

2017 MEDIA DIRECTORY

Valley of the Sun Chapter, Society of Professional Journalists



AMEEMA AHMED

Content Planner, KNXV-TV (ABC15)

602-685-6357

Email: ameema.ahmed@abc15.com

Twitter: @ameema22

I am an Arizona-raised journalist who graduated from Arizona

State University and worked at 12 News as a producer for nearly five years. I've recently joined ABC15 as a content planner for the 10 p.m. show and am always looking for interesting story ideas. In my free time, I enjoy crafting, baking, hiking and traveling.



CHRISTINA BARRUETA

Food, Beverage and Travel Writer

Email: Christina@writeonrube.com

Twitter: WriteOnRube

Website: WriteonRube.com

Christina Barrueta is a food

and travel writer whose work has been featured in publications such as Phoenix Home & Garden, WhereTraveler, Four Seasons Resorts, and the Scottsdale Visitors Guide. In 2016 she was inducted into the Arizona Culinary Hall of Fame as Food Writer of the Year. Her website WriteOnRube.com is a Best of Valley winner in Arizona Foothills magazine for Favorite Food Website, and in Phoenix magazine for Best Food Blog. WriteOnRube Instagram has been recommended as a travel resource in San Diego magazine, one of 10 Phoenix Food Instagrams Guaranteed to Make You Hungry on VisitPhoenix.com, and won Best Food Instagram in Arizona Foothills magazine.



SCOTT DAVIS

Communications and Public Information Officer, Maricopa County Justice Courts

Former Assignment Editor, KTVK/KPHO (3TV/CBS5)

Email: NewsByScott@gmail.com

Twitter: @NewsByScott

Scott Davis is an Emmy-award

winning journalist who made the move to PR and marketing in 2016 after more than 25 years in television news, both local and national. He is currently the Communications and Public Information Officer for the Maricopa County Justice Courts.

That cushy government job allows him to fuel his out-of-the-box passions. For fun he produces and reports for the television show Paranormal Matrix available on Amazon.com; and gives story pitching advice to anyone who asks. Above all, he and his wife enjoy making all their friends jealous by traveling to the world's best beaches and bragging about it on Facebook.



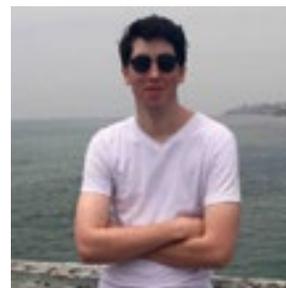
HEATHER LOVETT DUNN

Content Director, Cronkite News

Email: Heather.dunn.1@asu.edu

As content director for Cronkite News, Heather Lovett Dunn assists student reporters with story ideas and development,

writing and live presentation of those stories in the award-winning student-produced live newscast Cronkite News. She also directs reporters assigned to the Education and Government/Justice beats. Prior to joining the Cronkite School, Dunn worked as the senior content manager at KPNX-TV, the NBC affiliate in Phoenix. She also served as managing editor and executive producer of the morning newscast at the NBC affiliate. While there, she was honored with three Emmy awards for Best Newscast and Continuing Coverage of the Yarnell Wildfire, as well as for School Solutions, a franchise dedicated to helping parents navigate the education system. Dunn also produced newscasts at KPHO-TV and KTVK-TV both in Phoenix, as well as KVOA-TV in Tucson. Dunn also produced two education town halls in conjunction with NBC News' "Education Nation."



CONNOR DZIAWURA

Assistant Editor, West Valley View

Email: cdziawura@timespublications.com

Twitter: @WestValleyView

Twitter: @entertainer_mag

Connor Dziawura is the

assistant editor for the West Valley View. After covering mainly entertainment subjects in his early writing career, Dziawura has sought to increase his presence in the West Valley, working with the many local businesses, schools and readers that make up this community. Prior to his work with the View, Dziawura was Editor-in-Chief for Paradise Valley Community College's Puma Press, as well as Co-Editor-in-Chief for Northeast Valley News, a collaborative website between PVCC

2017 MEDIA DIRECTORY

Valley of the Sun Chapter, Society of Professional Journalists



and SCC. Outside of the View and his studies, Dziawura has been published in a variety of other local papers and magazines, including the East Valley Tribune, SanTan Sun News, Gilbert Sun News, Ahwatukee Foothills News, Nearby News, The Entertainer! and College Times.



MARITZA FÉLIX

*Special Projects Producer,
Telemundo Arizona*

602-648-3900 News Desk

Email: maritzalizethfelix@gmail.com

Twitter: @MaritzaLFelix

Maritza Félix is a multiple award-winning journalist, producer and writer. She was the Senior News

Reporter for Prensa Hispana Newspaper before joining Telemundo Arizona in 2015. She writes, produces and creates. She has contributed to numerous national and international media outlets like Radio Fórmula, Discovery Latinoamérica and Finland National Public Service Broadcasting Company. She is passionate, talented and social media savvy.



JENNIFER JONES

*Senior Content Coordinator,
KTVK-TV and KPHO-TV*

602-207-3112

Email: jennifer.jones@azfamily.com

Twitter: @newsbyjen (email preferred)

Jennifer Jones is a graduate of the Arizona State University Walter Cronkite School of Journalism

and Mass Communication. After local internships, she landed at ABC 15, where she produced the morning show for two years. She traded in overnight hours for freelance hours at CBS 5 News until she was hired a year later. There, she was a fill-in producer, worked in Special Projects and worked on the assignment desk as a planning editor. She spent six years running the Local News Share (LNS), a video share between the local CBS, FOX and ABC affiliates. CBS 5 ended the partnership with LNS once they joined forces with KTVK, 3TV. Jones then started her new role in the combined newsroom as the Senior Content Coordinator for 3TV and CBS 5. She has been involved with the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences since college, and has also taken part in the Phoenix Fire Journalist Academy as well as the citizens academies for the Phoenix Police Department and the FBI.



CHRISTINE GOODFRIEND

*Planning Assignment Editor, Fox
10 Arizona Morning*

Email: christine.goodfriend@foxtv.com

Twitter: @GoodfriendC

Like many Arizona residents, Christine Goodfriend is an Air Force brat who moved to our great

state in 1986. This makes her practically a native right? After graduating from Cactus High School in 1988, Christine moved to Flagstaff to attend Northern Arizona University, majoring in communications. While at NAU, she worked on The Lumberjack student newspaper and as a press intern for Arizona Senator Dennis DeConcini. The connections made in the senator's office led her to a reporting job at the Nogales International, a bi-weekly newspaper covering Nogales, Arizona, and border issues. Christine then moved to Tucson, accepting a position as weekend assignment editor at the ABC affiliate KGUN 9. The switch from print to television was challenging but rewarding. When an opportunity opened up, Christine circled back to Phoenix to work at Fox 10, KSAZ TV. During her time at Fox 10, she has worked on some of the biggest stories impacting Arizona from 9/11 to the Yarnell Hill Fire. As planning assignment editor at Fox 10, Christine continues to cover, contribute and set up stories (feature and hard news) for Fox 10 Arizona morning and the evening broadcasts.



DEBRA UTACIA KROL

*Freelancer, Environmental
Reporting, Issues in Indian
Country and Travel Writing*

602-550-2356

Email: djkrol@cox.net

Twitter: @debkrol

Debra Krol has more than 15 years' experience as a journalist, covering Indian Country, environmental issues, travel and politics in the West. She attended Arizona State University, majoring in cellular biology with a minor in writing. She has received nine Tribal Media Awards from the Native American Journalists Association and an Arizona Press Club award. Currently the Valley of the Sun SPJ chapter vice president and a graduate of SPJ's Diversity Leadership Program, Debra has served on many other boards and volunteer positions and has been honored with three major fellowships, including UNITY: Journalists for Diversity's five-year Mentor Program, and several other awards.

2017 MEDIA DIRECTORY

Valley of the Sun Chapter, Society of Professional Journalists



ILANA LOWERY
Editor-in-Chief, Phoenix Business Journal

602-308-6513
Email: ilowery@bizjournals.com
Twitter: @phxbizeditor

Ilana Lowery was named editor-in-chief of the Phoenix Business Journal in 2013. Lowery joined the Business Journal as a reporter

and projects editor in 1995. As a reporter she covered banking and finance, travel, aviation, tourism, nonprofits and sports business. Prior to the Phoenix Business Journal, she was an editor for Independent Newspapers Inc., a community newspaper chain based in Scottsdale. Before moving to the Valley in 1989, Ilana served as a reporter and editor for Pulitzer Newspapers in Chicago. She also worked as a scriptwriter and associate producer for WMAQ-TV, the NBC affiliate in Chicago. A 1986 graduate of the University of Illinois, Lowery is a 2014 Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce Athena Award finalist, is on the board of Gabriel's Angels, and is a member of the Hon Kachina Board of Governors. She has received "Woman of Distinction" honors by the Girl Scouts Arizona Cactus-Pine and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America - Southwest.



AL MACIAS
Managing Editor, KJZZ-FM

480-774-8457
Email: amacias@rioradio.org
Twitter: @kjzzphoenix

Al Macias is part of an elite class of trusted, veteran journalists who have covered Arizona news for more than 30 years.

Macias helps oversee daily operations for the KJZZ newsroom and Fronteras: the Changing America Desk. Macias is a National Association of Television Arts and Sciences Silver Circle Society member and an inductee of the Society of Professional Journalists Order of the Silver Key Society. He began serving the KJZZ news team in October 2010, helping the station launch Fronteras: The Changing America Desk. Macias was part of the management team that launched the KNXV newsroom in 1994 and oversaw its growth from a staff of twenty to more than sixty in less than a year. Additionally, he served in managerial roles at KPNX from 1981-1994 and as an assignment editor and manager for KTVK. During his television career, Macias won two Rocky Mountain Emmy Awards for spot news coverage and public service programming. He is a founding board member of the Arizona Latino Media Association and is part of the Raul H. Castro Institute

Advisory Committee. In addition, he served Maricopa County's communications department and spent time as a Partnership Specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau. A Phoenix native, Macias earned a journalism degree from Arizona State University. He has been married since 1978 and has two adult daughters.



MARTHA MAURER
Assistant News Director, KTAR News

602-263-5556
Email: mmaurer@ktar.com
Twitter: @maurermartha

Martha oversees editorial and breaking news decisions in all of KTAR news formats.

She's a graduate of Arizona State University's Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. In addition to her duties, she enjoys contributing to news stories, particularly focusing on immigration, politics and social issues. Martha is also a fill-in news anchor and heads out to report on special projects. A native of Mazatlan, Mexico, she has lived in the U.S. since she was nine years old and became a citizen in 2015.



MARCY MCMACKEN
Assignment Manager, Telemundo Arizona

602-648-3900
Email: marcy.mcmacken@nbcuni.com
Twitter: @marceline1

Marcy Lujanob McMacken has worked in Arizona local television news for nearly two

decades as a news assignment editor and assignment manager. Currently, Marcy manages the assignment desk at NBC Universal's Telemundo Arizona news (KTAA) station in Phoenix. Three years ago, Marcy created and initiated Telemundo Arizona's first newsroom assignment desk. During this time, Marcy has made Telemundo Arizona's assignment desk a serious competitor among the other well-established assignment desks in the Phoenix news market. Prior to working at Telemundo Arizona, Marcy worked as an assignment manager at KTVK, an independent local news station and at KPHO, CBS5 as an assignment editor in Phoenix, Arizona. During Marcy's spare time, she volunteers as an Advisory Board member for the Salvation Army Kroc Center in south Phoenix and as mentorship committee member for the Asian Corporate and Entrepreneur Leaders organization.

2017 MEDIA DIRECTORY

Valley of the Sun Chapter, Society of Professional Journalists



KARA MORRISON

Editor, Raising Arizona Kids magazine

602-670-5473

Email: kara@rakmagazine.com

Twitter: @karagmorrison,
@rakmagazine

Kara G. Morrison has been editor at Raising Arizona Kids magazine

ce spring 2016. Previously, she was a reporter and editor at the Arizona Republic since 2008. Kara spent two decades in newspapers, including the Detroit News and the Lincoln Journal-Star. She has a bachelor's in journalism from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a master's from the University of Missouri.



ANDY RAMIREZ

Assignment Editor and Multimedia Journalist, ABC 15 (KNXV-TV)

602-685-6397

Email: aramirez@abc15.com

Twitter: @ARamz15

Andy Ramirez is the Senior Real-Time Editor at ABC15 News. Andy

works with Multimedia Journalists, Photojournalists, Assignment Editors, Producers, and other newsroom staff to determine daily news content for broadcast and digital coverage. He joined ABC15 News in 1996 as an intern with the ABC15 Investigators while attending Grand Canyon University. He was hired on one of his final days of his internship as an Assistant Assignment Editor in 1997. Since then Andy has worked as an Assignment Editor, back-up helicopter photojournalist, Producer for the ABC15 Investigators, Internship Coordinator and Managing Editor. Andy has assisted in coordinating local coverage of Presidential Elections, Super Bowls and daily breaking news coverage. Andy has also coordinated live shot coverage for the entire Scripps group during Hurricane Isaac and the 10-year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks in New York City. Andy is an Arizona native and enjoys spending his free time with his wife and two daughters. You can reach him via e-mail at ARamirez@abc15.com or on Twitter @ARamz15.

REBECCA RHOADES

Executive Editor, Phoenix Home & Garden magazine

Email: rrhoades@phgmag.com



HAYLEY RINGLE

Technology/startups reporter, Phoenix Business Journal

Office: 602-308-6514,

Cell: 602-499-0352

Email: hringle@bizjournals.com

Twitter: @phxbizhayley

Technology and entrepreneur reporter for the Phoenix Business

Journal Hayley Ringle has written for Phoenix newspapers since 2000, including the Daily News-Sun, East Valley Tribune, Arizona Republic, and now, Phoenix Business Journal. She covers technology and entrepreneurship, and has covered everything from school boards and city councils to investigative education stories and community news and profiles. Ringle is a graduate of Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication.



RICHARD RUELAS

Reporter, Arizona Republic/azcentral.com

602-444-8473

Email: richard.ruelas@arizonarepublic.com

Twitter: @ruelaswritings

Richard Ruelas is an Arizona native who has worked as a journalist

in Phoenix since 1993. He started at the Phoenix bureau of The Associated Press before moving to The Phoenix Gazette. He filed the final story for the Gazette and joined the staff of The Arizona Republic, where he works as a reporter. He has appeared as a guest on television and radio shows and is an occasional fill-in host for the Arizona PBS public affairs programs, "Horizon" and "Horizonte." Richard Ruelas, an Arizona native, has been employed as a reporter since graduating from Arizona State University in 1992. His current job is writing magazine-length profiles of interesting people. He has covered police, government, business and sports. He also has carved out a sub-beat tracking Arizona's growing wine industry.



MIKE SAUCIER

Editor, Frontdoors Media

Email: editor@frontdoorsmedia.com

Twitter: @mikethesauce

Mike Saucier is a writer, editor and public relations specialist. A Massachusetts native, Mike got his start editing the Southbridge Evening News before moving on

2017 MEDIA DIRECTORY

Valley of the Sun Chapter, Society of Professional Journalists



to the Boston Herald as a copy editor. While in NYC, Mike was the foreign editor and city editor of The New York Sun before moving into government as a spokesman in Mayor Michael Bloomberg's administration for the city's Department of Correction and then the Department of Environmental Protection. His freelance writing work has appeared in The New York Times, The Daily Beast, TIME magazine and Variety.



NICK SMITH

Editor, Arcadia News

Email: editor@arcadianews.com

Twitter: @ArcadiaDaily

Nick Smith has been working as the editor of the Arcadia News since the fall of last year, after spending three years as a feature writer for the paper. A native of Mesa, Arizona, Nick left the state

after high school to attend Texas A&M University. He received his undergraduate degree in History and met his wife of five years while in Texas. He is a graduate of the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, where he earned his master's degree in Journalism.

related to construction companies or individuals in the field. Douglas also serves as journal and newsletter editor for the Society for Commercial Archeology, the oldest nationwide organization devoted to roadside vernacular architecture of the "gas, food and lodging" theme. He is a history contributor to Phoenix magazine, having authored more than 30 articles including the cover stories, "Phoenix in the 1920s" and "the Arizona Centennial." Douglas also writes a monthly history column for the Arizona Republic and has contributed articles to the Journal of Arizona History, Modern Phoenix, and Route 66 magazine.



ERIC WATSON

*Assignment Editor,
KPNX-TV (12 News)*

602-444-1216

Email: ewatson@12news.com

Twitter: @eric_watson

Eric Watson is an assignment editor for KPNX-TV. He has been at the desk in Phoenix for the last 12 years. Before that he was at the ABC station in Las Vegas and Fox in Salt Lake City. The last five years he has been covering breaking news at 12 News and had worked for the combined Arizona Republic/12 News desk.



COLLEEN SPARKS

Managing Editor, San Tan Sun News

480-898-5638

Email: csparks@timespublications.com



DOUGLAS TOWNE

Editor, Arizona Contractor & Community magazine

Email: douglas@arizcc.com

Douglas Towne is a longtime journalist and history buff, and currently the editor of Arizona Contractor and Community magazine, which recently

celebrated its fifth anniversary. The quarterly publication transcends the typical construction trade journal model by covering much more than recent industry news. The magazine specializes in feature articles on fascinating, little-known events in Arizona history, usually



CARRIE WATTERS

Community Editor, The Arizona Republic/azcentral.com

Email: carrie.watters@arizonarepublic.com

Twitter: @carriewatters

Carrie Watters is an editor at azcentral/ The Arizona Republic. She is an 18-year journalist who has worked for newspapers and digital sites in Ohio, Illinois and Arizona. She joined The Republic as a reporter in 2005 and became an editor in 2010. She works with a team of six reporters. She is passionate about Valley communities and the role journalists play in informing, conversing and connecting with residents on important issues. Carrie lives in Surprise with her husband, Tony, and a lovable pug, Pablo.

2017 MEDIA DIRECTORY

Valley of the Sun Chapter, Society of Professional Journalists



CHELSEA YOUNG

Editor-in-Chief, So Scottsdale!

Email: chelsea@chelseayoung.com

Instagram/Twitter: @young_chelsea

Chelsea Young has been the editor-in-chief of So Scottsdale! for almost two years. Prior, she was the associate editor of AAA Arizona Highroads and, before that, the associate editor

of Where Phoenix+Scottsdale and editor of Where Denver and Where Tucson. A Texas native, Chelsea studied journalism at the University of Oklahoma before getting her master's in professional writing there. A creative writer at heart, Chelsea has written two novels and a screenplay, and is working on publishing a children's book series. In her free time, Chelsea loves to travel – she's traveled to 15 countries, with her favorites being Italy (she studied abroad in Florence), Iceland, Jordan and Croatia.



RALPH ZUBIATE

Managing Editor, East Valley Tribune and Ahwatukee Foothills News

480-898-6825

Email: rzubiante@timespublications.com

Twitter: @ralphEVT

I spent 20 years with The Arizona Republic in a variety of positions, from copy editor to news copy desk chief to wire editor to online producer. I was thankful to keep growing and learning there. Then, the inevitable for a journalist these days: I was laid off. I got a couple of different positions editing afterward, but after seven years in exile in the world of marketing, I wanted to go back to newspapers. I never thought it'd happen again, but it did. I came to the East Valley Tribune in April 2016. Since then, I've also had the Ahwatukee Foothills News and SanTan Sun News added to my plate. Now, I'm having a blast doing it all – editing, assigning stories and photos, working with designers and sales, even writing. At home are me and my wife Jami, and our dog Whistle. The kids are out on their own.