ahead of the curve?

Fahd Rachidy, AI Entrepreneur

Depolarization Reporting Strategies for Journalists

Location: Room 446

Journalists can play a critical role in breaking cycles of toxic polarization by using conflict mediation-informed reporting strategies. The News Ambassadors initiative enlists student reporters to help local newsrooms fill gaps in underreported communities with solutions-focused stories. This chat focuses on a framework for covering contentious issues without amplifying unhealthy conflict.

Shia Levitt, News Ambassadors

**FRIDAY
MAY 2**

10:00-10:50 AM

Power in Numbers: Building Compelling, Data-Driven Stories

Location: Newsroom – 3rd Floor

It's no longer enough to build news stories around interviews alone. A credible article must be backed by data presented in an engaging and compelling way. In this hands-on session, you'll learn the skills required to become a modern journalist at the exciting intersection of data, information design and customized narratives.

Sandeep Junnarkar, CUNY

(Un)Covering UFOs: Anatomy of a Mystery

Location: Room 308

Fierce Healthcare senior writer Anastassia Gliadkovskaya and former New York Times reporter Ralph Blumenthal tackle one of journalism's most controversial topics: reporting on UFOs. In this talk sponsored by SPJ New England, Blumenthal will discuss his groundbreaking 2017 series on the Pentagon's secret UFO research program, along with his book, "The Believer: Alien Encounters, Hard Science, and the Passion of John Mack," which explores how credible science intersects—and sometimes collides—with the mysteries of extraterrestrial encounters.

*Ralph Blumenthal, The New York Times
Anastassia Gliadkovskaya*

Charting the Contamination of a Community

Location: Lab 438

Newsday editors Paul LaRocco and David M. Schwartz share the sensitivities of investigating well-known environmental catastrophes. They'll discuss their "Grumman Plume: Decades of Deceit" series, which balanced challenging a powerful corporate polluter and compliant government regulator with scrutinizing the claims of residents whose fears of health impacts often pushed up against the limits of available science.

Paul LaRocco, Newsday

David M. Schwartz, Newsday

Introduction: Rochelle Estrada, Graduate Student at William Paterson University

Finding a Voice: Reporting on My Homeland and Seeking an Audience in the U.S.

Location: Room 446

Tsisnami Sakvarlishvili will describe her reporting on her home nation of Georgia for outlets such as GogaTV and the Italian website Paese Sera. Drawing on both professional experience and personal resilience shaped by war and exile, she will place Georgia's challenges in a global context, offering perspective from the front lines of international reporting.

Tsisnami Sakvarlishvili, Political Journalist

**FRIDAY
MAY 2**

11:00-11:50 AM

Fitting in the News: Creating Personalized Interactives

Location: Newsroom – 3rd Floor

Study after study shows many people feel disconnected from the news. Here's one surefire way to engage audiences: creating personalized interactives that show people how they fit into the news — and giving them information they need to make decisions. In this session, we'll take you through conceiving and producing effective personalized interactives.

Jere Hester, CUNY

Sandeep Junnarkar, CUNY

“Your son is dead”: The personal, ethical and journalistic challenges of delivering traumatic news

Location: Room 308

NBC News digital reporter Jon Schuppe will explain how he and his colleagues gathered, processed and shared sensitive information about people whose bodies were buried in pauper's graves or used in medical research without their families' knowledge. Across two lengthy investigations into the misuse of unclaimed bodies, NBC News learned about people's deaths — and what happened to their bodies — after authorities failed to notify families with this information. Schuppe will describe how the team wrestled with how to handle those situations in a way that maintained journalistic standards while also treating traumatized sources with sensitivity and respect.

Jonathan Schuppe, NBC News

Covering Hockey in a Changing Media Landscape

Location: Lab 438

Newsday reporter Andrew Gross describes the skills he's developed to cover the National Hockey League amid shifts in the news industry. He will examine the reporter-editor dynamic and the challenge of securing coverage in a sports section often dominated by baseball, football, and basketball.

Andrew Gross, Newsday

Pressing Forward: Journalism Advocacy in Unprecedented Times

Location: Room 446

As journalism faces new and evolving challenges, organizations like the Society of Professional Journalists are crucial in advocating for press freedom, transparency, and ethical reporting. This session will explore how SPJ and other journalism organizations have navigated these unique times, championing the rights of journalists on both national and regional levels. The discussion will focus on advocacy efforts, key case studies, and the ongoing evolution of support for the industry.

Chris Vaccaro, SPJ

12:00 - 12:50 PM : LUNCH



**FRIDAY
MAY 2**

1:00 - 1:50 PM

Media Law 101

Location: Newsroom – 3rd Floor

The Student Press Freedom Initiative defends free press on campus by advocating for the rights of student journalists. This session will look into the three most common topics students ask about (defamation, privacy, and copyright) and will explore recent developments in the news industry.

Haley Gluhanich, Student Press Freedom Initiative

How do you find sources?

Location: Room 308

How do you come up with strategies to meet sources where they are? How do you create an infrastructure to work with sources to crowdsource story ideas, evidence and more? Join ProPublica's engagement reporters Maryam Jameel and Maya Miller for this session on producing community-centered journalism. You'll leave with a framework and some new tools for executing impactful journalism.

Maryam Jameel, ProPublica

Maya Miller, ProPublica

Landing Your First TV Job

Location: Lab 438

Julie Chan's career in TV has been built on her personal power of connection. This session will teach you how to tap into your heart to make a genuine connection to open doors for your career and beyond. You will learn that curiosity + compassion = connection along with other nuts and bolts that will make the difference to get the attention of news directors, executive producers or any hiring manager for the job of your dreams.

Julie Chan, News 12

They Came From Outer Space

Location: Room 446

The front page is the store window, and Anthony Locicero, a copy editor and headline writer at the New York Post, knows how to lure readers inside with just a few words. Locicero offers a behind-the-scenes look at the Post's clever headlines in a conversation with SPJ past president Claire Regan.

Anthony Locicero, New York Post

**FRIDAY
MAY 2**

2:00 - 2:50 PM

**Reporting With and For Immigrant Communities
in Turbulent Times**

Location: Newsroom – 3rd Floor

Now more than ever, it's critical to serve immigrant communities with accurate, practical information that goes beyond the headlines—and to amplify their voices during these turbulent times. Learn how Documented, a NYC-based nonprofit newsroom, uses social media to connect with immigrant communities, foster trust through two-way engagement, and counter misinformation with community-driven reporting. This session will explore how service journalism, practical guides, and culturally competent storytelling can drive impact—an award-winning approach now expanding across four language groups to better serve New York's diverse immigrant populations.

April Xu, Documented

**Beyond the Headlines: Investigating
Gun Violence and Disability**

Location: Room 308

New York Amsterdam News investigative reporter Shannon Chaffers shares how she has covered stories at the intersections of gun violence and disability. She will discuss her reporting on gun violence survivors' struggles navigating and accessing the social safety net, and their challenges finding accessible and affordable housing.

Shannon Chaffers, New York Amsterdam News

Introduction: Rochelle Estrada, Graduate Student at William Paterson University

Think Like an Editor

Location: Lab 438

We usually go by our "gut" to recognize a good story, but occasionally our gut fails us. Is there a systematic method for choosing your lead item from among dozens of worthy competitors? Former Deadline Club president Steve Dunlop, a communications trainer and writer for the CBS Evening News, presents a fun intellectual exercise to sharpen your news judgment – a hack he once learned from a news executive who needed to explain the function of editors to skeptical management. Pencil and pen/paper required.

Steve Dunlop, CBS

Google Pinpoint Training Session

Location: Room 446

Google Pinpoint is a powerful tool that helps journalists quickly analyze large volumes of documents—PDFs, images, emails, and more—using smart search, entity recognition, and automated highlights. This hands-on session, ideal for data reporters and investigative pros, will show you how to turn document dumps into compelling stories—no tech expertise required.

Vix Reitano, Fractional Chief Marketing Officer

**FRIDAY
MAY 2**

3:00 - 3:50 PM

The Power of Local and National Journalism in Tumultuous Times

Location: Newsroom – 3rd Floor

Gloria Pazmino shares her journey from covering New York's local news to reporting on national issues like immigration at CNN. She will discuss the critical role of local journalism in shaping national narratives, especially during times of crisis, and why strong local reporting remains essential, even at major networks.

*Gloria Pazmino, CNN
Host: Michelle Watson*

5:00 - 7:00 PM

Please join us for the Mark of Excellence Awards for college journalists at Nomadworks at 240 West 40th Street.

Mark of Excellence Award Finalists



**SATURDAY
MAY 3**

9:00 - 9:50 AM

**Inside “Sing Sing”: A Conversation with The Magazine
Journalist Whose Work Inspired the Critically Acclaimed Film**

Location: Newsroom – 3rd Floor

Joined by journalist Matt Caputo, John H. Richardson will discuss his October 2005 Esquire magazine story “Sing Sing Follies,” about the Rehabilitation Through the Arts program at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, New York, which offers incarcerated individuals workshops in theatre, music, dance, visual arts, writing and poetry. Richardson’s story was adapted into the 2024 movie “Sing Sing,” starring Colman Domingo.

Matt Caputo, Western Connecticut State University

John H. Richardson, Former Writer-at-Large for Esquire

**Afflicting the Comfortable: Investigating
Political Influence and Power**

Location: Room 308

WHYY reporter Kenneth Burns shares what happens when journalists challenge the powerful and amplify unheard voices. He will discuss the impact of his coverage of George Norcross, a South Jersey political powerbroker with deep ties to business and government, and the challenges that come with holding influential figures accountable.

Kenneth Burns, WHYY

Office Hours with SPJ Executive Director

Location: Room 446

Meet SPJ executive director Caroline Hendrie.

Deeper Dives into Criminal Cases

Location: Room 430

Chandra Bozelko describes her series for The National Memo on the first Latina woman sentenced to death in Texas, and the challenges of – and opportunities in – reporting on criminal cases, including new ways of finding wrongful conviction stories. Bozelko will discuss the ethical dilemmas of covering high-stakes cases and handling difficult sources.

Chandra Bozelko, award-winning columnist covering criminal legal system

**SATURDAY
MAY 3**

10:00 - 10:50 AM

**Digging Deeper: How Investigative Journalists
Expose Injustice**

Location: Newsroom – 3rd Floor

CNN's Michelle Watson moderates a conversation with New York Times investigative journalists Brian Rosenthal and Jan Ransom about their award-winning reporting. The talk, sponsored by SPJ New England, will cover how to uncover stories, cultivate sources, and obtain government documents.

Brian Rosenthal, The New York Times

Jan Ransom, The New York Times

Host: Michelle Watson, CNN

Localizing the Trump Effect for Your Campus Audience

Location: Room 308

Keeping up with the dizzying changes coming out of Washington is challenging. It's also crucial: With the stakes higher than ever, campus audiences need information and insight as the Trump administration's moves wield wide-spread impact. We'll tackle strategies for pulling signal from noise, listening to your audience and giving voice to the issues that matter most to your school community.

Jere Hester, CUNY

Hot Topics in Media Law

Location: Room 330

Recent developments in defamation, privacy, and other media law issues will be explored in this discussion moderated by Roy Gutterman, professor and director of the Tully Center for Free Speech at Syracuse University. Panelists include Mike Grygiel, partner at Greenberg Traurig; Jesse Feitel, partner at Davis Wright Tremaine; and David Heller, deputy director of the Media Law Resource Center.

Roy Gutterman, Syracuse University

Digital Self-Defense: Learn to Defend Yourself from Cybersecurity Threats

Location: Room 430

Journalists are the target of powerful adversaries: hackers may seek to disrupt newsroom operations, compromise sensitive information, or even endanger the safety of journalists and sources. In this workshop, Dr. Peter Story will help you develop a personal “security plan” to defend yourself against cyberattacks.

Peter Story, Clark University

Navigating Tensions: Reporting on Immigrant Communities Amid Global Surveillance and U.S. Polarization

Location: Room 432

Sing Tao Daily reporter Rong Xiaoqing, who also contributes to The New York Times and Boston Globe, will discuss the challenges of covering contentious topics in the immigrant communities in the increasingly polarized U.S. and conflict-ridden world. A Collier Award winner, Xiaoqing will share the lessons she learned from reporting and writing an in-depth story about how Chinese immigrants suffer from both the surveillance of both the Chinese Communist Party and the U.S. law authorities for the news website Documented.

Rong Xiaoqing, Sing Tao Daily

A Seat at the Table: Reporting First-Person Stories in Turbulent Times

Location: Room 434

What happens when a service piece becomes unexpectedly personal? Find out how Alexis Barton navigated writing what became an award-winning cover story for The Washington Post Magazine and get tips to help you tell your own.

Alexis Barton, Journalist

The Rise of Citizen Journalism: When Everyone’s a Reporter

Location: Room 440

In the digital age, anyone with a smartphone can break a story. This session with former CNN producer Sheena Jones explores how citizen journalism—news shared by everyday people outside traditional newsrooms—shapes breaking news coverage and challenges traditional reporting norms.

Sheena Jones, Media Consultant

**SATURDAY
MAY 3**

11:00 - 11:50 AM

**The Art of the Audio Documentary:
Building Stories Designed to Last**

Location: Newsroom – 3rd Floor

Award-winning reporter and producer Preeti Varathan breaks down how to identify, report, and produce a compelling audio documentary. Varathan will discuss "Letters from Sing Sing," an eight-part investigative podcast based on 23 years of reporting, which led to the exoneration of a wrongfully incarcerated man and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Audio Reporting.

Preeti Varathan, ESPN

Meet the New York Times A.I. Initiatives Team

Location: Room 308

Join the editors, engineers and designers of The Times's A.I. Initiatives team for this off-the-record session as they walk through investigative and editorial projects developed with journalists using A.I. They will then hold a panel discussion on the intersection of news and technology.

Rubina Fillion, New York Times

Dylan Freedman, New York Times

Duy Nguyen, New York Times

Juliana Castro Varón, New York Times

Signal Strategies for the Savvy Journalist

Location: Lab 438

Signal is an indispensable part of any journalist's digital security toolkit. Join this session to learn how you can make the most out of communicating via Signal, from account verification features to photo editing – remembering, of course, that every conversation is only as secure as your conversation partner.

Davis Erin Anderson, Freedom of the Press Foundation

Brennan LaBrie, Multimedia Journalist

Ask The Trace: Using Data and Facts To Counter Misinformation Around Guns

Location: Room 330

The Trace senior news writer and founding staffer Jennifer Mascia talks about the revival of the reader-generated "Ask The Trace" series, first launched in 2018, which employs a back-to-basics approach to countering myths around guns and gun violence. She will also discuss how The Trace has doubled down on data collection and analysis amid uncertainty around official government sources.

Jennifer Mascia, The Trace

How to FOIA the Government and Find Its Secrets

Location: Room 430

The Freedom of Information Act, and open-records laws in most U.S. states, are a key pillar of modern investigative journalism and a rich vein to explore. A few examples of what you can find, with the right strategies: Police disciplinary records, line-item expenses in multi-billion contracts for migrant housing and K-12 education; emails and text messages of federal employees hashing out public policy with connected lobbyists; detailed consumer complaints about companies accused of price gouging and unfair and deceptive marketing to the most vulnerable. In this hands-on session, you'll learn what you should request, how to do it and tricks and tips to find what you need through FOIA.

Derek Kravitz, Consumer Reports

From Blog to Brand: Telling Stories That Stick

Location: Room 432

Alexa Curtis describes how she blended personal storytelling with journalism through her blog "A Life in the Fashion Lane" and a celebrity show she hosted on Radio Disney. This session explores how young creators can build authentic media brands while covering style, culture, and social impact.

Alexa Curtis

AP Style Smackdown

Location: Room 430

In this session designed for students, learn why the Associated Press Stylebook is the definitive reference for journalists when it comes to accuracy, consistency and sensitivity, and explore some of the new entries in the latest edition. Pros are welcome for a refresher.

Claire Regan, Wagner College

No Billionaires: How Working People Can Save Journalism and America

Location: Room 440

Alissa Quart, executive director of the Economic Hardship Reporting Project and author of nonfiction books including "Squeezed" and "Bootstrapped," will discuss how journalists can support and participate in independent, working people's media in an age defined by disinformation and billionaire influence.

Alissa Quart, Economic Hardship Reporting Project

Flexing Your Coding Skills: An Exercise in Solving Ethical Problems Using the SPJ Code of Ethics

Location: Room 442

How prepared are you to resolve ethical issues that arise in your newsroom? Join Rod Hicks, SPJ National's Director of Ethics and Diversity, in this engaging interactive session where you will help resolve ethical dilemmas based on real cases. He'll show how the SPJ Code of Ethics can guide you in addressing ethical missteps. Brush up on your knowledge of the Code before attending.

Rod Hicks, Society of Professional Journalists

12:00 - 12:50 PM : LUNCH

Inside Spotlight: Michael Rezendes on Investigating the Catholic Church

Location: Newsroom – 3rd Floor

Join an insightful discussion featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Michael Rezendes, famed former member of The Boston Globe Spotlight team—the oldest continuously operating newspaper investigative unit in the United States. Rezendes will share reflections on his remarkable journalism career, delve into the groundbreaking Spotlight investigation into sexual abuse within the Catholic Church, and offer his perspective on the future of investigative journalism. This discussion is sponsored by SPJ New England.

Michael Rezendes, Journalist
Claudia Amendoeira, Georgetown University



**SATURDAY
MAY 3**

1:00 - 1:50 PM

Acknowledging the Struggle: Staying Focused in a High-Volume, High-Propaganda Mediascape

Location: Newsroom – 3rd Floor

Our era of fragmented news consumption calls for critical media literacy. Experts from Project Censored will provide practical tools to navigate the evolving media landscape, analyze press coverage, and combat misinformation, propaganda, and censorship. Topics include frame-checking, decoding democracy, and strategies for fostering informed civic engagement through independent journalism and diverse media perspectives.

Mickey Huff, Project Censored

Robin Andersen, Fordham University

Allison Butler, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Mischa Geracoulis, Project Censored

Behind the Scenes at "CBS News: Sunday Morning"

Location: Room 442

Veteran correspondent Martha Teichner shares career highlights from 32 years of storytelling at CBS in a conversation moderated by "Sunday Morning" producer Sara Kugel.

Sara Kugel, CBS News

How Turbulent Times Changed Broadcast

Location: Lab 438

In an ever-changing media landscape, broadcast producers must overcome certain challenges unique to their live, fast-paced and audio-visual format. Multimedia journalist Sanjana Bhambhani talks with MSNBC's Renjini Antony about navigating broadcast news through shifting viewership patterns, political upheaval and global crises that have redefined the medium.

Renjini Antony, MSNBC

Host: Sanjana Bhambhani

Office Hours with SPJ Executive Director

Location: Room 446

Meet SPJ executive director Caroline Hendrie

Report Like A Pro with Student News Live

Location: Room 330

Hear from student journalists who reported live from the White House on Election Day as part of a new initiative named Student News Live.

Nick Hirshon, William Paterson University

Rob Quicke, Marshall University

Alexander Felix, William Paterson University

Julia Menn, William Paterson University

Libel 101: Avoiding a Lawsuit (via Zoom)

Location: Room 432

While just saying the word aloud can bring shivers down a journalist's spine, the basics of libel law – and the keys to avoiding it – are actually fairly simple. Join the Student Press Law Center to clear the fear.

Jonathan Gaston-Falk, Student Press Law Center

Information Devolution: How Cellphones, Social Media, and AI Shape News, Politics, and Us

Location: Room 434

In this multimedia talk, journalist and Fulbright scholar Jack Brewster breaks down how the design of our phones, platforms, and algorithms is rewiring the way we think – and why that's changing how we consume news, engage in politics, and interact with each other. With a background covering misinformation and online extremism for outlets like The Wall Street Journal, VICE, and TIME, Jack blends reporting, research, and storytelling to equip students with tools to navigate an overwhelming information environment. He'll also share the story behind Newsreel, the new interactive news app piloting with The Ithacan this spring.

Jack Brewster, Newsreel

**SATURDAY
MAY 3**

2:00 - 2:50 PM

Local Investigations: Digging Deep Close to Home

Location: Newsroom – 3rd Floor

Three New York City journalists share tips and stories about carrying out impactful local investigations. The session will cover everything from idea to publication, including how to find a worthwhile topic of scrutiny, assembling the sources, records, and data to support a major project, and crafting mountains of material into tight, compelling narratives.

*Jesse Coburn, ProPublica
Christopher Robbins, Hell Gate
Jan Ransom, New York Times*

**Owning Your Story: Protecting and Profiting from
Your Work as a Freelancer**

Location: Room 330

In an industry where content is currency, understanding and leveraging your intellectual property can be the difference between surviving and thriving. This panel discussion explores how freelance journalists can protect, retain, and profit from the rights to their work, turning stories into long-term assets. From contracts to copyright, to adaptation, we'll unpack the strategies that empower freelancers to take control of their creative output and build sustainable careers on their own terms.

Sara Ganim, Switchboard Magazine

Objectivity's Rocky Trail

Location: Lab 438

Reporters from The Highlands Current will discuss maintaining objectivity while covering the highly contentious construction of a 7.5-mile trail between the Village of Cold Spring and Beacon. Opponents of a proposed section that would start in Cold Spring, some of whom are friends and neighbors of the newspaper's staff, have attacked its coverage in letters and ads, and some have canceled subscriptions.

*Leonard Sparks, The Highlands Current
Brian Cronin, The Highlands Current
Chip Rowe, The Highlands Current*

What the FOIA?!: How humor has kept me sane while investigating police misconduct

Location: Room 330

Over three years, investigative reporter Sammy Sussman gathered tens of thousands of files about police officers violating their agencies' policies. Most of these cases are serious, but a few are quite funny. From stolen Christmas donations to a K9 at a children's party, come hear the unreported stories that are keeping Sammy sane.

Sammy Sussman, Freelance Journalist

From Journalist to Author: How Reporting Skills Translate to Book Publishing

Location: Room 430

David Russell, a digital editor at the New York Post, and Ken Samelson, a former sports radio producer and acquisitions editor for book publishers, share how their journalism backgrounds informed the process of researching and writing a baseball book, "More Amazing Mets Trivia." They'll break down the steps of pitching a nonfiction book, collaborating as writers, and navigating the editing process—offering a practical roadmap for journalists looking to become published authors.

*David Russell, New York Post
Ken Samelson, Freelance*

Upholding Trust and Integrity in Reporting

Location: Room 432

Truthfulness is essential to maintaining public trust in journalism and fostering an informed society. In this session, Pearl Phillip, managing editor and editor-in-chief of Caribbean American Weekly, will describe how journalists in an era of rapidly spreading misinformation have a responsibility to report accurately, fairly, and with integrity.

Pearl Phillip, Caribbean American Weekly

New Voices: Advocating for Student Press Freedom

Location: Room 434

Eighteen states have laws against the censorship of student journalists — and it's all because students and their supporters spoke up. Is your state next? If you have a law, then what? Join Grayson Marlow, advocacy advocate with the Student Press Law Center, to learn about the New Voices campaign for student press freedom.

Grayson Marlow, Student Press Law Center

Covering the Difficult Story

Location: Room 442

Is suicide newsworthy, and should it appear in a school newspaper or on the evening news? This session, designed for student journalists, explores how to make sensitive, responsible judgment calls when covering difficult stories.

Claire Regan, Wagner College

Navigating Changing Immigration Policies and Combating Misinformation Among Non-English-Speaking Readers

Location: Room 444

With immigration policies frequently shifting, many non-English-speaking communities struggle to access accurate and timely information. This session will explore how Khasokhas reports on immigration changes, counters misinformation, and ensures that vital information reaches Nepali-speaking audiences. We will share strategies for fact-checking, engaging diaspora communities, and leveraging multilingual journalism to empower readers.

*Kishor Panthi, Khasokhas
Suresh Shahi, Khasokhas*

**SATURDAY
MAY 3**

3:00 - 3:50 PM

Storytelling in the Misinformation Age

Location: Newsroom - 3rd Floor

Polo Sandoval explores how journalists navigate misinformation, tell impactful stories beyond politics, and adapt to a multi-platform news landscape. He'll share insights on balancing personal well-being with the demands of reporting in turbulent times and how today's journalists must rethink storytelling for an evolving audience.

*Polo Sandoval, CNN
Host: Michelle Watson*



A wealth of free resources is waiting for you! Check out the SPJ New England Zoom speaker series on YouTube. Have suggestions for a guest or an interest in moderating a discussion? Email spjnewengland@gmail.com. SPJ-NE regularly invites a diverse range of guest speakers from all sides of journalism, including: LA Times Sports Editor **Iliana Limón Romero**, 1619 Project author **Nikole Hannah-Jones**, former NYT Executive Editor **Dean Baquet**, broadcast journalist **Soledad O'Brien**, investigative reporter **Seymore Hersh** and pioneering news anchor **Carole Simpson**!



Iliana Limón Romero



Nikole Hannah-Jones



Dean Baquet



Soledad O'Brien



Seymour Hersh



Carole Simpson

SPEAKERS

LISTED IN ORDER OF PRESENTATION

MEGHNAD BOSE

Columbia Journalism Review

Meghnad Bose is a NY-based award-winning investigative journalist and editor currently working as a reporter and Delacorte Fellow at Columbia Journalism Review. He is an alum of Columbia Journalism School. Previously, Bose worked as a reporter and editor in India and was a two-time recipient of the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award, considered India's top journalism honor, and a five-time winner of the South Asian Digital Media Award given by WAN-IFRA.



VIX REITANO

Fractional Chief Marketing Officer

Vix Reitano is a Fractional Chief Marketing Officer, international speaker, and the founder of Agency 6B, a full-service marketing agency serving global brands and visionary founders. With a background in media at ABC, NBC, and Time Inc., Vix blends storytelling and strategy to help brands scale through paid ads, organic content, and omnichannel campaigns.



SHIA LEVITT

Freelance Journalist

Shia Levitt is a longtime freelance journalist who has reported for NPR, Marketplace and other outlets from the US, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Previously, she was a News Editor at KALW and mentor for their Audio Academy Fellows program. Levitt directs and designed the collaborative journalism project News Ambassadors.





SANDEEP JUNNARKAR

City University of New York

Sandeep Junnarkar is a professor at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism, where he leads the data journalism program and co-founded the DuBois Data Lab. A former New York Times reporter and global trainer for Bloomberg News, he has received numerous awards, including an Online Journalism Award and recognition for a Pulitzer finalist project in 2024.

RALPH BLUMENTHAL

The New York Times

Ralph Blumenthal, a Distinguished Lecturer at Baruch College, was a New York Times reporter from 1964 to 2009. He often writes on UFOs and is the author of "The Believer: Alien Encounters, Hard Science, and the Passion of John Mack."



ANASTASSIA GLIADKOVSKAYA

Fierce Healthcare

Anastassia Gliadkovskaya is a senior writer at Fierce Healthcare covering health equity, with past work on COVID-19, the opioid epidemic, and NYC's public healthcare system for outlets such as Fortune, KFF Health News, and The CITY. She holds an M.S. in investigative journalism from Columbia and a public health certificate from CUNY.

PAUL LAROCCO

Newsday

Paul LaRocco is an associate editor on Newsday's investigations desk. His reporting roles over nearly 15 years at the newspaper have included investigations and politics and government.



DAVID M. SCHWARTZ

Newsday

David Schwartz is a deputy editor at Newsday overseeing transportation, health, and environmental coverage. He was previously a reporter on the investigations team and has covered the environment and politics.



TSISNAMI SAKVARLISHVILI

Political Journalist

Tsisnami Sakvarlishvili is a political journalist from the nation of Georgia. She is passionate about storytelling and advocating for freedom and democracy.

JERE HESTER

City University of New York

Jere Hester is director of the Editorial Partnerships and director of the Local Accountability Reporting program at the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY, where he established the NYCity News Service. Hester was the founding editor-in-chief of THE CITY and was city editor of the New York Daily News, where he started as a reporter. His work has appeared in New York Magazine, CNN, NBC, HuffPost, The New York Times and more.



JON SCHUPPE

NBC News

Jon Schuppe is a reporter on the digital enterprise team at NBC News, where he focuses mainly on criminal justice issues and investigations related to breaking news events. He spent over a year investigating the mishandling of unclaimed bodies around the US, with colleagues, which earned an SPJ award, the Anthony Shadid Award and a George Polk Award.

ANDREW GROSS

Newsday

Andrew Gross is the New York Islanders beat reporter for Newsday. A Syracuse graduate, he has covered the National Hockey League since 2003, and his career spans coverage of the Rangers, Devils, Jets, Yankees, Mets, St. John’s basketball, and Army football.



CHRIS VACCARO

Society of Professional Journalists

Chris R. Vaccaro is the vice president of digital technology and communications at Ark Technology and the director of graduate journalism at Hofstra University. An Emmy Award and Murrow Award winner, he is also the vice president and president-elect of the Society of Professional Journalists and the former president of the Press Club of Long Island.

HALEY GLUHANICH

Student Press Freedom Initiative

Haley Gluhanich serves as a senior program counsel for the Campus Rights team at the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression. A graduate of Gettysburg College and Michigan State University College of Law, Haley passionately advocates for the free speech rights of all Americans, with a special niche for free speech on college campuses, and believes that education and civil discourse about free speech is an integral aspect in defending it.



MARYAM JAMEEL

ProPublica

Maryam Jameel is an engagement reporter at ProPublica, where she has co-reported investigations on immigrant farmworker injuries, health equity, and food safety. She previously covered occupational safety and labor policy at the Center for Public Integrity, reporting on issues such as silica exposure, heat stress and lead risks to pregnant workers.

MAYA MILLER

ProPublica

Maya Miller is a reporter at ProPublica whose work has examined air quality health effects, medical debt collection practices, and health insurance denials through community-sourced investigations. Her reporting has led to legislative proposals, regulatory action, and industry changes, and has been recognized as a Pulitzer Prize finalist and honored with Gerald Loeb and Gather Awards.



JULIE CHAN

News 12

Julie Chan is a reporter, anchor, host and producer who has worked in LA cable, CBS and ABC affiliates, and News 12. Amazon Prime showcases her talk show “Midnight Snack with Julie Chan” as well as “Middleton Madness,” a short documentary about Julie’s road to becoming a TV news anchor thanks to the British Royal, Kate Middleton.



ANTHONY LOCICERO

New York Post

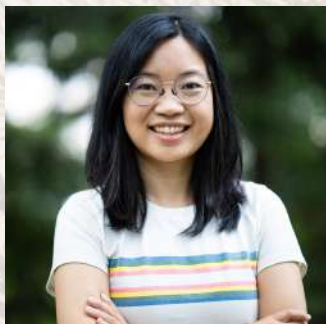
Anthony Locicero is a copy editor at the New York Post, where more than a dozen of his headlines have appeared on the front page. A former managing editor at Deadspin, he has also worked for Patch and Daily Voice.



APRIL XU

Documented

Ke “April” Xu is an award-winning bilingual journalist with over a decade of experience covering New York City’s Chinese community for outlets like Documented and Sing Tao Daily. She leads Documented’s award-winning WeChat account and focuses on amplifying Chinese immigrant voices through reporting on politics, labor, migration, and social issues.



SHANNON CHAFFERS

New York Amsterdam News

Shannon Chaffers is a reporter at the New York Amsterdam News, covering gun violence in New York City for the Blacklight investigative unit. She is also a Report for America Corps Member.



STEVE DUNLOP

CBS News

Steve Dunlop has worked as a reporter, anchor, writer, and editor in New York TV and radio for over 40 years, with past roles at CBS News, Reuters, and Fox Television. His work was recently featured in the Netflix documentaries "Trial By Media" and "Get Gotti," and he freelances for the "CBS Evening News."



GLORIA PAZMINO

CNN

Gloria Pazmino is a correspondent for CNN based in New York. She has contributed to the network's reporting on New York City Mayor Eric Adams, the special election in New York's 3rd congressional district, the historic election of Governor Kathy Hochul, the deadly bridge collapse in Baltimore and the historic arraignment of former President Donald Trump in Manhattan.



MICHELLE WATSON

CNN

Michelle Watson is a national news editor for CNN's national newsgathering team. Prior to joining the desk, Michelle worked to vet and research stories for the Row, CNN's editorial judgment body. Since joining CNN in 2017, Michelle has played a role in a number of major stories for CNN, including the network's coverage of the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Irma after it made landfall and the tragic shooting deaths of 17 people at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

MATT CAPUTO

Western Connecticut State University

Matt Caputo is a writer, reporter and adjunct professor of journalism at Western Connecticut State University. His byline has appeared in the New York Times, New York Post, New York Daily News and Newsday.



JOHN H. RICHARDSON

ESQUIRE

John H. Richardson is a former writer-at-large for Esquire and former contributor to the Albuquerque Tribune, The Los Angeles Daily News, Premiere Magazine, and New York Magazine. He is the author of "My Father the Spy," "In the Little World," and "The Vipers' Club."

KENNETH BURNS

WHYY

P. Kenneth Burns serves as president of the New Jersey Society of Professional Journalists. He is the New Jersey reporter for WHYY-FM, the NPR member station in Philadelphia. Previously, he covered Baltimore politics and urban issues for WYPR, where he got his start in public media. Burns also spent many years in commercial media, starting at WTOP, the all-news radio station in Washington. He currently makes his home in Central Jersey with his wife.



CAROLINE HENDRIE

Journalist

Caroline Hendrie spent decades as a working journalist at the local, state and national levels before moving into a career as a national journalism organization leader. In her current role as executive director of both the Society of Professional Journalists and its sister organization, the SPJ Foundation, she works to advance SPJ's mission as a champion for journalists and advocate for press freedom.

CHANDRA BOZELKO

Connecticut Pro

Chandra Bozelko is an award-winning columnist who covers the criminal legal system. She serves as the president of the Connecticut Pro chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and a member of the Board of Governors of the New York Press Club.



BRIAN M. ROSENTHAL

The New York Times

Brian M. Rosenthal is an investigative reporter at The New York Times and the president of Investigative Reporters and Editors, the largest network of investigative journalists in the world. He won the 2020 Pulitzer Prize in Investigative Reporting for exposing predatory lending in the New York City taxi industry.



ROY GUTTERMAN

Syracuse University

Roy Gutterman is a professor and director of the Tully Center for Free Speech at the Newhouse School at Syracuse University. He is a former newspaper reporter and practicing lawyer.



PETER STORY

Clark University

Dr. Peter Story is an assistant professor of computer science at Clark University, with a PhD in Societal Computing from Carnegie Mellon University. His research focuses on building technology to protect journalists from targeted cyberattacks.





RONG XIAOQING

Sing Tao Daily

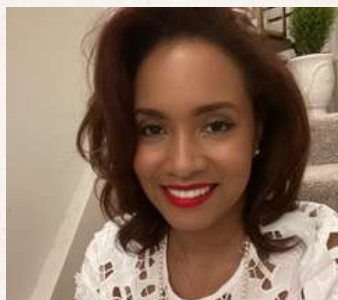
Rong Xiaoqing is a New York-based journalist and a fellow of the Alicia Patterson Foundation, which supports in-depth, independent reporting projects. She has been writing about the Chinese community in the U.S. since 2002. Her articles have appeared in The New York Times, Foreign Policy, The Nation, and New York magazine, among other publications. A

Deadline Club Award winner, Rong was a grant recipient of the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting and the Fund for Investigative Journalism.

ALEXIS E. BARTON

Journalist

Alexis E. Barton is an award-winning journalist based in Birmingham, Alabama. A recipient of the 2023 Deadline Club award for feature writing, she has written for The Washington Post Magazine, Southern Living and Shondaland.com.



SHEENA JONES

Media Consultant

Sheena Jones is a journalist-turned-media consultant who has worked at Cheddar News, CNN, and WBFF Fox 45. She is the founder of Sheena Jones Media Consultancy, where she specializes in media training, outreach, crisis management, and brand deal negotiation.

PREETI VARATHAN

ESPN

Preeti Varathan is an award-winning journalist and producer who runs 30 for 30 Podcasts at ESPN. Previously, she was a supervising producer at NBC News Studios, where she produced “American Radical” and “Letters from Sing Sing.” Both series reached No. 1 on Apple podcast charts. For her work on Sing Sing, Preeti was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in Audio Reporting. Preeti is a proud member of the South Asian LGBTQIA+ community.





RUBINA FILLION

The New York Times

Rubina Madan Fillion is the associate editorial director of A.I. initiatives and a longtime editor at

The New York Times, with recent roles leading strategy and audience for the Opinion section. She previously worked at The Wall Street Journal and The Intercept, and holds degrees in political science and journalism from Emory and Columbia.

DYLAN FREEDMAN

The New York Times

Dylan Freedman is a senior machine-learning engineer and journalist at The New York Times who uses A.I. and other forms of computational analysis to aid political and investigative reporting. He previously worked at The Washington Post, DocumentCloud, and Google, and holds degrees in computer science, music, and journalism from Harvard and Stanford.



DUY NGUYEN

The New York Times

Duy Nguyen is a senior machine-learning engineer and former Opinion Graphics fellow at The New York Times, returning after helping local newsrooms apply A.I. at Columbia's Brown Institute. He led development of Gumshoe, a widely used A.I. document-ranking tool, and studied data science, English, and journalism at NYU.



JULIANA CASTRO VARÓN

The New York Times

Juliana Castro Varón is The New York Times A.I. Initiatives team's senior design editor, founder of the open-access publisher Cita Press, and a contributing cartoonist for the New Yorker. She previously was a fellow at the Berkman Klein Center and studied design at the National University of Colombia and at the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a Fulbright Scholar.





DAVIS ERIN ANDERSON

Freedom of the Press Foundation

Davis Erin Anderson is a senior digital security trainer at Freedom of the Press Foundation. She joined FPF in 2023 with expertise in creating and delivering engaging content on digital security. Davis holds degrees in library science and music performance, and she performs regularly as a French horn player with orchestras and other ensembles in and around New York.

BRENNAN LABRIE

Multimedia Journalist

Brennan LaBrie is a Manhattan-based multimedia journalist and a member of the Deadline Club's Board of Governors. He serves as the digital storytelling specialist for Equal Opportunity Schools, a national education nonprofit, and reports on community impact for New York City newspapers.



JENNIFER MASCIA

The Trace

Jennifer Mascia is a senior news writer and founding staffer at The Trace. Before its launch in 2015 she covered gun violence for The New York Times. She is the author of a memoir, "Never Tell Our Business to Strangers", which details her investigation into her late father's criminal past.

DEREK KRAVITZ

Consumer Reports

Derek Kravitz is an investigative reporter and deputy editor for special projects at Consumer Reports, a nonprofit news organization that uses testing and other methods to unearth problems and spot harms related to food, home and baby products, cars, tech, financial services, and other areas of the U.S. economy. He is a three-time Pulitzer finalist and has reported and edited for The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, and ProPublica.



ALEXA CURTIS

Entrepreneur and writer

Alexa Curtis began blogging at age 12 to cope with bullying, eventually transforming her fashion blog into "Life Unfiltered," a lifestyle platform and podcast focused on teen mental health, social media, and confidence. She has since launched the Be Fearless Summit, hosted a Radio Disney show, spoken at major universities, and founded the media gear company Chief Swag Officer.



CLAIRE REGAN

Wagner College

A passionate journalist with more than 30 years of experience in the newsroom and the college classroom, Claire Regan is an assistant professor of journalism and faculty adviser to the student newspaper at Wagner College, her alma mater in New York City. She served as the 106th national president of the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) from 2022 to 2023; was a three-term president of the Deadline Club, SPJ's New York City chapter, and has been an SPJ member since 1995.



ALISSA QUART

Economic Hardship Reporting Project

Alissa Quart is the author of seven acclaimed books, including "Bootstrapped: Liberating Ourselves from the American Dream" and "Squeezed: Why Our Families Can't Afford America." She is the Emmy-winning executive director of the Economic Hardship Reporting Project and a frequent contributor to The New York Times, Rolling Stone, Time, and The Guardian.



ROD HICKS

Society of Professional Journalists

Rod Hicks serves as director of ethics and diversity for the Society of Professional Journalists, and has experience at numerous news organizations across the country. Most recently, he served as an editor for The Associated Press at its Philadelphia-based East Regional Desk. In this role, he worked on several major national stories including the Sandy Hook school shooting in Connecticut, the Boston Marathon bombing and the sexual assault trials of Bill Cosby.



MICHAEL REZENDES

Associated Press

Mike Rezendes is a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporter at The Associated Press, recognized for exposing child sex abuse cover-ups within the Catholic and Mormon churches. His work with The Boston Globe's Spotlight Team earned two Pulitzer Prizes and helped inspire the Academy Award-winning film "Spotlight," in which he was portrayed by Mark Ruffalo.



MICKEY HUFF

Project Censored

Mickey Huff is the director of Project Censored, president of the Media Freedom Foundation, and distinguished director of the Park Center for Independent Media at Ithaca College where he is also a professor of journalism. He is a co-author and co-editor of 20 books on news censorship and critical media literacy and has been published or featured in outlets including Salon, Truthout and The Progressive. Since 2010, Huff has also been executive producer and founding co-host of "The Project Censored Show" on Pacifica Radio.

ROBIN ANDERSEN

Fordham University

Robin Andersen, Ph.D., is Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Communication and Media Studies at Fordham University. She also directs the Peace and Justice Studies Program. Her book, "A Century of Media: A Century of War" by Peter Lang Publishing in 2006, won the Alpha Sigma Nu Book Award for 2007.



ALLISON BUTLER

University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Allison Butler is a senior lecturer, associate chair, and the director of the Media Literacy Certificate Program in the Department of Communication at the University of Massachusetts Amherst where she teaches courses on critical media literacy and representations of education in the media. She serves as the Vice President on the Board of the Media Freedom Foundation. She is the author of numerous articles and books on media literacy.



MISCHA GERACOULIS

Project Censored

Mischa Geracoulis is the Managing Editor at Project Censored and The Censored Press, contributor to Project Censored's State of the Free Press yearbook series, and a Project Judge. Her work as a journalist and editor focuses on human rights and civil liberties, journalistic ethics and standards, and truth in reporting.

SARA KUGEL

CBS News

Sara Kugel is an Emmy Award-winning journalist who has worked for more than a decade as a producer for "CBS Sunday Morning." During that time, she's traveled internationally producing long-form pieces ranging from hard news (Israel/Hamas War, postpartum depression) to hundreds of arts features and celebrity profiles (e.g., Bruce Springsteen, Kate Winslet).



MARTHA TEICHNER

CBS News

Martha Teichner is a correspondent for CBS NEWS SUNDAY MORNING. Since 1993, she has reported on a wide range of issues, including politics, the arts, culture, science and social issues impacting our world. Teichner joined CBS News in 1977. Her groundbreaking career has spanned the gamut of the human experience. She has witnessed and reported on some of the most significant national and international stories.

RENJINI ANTONY

MSNBC

Renjini Antony is a producer at MSNBC who got her start at the cable news channel in 2018. She started working as a production assistant, then associate producer before becoming a segment producer and has experience working in primetime as well as on dayside programming. From elections at home and abroad, to wars and school shootings, she has covered every major news story for an TV audience.





SANJANA BHAMBHANI

Multimedia Journalist

Sanjana Bhambhani is an award-winning documentarian and journalist whose work covering national and state legislatures, the justice system and mis- and disinformation has appeared on the BBC, "The Rachel Maddow Show", New York Focus, MuckRock and other outlets. She has also built a social media following telling stories about women from history whose achievements went uncelebrated or misattributed.

NICK HIRSHON

William Paterson University

Nick Hirshon is an associate professor of journalism and the president of the Deadline Club, SPJ's New York City chapter. A former reporter for the New York Daily News, Hirshon has written several books, book chapters, and journal articles on the history of sports media, including "We Want Fish Sticks: The Bizarre and Infamous Rebranding of the New York Islanders." He is the first two-time recipient of SPJ's national award for outstanding campus chapter adviser.



ROB QUICKE

Marshall University

Dr. Rob Quicke is a professor and director of the W. Page Pitt School of Journalism & Mass Communications at Marshall University, West Virginia. He is also the founder of College Radio Day, and co-founder of Student News Live. His book "Finding Your Voice in Radio, Audio, and Podcast Production" was awarded the 2025 BEA Textbook Award.



ALEXANDER FELIX

William Paterson University

Alexander Felix is a senior majoring in political science with a minor in journalism. He has been involved with Student News Live on several occasions—including serving as a White House correspondent on Election Day, and attending a town hall with Rev. Al Sharpton. He is the managing editor of his campus newspaper, secretary of his campus chapter of SPJ, and a news anchor and writer at his campus radio station.





JULIA MENN

William Paterson University

Julia Menn is a freshman from Germany studying journalism at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey. This past November, she reported live from the White House during 24-hour Election Day coverage for Student News Live, an SPJ-supported program that empowers student journalists to cover major national events.

JONATHAN GASTON-FALK

Student Press Law Center

Jonathan Gaston-Falk is an Education Law attorney with broad experience spanning almost a decade representing both school district and student clients prior to joining the Student Press Law Center as a staff attorney. He joined SPLC in March 2022 following a five-year tenure with the Legal Aid Society of Rochester, New York as Program Director of the Education Law Unit, during which time he advocated for the free speech rights of students before countless boards of education and the Commissioner of Education in Albany.



JACK BREWSTER

Newsreel

Jack has written for The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, and Time Magazine among other outlets. His reporting has been covered by The New York Times, Bloomberg, CNN The Washington Post, and other news outlets. In 2022, he led the team that conducted a landmark study on TikTok's algorithm, which revealed its propensity to feed misinformation to young users.

JESSE COBURN

ProPublica

Jesse Coburn is a reporter who covers housing, transportation and other features of the built environment. He's also reported for Streetsblog, Newsday, the New York Times, Harper's, Hell Gate, and other outlets. His 2023 Streetsblog series on the black market for temporary license plates led to enacted or proposed laws in three states and won a George Polk Award, among other distinctions.





CHRISTOPHER ROBBINS

HELL GATE

Christopher Robbins is a co-founder and editor of Hell Gate, a worker-owned news and culture website based in New York City. He covers transportation, politics, housing, billionaires, and trash, among other subjects. He has been an editor at Gothamist and WNYC, the city editor at the Village Voice, and has published his work in Streetsblog, New York Magazine, and the New York Times.

JAN RANSOM

The New York Times

Jan Ransom is an investigative reporter for the Metro section of The New York Times, specializing in criminal justice issues, including the city's troubled jail system and failures in addressing untreated mental illness among the homeless population. Named Journalist of the Year by The Newswomen's Club of New York in 2023 for her investigations into the crisis at Rikers Island, Ransom has also earned honors from the New York Press Club and The Silurians Press Club.



SARA GANIM

Switchboard Magazine

Sara Ganim is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist whose work has appeared in newspapers, magazines, cable television, audio documentaries, and film. She has also been portrayed in film and has won several of the industry's top awards.

LEONARD SPARKS

The Highlands Current

Leonard Sparks is the senior editor of The Highlands Current in Cold Spring, New York. A former reporter for the Times Herald-Record, Sparks holds a bachelor's degree in English from Morgan State University and a master's in journalism from the University of Maryland.





BRIAN PJ CRONIN

The Highlands Current

Brian PJ Cronin, the former top editor of Hudson Valley Parent, has been a reporter for The Highlands Current in Cold Spring, New York, since 2014. A graduate of Skidmore College, he has also written for Organic Hudson Valley, the Times Herald-Record, and Chronogram.

CHIP ROWE

The Highlands Current

Chip Rowe is the editor of The Highlands Current, which covers Philipstown and Beacon in Putnam and Dutchess counties. A former longtime national magazine editor, he has bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from Northwestern University.



SAMMY SUSSMAN

Freelance Journalist

Sammy Sussman is a local investigations fellow at The New York Times. He's a former musician and composer whose previous reporting focused on allegations of wrongdoing and abuse in the performing arts. He is currently working on reporting about policing and police misconduct around New York State based on tens of thousands of pages of internal department and prosecutor records obtained under FOIL.



DAVID RUSSELL

New York Post

David Russell is an associate digital editor at the New York Post. "More Amazing Mets Trivia" is his fourth book.



KEN SAMELSON

Sports Media Professional

Ken Samelson is a longtime sports media professional, serving as both a radio producer and a book editor. A Bronx native, he is the author or co-author of several books, including "Incredible Baseball Stories" (2017) and "The Baseball Maniac's Almanac" (2019).

PEARL PHILLIP

Editor and Radio Host

Pearl Phillip is the managing and editor-in-chief of Caribbean American Weekly, The Immigrant's Journal, and Workers' World Today, and consults for New Black Voices. She produces and hosts multiple shows—including "People, Power & Politics," "Beauty Health & Wellness," and "Ask the Lawyer"—across InceptionFM Radio, YouTube, and Spotify.



GRAYSON MARLOW

Sports Media Professional

Grayson Marlow is the advocacy associate at the Student Press Law Center. He graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from NYU Gallatin, studying journalistic ethics and minoring in Law and Society. While in college, he joined SPLC as an advocacy intern, helping to develop new resources for the New Voices program.

KISHOR PANTHI

Khasokhas

Kishor Panthi is a Nepali-American journalist with over 20 years of experience and the Editor-in-Chief of Khasokhas, a leading Nepali community media outlet in the U.S. He also leads NepYork, a non-profit media outlet in New York, and is the author of three books, with a strong focus on immigrant communities and professional journalism.





SURESH SHAHI

Khasokhas

Suresh Shahi is a journalist with over 20 years of experience and has been the Editor of Khasokhas, the Nepali diaspora's voice in New York, since 2012. He also edits NepYork, hosts the "Community Cornerstone" podcast, and has previously worked as an editor, anchor, and program host at ABC TV Nepal, WhiteHimal TV, and various Nepali FM stations.

POLO SANDOVAL

CNN

Polo Sandoval is a CNN U.S. Correspondent based in New York. He covers a wide range of breaking news stories across the country for CNN and its sister networks CNNI, HLN and CNN Español. During his time at CNN Newsource in Washington, D.C., Sandoval's responsibilities included daily custom coverage of national and international headlines for CNN's 800 English- and Spanish-speaking affiliates.



FAHD RACHIDY

Entrepreneur

Fahd Rachidy is an entrepreneur who has founded multiple AI businesses. He is passionate about empowering the creators of the information industry to help them thrive in the era of AI-generated content and fake news.

CLAUDIA AMENDOEIRA

Georgetown University

Claudia Amendoeira is an SPJ New England student member who is studying international politics with a minor in journalism at Georgetown University. She writes for Georgetown's student-run newspaper, The Hoya, and is the recipient of the Pulitzer Center 2024 International Reporting Fellowship. Her work will investigate how Afro-Brazilian religions are under attack by evangelicals in Rio de Janeiro. She has done research with a CNN reporter and interned with a photojournalist.



IN THE AREA

Written by former Deadline Club president Steve Dunlop

1 219 W 40th St (Conference HQ)

Formerly: The Herald Tribune HQ

This building was the former headquarters of The Herald Tribune which was regarded as a “writer’s paper” where in-depth reporting (the broadsheet won 12 Pulitzers) teamed up with top-notch wordsmithing (Tom Wolfe and John Steinbeck were among its writers). It was formed by a merger of the New York Herald and New York Tribune in 1924, and lasted until the infamous New York newspaper strike of 1966.



2 215 West 40th St

Formerly: Artist and Writers

Just two doors down from the “Trib,” this former speakeasy is where the newspaper’s owner, Ogden Reid, would often meet editors, reporters and copyboys (an all-boys club in those days) for drinks after the daily deadline. Reid always picked up the check. Gallows humor predominated, including a pool where participants would choose names from a list of famous figures over 75 for \$1 each. Whoever held the name of the person who died first won the pot.



3 59 West 44th St

Formerly: The Algonquin Round Table
as rendered by longtime New York Times cartoonist Al Hirschfeld

Inside the the Algonquin Hotel was a daily lunch gathering of writers, actors, critics and journalists who came to match wits and trade barbs. Notable journalists who were of the Round Table charter members in 1919 include Heywood Broun, Dorothy Parker, Ruth Hale, Alexander Woolcott, and New Yorker editor Harold Ross. The Round Table began to fade in the Depression years as its members took on projects out of town. Ross's successor, William Shawn, continued the tradition by having lunch almost every day at the Algonquin until he retired in 1987. He usually ordered the same thing - a tuna sandwich and a glass of milk.



Photo: Original Times Tower

4 1 Times Square

Formerly: Original Times Tower

Yes, Times Square (originally Longacre Square) was re-named for The New York Times, whose headquarters was in this building from its construction in 1905. The Times began the tradition of the annual New Year's Eve ball drop from the top of the structure in 1908. The paper grew too quickly, however, and by 1913 had to move to what would become its longtime headquarters across the street, at 229 West 43rd Street. The famous news "zipper," which carried news headlines around the building's perimeter and was once a major source of breaking news in New York, started in the 1920's and ceased regular operations in 1994.

5 229 West 43rd St

Formerly: Times Building

The New York Times headquarters for nearly a century, from 1913 to 2007. The paper was produced and printed here, with the composing room on the fourth floor, and giant bays along the back of the building on 44th Street allowed ground-level access for delivery trucks. Linotype production ended in 1978, when the Times ushered in computerized typesetting, and the mammoth presses fell silent in 1997, when the Times moved printing to a plant in College Point, Queens.



6 620 8th Ave

Times Building

The new headquarters constructed to bring the Grey Lady into the digital age. Notable for its distinctive ceramic rod facade, which proved too attractive to a small but determined community of climbers. In 2008, at least four notable climbers scaled the building. Protective barriers were quickly installed at the base to prevent further unauthorized climbs.



7 212 West 43rd St

Formerly: Gough's Chop House **1947-1988**

A gritty newspaper bar directly across from the Times, especially popular with press operators. Gough's occupied a dingy lot on what the paper itself once said was "arguably the sleaziest block in the Western world." Patrons of note over the years included Casey Stengel, Eartha Kitt, and Dinah Shore.

8 300 West 57th St

Hearst Headquarters

In 1928, William Randolph Hearst commissioned a six-story Art Deco building as the headquarters for his media empire. It was intended as a base for a future skyscraper, but the Depression and other factors prevented its construction. In 2006, Hearst finally completed the long-planned tower. It became one of New York's first LEED Gold-certified green buildings, known for its energy-efficient design.

9 4 Times Square

Formerly: Conde Nast Tower

Headquarters for the Condé Nast collection of publications from 1999 to 2014, when it moved to the Freedom Tower (One World Trade Center) in Lower Manhattan. Prior to 1999, Condé Nast had spent nearly 80 years in the Chrysler Building, where it became a charter tenant in 1930.

10 1440 Broadway

Formerly: WOR Radio

WOR, one of the leading forces in the golden age of radio, was located here from 1926 to 2005. Legendary radio dramas such as “The Adventures of Superman” and “The Shadow” were created and aired live here. In 1934, it was instrumental in the launch of both the Mutual Broadcasting System — a network of stations sharing programming with each other — and Transworld Press, a radio news service featuring stories written for the ear. Although TWP sometimes got news by intercepting telegraph transmissions by AP and UP, it challenged what was then the newspapers’ monopoly over news distribution. It ultimately forced the wire services to become more accommodating to broadcast journalism. Today, WOR is located at 111 Broadway in Lower Manhattan.

11 30 Rockefeller Plaza

NBC

Home to NBC News, which began operations in 1940, and the Today Show, which began broadcasting from its street level location in 1952 (NBC building at right).

12 50 Rockefeller Plaza

Formerly: Associated Press

The AP moved here in 1938, making it their headquarters for more than six decades. The building housed AP’s global news operations during a period of immense growth in journalism, including World War II, the rise of television news, and the digital revolution. They moved to 450 West 33rd Street in 2004. In the 1940’s, 30 Rock also housed the offices of newspaper reporter turned PR pioneer Steve Hannagan, whose image-driven campaigns helped popularize Miami Beach, Sun Valley Idaho, and the Indianapolis 500.

13 1211 Avenue of the Americas

Fox News

Fox News was founded by Rupert Murdoch and Roger Ailes, with its headquarters here since 1996. The network was designed as a conservative-leaning alternative to CNN and other major news outlets. Fox News expanded here, adding more studios and newsroom space as it grew into the most-watched cable news network. Picture to right.



14 524 West 57th St

CBS Broadcast Center

The building was originally home to a milk processing plant. CBS acquired the facility in 1952 and converted it into a television production center, providing large studio spaces for live and recorded programming as television became the dominant medium of the era. It would become a nerve center for American television journalism, playing a role in covering nearly every major news event of the last 60 years. In a high rise building across the street, the celebrated news magazine 60 Minutes has its offices and production facilities (at 555 West 57th Street).

15 485 Madison Ave

Formerly: CBS Radio and Television

Home of CBS Radio (1938-64) at East 52nd Street, in addition to serving as the network's corporate headquarters, broadcast journalism pioneer Edward R. Murrow had his base of operations here. He often dined at the Berkshire Place Hotel, diagonally across the street.

16 The Vanderbilt Tennis Club (15 Vanderbilt)

4th Floor of Grand Central Terminal

Formerly: CBS Television

The original studios of CBS Television were in this space from 1939 until 1964. The legendary news program See It Now originated from Studio 41 here at 10:30 pm on Tuesday evenings, including the famous March 9, 1954 broadcast on Senator Joseph McCarthy. Studio 41 was the smaller of two studios on the premises. Access was via a narrow walkway adjacent to Grand Central's iconic windows overlooking 42nd Street. The studio spec sheet notes that "transporting of large pieces of scenery" is "difficult to accomplish," but that Studio 41's size and the technology available there made it "ideally suited for news shows."

NOTES

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