2018 Reporters’ Workshop
Reporters

Cassidy Alexander
Daytona Beach News-Journal
386-681-2283
calexander@news-jrnl.com

Cassidy Alexander joined the News-Journal in June with only a couple of years of professional experience but quickly established herself. She is the Volusia County education reporter and has worked on stories about disability issues and the role that race plays in student discipline. This summer, she attended a two-day conference on using databases to augment reporting.

Jake Allen
Naples Daily News
248-719-6201
jake.allen@naplesnews.com

Jake Allen joined the Naples Daily News in August and covers breaking news, police and courts. He has previous experience covering police and courts at the Holland Sentinel in Holland, Michigan. He interned at the Gazette in Colorado Springs and is a former editor in chief of the State News at Michigan State University. He graduated from Michigan State in May 2017.

Erik Altmann
WPTV-TV 5 News NBC (West Palm Beach)
Erik.Altman@wptv.com

Erik Altmann is new to Florida, having joined WPTV’s investigative team after working at KTSP in Minnesota. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin, he worked at KTSP as an associate producer, before moving to the assignment desk and eventually becoming investigative producer. He works with cases from the 15th and 19th Judicial Circuits, the 4th DCA and the Southern District (federal court).
Jossie Barroso
WFSU-TV/The Florida Channel (Tallahassee)
850-488-1281 or 850-645-9046
jbarrosogarcia@fsu.edu

Jossie Barroso is an associate producer/reporter at WFSU-TV/The Florida Channel. She began her journalism career as a videographer before joining the newsroom in January. She has covered numerous high-profile stories related to new laws, executive action and court orders, including standardized exams for public school students, the Orlando Pulse nightclub shooting, the Zika virus outbreak, and the Parkland school shooting.

Matt Fernandez
Spectrum News 13 (Orlando)
407-513-1313
Matthew.Fernandez@Charter.com

Matt Fernandez, who came to Spectrum News 13 in March, is new to Florida, but he is a seasoned journalist. He has worked previously in Birmingham, Alabama (where he covered the U.S. Senate race between Roy Moore and Doug Jones); Tucson, Arizona; and Brownsville, Texas, where he specialized in border and immigration issues.

Samantha Gross
Miami Herald/Tampa Bay Times (Tallahassee bureau)
sgross@miamiherald.com

Samantha Gross, a state government reporter, is the newest member of the Tallahassee bureau of the Miami Herald and the Tampa Bay Times. Earlier this year, she covered the Massachusetts legislature’s session for the Lowell Sun, just before graduating with a journalism degree from Boston University. Before she started at the Miami Herald, she was a news intern at the Dallas Morning News and also previously interned at the Herald.

Raychel Lean
Daily Business Review (Miami)
305-347-6672
rlean@alm.com

Raychel Lean started reporting on South Florida litigation for the Daily Business Review in Miami in June — just in time to cover The Florida Bar convention in Orlando. Before joining the DBR, Lean was a content writer at advertising company Ad-vise UK. Lean came to Miami from England to attend Barry University. She was news and managing editor of the Barry Buccaneer and graduated in 2014. She is pursuing a master’s degree in creative writing.
Emily L. Mahoney
Tampa Bay Times/Miami Herald (Tallahassee Bureau)
623-414-1662
emahoney@tampabay.com

Emily L. Mahoney has been a government and politics reporters in the Tampa Bay Times/Miami Herald Tallahassee bureau since January. She has covered such stories as campaign finance, education and the gubernatorial campaign of Ron DeSantis. She is a recent graduate of Arizona State University’s Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and has interned at the Miami Herald and was a data intern at the Houston Chronicle.

Danny McAuliffe
Florida Politics (Tallahassee)
727-385-4563
dmcauliffe500@gmail.com

Danny McAuliffe is a reporter and web editor at Florida Politics. He is based in Tallahassee and most recently covered the 2018 legislative session and proceedings of the Constitution Revision Commission. He is currently covering the 2018 election. He was editor of Florida State University’s student newspaper, FSView & Florida Flambeau, and has been an intern at the Tallahassee Democrat.

Mary Helen Moore
Treasure Coast Newspapers/TCPalm.com (Stuart)
772-978-2246
mary.moore@tcpalm.com

Mary Helen Moore is a breaking news reporter for Treasure Coast Newspapers and TCPalm.com. One of her primary focuses is crime, and she follows major cases as they work their way through the circuit and federal court systems. A 2016 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she is new to Florida. Before joining TCPalm, she interned on CNN’s national news desk

Kelsey Peck
WMBB-TV News 13 (Panama City)
772-285-8016
kpeck@wmbb.com

Kelsey Peck began her career at WMBB, first as a reporter, then moving into the morning anchor position. She is a newsroom leader and also a mentor to younger staff members. Peck graduated from the University of Florida’s College of Journalism with a Bachelor of Science degree in 2012.
Michelle Quesada
WPTV-TV 5 News NBC (West Palm Beach)
561-718-5255
Michelle.Quesada@wptv.com

Michelle Quesada, a native of South Florida, has been with WPTV since 2014 and quickly became the station’s Senior Reporter. She follows cases in the 15th and 19th Judicial Circuits as well as the 4th DCA and the Southern District. She is member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, the Society of Professional Journalists, and Investigative Reporters and Editor, Inc.

Stephanie Rank
WTXL TV ABC 27 (Tallahassee)
850-893-3127
srank@wtxl.tv

Stephanie Rank joined WTXL in April and is an anchor/reporter on the Investigative Unit. Previously, she was an anchor and reporter at KMOT-TV in Minot, North Dakota. A native of Wisconsin, she attended college at California Baptist University on a basketball scholarship and played two years as a Lancer.

Felipe Rivas
The Miami Times
551-200-7832
frivas@miamitimesonline.com

Felipe Rivas is a general assignment reporter for the Miami Times. He is a recent graduate of Florida International University and comes from an immigrant family. He has covered such topics as felons’ rights restoration and the recent Miami-Dade study on disproportionate sentences for people of color.
Daniel Rivero  
WLRN Public Media (Miami)  
786-597-7968  
drivero@wlrnnews.org

Daniel Rivero is a reporter and producer for WLRN, covering the criminal justice system, legal affairs and related issues. Before joining WLRN, he was an investigative reporter and producer on the television series “The Naked Truth” and a digital reporter for Fusion. His work has won Edward R. Murrow Awards, Sunshine State Awards and Green Eyeshade Awards. He was born near Washington D.C. to Cuban parents and moved to Miami 20 years ago.

Jorja Roman  
Spectrum Bay News 9 (St. Petersburg)  
727-336-2217  
Jorja.Roman@Charter.com

Jorja Roman has been with Spectrum Bay News 9 for just a couple of months. She came to the Tampa area from a sister station in Albany, New York, where she covered various court proceedings and had just finished a documentary about heroin and opioid use.

Zach Schlein  
Daily Business Review (Miami)  
305-347-6657  
zschlein@alm.com

Zach Schlein has been a litigation reporter for the Daily Business Review since July. Since graduating from the University of Florida with a B.S. in political science, he has interned and written for Washington-based political publication The Hill, was a radio DJ at Florida State University’s WVFS and edited for Miami-based cultural publication City Gazettes.

Langston Taylor  
Tampa Bay Times  
240-472-0171  
ltaylor@tampabay.com

Langston Taylor is a data and general assignment reporter for the Tampa Bay Times. He has done data-driven journalism, including a look at how unproductive Florida lawmakers are, and also has also produced popular digital packages, including a voting guide and what daylight saving time would look like if it were year-round. He is a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.
Ava Van Valen
WTXL TV ABC 27 (Tallahassee)
850-893-3127
avanvalen@kauz.com

Ava Van Valen joined WTXL as an anchor/reporter on Sept. 6, coming from the Texoma area (Wichita Falls, Texas). Previously, she was a feature/health & wellness reporter in Hollywood, California. Her journalism background is diverse, including work for Charlie Rose, Bloomberg News London Bureau and News 12 New York.

Hannah Winston
Palm Beach Post
561-315-4250
hwinston@pbpost.com

Hannah Winston began covering the criminal courts for the Palm Beach Post in June and now covers the 15th Judicial Circuit. She has more than four years’ experience on the Breaking News desk, where she was the lead reporter on several high-profile crime stories, including the Austin Harrouff murder case and the February 2017 triple homicide in Jupiter. She is a 2013 graduate of the University of Florida.

Beau Zimmer
10News WTSP (Tampa/St. Petersburg)
727-577-8550
BZimmer@wtsp.com

Beau Zimmer has been a general assignment reporter for 10News WTSP in Tampa/St. Petersburg for 13 years. He grew up in the Tampa Bay area and began his broadcasting career almost 30 years ago as a youth reporter on Channel 10’s Saturday morning children’s show “This Side Up.” He attended the University of Florida, where he anchored the evening newscast on WUFT-TV. He currently covers Pinellas County with a special interest in breaking news, technology, space, aviation and environmental reporting.