



SJSM's Director Message



In August, the worst happened — or what we thought was the worst. A shooting spree that we were told broke out in Mullins Library followed by reports of gunfire in buildings across campus. After more than an hour of terror — students and faculty sprinting for cover, hiding in barricaded classrooms, the lights snuffed, crouching against walls — authorities realized it was all a hoax, by perpetrators unknown. But as it unfolded, our journalism students covered the chaos even as they were hunkered in the UATV studio. With instruction

from Prof. Tiffany King, they worked the phones to [get real updates and helped quell online rumors](#), that a shooter was arrested when police temporarily detained a person on campus. It was a teaching moment, as we say — police can detain anyone. What that detention means requires time and reporting, not reckless speculation.

I'm proud to say that our students performed as they should — setting aside their own emotions to provide facts as a countermeasure to misinformation spreading across student social media. Everyone, it seemed, on X or Instagram or TikTok, knew someone who had heard gunshots. As it turned out, there never was a gun shot, anywhere or at any time.

That day served as a reminder of the invaluable work journalists do in bad times, and to be honest, last year was a tough year for journalism and the First Amendment. Just as I'm proud of our students' coverage, I'm proud of the way SJSM met its challenges in 2025.

Our NPR affiliate, KUAF-FM, lost the federal funding that had helped deliver local and national news to the Ozarks for decades. The station responded by staging one of its most successful fundraisers ever. (We're now exploring ways to replace the lost funding indefinitely.) Furthermore, the University of Vermont's [Center for Community News](#) has named KUAF a Center for Community News Champion for its collaboration with our student reporters.

When five faculty and five students arrived in Washington, D.C., for a conference in August, we faced such a fear of reprisals against journalists that conference leaders urged attendees to remove their lanyards when they left the hotel. I don't know if everyone did that, but I do know our students actively engaged in panels and conversations with other students from schools across the nation, while our faculty presented on ethics and media literacy to packed rooms. In session after session, the energy was contagious, as was the defiance, the determination to keep reporting the truth. Like that day in October, when so many people here felt overcome by fear and confusion, our student journalists went to work. There's not much I want to keep from 2025. I am keeping that.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bret Schulte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bret" and last name "Schulte" clearly distinguishable.

Bret Schulte, Director

LJAS's President Message



LJAS Vice President, Bo Morrison, President, Bernard Oliver, and Board Member Maxine Williams

The next generation of journalists and public relations professionals is talented, motivated and deeply curious about the world. They are also entering an industry that is more complex, fragmented and demanding than the one many of us came up in. That is why the role of the “old guard” has never been more important.

Those of us who have built careers in newsrooms, agencies, studios, non-profits and corporate communications carry more than experience, we carry perspective. Take me for example; I went into filmmaking and started two small businesses. Those goals were achievable because my mentors paved the way and encouraged me when I was unsure. We are now the mentors. We understand the standards, the ethics, the pressure and the responsibilities that come with the work. It is now on us to lead the way by sharing that knowledge, opening doors and modeling what professionalism and integrity look like in practice. The legacy of integrity is extremely important today, it is often lacking in so many professionals.

As I mentioned in my last letter, support for students is not limited to financial contributions. Mentorship, internships, informational interviews, guest lectures and honest career guidance are just as valuable. Sometimes all it takes is a conversation or a connection to change the trajectory of a student’s career.

The Lemke Journalism Alumni Society exists to be that bridge; connecting established professionals with students who are eager to learn and grow. Our events, partnerships and programs are designed to create those moments of connection, but they only work if alumni show up and engage. We must **SHOW UP** and **ENGAGE**.

I encourage you to see yourself not just as an alum, but as a steward of the profession. Your voice, your experience and your presence matter now more than ever. Together, we can ensure that the values that shaped our careers continue to guide those who are coming next. The Will Of Fire must be passed on.

Thank you for being a part of this community and for helping lead the future of journalism and strategic communication.

Sincerely yours,

B L Oliver

Bernard L. Oliver, President

Lemke Journalism Alumni Society

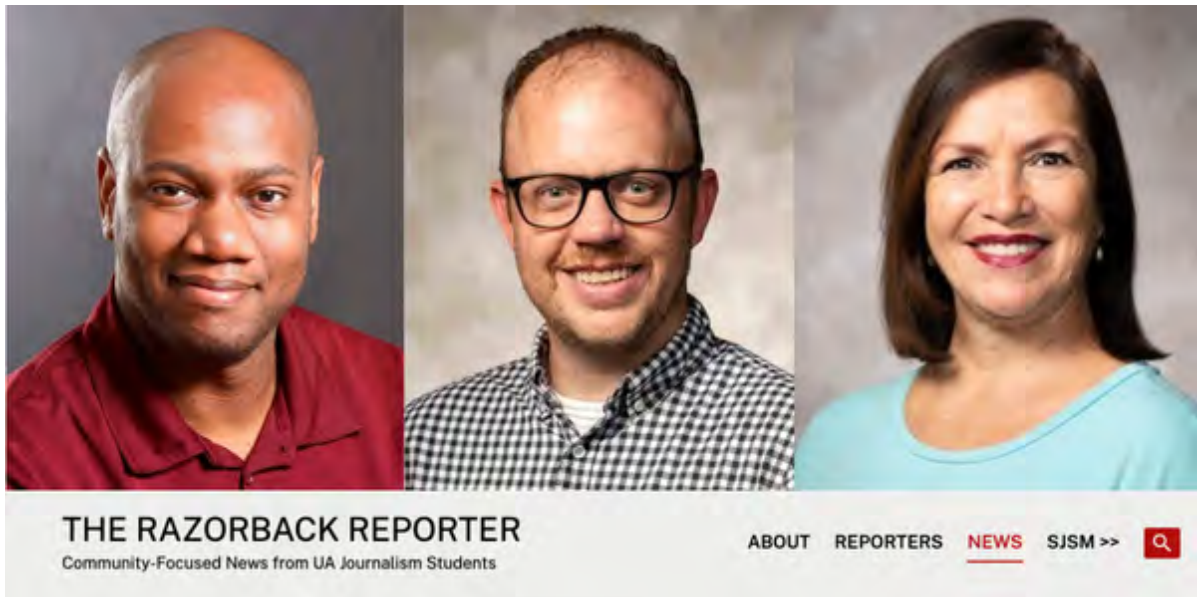
SCHOOL NEWS

Pulitzer Prize Pannels



The Center for Media Ethics and Literacy hosted three events with [2025 Pulitzer Prize](#) winners [Kathleen DuVal](#) and [Ziva Branstetter](#) on [Monday, Nov. 17](#). Both honorees grew up in Fayetteville as daughters of Fulbright College faculty members. Branstetter is CEO of the *Tulsa Flyer*, a nonprofit newsroom, and won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for work on “The Life of the Mother,” a project about maternal health for *ProPublica*. DuVal is a distinguished professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her 2025 book, *Native Nations: A Millenium in North America*, took the Pulitzer Prize in History. The center partnered with the Fulbright College Dean’s Office for in the Honors College with the winners and their parents. That evening, Brandstetter and DuVal sat down for a conversation at George’s Majestic Lounge. Both events were moderated by Fulbright Dean [Brian Raines](#). Between the two events, Branstetter met with SJSM students in the UATV studio.

Community Journalism Course



Faculty members Ninette Sosa, Kevin Kinder and Terrance Armstard brought back the J-School's Community Journalism course in the fall. As part of this nine-hour immersive reporting class, students research and report on an issue affecting their local community. The stories are shared through the [Razorback Reporter](#), a digital publishing platform relaunched through the course after a five-year hiatus. Alumni can support these student journalists by visiting the site and reading the stories, which reflect students' hard work and growth as reporters.

Join SJSM for 2026 J-Days



Save the date for the School of Journalism and Strategic Media's 2026 J-Days celebration, April 6-10 at the University of Arkansas. Alumni who are interested in speaking to classes or attending any of the events may email jschool@uark.edu to share their interest. Here are some of the events planned for this year.

- All Week – Classroom Presentations from alumni and industry professionals
- Monday, April 6 – Student Showcase
- Tuesday, April 7 – Churros and Soda with NAHJ

- Wednesday, April 8 – Scholarship Ceremony with donors and student recipients
- Wednesday, April 8 – Roy Reed Lecture featuring Larry Foley
- Thursday, April 9 – Lemke Journalism Alumni Society Hall of Honor
- Friday, April 10 – Movie Night featuring “The Devil Wears Prada”

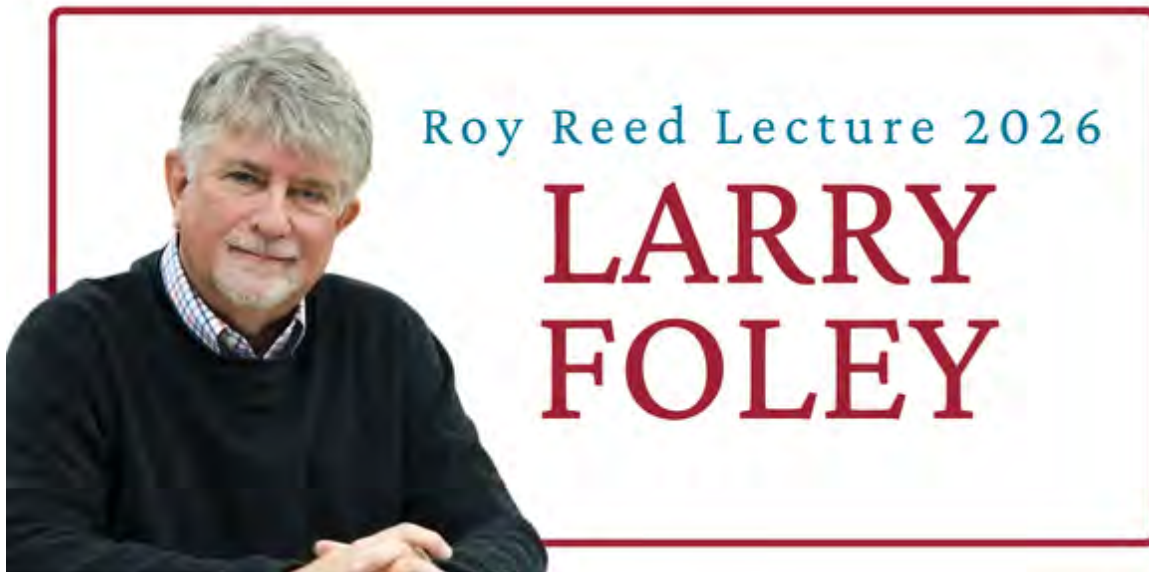
Follow the school’s [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#) accounts for additional details. Updates are also available on the school’s [J-Days](#) page.

Hall of Honor



The Lemke Journalism Alumni Society invites you to its 2026 Hall of Honor. On Thursday, April 9, join fellow alumni and students as LJAS inducts its latest honorees [Denise Beeber](#), [Michael Frezier](#), [T.J. Holmes](#), [Rusty Truner](#) and posthumous honoree [Maurice Britt](#).

Larry Foley to Give 2026 Roy Reed Lecture



Acclaimed documentarian, former SJSM chair and beloved broadcast journalism professor [Larry Foley](#) will deliver the 2026 [Roy Reed Lecture](#) at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, at the Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House. Join SJSM students, alumni, faculty and staff to celebrate the legacy of Roy Reed through noteworthy media professionals who discuss their careers and issues in their professions. Foley joined the U of A faculty in 1993 after working as a journalist for KUAF and KATV. He founded the UATV program in 1995 and served as chair of SJSM from 2014-2023. He has produced and directed more than 20 documentaries. His many awards include being named the 2024 [Journalism Educator of the Year](#) by the Arkansas Press Association and induction into the [Silver Circle](#) of the Mid-America chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in 2017. The Roy Reed Lecture Series was created by friends of Reed on the occasion of his retirement from the journalism faculty. [Previous lecturers](#) have included Chuck Todd, Chad Day, Bob Woodward, Shankar Vedantam and other industry luminaries.

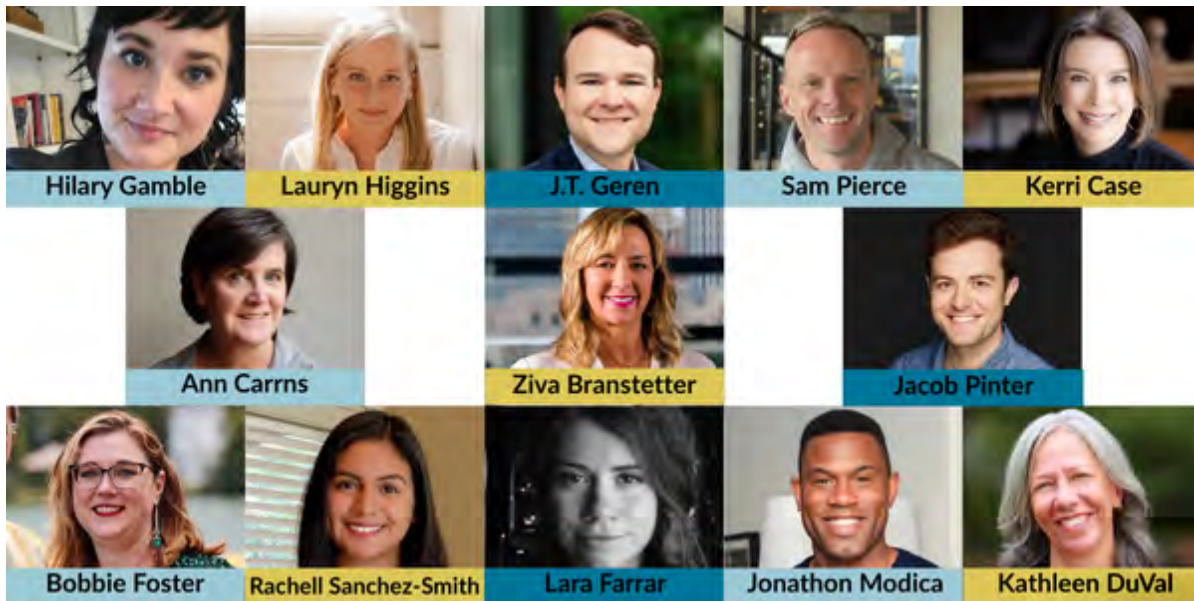
KUAF Updates



KUAF was featured in the Spring 2025 issue of [Arkansas](#) magazine. "More Than Radio: KUAF's Commitment

to Community” (pp. 12-15) is a retrospective of the station’s connection and contribution to Northwest Arkansas. The station put the “fun” in fundraising with [KUAF Night](#) at an Arkansas Natural’s baseball game in August and several events, including [Trivia Night](#), during [Supporter Appreciation Week](#) in October. The station was recognized by the [Center for Community News](#) for leadership in building a news-academic partnership to train student journalists.

Fall 2025 Visitors and Guests



[The Center for Media Ethics and Literacy](#) brought in 25 guest speakers and held 19 public events and this fall. Experts spoke on a range of topics involving journalism, advertising, public relations and storytelling. Events included a [September Speaker Series](#), Media Literacy Week, an ADPR Panel and two [Pulitzer Prize Panels](#). Guests included faculty members, alumni, Pulitzer Prize winners and other industry leaders such as [Hilary Gamble](#), [Lauryn Higgins](#), [J.T. Geren](#), [Sam Pierce](#), [Kerri Case](#), [Bobbie Foster](#), [Lara Farrar](#), [Jonathan Modica](#), [Rachell Sanchez-Smith](#), [Ann Carrns](#), [Madeleine Dean](#), [Lizzy Lankford](#), [Caroline McCready](#), [Shelby Owens](#), [Brett Parker](#), [Hannah Whitworth](#), [Jacob Pinter](#), [Kathleen DuVal](#) and [Ziva Branstetter](#).

Media Literacy Week



The Center for Media Ethics and Literacy celebrated [Media Literacy Week](#) Oct. 27-31. U.S. Media Literacy Week is hosted by the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE). The mission is to highlight the power of media literacy education and its essential role in education across the country. The theme for 2025 recognized a components of media literacy's definition: [Access](#), [Analyze](#), [Evaluate](#), [Create](#) and [Act](#). Each day, the center hosted an [expert guest speaker](#). More than [30 Springdale High School students](#) joined activities in Kimpel Hall for day three.

- [Monday, Oct. 27](#) – Access: “Financial Literacy” with [Ann Carrns](#)
- [Tuesday, Oct 28](#) – Analyze: “Equitable Media Literacies” with [Bobbie Foster](#)
- [Wednesday, Oct. 29](#) – Evaluate: “Community Journalism” with [Rachell Sanchez-Smith](#)
- [Thursday, Oct. 30](#) – Create: “Impactful Media Projects” with [Lara Farrar](#)
- [Friday, Oct. 31](#) – Act: “Building Critical Thinking” with [Jonathon Modica](#)

Alumni Networking in D.C.



SJSM hosted an alumni happy hour at Astro Beer Hall in Washington, D.C., while faculty and students were in

town for the Society of Professional Journalists [MediaFest25](#). Faculty members Bret Schulte, Dave Bostwick, Gina Shelton and Susannah Swearingen gave presentations on trends and research in media ethics and literacy during the conference.

LJAS Connecting Through Events



The Lemke Journalism Society hosted several events this fall. In August, they partnered with the SPJ professional chapter for a happy hour. Alumni and students gathered at [Big Red's Rooftop](#) in on Friday, Sept. 26, before the Hogs played Notre Dame on Sept. 27. On Friday, Oct. 24, LJAS hosted [Dinner and a Show](#), an evening of discussion, laughter and the 2025 [NWA Gridiron](#) performance. The LJAS board is planning more happy hours and other gatherings for the spring – including Hall of Honor on April 9 – follow [@uarkjournalism](#) on Instagram for details and updates on all LJAS spring events.

Department of Gridiron Efficiency



SPJ's 2025 [NWA Gridiron Show](#), "[Department of Gridiron Efficiency](#)," emceed by Fayetteville Mayor Molly Rawn, featured SJSM students, faculty, alumni and professionals. Faculty members Gina Shelton, Dave Edmark and Rusty Turner served as liaisons between the show and the J-School. SJSM photojournalism instructor, Terrance Armstard was the event's official photographer. Prior to the opening night show, J-School alumni and friends, including Lemke Journalism Alumni Society Vice President Bo Morrison, gathered for [Dinner and a Show](#) with a select group of students for an hour of camaraderie and networking. The event was planned and executed by students in the Event Promotions class under the direction of their instructor, Darinda Sharp.

Marti Thomas Celebrates 30 Years at the University of Arkansas



Whether they know it or not, anyone who has attended classes, worked for, or just stopped by the main office at the School of Journalism and Strategic Media in the last 20 years has benefitted from the expertise of office manager Marti Thomas. Thomas joined the U of A 30 years ago and moved through various departments for

10 years before landing in journalism, where she found her place. In December, SJSM celebrated Thomas's milestones with the University and the J-School by presenting a special "rock star" award. During her tenure, she has been promoted from administrative assistant to office manager and assistant to the director. She was featured in the 2019 *Fulbright Review* and named a U of A employee of the quarter in 2020. Thomas plans to continue at the J-School until she retires.

The Lemke Journalism Project Returns for its 24th Year



More than 50 high school students from across Northwest Arkansas will spend Saturday mornings in Kimpel Hall with retired professors, like Gerald Jordan and Katherine Shurlds, as well as current faculty and students. Sessions run for six Saturdays starting Feb. 7. Alumni are welcome stop in to give advice to teens. To be added to the sessions, email Prof. Gina Shelton at ginas@uark.edu.

Save the Date for Spring Events



SJSM and LJJAS invite you to its 2026 alumni events to connect with SJSM alumni, students and faculty. Follow [@uarkjournalism](#) on Instagram for details and updates on all SJSM events.

FEBRUARY

- Saturday, Feb. 21 – Lemke Journalism Project, week 3, Kimpel Hall
- Saturday, Feb. 28 – Lemke Journalism Project, week 4, Kimpel Hall

MARCH

- Monday, March 2-Friday, March 6 – Media Literacy Summit, Kimpel Hall
- Saturday, March 7 – Lemke Journalism Project, week 5, Kimpel Hall
- Saturday, March 14 – Lemke Journalism Project, week 6, Kimpel Hall
- Monday, March 23-Friday, March 27 – U of A Spring Break

APRIL

- Monday, **April 6**-Friday, **April 10** – **2026 J-Days**
- Wednesday, **April 8** – **Roy Reed Lecture featuring Professor Larry Foley**, Janelle Y. Hembree Alumni House
- Friday, **April 10** – **Towers of Old Main honoring Gerald Jordan**, Fayetteville Public Library
- Friday, April 24-Saturday, April 25 – Arkansas Scholastic Press Association Convention, Har-Ber High School, Springdale

STUDENT SHOWCASE

Emma Grace Beard

[Emma Grace Beard](#), a junior studying broadcast journalism and advertising/public relations, won first place in the U of A's bi-annual [ePortfolio contest](#), which recognizes students who effectively articulate their skills, experiences and professional identities



through thoughtfully designed digital portfolios.

Addie Jones

Addie Jones, a senior majoring in journalism and political science, was an SPJ Diamond Awards finalist in Arts and Entertainment Reporting for her feature “Behind the Scenes of Pop Princess Nite” in *The Arkansas Traveler*.



Emma Rasmussen

Emma Rasmussen, graduate student and UATV station manager, was an SPJ Diamond Awards finalist in the professional podcasting category for her episode “Grape to Glass Ep. 2: Behind the Bottle,”



which explored the Arkansas wine industry through in-depth interviews and storytelling.



Raegan Skarda

[Raegan Skarda](#), a junior studying broadcast journalism, interned with KNWA's [Pig Trail Nation](#) over the summer of 2025. She attended Taylor McGregor's [Aspiring Broadcaster Seminar](#) at Wrigley Field. She also attended the College Football Hall of Fame for [SEC Media Days](#) in Atlanta where she helped both Inside Arkansas and Pig Trail Nation with their coverage and interviewed a few coaches, which aired live on SEC Network coverage.

NOAH WASHINGTON

Noah Washington, a senior studying multimedia storytelling and production, was featured as the cover story in the 2025 issue of *Arkansas Next*, a magazine produced by Arkansas Business Publishing Group. Washington is rewriting sports media with his YouTube production “The Ridin’ Around Show.”



Hannah Youngblood

Hannah Youngblood, a junior studying journalism and advertising/public relations, was featured in “Youngblood thrives in reporter role.” The article appeared in the August 7 issue of *Publisher Weekly* and highlighted Youngblood’s internship at the *Madison County Record* in Huntsville.

STUDENT MEDIA AND ORGANIZATIONS



The U of A Society of Professional Journalists chapter won the Outstanding Campus Chapter Award for [SPI Region 12](#), which includes 11 student chapters in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

The Arkansas Pro Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists recognized the best of journalism in July during the 2025 [Diamond Journalism Awards](#) presented by AY Media Group. Several individual students and media outlets were honored. Katie Parker won Outstanding Sports Anchor for her sports reel on UATV, Maddi Phipps won Arts and Entertainment for “Ukulele Society” on UATV, Emma Rasmussen was a finalist in Features for “Grape to Glass Ep. 2: Behind the Bottle” on UATV, Addie Jones was a finalist in Student Special Projects for “Behind the Scenes of Pop Princess Nite in *The Arkansas Traveler*, Ethan Doan was a finalist in Photography for “Football Kneeling” in *The Arkansas Traveler*, MJ Ferguson was a finalist in Student Editorials for his column in *The Arkansas Traveler* and the UATV staff were a finalists in News Special for their election coverage.

Student media leaders traveled to Washington, D.C., for [MediaFest25](#) in October, bringing home national awards and valuable connections with alumni working in the nation’s capital. Students [Casey Mann](#), [Emma Rasmussen](#), [Cooper Gant](#), [Sophia Nabours](#) and [Wisdom Harlan](#) attended educational workshops and sessions led by media professionals from across the nation. Outside of the conference, students met with alumni including [Isabel Dobrin](#) (BA’17), the deputy legal editor for *Politico* and former editor-in-chief of *The Arkansas Traveler*; [Jordain Carney](#) (BA’12), a congressional reporter for *Politico* and former editor and columnist for *The Arkansas Traveler*; and [Homa Bash](#) (BA’09), an anchor and reporter for FOX 5 DC and former UATV staff. [Jax Crall](#) won fourth place in Best of Show Broadcast–Sports Story category for his story “Nolan Richardson Receives the 2025 Arkansan of the Year Award.” Crall also took home sixth place in the Best of Show Broadcast–News Category for his story “A Shooting Hoax Causes Reassessment and Evaluation.” Crall is the sports director for UATV. [Miceala Morano](#) won fifth place in the Best of Show Reporting–News Story category for her story “First 911 call to UAPD made public reveals details about campus ‘swatting’ incident.” Morano is a staff reporter for *The Arkansas Traveler*. Main Hill Media won sixth place in the Best of Show Advertising Media Kit competition. The Razorback yearbook won fourth place in the Best of Show Yearbook competition.

Broadcast journalism students [Kennedy Smith](#), [Ali Tejani](#) and [Jax Crall](#) attended the [Arkansas Broadcasters Convention](#) in Hot Springs, Ark., on Sept. 15, and interviewed former men’s Razorback basketball head coach [Nolan Richardson](#). The ABA honored “Coach” as [Arkansan of the Year](#). Smith, Tejani and Crall sat down with him and produced stories for multiple student media platforms including UATV.

FACULTY HEADLINES



Dave Bostwick

[Dave Bostwick](#), teaching associate professor and associate director, was a finalist for the 2025 Dr. John and Mrs. Lois [Imhoff Award](#) for Outstanding Teaching and Student Mentorship. He also presented at [MediaFest25](#) Oct. 15-18 in Washington, D.C., as part of the school's [College Research Grant for Journalism Ethics](#).



Ann Carrns

[Ann Carrns](#), adjunct professor and weekly contributor to *The New York Times*, spoke to students on [Monday, Oct. 27](#), as part of the Center for Media Ethics and Literacy's programming for U.S. [Media Literacy Week](#).



Lara Farrar

[Lara Farrar](#), adjunct professor and award-winning investigative journalist, spoke to students on [Thursday, Oct. 30](#), as part of the Center for Media Ethics and Literacy's programming for U.S. [Media Literacy Week](#).



Larry Foley

[Larry Foley](#), professor and SJSM alumnus (BA'76), was featured in "[A Big TV Merger: What It Might Mean in Arkansas](#)" and "[Larry Foley's Career Comes Full Circle With APA](#)," which both appeared in the Sept. 8 issue of *Arkansas Business*. The first explores the Nexstar Media Group acquisition of Tegna Inc. and its possible effects on Arkansas journalism. The second article delves into his career and the reciprocal impact between Foley and the Arkansas Press Association. Foley's [latest documentary film](#), *James Buton Blair, Nothing But the Truth: The Improbable Life of an Arkansas Giant*, [premiered](#) on Nov. 30, at the Fayetteville Public Library.



Bobbie Foster

[Bobbie Foster](#), assistant professor and SJSM alumna (BA'12, MA'14), has co-authored a new book, [Equitable Media Literacies: Pedagogies and Practices for Healthy Civic Futures](#), which was published in December. She also spoke to students on [Tuesday, Oct. 28](#), as part of the Center for Media Ethics and Literacy's programming for U.S. [Media Literacy Week](#).



Hilary Gamble

[Hilary Gamble](#), instructor, spoke to students on Thursday, Sept. 4, about the ethics of using artificial intelligence in newsrooms as part of the Center for Media Ethics and Literacy's [September Speaker Series](#).



Lauryn Higgins

[Lauryn Higgins](#), instructor and two-time Pulitzer Winner, spoke to students on [Thursday, Sept. 11](#), about freelancing and story pitching as part of the Center for Media Ethics and Literacy's [September Speaker Series](#).



Kevin Kinder

[Kevin Kinder](#), instructor, was named a [Center for Community News](#) Champion for 2026 for leadership in building a news-academic partnership. CCN is a nonpartisan organization established at the University of Vermont to grow and strengthen university-led reporting programs across the U.S.



Matthew Moore

[Matthew Moore](#), adjunct professor, senior producer of Ozarks at Large at KUAF and SJSM alumnus (MA'21), was named a [Center for Community News](#) Champion for 2026 for leadership in building a news-academic partnership. CCN is a nonpartisan organization established at the University of Vermont to grow and strengthen university-led reporting programs across the U.S.

Bret Schulte

[Bret Schulte](#), professor and director, presented at [MediaFest25](#) Oct. 15-18 in Washington, D.C., as part of the school's [College Research Grant for Journalism Ethics](#). He also joined the [Collegiate Civic Leadership Program](#) Advisory Council created by the [Winthrop Rockefeller Institute](#) to bring media literacy education to participating students from across the state.



Darinda Sharp

[Darinda Sharp](#), instructor, director of external affairs and alumni outreach and SJSM alumna (BA'94), co-hosts [Real or Not Real: A Hunger Games Podcast](#). The chapter-by-chapter deep dive into the dystopian book series by Suzanne Collins received 23,000 downloads in its first season.



Gina Shelton

[Gina Shelton](#), advanced instructor and director of the center for ethics in journalism, presented at [MediaFest25](#) Oct. 15-18 in Washington, D.C., as part of the school's [College Research Grant for Journalism Ethics](#).

Susannah Swearingen



[Susannah Swearingen](#), instructor, media writing coordinator and SJSM alumna (BA'02), presented at [MediaFest25](#) Oct. 15-18 in Washington, D.C., as part of the school's [College Research Grant for Journalism Ethics](#).

ALUMNI NOTES

Allye Brillante

[Allye Brillante](#) (BA'20), a senior video producer and account supervisor at FleishmanHillard in Austin, Texas, won a Bursary Award for documentary film. Brillante will join an expedition focused on humpback whales with [The Marine Diaries](#), a marine conservation non-profit, as the photographer and videographer.





Madeleine Dean

[Madeleine Dean](#) (BA'16), beauty transformation merchant for Walmart, spoke to students at PRSSA's Strategic Career Advice event on [Wednesday, Nov. 5.](#)

J.T. Geren

[J.T. Geren](#) (BA'13), vice president of communications for Heartland Forward, led a lunch-and-learn session on Thursday, Sept. 18, for the Center for Media Ethics and Literacy's [September Speaker Series.](#)



T.J. Holmes

[T.J. Holmes](#) (BA'99), journalist and cohost/coproducer of the [Amy and T.J.](#) podcast, returned to campus Sept. 25-27. He spoke with



students in several classes about his career path, life lessons and taking advantage of unexpected opportunities.

Kyle Kellams

Kyle Kellams (BA'86), news director for KUAF Radio and host of Ozarks at Large, won the Distinguished Community Leadership Award from the U of A Honors College.



Lizzy Lankford

Lizzy Lankford (BA'21), account manager for VML, spoke to students at PRSSA's Strategic Career Advice event on Wednesday, Nov. 5.



Beth Mack Lewis

Beth Mack Lewis (MA'21) thesis film, “Artistry in Air: The Story of the Younkins” was accepted for broadcast by Arkansas PBS. It premiered on Thursday, Nov. 6.



Jonathon Modica

Jonathon Modica (BA'07, MA'08), vice president, human resources business partner, in the Global Business Solutions Group at Intuit Inc., spoke to



students on [Friday, Oct. 31](#), as part of the Center for Media Ethics and Literacy's programming for U.S. [Media Literacy Week](#). He was also honored by the U of A Alumni Association with the 2025 [Young Alumni Award](#).

Shelby Owens

[Shelby Owens](#) (BA'20), strategic Amazon GTM lead for Carboni6 spoke to students at PRSSA's Strategic Career Advice event on [Wednesday, Nov. 5](#).



Brett Parker

[Brett Parker](#) (BA'09), managing partner at Stone



Ward, spoke to students at PRSSA's Strategic Career Advice event on [Wednesday, Nov. 5](#).

Katie Parker

[Katie Parker](#) (BA'24, MA'25), a multimedia journalist and reporter at [KLTV 7](#), the ABC affiliate in Tyler, Texas, was named Outstanding Sports Anchor in the Craft Achievement category at the [SPJ Diamond Awards](#) in July for her work covering Razorback athletics for UATV when she was a student.



Maddi Phipps

[Maddi Phipps](#) (BA'24), a assistant manager at Madewell, won first place in the television reporting Arts & Entertainment category (professional



division) at the [SPJ Diamond Awards](#) in July for her story "[Ukulele Society](#)," which showcased the culture of a local group of ukulele enthusiasts.

Sam Pierce

[Sam Pierce](#) (BA'02), a global managing partner at Ogilvy, spoke with students about international advertising on [Thursday, Sept. 25](#). Based in London, he Zoomed in for the Center for Media Ethics and Literacy's [September Speaker Series](#).



Jacob Pinter

[Jacob Pinter](#) (BA'14), senior producer and cohost of



[NASA's Curious Universe](#) podcast, talked with students in November about his career and life in D.C. during a visit coordinated by the Center for Media Ethics and Literacy.

Rachell Sanchez-Smith

[Rachell Sanchez-Smith](#) (BA'24), a newsroom fellow at WBUR in Boston, spoke to students on [Wednesday, Oct. 29](#), as part of the Center for Media Ethics and Literacy's programming for U.S. [Media Literacy Week](#).



Amy Schlesing

[Amy Schlesing](#) (BA'11), region communications and external affairs manager for SWEPCO, spoke to students in the honors Government and Media class



on [Thursday, Nov. 6](#). She's also leading the [Arkansans at War Oral History Project](#) with the [David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History](#).

Raegan Stoken

[Raegan Stoken](#) (BA'20), was [featured](#) in the 2025 issue of [Arkansas Next](#), discussing photography industry in Arkansas and her career as a destination wedding photographer.



Danterrian Swanigan



[Danterion Swanigan](#) (former PRSSA president), was [featured](#) in the 2025 issue of [Arkansas Next](#), discussing transferring to the U of A from community college.

Beth Turner

[Beth Turner](#) (MA'09), an independent filmmaker and consultant based in Tulsa, was recognized for her first feature-length film, "[Randy Crouch: Survival of the Fiddlest](#)," at [Fear Fame Film Festival](#) in Tampa, Fla., in November.



Hannah Whitworth

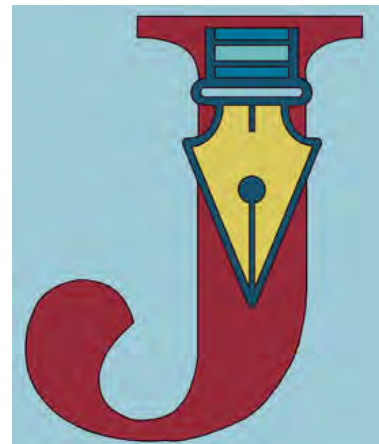
[Hannah Whitworth](#) (BA'21), performance marketing manager for Slim Chickens, spoke to students at



PRSSA's Strategic Career Advice event on [Wednesday, Nov. 5.](#)

Share Your News

Share your news with the J-School. Have you won an award or had a career milestone. Let us celebrate your success. Go to our [Alumni News form](#) and tell us all about it.



ALUMNI ON THE MOVE



Madeleine Dunn

Madeleine Dunn (BA'22, MA'23) joined KOTV News On 6 in Tulsa as a multimedia journalist in September.



Hayden Herrera

Hayden Herrera (BA'12) joined the Pig Trail Nation team as a content manager and producer in October.



Jadiann Thompson

Jadiann Thompson (BA'07) was named main evening anchor at 7News Boston in December.

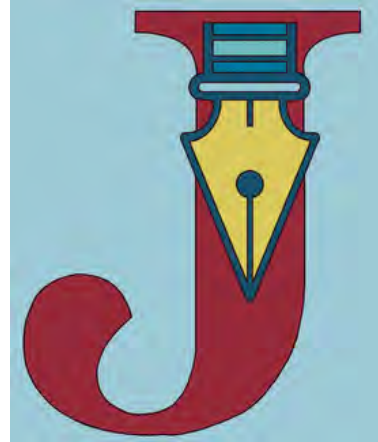


Kevin Trainor

Kevin Trainor (BA'94, MA'05) joined the Arkansas Alumni Association as its chief operating officer and associate executive director in August. He will be inducted into the College Sports Communicators Hall

Share Your News

Share your news with the J-School. Have you gotten a promotion, changed jobs or relocated? Let us know. Go to our [Alumni News form](#) and update us on your latest move.



IN MEMORIUM



John Berrey

[John Berrey](#) (BA'91), 67, of Joplin, Mo., passed away peacefully on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, at Freeman Memorial Hospital. A funeral service was held at Saturday, Nov. 1, at Mason-Woodard Mortuary in Joplin.

Denzel Jenkins

[Denzel Jenkins](#) (MA'19), 32, of Los Angeles, formally of Camden, Ark., passed away Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025. He is buried in Woodson Temple Cemetery in Lake

Village, Ark.



Martha Ann Langley

[Martha Ann Langley](#) (former Lemke office assistant), 78, most recently of Buford, Ga., but lifelong Arkansan, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025. A celebration of life was held at 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 8, at Rosemont Cemetery in Benton, Ark.

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