

wp INTERNS

2012



Malu Banuelos

Local Producer

My name is Malu, the name is Hawaiian but I am not. I was born in a small town called Las Bocas in Jalisco, Mexico and moved to California when I was three. I grew up in Wilmington Calif., a city within Los Angeles County and survived its public school system, against all odds. I became the first college graduate in my family after earning a degree in journalism from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

I didn't know I wanted to be a journalist right out the womb, my passion for journalism came later in life. I have always been a curious person, some might say too much for my own good--I might say too much for my own good--but I can't shut my mind off and I refuse to accept things that don't add up.

Philosophy has been a passion of mine since I was a teenager. I have always been in pursuit of answers and was able to process my thoughts best on paper. I wasn't sure where the combination of the two would take me until I realized that journalism, like philosophy, pursues truth.

So my journalism career has been a short but exciting one. My curious mind is now fed often and enlightened plenty.

I formally began my journalism career as a reporter for Downtown Devil, an online publication primarily for Arizona State University's downtown Phoenix campus. From there I went on to my first editorial internship at AZ Big Media, a magazine publishing and online media firm, where I wrote for AZ Business magazine and Experience AZ covering businesses and organizations in Arizona. After that, I became an editorial intern for EmpowHER, a social health community for women by women, where I was a copy editor as well as contributor to the health, beauty and relationship sections.

I also write a vegetarian food blog for vegetarians. I am a foodie, have been a vegetarian for years and have found it challenging to find good and healthy food at all types of restaurants, not only vegan or vegetarian ones. Bad meals torture my taste buds and add unnecessary calories to my diet so I aim to keep others from making the same blunders.

I have left mistakes in the past, have grown from them and I am now ready to offer my best to the Washington Post. I am up for the challenge and plan on making everyone, including myself, proud.



Alyssa Botelho

Health and Science

Alyssa Botelho, a native of Davidson, N.C., is this year's Kaiser Intern in Health Reporting at The Washington Post. She is a rising senior at Harvard College pursuing a joint degree in molecular biology and the history of science. Half of her time in school is spent in a protein structure lab, where she researches DNA repair. The other half is spent at The Harvard Crimson, the college newspaper and Cambridge's only daily. Somehow, classes fit into the mix.

Alyssa discovered journalism by accident. Nostalgic for earlier days as a ballet dancer, she decided to write for The Crimson about the performing arts. After a year of directing arts reporting with her fellow editors on the Crimson's Arts Board--a group of vibrant, colorful students who laugh easily, learn in earnest, and always put the story first--she fell in love with the culture of the newsroom. This year, Alyssa teamed up with two fellow juniors to direct The Crimson's health and science coverage.

Alyssa became hooked on health and science journalism while interning at the Nieman Foundation last summer. Charged with writing profiles of the Nieman's past global health fellows, she heard the stories of ten journalists reporting from Hanoi to Harare (and quickly realized that interviewing journalists was an interesting exercise). That summer, Alyssa learned that stories about disease-- though universal--are told best in local contexts.



Christina Bravo

National Politics Producer

After watching the glamorous life of newspaper columnist Carrie Bradshaw on *Sex and the City* and the hard-hitting undercover reporting done by Drew Barrymore in *Never Been Kissed*, it was decided at 14 that I would become a newspaper reporter. It was the perfect job. Nothing anyone said could sway my mind. My parents urged me to enter the medical field. "It's such a rewarding experience," they would say. "You'd be perfect for it." But my mind was made up -- I wanted to live the rich and famous life of a journalist. You can imagine my surprise when I entered my first journalism class at The Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication to professors ringing warning bells about the current state of journalism; "There are no jobs and the industry is dying." For the first time I wavered. I was one counselor meeting away from changing majors but something stopped me. To this day, I can't say what that something was but I am grateful for it. Instead of changing majors, I chose a different route. I decided to take the path of a digital journalist. I focused on graphics and visual journalism, layout design, web reporting and digital entrepreneurship. With the New Media Innovation Lab, I had the opportunity to spend the last eight months working on my own digital start-up for an app that would make e-book reading a social experience. I conducted extensive research on the state of e-books and the e-reader industry. Through my experience at the Cronkite School I have developed a passion for design and entrepreneurship and how I can apply these skills to the journalism industry. I am graduating this summer from Arizona State University with a degree in Journalism and an emphasis in Digital Media and am no longer worried about the changing state of journalism but am excited for what it can mean for my career as I enter the industry.



Matt Breen

Sports

When it became my turn, I prefaced my comments with a simple instruction.

"Don't laugh."

It was the much anticipated career day; a glorified class trip for the eighth grade where 13-year-olds are faced with the pressing question of what do they want to do when they grow up.

"Either write for a newspaper or become a professional wrestler," I answered.

Well, I've never been able to grow my hair long and I'm not sure my mom would approve of a career of headlocks and turnbuckles. But, I'm trying my best to grant my 13-year-old self's second wish.

I'm a 23-year-old Philadelphia native and recent graduate of Temple University. I've lived in the city my entire life and never left it for more than a week. I graduated from Temple in May with a Journalism degree.

I spent all of 2011 as an intern in the Sports Department of The Philadelphia Inquirer, the paper I grew up reading. I had the opportunity to cover each of the city's four professional sports teams, each major college and professional boxing. For the last four months of the year, I helped out on the copy desk as well.

It was a thrill to write for The Inquirer and it was an honor to share the same pages with the writers I looked up to. I'm forever grateful for the guidance I received from everyone at the paper.

Along with newspapers, I enjoy running, watching baseball, playing with my iPad and riding the subway.

I'm excited for the opportunity to work for The Washington Post and am looking forward to a great summer.



Daniel Britt

Photo

Hello everyone. My name is Daniel Britt. I graduated from SUNY Buffalo some years ago. I have been traveling and photographing ever since. For the last year, while learning the tricks to editing a good news video at Pima Community College, I've been hanging-out with members of the native tribes that reside along the Arizona-Mexico border. From the beginning of 2009 to the end of 2011 I traveled between Iraq and Afghanistan as an independent journalist. In 2010, my first motorcycle, Sandra Romain, took me on an overland zigzag from Baghdad, through Iran, all over Afghanistan with a writer friend of mine, Matthew Van Dyke. I am chronicling that trip in a series of written vignettes, photographs and a short documentary film I hope to finish within the next year. In 2008 I interned at the Vindicator in Youngstown, Ohio where my personal work focused heavily on the area's growing AIDS population. I moved to Louisiana shortly after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. I lived in volunteer camps in New Orleans and Violet for two years. That was my first attempt at immersion. The photos I made were alright. The food down there was amazing.

I can't wait to meet you all. I can't wait to work. I can't wait to find all the best food in D.C.

And music. Of course, we must have music.



Meg Ely

Local Producer

I am a recent graduate of Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind. While there, I studied Journalism and International Studies. Against my parents wishes and fears, I studied abroad for a semester in 2011 in South Africa, and was also fortunate to study South American media in 2010 and travel to Chile for 10 days. I have interned at two newspapers -- local papers in my home state of Connecticut, as well as at PBS Interactive in Arlington, Va. The summer spent in Arlington helped cement my love for the Washington, D.C. area. When I am not plunked in front of a computer, I am outside running or in a kitchen baking recipes from Pinterest.



Marissa Evans

Local News

Marissa Evans is a senior journalism major at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wis. She will be a Chips Quinn Scholar for the Washington Post metro desk. A San Diego native, she's been a student journalist since her freshman year of high school. She has interned on the Star Tribune and Milwaukee Journal Sentinel business desks as well as her hometown newspaper U-T San Diego. She is also an alumna of the New York Student Journalism Institute and completed an independent study with the Milwaukee Neighborhood News Service. She is the founding president of her campus National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) chapter and will be participating in the organization's annual convention Student Multimedia Projects in New Orleans. Her goals for this summer besides doing well at WashPo includes visiting all of the D.C. monuments and nourishing her inner foodie by seeing all the D.C. eating scene has to offer. All of this while of course burning off said calories riding the metro and seeing the sights.



Kathryn Faulkner

Information Design

Kathryn Faulkner is a master's candidate in visual communication and a Roy H. Park Fellow at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Her focus is graphic and multimedia design.

Kathryn's prior journalism experience includes freelance writing for C-Ville, Charlottesville, Virginia's news and arts weekly, and interning for public radio at the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. She has also worked as a research and editorial assistant to Professor Kenneth G. Elzinga, the Robert C. Taylor Chair in Economics at the University of Virginia.

A former employee of Chapel Hill's finest local cooking store, Kitchenworks, Kathryn has a vast knowledge of kitchen gadgetry and looks forward to exploring a new food scene in D.C.



Benjamin Max Gottlieb

Universal News Desk Producer

Benjamin Max Gottlieb is a multimedia journalist and photographer from Los Angeles, California.

His work has been featured in a variety of news outlets, including the Los Angeles Times, CNN International, Global Post, NBC Los Angeles, KCET.com and the Santa Barbara Independent, among others.

He recently received his M.A. in Online Journalism from the USC Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, where he also served as the Executive Editor of NeonTommy.com -- a 24/7 online-only news publication -- and the host of Annenberg Radio News.

He is currently the art director of InTheFray.com, an online magazine that explores global issues with personal perspectives and critical analysis.

An avid backpacker and self-proclaimed troubadour, Benjamin is constantly exploring new ways to tell stories.



Dan Hill

When it comes to search engine optimization, I'm cursed by a Canadian R&B singer.

My name is Dan Hill, but I did not write the song "Sometimes When We Touch" nor am I helping Manny Pacquiao launch his singing career. I'm a rising senior at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. I declared a minor in computer science because I thought my tuition money could be well spent paying professors to teach me how to write computer programs. I want to work as an investigative journalist who uses databases.

My parents were both journalism majors at the University of Nevada, which I guess explains why I knew I wanted to be a reporter in elementary school. I grew near Folsom, Calif., just east of Sacramento, where my father worked as a public relations officer for the state teachers pension agency. I guess that explains how I learned terms "unfunded liability" and "defined benefit" to report on the Illinois pensions as a student journalist.

My profile picture for social media accounts references Nelson Poynter, who established the Poynter Institute. We share an affinity for bow ties. I helped start a student group of the Online News Association at Northwestern and I'm a member of the Asian American Journalists Association and IRE/NICAR.

I rented an apartment in Langley Park because I read it has one of the nation's largest Salvadoran populations. At the time of this writing, I'm applying to work at the La Prensa Grafica newspaper in San Salvador as part of a journalism study abroad program. I'm also looking forward to visiting Nationals Park to see Washington's starting pitching rotation, although I believe the staff of my hometown San Francisco Giants is superior. I don't know if D.C. has a bluegrass community, but I'm always down to jam with my mandolin. Just don't ask me to play "Sometimes When We Touch."



Amrita Jayakumar

Financial

My name is Amrita Jayakumar, I'm 23 and a second-year graduate student at the Missouri School of Journalism. My area of focus is multimedia journalism, telling stories through photos, video and audio.

Most recently, I was an intern at the UN Alliance of Civilizations in New York.

Before that, I was a summer intern at The Miami Herald, writing stories for the business section.

I've also worked as a freelance reporter for The Asian Age in my hometown of Mumbai, India. In my spare time, I'm interested in amateur astronomy and photography.

Before all that, I was a software engineer. But that's another story.



James McAuley

Editorial

James McAuley grew up in Dallas, Texas and graduated from Harvard, where he was editorial chairman of The Harvard Crimson, the university daily. In the past, he has interned at The New Yorker and The International Herald Tribune in Paris, and his writing has appeared on newyorker.com and The Awl. At Harvard, he studied history and literature with a focus on Modern Europe, having written a thesis on diplomacy in Vichy France and Franco's Spain. In the future, he plans to pursue an M.Phil. in Modern European History at the University of Oxford.



Tomi Obaro

Style

Looking back at my formative years with nostalgia's rose colored glasses, I suppose I could say I was 'destined' to go into journalism. I asked a lot of rude questions as a child. I once went to a journalism summer camp where I wrote snarky articles about the camp counselors. There were always newspapers in our home (even though my mother primarily used them to cook moi moi, a Nigerian bean dish that is very good but very much an acquired taste). If I take the glasses off, however, (might as well carry a bad metaphor through) the whole journalism thing didn't really click until I wrote an essay about Mad Men and race for my school's ersatz New Yorker. I really liked seeing my name in print. Like, a lot. So I started writing articles for all my school's publications, worked as an intern at Time Out Chicago, started an (ultimately short-lived) online magazine for black students, and wrote features for my school's news office. And now, rather surreally, I'm here. It's an honor.



Katie Park

Digital

I work in an area of journalism that no one quite has a name for yet. I've set aside my pen and notebook for Python and TextMate, but I still have a reporter's instincts for finding answers. I'm a reporter, a developer and a problem solver. I want to build websites and write programs that inform the public and create tools for journalists.

In June, I graduate from Northwestern University with a degree in journalism and a minor in Spanish. Previously, I've worked as a reporting intern at the Tampa Bay Times (back when it was known as the St. Petersburg Times), the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Reflejos, a bilingual paper serving the Latino community of suburban Chicago. Most recently I interned at the Medill Watchdog Initiative, an investigative data reporting organization where I combed over public records and built digital data-driven projects. I've also worked as an editor for The Daily Northwestern and North by Northwestern.

In my free time, I like making music -- I play bass and some acoustic guitar. I love to cook, and even more, I love to eat. I plan to spend a large portion of my summer chasing down DC's food trucks.



Rosie Powers

Universal News Desk Producer

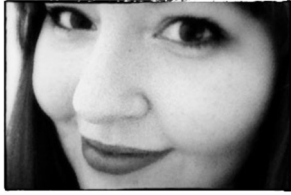
Rosie Powers: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign alumna; social media and digital media enthusiast; music festival lover; politics fanatic; photography novice; Chicago Cubs fan (hold the laughs, please); and Trader Joe's bargain shopper extraordinaire.

This is what my Twitter bio would likely be if I didn't care about bewildering the general public, and if it was not limited to 140 characters. Rather than to tell you everything I've done – as I'm sure all of us at this level have worked hard and held many impressive internships – I want to tell you who I am.

As is the case with many other interns finishing their college careers, I decided to apply for an internship with The Washington Post during the fall of my senior year at Illinois. I was not only motivated by the Post's status as a strong and prominent nationally-circulated paper, but I was also influenced by a book my mom had given me the previous year: "Personal History" by Katharine Graham. Graham, for those who may be unfamiliar with her, was a former owner of the Post whose son, Donald Graham, is still the CEO of the Washington Post Company today. Katharine's personal strength throughout her takeover of the newspaper as well as her account of nationally historic events in the nation's capitol inspired me greatly, and developed a thirst within me to become a journalist in Washington, D.C.

I'm quite eager to begin work at the Post for a multitude of reasons. Firstly, I feel very fortunate to have received the opportunity to work in web and digital media here, as this realm of media is what I want to continue focusing my journalism career in. But secondly, and perhaps more importantly, I'm very excited to work with some of the brightest and most talented media professionals currently in the industry. And what's more is that I get to do it in a city that is bursting with political activity that cannot be matched by any other city in the country.

I look forward to getting to know you all as we work, learn and embark on the next phase of our careers together.



Tiffany Reusser

Features Designer

I'm a recent alumna of Ball State University. I graduated on May 5 with a bachelor of science in journalism graphics. I'm a Midwestern gal -- born and raised near Fort Wayne, Ind. My high school class consisted of 68 people and is located in the middle of a corn field. In fact it looks like a crop circle from aerial view. I'm preparing myself for the culture shock of D.C. life but am also welcoming it. I am a spontaneous individual as well as an optimist.

I've wanted to be a novelist since the second grade and spent most of my high school education preparing for it. During my senior year of high school, I came to realize how much I love newspaper design and decided to actively pursue that as a career instead. My passion for storytelling has prepared me well for this transition, as I view newspaper design as another form of storytelling that enhances a reader's experience.

On the sidelines, I have numerous other hobbies. I like to crochet and wish I could knit well. I'm also dorkishly passionate about interior decorating. If you follow me on Twitter or Pinterest, I'm sure you'll be bombarded with lots of decorating inspiration (especially since I'll be living in a dorm-style building and going through withdrawals). Finally, I like photography and web design and intend to spend my summer/post-college years honing these skills.



Danielle Rindler

News Designer

Danielle Rindler is a recent -- and already nostalgic -- graduate from Indiana University. There she studied journalism and political science with a minor in west European studies. She spent four years working on the Indiana Daily Student as a reporter, editor, designer and art director. As art director she led a redesign of the IDS, which recently won first place for redesigns in the Student Society for News Design competition.

She originally got into journalism because she wanted to drop her French class in high school and her mom suggested she take newspaper instead. She's barely left the newsroom since.

Danielle spent last summer in the desert, working as a design intern at The Arizona Republic in Phoenix. The year before that, she spent her summer in London, interning for a small public relations firm and learning about British media. While there she fell in love with European history, the Beatles and the Underground. Danielle loves to travel and is excited to be spending another summer in a city with public transportation.

In March, Danielle spent 10 days in Tokyo and Hiroshima reporting on the atomic bomb, war memory and the links between the atomic bomb survivors and the people in northern Japan affected by the meltdown of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Danielle was born a Buckeye, but raised a Hoosier. She will always be an IU basketball fan. She loves typography and one day would like to own her very own letterpress. She will eat almost any type of noodle and anything that contains both chocolate and peanut butter. One of her goals is to hike from one rim of the Grand Canyon to the other.



Greg Thomas

Universal News Desk Producer

I'm Greg. The younger child, born and raised in the SF Bay Area where we sleep through earthquakes and wake up each morning to the most sustainably produced and fairly traded coffee. I got a liberal arts education in Oregon then came back to the Bay to write for a community newspaper on the coast south of San Francisco. I got hooked playing the part between the politicians and the people. But the shift is toward multimedia and bloggery so I'm coming to DC with a freshly minted diploma from UC Berkeley that says I'm equipped to help steer the next evolution of journalism. I like cooking, collaborating, basketball, rap music, photography and beer. And I'm looking forward to meeting and hopefully working with you all. Thanks for having me.



Ted Trautman

Local News

I didn't make it to Washington til college, and my clearest memory from that first trip was the pedestrian pileup I caused in a Metro station when I failed to properly escaleft. I've been paying attention to transit systems for a long time -- in my native Minnesota; my much less native Kyrgyzstan, where I worked as a Peace Corps volunteer; and most recently in the San Francisco Bay Area, where I've been reporting on transportation and urban planning for the last two years while working on my master's in journalism at UC Berkeley. Newly degreed, I can't wait to cover transportation for the Post's Metro desk.

Rather than settle for any mere "job," I seem to be working on an internship grand slam: I've interned at Harper's, McSweeney's, the New York Times, and now the Post. Along the way I've been a daily reporter, a freelance magazine writer, and a radio and video producer (and in leaner times a barista, a remodeler's assistant, and (sigh) a sign-holder). If all goes as planned, I'll be arriving at the Post directly from a freelance trip to China.

In my free time I am a staunch literalist, pun advocate, and armchair etymologist. I also enjoy singing amok, hating the player as much as the game, and lumbering after frisbees in vain.



Frank Yonkof

Universal News Desk Producer

It's sometimes strange to see where journalism takes us in life. Only a year ago, I was typing my 2011 WaPo intern bio while watching President Obama announce the death of Osama Bin Laden live on WashingtonPost.com. At the time, I was editor of KentWired.com, Kent State's converged newsroom website.

Over the past year, I have jumped from Web to print and back to mobile. I became the editor of the Daily Kent Stater this past fall. With a team of some brilliant and creative people, we turned our declining daily into an engaging product with a redesign that emphasized better presentation, info-graphics and vibrant headlines.

In January, I was tasked with building a team of programmers and journalists to develop our mobile platform. In a short period of time, we were developing a news app, an entertainment app and two iPad magazines. Along the way, I also dabbled in design, creating some interactive graphics and an interactive iPad fashion magazine.

Perhaps the happiest day of my senior year was when I got the phone call welcoming me back to The Post this summer. I had the chance to work with some amazing people last summer and I'm absolutely thrilled to be back for another internship.

Plus, you don't fully realize what a blessing Methode is until you return to your college newsroom.



Mahir Zaveri

Local News

I came to UC Berkeley in fall of 2008 as an undergraduate, and I got straight A's the first semester I was here. Then I joined the student newspaper, The Daily Californian, and, unsurprisingly, my grades were never the same. But that's when I began what I call my "real education."

I reported for a couple semesters at the Daily Cal, then I was an editor for a couple more. I drove down to Los Angeles for a weekend just to attend a workshop on watchdog journalism. I read blogs — PBS MediaShift, Journalistics, Nieman Reports — about the media industry daily. I currently get a Monday through Friday print subscription to The New York Times. I taught a DeCal about in-depth reporting, featuring speakers who have written for The New York Times magazine, The Los Angeles Times, the Center for Investigative Reporting and others. I interned for the San Francisco Chronicle for a semester, and last summer I worked full time for The Oregonian.

I'd always been deeply interested in accountability journalism, the power of words and ideas and democracy to keep society in check. So for the next year, I took Lowell Bergman's investigative reporting course at the journalism school. I then interned at the Center for Investigative Reporting, getting my first real experience with tough, investigative journalism.

The summary? For the last three years, I've breathed journalism. I know it's what I want to do for the rest of my life — surely an unhealthy thought. But everyday I learn something new, I meet new people, and constantly reaffirm that what I'm doing is right in the purest sense.

And the grab bag of my other interests: I love nature, running, good beer and generally trying to get the most out of life.