

University of Arizona School of Journalism
Diversity, Equity, and Belonging Report
2022-23 Academic Year

Section 1: Highlights

Assistant Professor of Practice **Pate McMichael** joined the School of Journalism faculty after spending three years as a professional-in-residence for news at California State University at Chico.

The University of Arizona School of Journalism honored PBS' **Yamiche Alcindor** with the 2022 Zenger Award for Press Freedom during the Zenger Award Dinner on November 16.

The J-School was one of 15 new schools to [join the NBCU Academy](#), an award-winning journalism training program that builds a pipeline from classrooms to the newsroom.

Jessica Retis was selected to join the University of Arizona Academic Leadership Institute's 2023-24 cohort.

Susan Swanberg was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, the world's oldest active society devoted to natural history.

Jessica Retis, Monica Chadha, Ruxandra Guidi and **Liliana Soto** led the charge to write the proposal that won the competitive University of Arizona Provost's Investment Fund (PIF). The winning project was, "The Wonder Room: A much-needed multimedia laboratory to train the next generation of journalists in local, global, and borderland settings."

Professor of Practice **Kendal Blust** ('16, M.A.), a former senior field correspondent with NPR member station KJZZ's Fronteras Desk, joined the J-School faculty.

Students in **Liliana Soto**'s Fall 2022 Arizona Cat's Eye class produced the school's first bilingual newscast.

A donation by J-School alumnus William Jamieson ('65) and his granddaughter Hunter Metcalf ('21) helped establish a new student scholarship known as the [Jamieson-Metcalf Family Scholarship](#) for Public Affairs in Journalism.

Professor of Practice **Rick Wiley**, former photo editor of the Arizona Daily Star, joined the J-School faculty.

Section 2: Service

Jeannine Relly, **Mandy Loader** and **Monica Chadha** hosted a roundtable discussion on Zoom with the U.S. Embassy to Yemen for World Press Freedom Day on May 9.

Pamela Pelletier of the university's Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research gave students in **Susan Swanberg**'s environmental journalism class a tour of the facility and its archival materials.

Alexandra Pere ('20, B.A., '21, M.A.) taught a workshop on recording audio for high school students in the Donald W. Carson Journalism Diversity Workshop.

Liliana Soto and Chris Conover of AZPM held a resume workshop for students to prepare for the Spring 2023 Internship Fair.

Jessica Retis provided the Spanish greeting for attendees of the University of Arizona's 159th Commencement Ceremony.

Alexandra Pere led two audio storytelling workshops in **Ruxandra Guidi's** and **Tyler McCusker's** classes.

Carol Schwalbe and **Susan Swanberg** spoke to graduate students and faculty in the University of Arizona School of Natural Resources and the Environment about communicating science to the public on January 25.

Section 3: Guest speakers

Liliana Soto hosted Jenn Budd, an immigrant rights activist and author of “Against the Wall,” for a public in-depth interview on campus.

Yamiche Alcindor spoke to **Mike McKisson**’s Intro to Journalism class about her career on Nov. 16 while she was in town to accept the J-School’s Zenger Award.

Pate McMichael coordinated a presentation by Alan H. Onyango on increasing the participation of people with disabilities in journalism.

Caitlin Schmidt invited Arizona Daily Star government reporter Nicole Ludden to speak with students in her Reporting Public Affairs class.

Director of the NBCU Academy Sandy Sharp visited several classes and answered students’ questions during a campus visit on February 7.

Glenn Cook, executive editor of the Las Vegas Review Journal, visited campus on Oct. 27, and met with students in the J-School student lounge to discuss internship opportunities.

Nicole Valdez, Fox Weather correspondent, spoke to **Liliana Soto**’s bilingual television reporting and production class on Oct. 20.

KOLD News director Jessica Bobula spoke to **Liliana Soto**’s beginning television reporting class on Oct. 13.

Paige Blankenbuehler, senior editor of High Country News, spoke to **Ruxandra Guidi**’s freelance class on Oct. 12.

Section 4: Classroom topics and activities

Professor **Liliana Soto** and Director **Jessica Retis** organized a field trip to the U.S.-Mexico border for students in the Arizona Cat’s Eye and bilingual journalism program on November 18.

Professor **Susan Swanberg** welcomed a group of international journalists from the Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists to her Environmental Journalism class for a discussion on the spread of disinformation.

JOUR 205 students **Sam Parker**, **Kiara Adams** and **Thomas Hoos** were chosen as the winners of the Fall 2022 Mark Finley Gold Pen Award for Best Beginning News Writer.

Carol Schwalbe attended the 2023 Planet Forward Summit at George Washington University with students Sam Parker and Denise Meeks.

Monica Chadha and **Jeannine Relly** hosted two groups of international journalists from the Edward R. Murrow Program for Journalists in April to provide information about the Bilingual Journalism Program and Studies of Global Media Program.

Section 5: Research and professional projects

Director **Jessica Retis** presented her research on Latinx media at the South By Southwest (SXSW) Conference & Festivals in Austin, Texas, on March 13.

Monica Chadha's abstract from "Media entrepreneurship: Perceptions and motivations of Yemeni youth," was accepted for online presentation at the International Association for Media and Communication Research Conference held from July 9 to 13 in Lyon, France.

Jessica Retis presented her paper, "Bilingual strategies on news media production in the postdigital age," at the Latin American Studies Association Conference.

Pate McMichael received a \$1,000 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion grant from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences for the Donald W. Carson High School Diversity Workshop.

Pate McMichael received a \$5,000 grant from the Dow Jones News Fund for the Donald W. Carson High School Diversity Workshop.

Tyler McCusker published his company's docuseries podcast, "CAPTURED: Shot Down in Vietnam," which tells the story of the Vietnam Prisoner of War crisis, told through interviews with living POWs, their families and historians.

Jessica Retis published a book chapter titled "Latin Americans in London: Digital Diasporas and Social Activism" in "Imagining Latinidad: Digital Diasporas and Public Engagement Among Latin American Migrants."

Susan Swanberg published an article titled, "A Jewel of a Tale from Pinnacles National Park" in WNPA's Spring 2023 issue (pp. 5 to 7) of Your American West.

Susan Swanberg attended the Public Communication of Science and Technology conference in Rotterdam and was part of a roundtable on finding common ground through journalism.

Jessica Retis and Ana Sánchez-Muñoz published the book *Communicative Spaces in Bilingual Contexts: Discourses, Synergies and Counterflows in Spanish and English*.

Monica Chadha and **Jeannine Relly** won the 2023 Top Faculty Paper-Runner Up Award for "Bringing intercultural experiences to the mobile phone: A case study of Slack as a learning tool in intercultural communication in the U.S. and Yemen."

Carol Schwalbe's article on mentoring and collaborating with graduate students on research appeared in the January newsletter of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.

Jessica Retis was part of a video keynote panel, "Shifting Notions of Community in Community Media," in the Community Communication and Alternative Media section of the International Association for Media and Communication Research - IAMCR conference.

Section 6: Student club activities

The National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) student chapter held an info session about the Félix Varela Fellowship.

NAHJ organized a search engine optimization (SEO) workshop with Univision's Alvaro Corzo on Nov. 4.

Students in the NAHJ club hosted a Dia de los Muertos celebration and honored journalists killed on the job.

Section 7: Students and alumni

Frank Sotomayor ('66) won second place in history in the International Latino Book Awards for the book he authored in 2022, "The Dawning of Diversity: How Latinos Helped Change Stanford University."

Caitlin Schmidt ('14) and **Curt Prendergast** ('11, M.A.) launched a new local newsletter the [Tucson Agenda](#) on July 4.

Sofia Moraga Franco ('21) is the digital producer at La Estrella de Tucson, the Spanish language sister site to the Arizona Daily Star.

Katya Mendoza ('22, M.A.) received the 2021 Community Nina Mason Pulliam Environmental Journalism Arizona Press Club award for her story, "Irregular 'side blooms' on saguaros signify a parched desert."

ProPublica reporter **Nicole Santa Cruz** spoke to students in the high school diversity workshop over the summer about reporting on inequality and food insecurity.

Mariana Dale ('14) and Stefanie Ritoper of KPCC won the ONA Online Journalism Award for their coverage of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on childcare in California.

Tatyana Johnson had a story about nonprofits supporting Tucson's homeless populations published in the [Arizona Daily Star](#).

Briana Sanchez ('15) and her team at the Austin-American Statesman were finalists for the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in Public Service for their coverage of law enforcement's response to the deadly 2022 school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

Diana Ramos reported on the World Athletics U20 Championships in Colombia over the summer.

Bennito L. Kelty reported on low-income public housing for the [Tucson Sentinel](#).

Clara Migoya ('19, M.A.) was invited to be a Society of Environmental Journalists Fellow for the 2023 SEJ conference in Boise, Idaho.

Cathy Burch's El Inde students **Jane Florance** and **Sohi Kang** had an in-depth story published in the Daily Wildcat about how Arizona college campuses are tackling food insecurity.

Caitlin Schmidt ('14) won the PRSA Southern Arizona Chapter Media Person of the Year Award.

Katya Mendoza wrote a story for AZPM about Arizona tribal leaders and Arizona politicians coming together to ask President Biden to designate land surrounding the Grand Canyon, as the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni Grand Canyon National Monument.

Carmen Valencia ('20) was a panelist for the NAHJ 2023 International Training Convention panel on Mental Health and Wellbeing for Journalists.

Ella McCarville ('23) will be serving as a Peace Corps Climate Change Action and Awareness Facilitator in Mexico.

Daniela Cazares wrote an article [for the Latino Reporter](#) about new rules implemented by the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.