



2009 NAA FOUNDATION NEWS CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS

Arlinda Marie Arriaga

A senior at the University of North Texas, Arlinda has a double major in journalism and political science. She created the UNT journalism department's Facebook page. She also has been a freelance reporter for TheDefendersOnline, a Web-based publication of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and has contributed to the Latina Lista blog and Latina-voices.com. She works part time for the Denton (Texas) Record-Chronicle and has been a Web news intern at the Dallas Morning News. Arlinda plans to intern with the Scripps Howard Foundation this summer and would like to work in online news after her graduation in the fall.

Narasimha Bhyravabotla



A graduate student at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, **Narasimha** is currently working on a master's degree in computer science. **Narasimha**, who graduated from Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University in India with a bachelor's degree in computer science, has held various Web development positions in Houston and India and has built 10-15 Web sites. He currently works at Fitiri, a wireless solutions company in Houston, where he is developing applications. Narasimha's long-term goal is to be the head of the social media department at Microsoft.

Whitney Bryen

A rising senior at the University of Oklahoma, Whitney is majoring in journalism. She is the multimedia editor for OUDaily.com, the student news Web site, and is

interning this summer for Scripps Howard. She interned for the Shawnee (Okla.) News-Star as an online reporter and video producer and produced more than 20 videos. She also has interned at The Oklahoman in Oklahoma City and The Noble Free Press in Noble, Okla. After her graduation in December 2009, she would like to produce and edit online packages for a media organization. Eventually, Whitney would like to teach at the college level.



Andrew Gallo



A rising junior at Arizona State University, Andrew is working towards a degree in journalism and mass communications. Andrew worked as an intern for a PR/marketing firm. Currently, he does extensive freelance graphic and web design work.

Anna Hiatt

A rising senior at the University of California-Berkeley, Anna is majoring in history. She is the photo editor for The Daily Californian, Berkeley's student publication. In the summer of 2008, she interned in South Africa and was published by the Cape Times and the Cape Argus in Cape Town. She has also interned in Oakland and Berkeley for photography companies. Earlier this year, Anna won first place for best news photo from the California College Media Association. She plans to attend law school and would like to study media law. Anna's long-term goals include pushing a shield law through Congress and helping to rethink laws that affect online and digital news.

Michael Higdon



Michael recently graduated from the University of Nevada-Reno with a major in journalism and a minor in political science. During an independent study project, Michael created and maintained a social networking Web site aimed at testing citizen participation. He also completed a journalism game for NASA as a grant assistant for UNR professor Larry Dailey. He has interned for the Indianapolis Star and The Courier-Journal in Louisville and completed a fellowship with The Poynter

Institute. Michael has won multiple awards, including the Associated Collegiate Press's 2008 Infographic Design of the Year. Short-term, Michael wants to gain an understanding of the sales side of the business by working as a designer for an advertising firm. Long-term, he wants "to be in a position(s) to be part of the solution to journalism (as how to interact with and provide content for readers)".

Emily Krenek

A graduate student at the University of Houston-Victoria, Emily currently is working toward a master's degree in business administration. After graduating with a BS in computer science/information systems in spring 2006, she worked for three years as a project manager for Page Concepts, a Web site provider. There she and her development team sometimes juggled 20-30 projects simultaneously. At present, Emily works as an online technician for the university.



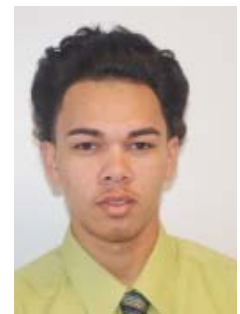
Selene Macias



A rising junior at the University of Texas-El Paso, Selene is majoring in media advertising and minoring in marketing. She is an advertising representative for the Prospector, UTEP's student newspaper. Since joining the newspaper staff in July 2008, she won three consecutive sales periods, closing 10 contracts totaling more than \$5,000. Selene would like to own her advertising company one day.

Kyle Marcil

A rising junior at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Kyle has a double major in broadcast journalism and Spanish. As online editor for The Famuan, Florida A&M's student publication, Kyle remodeled the Web site and upgraded the program to create a more interactive experience. He is an associate for the student-run PRodigy public relations company. Kyle is one of eight students to win the NCAA Freedom Forum Sports Journalism Scholarship. After graduating, Kyle would like to work for ESPN.



Danny Martinez

A junior at Arizona State University, Danny is majoring in graphic information technology. Martinez worked as a graphic designer for Chandler-Gilbert Community College, creating brochures, Web banners and interactive CDs. He was also the graphic designer for the Hispanic Student Organization. He is currently a graphic and Web designer at the New Media Innovation Lab at ASU. He would like to own a business in the future.

Amanda Peterson

A rising junior at the University of Alabama, Amanda currently has a double major in journalism and Spanish. The incoming editor of the Crimson White, the university's student newspaper, Amanda has won multiple awards for her reporting, including first place in news reporting in the 2008 Best of the South competition. She has had internships with the Scripps Howard Foundation in Washington D.C., the Press-Register in Mobile, Ala., and the Ludington (Mich.) Daily News. She also contributed to an Alabama political blog, "Doc's Political Parlor," during the 2008 Republican Convention. Short-term, Amanda would like to work as a newspaper reporter. Long-term, she hopes to be the editor for a newspaper or Web publication.



Terence Rushin



A junior at the University of West Georgia, Terence is majoring in mass communication with minors in film and photography. His photos have been used on university Web sites as well as those for local musicians. Terence serves as the photo editor for his college paper, The West Georgian, and also is a writer and photographer for the paper. He also teaches high school students how to shoot, edit, produce and direct their own videos. Terence was a semi-finalist in the TBS Funniest Video national competition and the runner-up in Krazy Glue's national commercial competition. He took home the grand prize in Goal Quest's Room Renovator's national short film competition. He plans to pursue a master's degree in communications, photography or film. He would eventually like to become a film or television director and own his own photography studio.

Angela Tam



Angela recently graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology, where she majored in graphic media and had a double minor in communications and Chinese. She is proficient in both Cantonese and Mandarin. She has had internships at the RIT Printing Applications Laboratory, Canon USA, Astoria Graphics, Inc. and Eastman Kodak. Anela is also a NTID note-taker and as such takes detailed notes for students with total or partial hearing losses. Both short- and long-term, Angela hopes to “be happy in her job and make a real difference and continuously grow and be challenged.”

Leslie Ann Threlkeld

A senior at the University of Alabama, Leslie is majoring in journalism with a minor in computer technology and applications. Leslie has covered the technology and entertainment beat for Dateline Alabama, a student news Web site. This summer she is working as an intern for the magazine *mental_floss*. Leslie, a long-term equestrian who has competed in three-day events, also is a freelance writer for EventingUSA, the online magazine for the US Eventing Association. After college, Leslie hopes to work on a Web site or publication that focuses on technology or video games.



Danielle Wiggins



A graduate student at Kent State University, Danielle is studying media management. She is a discussion leader at the Gannett-sponsored Cleveland.momslikeme.com and a contributor for spanministries.org. She also creates podcasts, sound slides, videos and narratives for the Web site for Kent State’s School of Journalism and Mass Communications. Danielle owns a multimedia production company, and has also been both a television producer and a radio show host. Her goal is to be a leader in providing niche content across multiple media platforms.