CRONKITE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

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A Tradition of Excellence, Integrity and Innovation
“My mentor, Angela Gonzales of the Phoenix Business Journal, has been incredibly helpful and an immense inspiration during my journalism journey. Our time together is always a pleasant experience with her advising me on how to be successful in the business. She has answered my numerous questions through her own personal experiences as an accomplished journalist. From her times in college, where journalism wasn’t even a career aspiration, to her recent works with biotech companies and healthcare issues, I have learned a lot. One thing that I have enjoyed is that I have found a friend in Angela and I hope to continue our friendship for many years to come.”

— Erica Rodriguez
“My mentor was Catherine Anaya from CBS Channel 5 news. I visited Catherine at the station several times and was able to watch her in action. Her ease in front of a camera was inspiring, and her energy behind the scenes was infectious. She told me stories about her entry into the field and gave me tips on how to follow my dreams. I hoped that this program would reinforce my dream to become a network anchor, but I never imagined it would do that and so much more. Catherine was a great inspiration and I hope she and I remain friends!”

— Lauren Guidas
“My mentor is great. She gave me the opportunity to participate in the Hispanic Women’s luncheon and the Walter Cronkite luncheon. She knows a lot of people and I am grateful that she is my mentor.”

— Rachel Jimenez
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Leigh Zinmeister

Janet Perez
Arizona Business Magazine

“My mentor is Janet Perez. Not only is she editor-in-chief of Arizona Business Magazine, she also does the business news segment for Channel 3 in the mornings, and also has experience in radio. Her diverse journalism background has been a huge help to me in narrowing down exactly what I want to do as a journalist.”

— Leigh Zinmeister

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“Cara Liu was a perfect role model/mentor for me. We have a lot in common and I really enjoyed learning from her.”
— Suzanne Nogami
“My mentor is Rick Debruhl. He has been a great motivation for my career. He gave me the opportunity to visit the NBC station in Phoenix and he introduced me to various people who work in the industry. He has given me good advice on how to be a successful journalist.”

— Courtney Olish
“Paul Coro is an excellent mentor. While he can get pretty busy writing about the Suns for The Arizona Republic, he has still taken time out of his life to answer emails and give me tips on how to become a better journalist. When we met Paul gave me a tour of The Republic and it was something I’ll never forget. Being in that building just felt right and I really appreciate Paul taking me in there and showing me around. Not every kid gets to say he’s seen the board room of all the top honchos at a newspaper as well as know the guy who covers the local basketball team.”

— Salvador Rodriguez
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Daryl Bjoraas  
Marc Martinez  
FOX 10

“I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to be mentored by Fox 10 reporter/anchor, Marc Martinez. Marc is as exceptional on the television as he is in real life. His background and expertise have shaped him into a very well rounded journalist. He has taken the time to talk with me on several occasions and has showed me some of the ins and outs of the news business. Whenever I have had questions, he has always been there to answer them. He has given me advice on a multitude of topics and has provided me with goals that I did not have prior to meeting him. He is an example of what every young journalist aspires to be.”

— Daryl Bjoraas

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There are those facts that one learns in school, and those facts one learns only by doing. Knowing names like Nellie Bly and Joseph Pulitzer comes only from a textbook; knowing about how one can most effectively embrace the journalistic world comes only from experience. As a student of only 18 years, I have only the books to guide me on my path. But as a media magnate, Erik Hellum has miles of road behind him, and is wise beyond his years. It is only fitting that in my time with Mr. Hellum, I have come to glean that which cannot be learned in a classroom, but only that which can be experienced. In a way, I have already a clearer view of that which lies ahead, my own crystal ball, a rare chance to see and feel what experience is like, and for that I thank my mentor for all that he has done.

— Vincent Burnton
“Tim was a great mentor. He taught me many things about being a sports journalist. When it came to broadcasting, he gave a formula to the art. He told me that I need to tell people what I am going to say, then I need to tell them again, and then I tell them what I just told them. He showed me what it takes it be a radio broadcaster. I got a tour where Tim does his radio show. Tim gave me tips on interviewing athletes. He always told me the times when I could have access to interview any of the ASU athletes. Tim Healy has opened my eyes to the world of sports journalism and I am forever grateful.”

— Isaac Easley
“My mentor Morgan Loew gave me some great, realistic insight into the journalism business this semester. Our focus this semester was to answer the most important question: What do I need to do to be ready and employable? One aspect of that was looking at how packages are coordinated and produced. We also discussed proper ethics in journalism, especially when it comes to investigative reporting. I had a great experience with the mentorship and look forward to it continuing through the Spring semester.”

— Josh Frigerio
“Although we were only able to meet face-to-face once Mark Steinmetz was a helpful and interesting mentor. We regularly called and e-mailed each other to stay in touch. Mr. Steinmetz explained many aspects of the radio industry from being on air to the business and marketing sides. He was always available to answer my questions and I am extremely grateful that we were able to meet through the Mentor Program.”

— Lacy Hanna
“I met twice with my mentor. She told me about her experiences in the media industry and gave me some helpful advice.”

— Laura Palmisano
“My mentor, Syleste Rodriguez, has been more than willing to meet around my schedule and has made herself easily available to contact. She’s also been very friendly, helpful and encouraging and her career thus far presents an equally encouraging and admirable picture for what mine could be. I’m very glad to have met her and had a couple of chances to talk with her; it is wonderful knowing I have someone so kind in my chosen field to turn to for advice!”

— Caroline Porter
“As a student you can only hope for your assigned mentor to generally consist of a respectable background, likeable attitude, an open and exciting atmosphere, and overall a sense of comfort. Intimidated, yes at first that can be normal. When a student meets with a professional the words, “don’t screw up,” spin continuously in the back of your mind. Yet I must say, Lori Jane has a gifted way of making anyone feel as if she grew up right next door. Every night when I turn on the evening news and see Lori Jane, I wave, “hi Lori,” as if she is one of my closest friends. In my eyes and I am sure I speak for many, Lori Jane is intelligent, respectable, funny and when she backed up into a wall on her way out of the dressing room it was right then that I realized, she and I have a lot in common.”
— Desiree Salazar
“My PR mentor, Alicia Wadas, was always available to me for advice and guidance when studying the Journalism field. Alicia invited me to all of her PR events and recalled experiences to help me understand more about the career path of Public Relations.”

— Erin Browner
“My mentor is Mary O’Hanlon who is the owner and president of Barclay Communications in Phoenix, Arizona. She is very friendly and is always working her hardest to make sure all her clients are satisfied. (She) finds fun stuff for her mentee to do.”

— Sarah Fein

Sarah Rachel Fein

Mary O’Hanlon
Barclay Communications
CRONKITE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Abbie Fink
HMA Public Relations

“Abbie has been a great mentor, helping me see things more clearly professionally. Although I was somewhat aware of what public relations entailed, to be honest, it is a profession that is sometimes difficult to grasp completely and so talking to Abbie has made the it less of a mystery to me. She has always been able to make time for a Starbuck’s run and I have really enjoyed and benefitted from talking to her and having her answer any questions I may have. I recently spent the day at her office which was beneficial simply because I got to talk with some of her employees, who were able to give me an even more in-depth look into the career. It has been great to have someone to go to with questions and I really have enjoyed being part of this program.”
— Diana Hernandez

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“From the day I met Michelle I learned the differences between the types of Public Relations out there and what opportunities I could possibly have. She brought me into her firm and let me have hands on experience, something I had hoped for. I was able to learn from not only Michelle, but her other employees at the office, and was able to experience how a real firm runs and operates. I learned about editorial calendars, working with Excel to show clients their progress, and, of course, some basic paperwork they needed done around the office, which I was more than happy to do. I am very thankful for this opportunity, especially because I am a freshman and I know it’s hard to find opportunities this early into my education. Michelle and Olson Communications were great teachers and information sources for me, and I would like to thank them for all that they have taught me.” — Rachel Korchin
“The mentorship program really taught me new things that I was not aware of about journalism and what it takes to be a journalist. The program really helped me to understand the time and effort I need to put in to knowing the field of journalism and how it works in order to be successful. I think this program is excellent and everyone should take advantage of it. I feel like I have more knowledge about careers in journalism and the importance of understanding things than I would have if I hadn’t been in the program.”

— Alexandria Hampel
My mentor is ABC 15 reporter Christina Boomer. Christina is young, fun, and totally relatable. She is very easy to talk to and is easy to go to for advice on the journalism industry, broadcasting, and simple everyday issues. She’s a great mentor and I have gained a lot from being her mentee.

— Alex Reese
“Mr. Blodgett has been an amazing mentor. He has helped make my first semester in college a much easier one. With the help of Mr. Blodgett, I feel like I have more confidence entering the field of journalism. His advice has turned me into a better writer, and a better student.”

— Charles Woodall-Pike

Charles Woodall—Pike

Tom Blodgett
The Arizona Republic
For the Cronkite Mentorship Program, I was paired up with East Valley Tribune Reporter Amanda Keim. Since she is an ASU graduate, I was able to see exactly how she took advantage of her opportunities through the Cronkite School to get where she is today. Her heavy involvement with The State Press and completion of multiple internships with the Tribune and The Associated Press has shown me that to be successful you have to start getting involved in the journalism industry as early as possible. Also, with Amanda as my mentor, I was reminded that the era of traditional print journalism is rapidly changing. She kept me extremely informed as the Tribune made several cuts to their publication and unfortunately laid off several reporters. With strong commitment to the field and sticking with the paper as it went through a decline, she remained employed. This really showed me how there will always be ups and downs with trying to establish yourself as a credible journalist, but with dedication, hard work and taking advantage of the chances you are given, you can achieve anything.”

— Stephanie Snyder
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Gabrielle Abrams  
Laura Slawny  
12 News

“Laura Slawny is my mentor. She works as an Executive producer at Channel 12. She is amazing! She took me to lunch and told me all about broadcast and what each job entitles and what goes into making the nightly newscast. She also let me watch the 6 o’clock newscast and took me on a tour of Channel 12, introducing me to everyone who worked there! She has opened my eyes to the production side of Broadcast, which I am now looking into as a possible career.”

— Gabrielle Abrams
“So far Jennifer and I have gotten together a few times. We have spent time getting to know one another and to discuss my questions about the business. She has talked about her own career path and what she enjoys about her job. Likewise, I have explained my career goals and gotten advice from her about how to reach those goals and how to make the most of my time at the Cronkite School. I also have been given a tour of the CBS 5 news station and been allowed to see a live newscast.”

— Erika Clemens
“My mentor Chris Kline offered me a glimpse into the daily life of a reporter in a major media market. He also stressed the importance that versatility plays now and how it will have an even bigger impact in the future of journalism.”

— J.T. Fetch
“I am very fortunate to have Steve as my mentor. He has been in the news business for several years now and can answer any question I have about the news industry. When we first met I had a list of some goals that I wanted to accomplish in my journalism career. We discussed them over dinner, and he really wanted me to pick goals that I would be able to reach. Steve said to not set goals that are unrealistic. Since I met Steve in August I have been to ABC 15 twice. Once, to get the tour of the amazing facility and watch him film teases for the next newscast. The last time I went I watched on set a live newscast which was such a thrill. It is really exciting for me to watch a newscast in the studio and I really enjoyed. Steve jokingly mentioned one time, the news business is like sausage, you like it until you see it being made. But, once again I am so happy to have Steve as my mentor, I wouldn’t want to have anyone else.” — Rudy Rivas
“Heather and I connected from the beginning. Heather proved to be quite approachable and her cheery disposition made it easy for me to feel comfortable around her. Not only did we chat about journalism but we related on a personal level. I appreciate that she sincerely cared what I had to say. It was nice to know that she was truly interested in helping me make the right connections. Heather is a wonderful woman and I have been privileged to have her as a mentor.”

— Carolyn Banfield
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Margaret Pingolt

Robert Stieve
Arizona Highways

“Being an incredibly generous mentor, I’ve already learned aspects of this “media life” that I thought would take years. Robert is teaching me what it means to explore and be curious in this avenue; to be thoughtful and tactful in the process.”

— Margaret Pingolt

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“Nat picked me up at Taylor Place and we drove to the Riviera Broadcast Group in Scottsdale. We took the elevator and got off and it seemed that the entire floor was all for radio. We talked about other stations around the valley and ironically 101.5 and a Spanish station share the same building as there station. He showed me around both stations, the 98.3 part and 103.9 part. He introduced me to a few a people such as the EDGE DJ Tim Virgin, as well as the owner of Riviera himself. We went to his office and we talked about radio and how things are operated and how revenue is generated. The meeting was relatively short but informative nonetheless.”

— Andrew Schmiedeler
“Yetta Gibson is an exceptional reporter and person. I am very lucky to have met her. She really helped me to understand what it means to be a journalist.”

— Samantha Egan
“Alex Savidge could not have been any better of a mentor. He not only made sure that we had regular contact, but was a big part in making sure that I kept my grades up and stayed focused. Being able to speak to a professional in the business on a regular basis was a great help as I got on my way to my collegiate degree.”

— Nicholas Licalzi

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“I can tell that Heather Dunn is brilliant at her job and I am very fortunate to be learning from her. From the first moment we met, she has been nothing but open and kind to helping me learn about absolutely every angle that I can from her experience. She is not only a great mentor but a wonderful person.”

— McKenzie Manning
“I hurried on over and walked into the restaurant, eager to meet the woman who I hoped would have a great impact on my life. Immediately as I walked in, she stood up and all in one moment, my preconceived notions came to mean nothing ... 

... she welcomed me with a warm and heartfelt hug that said it all. She was Jennifer Jones, part of the Channel 5 news team or in other words, the lovely lady who on that very morning assured my every doubt; I was meant to be exactly where I was in life. Then, as I began to listen and watch her discuss the events leading up to the securing of her career, I couldn’t help but to be drawn to her. She was speaking with the same fire and passion that initially had brought me into this school. She was the mirror image of who I would love to become in the next ten years and she was my Cronkite Mentor; the absolute perfect candidate for me.”

— Christine Harvey

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“Troy emphasized the need to look for opportunities to get yourself into the industry in a small market and then slowly move yourself up to bigger and better markets. The ability to adequately write a news story could be the most important thing in the industry according to Troy, as well as the ability to write, film and produce a report.”

— Andrew Sexton