

University of Arizona School of Journalism

Diversity, Equity, and Belonging Report

2020-21 Academic Year

Submitted by the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

Section 1: Highlights

Jeannine E. Relly and Celeste González de Bustamante co-authored *Surviving Mexico: Resistance and Resilience among Journalists in the Twenty-First Century*, which examines how the Mexican government protects Mexican organized crime while the murders and disappearances of journalists go unsolved. The book was published by University of Texas Press.

Jeannine E. Relly and Celeste González de Bustamante collaborated to develop the BA and MA programs and help to get the Studies of Global Media programs through the university approval process. This involved meetings with units across campus and presenting the program before the UA CAAC (College Academic Administrators Council).

Ruxandra Guidi was chosen as one of ten participants of IRE's first educators' bootcamp.

Jessica Retis launched the Bilingual Journalism Program at the School of Journalism, including designing the curriculum and recruiting student applicants.

Jessica Retis published her book, "Narratives of Migration, Relocation and Belonging: Latin Americans in London," with co-author Patria Román-Velázquez.

Carol Schwalbe worked with donors Adelaida and Barry Severson to build podcasting and broadcasting studios in the Marshall Building.

Jeannine Relly was selected to participate in the prestigious HSI Solutions Journalism Educator Academy. She's among 14 professors serving Latino/x students in seven states who will learn how to train students in the practice of solutions journalism, which helps journalists tackle complex social issues deeply and equitably.

Susan Knight received the university's new Gerald G. Swanson Prize for Teaching Excellence Dec. 8 in a virtual ceremony before family and colleagues from the J-school, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences and Provost's Office. Dean **JP Jones**, Nancy Sharkey, Vice Provost **Andrea Romero** and Provost **Liesl Folks** presented or spoke on Knight's behalf.

Celeste González de Bustamante has been selected for the next class of the **Institute for Diverse Leadership**. The class, featuring 10 fellows, is co-sponsored by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) and the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication. Its purpose is to increase racial, gender and ethnic diversity in administrative and other senior-level positions in journalism and communication education.

Brittney Mejia ('14) was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in the local reporting category for **an investigation into the Los Angeles County medical system**. She and her co-nominee, Jack Dolan, work for the Los Angeles Times, where Brittney covers immigration and race.

Saul Loeb ('04) took iconic images inside the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6 siege — including a man sitting at Speaker Nancy Pelosi's desk. Loeb covers the White House for Agence France-Presse. He also captured a photo of Vice President Mike Pence confirming President-elect Joe Biden's victory early the next day. Rolling Stone, The Guardian and other news outlets interviewed Loeb (See **story** and **photos**). “They were streaming in from every direction, coming from everywhere,” said Loeb, who plans to talk to Prof. **Susan Knight**'s "Inside the Beltway" class later in January.

Genesis Lara ('18) of the Nogales International was named Community Journalist of the Year by the Arizona Press Club for her 2019 work, including **this border story**. Earlier, she earned the same honor from the Arizona Newspapers Association.

Led by Editor **Jill Jorden Spitz** ('88), the Arizona Daily Star devoted most of the Jan. 8 front page to honor the victims of the Jan. 8, 2011, Tucson mass shooting on the 10-year anniversary. The coverage included a column by **Sarah Garrecht Gassen** ('95, '10 M.A.), "**We mark Jan. 8 with resiliency, kindness**" and other stories, including one on the new memorial downtown.

Priya Jandu, news editor for the Arizona Daily Wildcat, and photographer **Lauren Salgado** contributed to an Oct. 15 New York Times report by student journalists, "**Reporting Live From Quarantine U,**" on what's happening on their college campuses during the pandemic.

Section 2: Service

Celeste González de Bustamante adapted high school student mentoring program, Fronterabeat, to fully online program as result of COVID-19. The program launched in fall 2019.

Celeste González de Bustamante co-organized BINACOM (Binational Schools of Communication) Conference to be held at the UA. Cancelled because of COVID-19.

Ruxandra Guidi took on the role of assistant director for the Bilingual Journalism Program

Ruxandra Guidi organized and offered a workshop with the Freedom of the Press Foundation about online trolling, November 2020.

Ruxandra Guidi prepared and offered a workshop with Chicas Poderosas Mexico for women journalists on audio storytelling, October 2020.

Maggy Zanger served on the CMES Board of Advisors and participated in reviewing dozens of Foreign Language and Area Studies scholarships applications, and selecting with CMES board members for MENAS students.

Maggy Zanger organized and hosted a Facebook Training Workshop: SPJ Training Program in partnership with the Facebook Journalism Project on September 25.

Maggy Zanger organized and hosted for graduate students, Best Practices: Storytelling During a Pandemic, Friday, October 2, panel discussion for graduate students with three former grad students via ZOOM.

Jeannine Relly served as a School of Journalism faculty member liaison for the certificate program “Participatory Democracy Initiative.” The initiative is an interdisciplinary and community-engaged program of The University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, the School of Government & Public Policy, and the School of Journalism. The program, which Relly helped to develop, will launch Fall 2021. The initiative also obtained funding for development of a course on an opinion writing course to be taught in Fall 2021.

Jeannine Relly served as the faculty representative for matters related to the university’s Institutional Review Board. She also served as an SBS College-requested mentor for two faculty members.

Jeannine Relly served on the Human Rights Practice Program Advisory Committee, the Honors College Advisory Committee, and the university’s Study Abroad Committee. She is also heading the GLO BA, BA minor and MA programs.

Jeannine Relly served as the vice chair of the AEJMC Elected Standing Committee on Professional Freedom and Responsibility (PF&R), which oversees issues related to freedom of expression; information rights; diversity, equity and inclusion; ethics and other issue areas in the field.

Jessica Retis served as a committee member on the SBS College Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee.

Jessica Retis is serving as Chair of the Diaspora and the Media Working Group at the International Association for Mass Communication Research until 2023.

Jessica Retis in vice president and incoming president of the Binational Association of Schools of Communication (BINACOM), a collaboration network between universities in the United States and México.

Ruxandra Guidi gave an **Oct. 25 workshop on audio storytelling** to 100 journalists from Colombia, Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador — part of Chicas Poderosas’ Mediaton Resonar.

Ruxandra Guidi joined the advisory board for El Tímpano, a Spanish-language storytelling lab out of Oakland, CA: <https://www.eltimpano.org/>

Section 3: Guest speakers

Ruxandra Guidi invited Mexico City-based journalist Franc Contreras to speak to students on Oct. 26 in her capstone class. Contreras, who grew up in Tucson, traveled to Arizona to cover the U.S. elections for CGTN. He touched on his freelance work and Arizona as a battleground state.

Susan Knight’s class “Inside the Beltway: Press, Politics and Power in DC” was visited by C-SPAN’s Joel Bacon and Marty Dominguez on April 19. The students learned about resources for finding unfiltered news coverage to compare to the social media portrayals. The students are spending the semester analyzing the social media of DC-centric organizations, individuals and agencies — culminating in a consultant’s report on metrics and analytics, with attention to what’s working, what’s not and what could be improved.

Susan Knight hosted Politico financial services reporter **Kellie Mejdrich** ('12) on April 5 with Prof. Emeritus **Terry Wimmer** listening with students. Knight also welcomed Wall Street Journal immigration reporter **Alicia A. Caldwell**, who took J-school classes and got her start on the Daily Wildcat, on March 31.

Susan Swanberg hosted **Jenny Hijazi** ('17), a Bloomberg senior air reporter who covers pollution and other environmental issues, in a March 3 Zoom session for her Environmental Journalism (JOUR 455/555) class. The far-ranging discussion included topics such as Hijazi's career path, how she investigates and reports environmental stories and journalism ethics.

Ruxandra Guidi hosted a Zoom panel talk March 8 on the growing tide of unionization and workplace organizing by U.S. journalists. She was joined by the L.A. Times' **Carolina Miranda** and UA J-school grad **Kristina Bui** ('13), Wired's **Phuc Pham** and author and National Writers' Union VP **David Hill**.

Susan Knight invited **Christianna Silva** ('17) to talk to her Inside the Beltway class on Feb. 25. Silva is a tech reporter for Mashable ([tinyurl.com/csmash21](https://www.tinyurl.com/csmash21)) in New York, focusing on Facebook and Instagram. Silva gave students the lowdown on media regulation and censorship, tips about social media and digital journalism — and career advice from her 18 internships/jobs.

Ruxandra Guidi lined up Erika Hayasaki, an **award-winning freelance writer**, UC Irvine professor and author, to speak to her freelancing class on Feb. 23.

Michael McKisson and **Carol Schwalbe** invited Dillon Bergin, an investigative reporter with Searchlight New Mexico, to speak to their JOUR 205 Reporting the News class. Bergin discussed his recent story about the police shooting of a Black man during a traffic stop in New Mexico. Bergin covered reporting and writing on deadline, thinking about language and framing, and balancing that with editorial demands.

Jessica Retis held speakers' sessions in her JOUR 410/510 class, Latinxs and the News Media in the U.S., including the Sept. 30 "Latinas in Journalism," which had more than 100 attendees on Zoom to hear panelists **Rebecca Aguilar**, **Esmeralda Bermudez** and **Dianna Nájuez**. On Oct. 14, she held another Zoom session, "The Latino vote: Discourses, myths and realities about Latinxs' participation in the U.S. Presidential Elections," with panelists **Yara Marin**, **Eduardo Sainz** (Mi Familia Vota) and **Eileen Truax** (reporter on migration and politics).

Susan E. Swanberg's JOUR 205 students interviewed photojournalist **Jose Carlos Fajardo** of the East Bay Times and San Jose Mercury News. **Maritza Cruz** ('18), who worked at the Mercury News as a Chips Quinn Scholar, helped Swanberg connect with Fajardo. Maritza is now a freelance writer and professional photographer based in Tucson.

Michael McKisson and **Carol Schwalbe**, who are co-teaching JOUR 205 Reporting the News, invited **Gabriella Cázares-Kelly**, the Democratic candidate for Pima County recorder, to speak to students about her plans to pursue voting reforms if elected. She told students that her interest in increasing voter participation began when she worked at Tohono O'odham Community College.

Section 4: Classroom topics and activities

Ruxandra Guidi coordinated with media partners AZPM and The Daily Wildcat so students can pitch their stories and publish them at the end of the Fall 2020 semester.

Ruxandra Guidi supervised grad student Clara Migoya in her summer internship at High Country News magazine, including a published story on one of Arizona's mining ghost towns: <https://www.hcn.org/issues/52.11/south-mining-once-a-boom-town-now-a-ghost-town-always-a-hometown>

Carol Schwalbe was one of three instructors selected in 2020 by the UA Honors College to deliver a Calderwood Seminar on Writing About the Environment in Fall 2021. Writing-intensive Calderwood Seminars engage students in an area of study—their own major or something new—while they learn to use criticism productively to improve their public writing in a variety of styles.

Susan Swanberg received the 2020 Al Litzow Student Engagement Grant for Journalism 205 with her proposal for the Own the Learning Project (OWL). With this award Swanberg's JOUR 205 students produced a panel discussion titled "Covid Conversations: Storytelling in Unprecedented Times."

Celeste González de Bustamante's fall 2020 apprentice class podcast, "Of Power and Pandemics" and spring 2021 research methods class project, "Hidden Voices of the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands" appeared in the Newspapers as Data virtual student showcase for the University of Arizona Libraries.

Ruxandra Guidi helped dozens of students from the fall 2020 semester publish work on the school's El Inde website — indearizona.com — including an audio report by **Yasmin Acosta**, "**A thriving business despite the pandemic.**"

Dozens of students published work on the school's El Inde website, including: **Jesse Tellez**, who documents the **journey of student filmmaker Alexandra Cerna** in producing "Treasures Beneath My Tree" amidst the pandemic; **Jillian Bartsch**, who writes about a **young man's love of hot air ballooning**, and how it taught him some important lessons about family and life; **Kristopher Yanez**, who wrote about **an ultramarathon** from Nogales, Arizona, to San Xavier del Bac Mission on the Tohono O'odham Reservation; and **Vanessa Ontiveros**, who wrote about "**Monsters, myths and finding the real missing link**" while being stuck in her bedroom during the pandemic.

Section 5: Research and professional projects

Celeste González de Bustamante was a Faculty Collaborator on the UA Libraries Collections as Data Grant. Her participation involved consulting on the grant proposal, attending computational workshops in spring 2020, and the development of course assignments about Arizona and U.S.-Mexico borderlands historic newspaper collections and journalism.

Celeste González de Bustamante was awarded a Student Engagement Grant to support the Fronterabeat mentoring program with UA students and high schoolers in Nogales, Ariz./Sonora in Spring 2020.

Ruxandra Guidi published a reported essay in High Country News magazine, June 2020: <https://www.hcn.org/articles/south-social-justice-the-west-has-a-role-in-reimagining-the-u-s>

Maggy Zanger and Jeannine Relly, along with Paola Banchemo, saw their book chapter, "Toward a Framework for Studying Democratic Media Development and 'Media Capture': Iraqi Kurdistan after the Oil Boom and ISIS Crisis," accepted for publication in summer 2021.

Susan Swanberg saw her article, "Borrowed Chronicles: New York Times Science Journalist, William L. 'Atomic Bill' Laurence and the Reports of a Hiroshima Survivor," published in *Legacies of the Manhattan Project: Reflections on 75 Years of a Nuclear World*.

Susan Swanberg's article, "'Well-bred and well-fed,' The *Science News-Letter's* Coverage of Eugenics from 1924 to 1965," published by *American Journalism* in May 2021.

Susan E. Swanberg received a 2021 Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Research Travel Grant to conduct research at the laboratory's archives on her project titled: "The Rise and Fall of Davenport's Dream: The De-Funding of the Eugenics Record Office."

Jessica Retis' co-authored paper with Amara Aguilar and Laura Castaneda, "Latinas in Journalism: Challenges and Opportunities," was accepted for presentation at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) 2021 Conference in August.

Ruxandra Guidi will collaborate with the Southwest Folklife Alliance this May-September on Continuum: End-of-Life Stories, a participatory audio project that seeks to recognize the work of end-of-life caregivers — to make them seen and heard.

Jessica Retis received the 2021 International Symposium on Online Journalism (ISOJ) Top Research Paper Award with Lourdes Cuevos Chacón for "Mapping digital-native U.S. Latinx news: Beyond geographical boundaries, language barriers, and hyper-fragmentation of audiences."

Linda Lumsden wrote the introduction to *Standing Together: Inez Milholland's Final Campaign for Women's Suffrage*. The book features Jeanine Michna-Bales' photographic meditation on the life of America's sole suffrage martyr. The images combine dramatic landscapes and historical reenactments of Milholland's life to offer a glimpse of the monumental effort required to pass the 19th Amendment granting women the vote. *The New York Times* featured the project in **'She Was More Than Just the Most Beautiful Suffragist.'**

Jeannine Relly's invited chapter titled, "**Online harassment of journalists as a consequence of populism, mis/disinformation, and impunity**" was published in Howard Tumber and Silvio Waisbord's edited volume, *The Routledge Companion to Media, Disinformation and Populism*, published by Routledge.

Linda Lumsden's book, "Social Justice Journalism: A Cultural History of Social Movement Media from Abolition to #Womensmarch," received **a positive review** March 4 in Journalism History.

Ruxandra Guidi wrote about the legacy of illegal trash dumping near the homes of migrant farmworkers in a **Feb. 18 essay** for Boom California. She also published a satire, "**Things to answer for,**" for Guernica.

Susan Swanberg's research article titled, "Writing while under the influence: Reflections on the provenance of Johannes A. Siemes, S.J.'s eyewitness report and its impact on John Hersey's Hiroshima," has been accepted by Literary Journalism Studies with publication slated for LJS Vol 13, No. 2, December 2021.

Susan Swanberg's book review titled, "Nuclear Shadows: Hersey's 'Hiroshima' Revisited," — a review of Lesley M.M. Blume's book *Fallout: The Hiroshima cover-up and the reporter who revealed it to the world* — has been accepted by Literary Journalism Studies with publication slated for spring of 2021.

Adjunct instructor **Irene McKisson** ('03) and Becky Pallack of the Arizona Daily Star, co-founders of **#ThisIsTucson**, wrote a **Jan. 6 report for Columbia Journalism Review** and the Tow Center on how they helped build a membership program for the digital product and successfully launched it during the pandemic. "Today we're at 433 members and growing," Pallack says.

Susan E. Swanberg co-authored a book review, "**Fact or Fiction? Researchers Examine Our Shared Concern,**" with environmental science Ph.D. student **Matthew Roby** in the August 2020 edition

of *Literary Journalism Studies*, the journal of the International Association of Literary Journalism Studies. Roby and Swanberg reviewed *The Oxford Handbook of the Science of Science Communication*.

Carol Schwalbe and **Mikayla Mace** ('17 M.A.) saw Journalism Studies publish their article, "**From Robots to Humans: Newspaper Coverage of Mars in the United States and the United Kingdom 2011-2016**." It's based on Mace's master's thesis, which placed first in an AEJMC student paper competition.

Jeannine Relly and Rajdeep Pakanati's manuscript titled, "Deepening democracy through a social movement: Networks, information rights and online and offline activism," was accepted for publication in the *International Journal of Communication*.

Jeannine Relly, Md. Fazle Rabbi, Meghna Sabharwal, Rajdeep Pakanati and **Ethan Schwalbe's** manuscript, "More than a decade in the making: A study of implementation of India's Right to Information Act," was accepted for publication in the academic journal, *World Development* (IF: 3.869). The first phase of the research project was launched in 2015 and completed in 2017 and included in-depth semi-structured interviews with 114 journalists, civil society organization representatives, social activists and central government information commissioners throughout the country. The second phase of the study involved an analysis of a randomly stratified sample of 500 Central Information Commission decisions about release of information under the Right to Information Act from 190,462 total cases. The data was obtained from the Indian government upon request for the period of 2006-2016.

Adjunct instructor **Sarah Garrecht Gassen** was selected to participate in a two-month virtual national program, "**50 Women Can Change the World in Journalism**." She is editorial page editor at the Arizona Daily Star and a J-school M.A. and B.A. alumna.

Ruxandra Guidi recorded a 30-minute episode for "70 Million," a podcast about criminal justice reforms around the U.S. Hear the episode, "**No Longer Waiting for Top-Down Reform**."

Celeste González de Bustamante and history Professor Katherine Morrissey received a Mellon grant through University Libraries to create an online platform of bilingual primary resources that includes historical newspapers representing Tucson, Nogales, Douglas and Bisbee in Arizona and Nogales, Agua Prieta and Naco in Sonora.

Section 6: Student club activities

Ruxandra Guidi organized and offered a workshop with the Society of Professional Journalists about data journalism, September 2020.

NAHJ started a campaign to welcome Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) educators, led by **Jessica Retis**, national academic officer for the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

James W. Foley Freedom Run and the UA SPJ held a Zoom session with Prof. **William Schmidt** on Oct. 19 to honor Foley, a journalist murdered by ISIS in 2014 while reporting in Syria. **Watch the session.**

The Society for Professional Journalists honored Ph.D. journalism minor **Rebecca Thompson** and the Arizona Daily Wildcat staff in its 2020 SPJ Mark of Excellence Region 11 contest. Thompson was a finalist in sports writing for her **Arizona Daily Star story on Cedric Dempsey**. The Wildcat won **best affiliated website** and will now move onto the national competition.

Section 7: Students and alumni

Andrés Domínguez co-directed the Donald W. Carson Journalism Diversity Workshop with **Julia Blumberg**, a master's student. Seven students participated in the workshop, which was held virtually this year.

Academic adviser **Paloma Boykin** ('08), a "40 Under 40" winner for 2020, was honored Dec. 15 in a ceremony and Dec. 16 in a special section in the Arizona Daily Star. See **a video of the virtual event**. The awards are hosted by the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Star.

Three journalists helped the UA J-school formally launch its Nancy and Bob Maynard Diversity in Journalism Scholarship on Oct. 6 with a webinar, "**Truth-telling in a Time of Turbulence**." Alum **Gilbert Bailon** ('81), editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, moderated a panel with Roll Call columnist **Mary C. Curtis** and **Kevin Merida**, editor-in-chief of ESPN's "The Undeclared." The three discussed racial reckoning, COVID-19, the election, objectivity and the legacy of news media diversity promoted by the Maynards.

Sam Burdette ('20), a master's student, worked as a mentor at the Donald W. Carson Journalism Diversity Workshop. She won the senior of the year award for 2020-21.

Jackson Peters worked as a mentor at the Donald W. Carson Journalism Diversity Workshop.

Diana Ramos, the school's junior of the year, worked as a mentor at the Donald W. Carson Journalism Diversity Workshop.

Josh Morgan ('12), a photographer and visual journalist, **produced a moving piece** for the Greenville (S.C.) News about two neighbors developing an unlikely friendship after BLM protests.

Rebecca Rillos ('12) is a news designer at The New York Times, which won the Pulitzer Prize for public service reporting for its coverage of the COVID-19 pandemic. She lays out the daily and Sunday National sections, in addition to mentoring news design at The New York Times Student Journalism Institute, which was co-founded by **Nancy Sharkey**.

Gabriella Vukelic ('17), social media editor at Newsday Media Group, won First Place for Best Idea to Encourage Reader Engagement for coronavirus text messages and Second Place for Best Use of Social Media from the International News Media Association (INMA).

Bennito Kelty landed a job at the Tucson Sentinel as an IDEA (Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Access) reporter. **Editor's story about Kelty**

Brittney Mejia ('14), who covers the Latino community for the Los Angeles Times, joined Prof. **Susan Knight**'s Features class. Mejia spoke with students about reporter-editor relationships, learning from an editor's changes to copy, building trust with reluctant sources, finding fresh story ideas and using social media in the field.

Graduate student **Mandy Loader** wrote a successful grant proposal for the CBGJ, which Profs. **Jeannine Rely** and **Celeste González de Bustamante** contributed to this spring. The award from the UArizona Commission on the Status of Women is for \$1,500 for the proposal titled, "Digital safety and security for women and BIPOC." The mini-grant funding is for two upcoming online events.

Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan ('10), a current Ph.D. journalism minor and faculty member at Tohono O'odham Community College, was interviewed and photographed for a March 10 Washington Post article on saguaros and climate change, "**Saving the West's iconic cactus from climate change**."

Janice Yu ('13) of Fox 5 in Atlanta made a video guide to help fellow broadcasters pronounce the names of the Asian victims of the March 16 spa shootings. [Story](#)

J-school alums from the Arizona Daily Star — **Danyelle Khmara** ('17), **Gloria Knott** ('18), **Irene McKisson** ('03), **Stephanie Casanova** ('14) and **Veronica Cruz** ('09) — participated in a March 26 bilingual roundtable focusing on women's lives during the pandemic. The event was hosted by the Star's La Estrella de Tucson.

Sofia Revilak, a grad student, is working with Prof. **Jessica Retis** as a coauthor of a book chapter titled "¿Por qué los centroamericanos huyen en caravana hacia EE. UU.? La representación discursiva de los 'otros' inmigrantes latinoamericanos en la prensa española" ("Why are Central Americans fleeing in caravans to the United States? The discursive representation of the 'other' Latin American immigrants in the Spanish press"). The book will be coedited by **Antonio Bañón** and **Bernard McGuirk** and published in Spanish with Arco/Libros in Spain and in English with Nottingham.

Diana Ramos, a journalism major, set a Venezuelan indoor national record in the high jump (5-7 ¼) competing for the Arizona track team at the Texas Tech Invitational on Feb. 13.

Susan Carroll ('99) moved to ProPublica as a senior editor for its Local Reporting Network after 14 years at the Houston Chronicle ([see story](#)). Carroll, who is still based in Houston, recently led a team of Chronicle reporters who investigated Texas' failure to adequately prepare for the COVID-19 pandemic. Also a Daily Wildcat alum, Carroll got her start covering the border for the Tucson Citizen and Arizona Republic. **Ryan Gabrielson**, another UA J-school alum and Pulitzer Prize winner, is a ProPublica reporter.

Savannah Guthrie ('93) co-anchored NBC's coverage and analysis of President Joe Biden's inauguration on Jan. 20. **Saul Loeb** ('04), the White House photographer for Agence France-Presse, took photos of the inauguration.

Jeff Sklar ('04) was named a Pima County Superior Court judge with two others last month. Sklar, a two-time editor of the Arizona Daily Wildcat, had served since 2018 as a Superior Court judge pro tem.

Victoria Yarnish ('06) saw her iPhone photos of a co-worker wearing a bandanna mask inspire the Nov. 2 cover artwork for Time magazine — the first time it replaced its logo with another word: VOTE. "It's important to showcase someone having a vision of hope," Yarnish said. [Read a story](#) by the Arizona Daily Star's **Johanna Willett** ('13) on Yarnish, an executive with Obey Giant Art Inc. in Los Angeles.

El Paso Times journalist **Briana Sanchez** ('15) was featured in a [publisher's note](#) to readers for her photo of an attendant straining to wheel a coronavirus victim to a mobile morgue. "As much as it broke my heart to see bodies being moved into the mobile morgues, I also knew it was equally important to accurately depict what was happening in hopes it'll cause change," she said.

Yael Adler ('11) published a memoir, "[From Gypsy to Jersey](#)," about her adoption from Romania after the fall of communism — and how, nearly 30 years later, she unraveled the mysteries of her past. Also an Arizona Daily Wildcat alumna, Adler (left) is now the director of marketing for Sage Thrive, a company that provides mental health support to New Jersey school districts. [Read a profile of Adler](#) in the Jewish Standard.

Tyler Smith ('08) opened up one of the state's first African American-owned breweries, Kitsune, in Phoenix. Read the [Arizona Republic story](#) by Tirion Morris ('18).

Nogales International reporter **Genesis Lara** ('18) was named the non-daily Journalist of the Year by the Arizona Newspapers Association. Individually, UA journalism alums took home nine first-place awards and 36 total awards in the ANA's 2020 Better Newspapers Contest. Lara placed first in feature reporting, shared a second place in best sustained coverage and a third place in feature photography. Payson Roundup Editor-in-Chief **Alexis Bechman** ('08) captured three first-place awards. **Mike Christy** ('11), **Dave Ord** ('84), **Curt Prendergast** ('11 M.A.), and **Caitlin Schmidt** ('14) took home first-place awards for the Arizona Daily Star, while Star colleagues **Justin Sayers** ('14 B.A., '19 M.A.) and **Jasmine Demers** ('19 M.A.) shared a first place. Meanwhile, the Casa Grande Dispatch — under sibling co-publishers and J-school grads **Donovan Kramer Jr.** ('76) and **Kara K. Cooper** ('79) — was named the non-daily Newspaper of the Year by the ANA, while the Arizona Daily Star was named the daily Newspaper of the Year, thanks to 10 UA J-school alums who were honored. Read the [full story](#) and see a [list of all the recipients](#).

J-school grads **Caitlin Schmidt** (Arizona Daily Star, sports investigative), **Genesis Lara** (Nogales International, immigration) and **Andi Berlin** (Star, food) and M.A. alum **Paul Ingram** (Tucson Sentinel, investigative) all won first-place reporting awards in the Arizona Press Club contest for work produced in 2019. In other categories, Lara also took second (gov't reporting) and two third places (business and food); alum Mark Lawson (Star) placed second and Schmidt third in sports features; and Mariana Dale (KJZZ) took third in public service. Congrats to all! See the list at azpressclub.org (more awards will be posted later).

Savannah Guthrie ('93) of NBC News earned praise from many news outlets for her interviewing skills in a town hall with President Trump on Oct. 15 in Miami. In an analysis, New York Times White House correspondent **Annie Karni** said Guthrie [got "answers from Trump"](#) by setting a fast pace and following up" as a moderator. **Jeremy Barr** of the Washington Post said [she "grilled Trump"](#) like few others have." "Guthrie faced both praise and opprobrium on social media, where conservative critics lobbed insults at her and many Democrats praised her," Barr wrote. [See more reactions](#).

Grad student **Laura Fuchs'** story, "[Tucson's Ubiquitous Shopping Cart](#)," placed third in the features category of the national AEJMC Student Magazine Contest. Judge Molly Simms, senior editor for O the Oprah Magazine, said: "This made me care about something I hadn't previously considered (the history of shopping carts and what role they play in a city)—I was impressed by the approach and the detail. Nice reporting!" Congrats, Laura, and her adviser, Prof. William Schmidt. See the winning entries at tinyurl.com/y24gmvt8.

Ph.D. minor **Jacelle Ramon-Sauberan** ('10) received the Robert & Ethel Warner Fellowship from the UA American Indian Studies Graduate Interdisciplinary Program. The award committee praised Jacelle for her community-partnered research project with the local Tohono O'odham Nation. She found out about the award after giving a cultural competency presentation to 175 people from AURA/Kitt Peak Observatory.

Journalists with UA J-school ties won at least seven Rocky Mountain Emmys on Sept. 19. Congrats to: **Ciara Encinas**, **Carmen Valencia** and **Ernesto Romero**, Yuma's KYMA-TV; **Kassandra Lau** and **Lorraine Rivera**, Arizona Public Media; **Sandra Westdahl**, Landmark Stories at the University of Arizona; **Nicole Crites**, KTVK / KPHO Phoenix; **Andrew Brown** (adjunct instructor), AZPM; and **Rebecca Guldberg**, Arizona PBS (two awards). [See the full list of winners and categories](#).

Genesis Lara ('18) and **Rebecca Noble** ('17) captured awards in the 2020 Better Newspaper Editorial Contest, which the National Newspaper Association (NNA) runs to honor the best in community journalism. Genesis, a reporter for the Nogales International, took second place in best agricultural story

("Sonoran ranchers carry on tradition of corridas") and shared with the staff a first place in best local news coverage and third place in general excellence. Noble, formerly with the Jackson Hole (Wyoming) News & Guide, won honorable mention for best photo essay ("Citizen's mount up"). www.nna.org/better-newspaper-contest

Summer intern **Alana Minkler**, **John D'Anna** ('83), **Leah Trinidad** ('97) and former adjunct instructor **Stephanie Innes** were part of a massive team that worked on a July 18 Arizona Republic project, "**In one day, Arizona's COVID-19 surge leaves no walk of life unscathed.**" Read the **editor's note** by Greg Burton about the story, written by D'Anna with feeds from 40-plus reporters and photographers.

Courtney Rice ('18) and **Jeremy Levin** ('95 Journalism minor) won **Sports Emmy Awards** last week. Rice, social content editor for the NFL, was an associate producer on the NFL Network team that captured the outstanding trans-media sports coverage award for the NFL 100 Greatest & All-Time Team. Levin, a coordinating producer at Turner Sports, shared two awards as a producer for TNT's Inside the NBA (outstanding studio show, weekly) and for the NCAA men's basketball tournament (outstanding playoff coverage).

At least nine J-school alums were nominated for Rocky Mountain Emmy Awards: **Ciara Encinas**, **Carmen Valencia** and **Ernesto Romero** (KYMA News 11 Yuma); **Nicole Crites** and **Morgan Loew** (KTVK/KPHO Phoenix); **Sandra Westdahl** (Landmark Stories at the University of Arizona); **Lorraine Rivera** and **Kassandra Lau** (Arizona Public Media); and **Saul Bookman** (FOX Sports Arizona). Adjunct instructor **Andrew Brown** (AZPM) also was nominated. Winners will be announced Sept. 19. **Full list of nominees and categories.**

Kristan Obeng ('19 M.A.), a reporter for the Lansing State Journal, wrote a powerful op-ed for the Michigan newspaper on June 18, "**What I noticed while working as a Black reporter in Lansing before George Floyd died.**" "I never write op-eds because I prefer to be behind the scenes," Kristan says, but **Zeina Cabrera-Peterson** ('18 M.A.), Prof. Jeannine Relly and Obeng's mom, Rosa Johnson, "convinced me I should."

Savannah Guthrie ('93), co-anchor of NBC's "Today," saw her program win best morning show at the 2020 Daytime Emmys.