



Mia Chism

University of Oklahoma  
COPY EDITOR

Ask Mia Chism what her favorite thing is, and she'll say, "grammar." Her love of conjunctions and punctuation come into play in her role as a senior copy editor at The Oklahoma Daily, the University of Oklahoma's student-run newspaper. There Ms. Chism is known as, "the one with the New York Times thing." So words — writing or editing them — are her strength.  
Ms. Chism, 20, is a copy editor at this year's Institute.  
"An important part of journalism is making sure that everyone is heard because that's part of the truth," she said.

Alexander Corey

California State University, Northridge  
REPORTER

Alexander Corey focuses on using his bilingual skills to inform his community.  
He points to a story he reported in English and Spanish on President Obama's deferred action program.  
"For me, it was important writing that one in Spanish because that's something that people are going to use," Mr. Corey, 23, said.  
He graduated in May from California State University-Northridge, where he studied journalism and was the English editor of the El Nuevo Sol student publication.  
Mr. Corey is a reporter at this year's Institute.



Maya Dangerfield

CUNY Graduate School of Journalism  
VIDEOGRAPHER

As a child, Maya Dangerfield, 27, traveled the world with her library card and books.  
After majoring in history and American studies at William & Mary in Virginia, she joined Teach for America and taught high school history for two years while blogging about her experiences in public and charter schools.  
She then returned to her storytelling roots and is now a student of multimedia journalism at the CUNY Graduate School in New York.  
Ms. Dangerfield, a videographer at the Institute, is focused on mastering the tools for visual storytelling.



Daniela Franco

New York University  
REPORTER

Daniela Franco, 21, grew up in Colombia and remembers an evacuation of her school because of a threat from the FARC guerrilla group. She remembers learning about people being kidnapped and seeing terrible things in her mother's morning newspaper.  
She says that her desire to tell great stories stems from growing up in a troubled country.  
Ms. Franco is a rising senior at New York University, studying journalism, sociology and Latin American studies. A reporter at the Institute, she admires journalists like Christiane Amanpour "because they go out there."



Yessenia Funes

State University of New York at Plattsburgh  
REPORTER

Yessenia Funes took her first journalism class as a senior at Uniondale High School in New York.  
Ms. Funes, 22, realized the importance of environmental issues but was also interested in social justice.  
"I can't just be a bystander and see things happening," said Ms. Funes, a reporter at the Insitute. "Social justice reporting is my way to try to do something about it."  
She earned degrees in journalism and environmental studies at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh.  
Ms. Funes freelances, writes poetry and was a web editor at DoNorth Magazine, a travel-focused publication.

Noelle Haro-Gomez

University of Arizona  
PHOTOGRAPHER

Noelle Rosario Haro-Gomez, 27, has learned that with determination and persistence, she can get through anything in life.  
"You have to find your way around the obstacle you're trying to get through," she said.  
Ms. Haro-Gomez put herself through community college and several years at the University of Arizona, where she received a bachelor's degree in May.  
She is a photographer at the Institute, but it would not have happened if not for her persistence and tenacity: It was the third time she had applied.



Lucia Hoffman

Columbia Graduate School of Journalism  
WEB EDITOR

When Lucia Hoffman tweets, the world of tennis listens. With no regular journalism job or connections at the United States Tennis Association, Ms. Hoffman became an influential voice in sports — and she did it all on social media.  
A native of São Paulo, Brazil, she found her love for tennis from watching her father and uncle play. She moved to the United States and completed two undergraduate years at Columbia University and last year returned to pursue a master's in journalism. Ms. Hoffman is a web editor working on audience development at the Institute.



*“We were impressed by the quantity and the quality. The students that we picked, we believe, are really among the best in the country.”*

**RICHARD G. JONES** | Associate Editor, The New York Times



Pinar Istek

University of Texas at Austin  
PHOTOGRAPHER

While studying at the University of California, San Diego, Pinar Istek toyed with the idea of being a fashion photographer. But her focus shifted to photojournalism when she realized she was more interested in documentary-type photos.  
Ms. Istek, a native of Turkey, recently completed her master's project on survivors of attempted suicide. "Photography was a hobby and it became what I did," she said.  
Ms. Istek, 30, finished the first year of a four-year doctoral program at the University of Texas at Austin, doing research on visual journalism.

Rachelle Krygier

New York University  
REPORTER

Born and raised in Venezuela, Rachelle Krygier, 22, does not remember a day without the influence of Hugo Chávez, the president at that time. There was constant political chaos.  
A rising senior at New York University, she is pursuing a double major in journalism and political science.  
"I wouldn't even be able to report," she said, referring to the government-controlled media in Venezuela. The government has enforced restrictions on major news channels and newspapers.  
Ms. Krygier is an intern at CNN Español and a reporter at the Institute.



Sandra López-Monsalve

CUNY Graduate School of Journalism  
REPORTER

Sandra López-Monsalve, 34, is the assistant director of radio at WBCR at Brooklyn College, where she creates content and teaches about media.  
Though she said, "Teaching is not an easy task," she said she loves it.  
Ms. López-Monsalve, from Bogotá, Colombia, is a graduate student at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, focusing on arts and culture. She has a master's degree in media studies from CUNY, Brooklyn College.  
One of her favorite published articles is about Slide Hampton, a renowned trombone player who performed with Dizzy Gillespie and other jazz greats. She said interviewing Mr. Hampton "was a terrific experience."



Yolanda Martinez

Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism  
WEB EDITOR

Growing up in an immigrant family from El Salvador, Yolanda Martinez, 26, has always identified with her Latina heritage. The struggles her family endured helped confirm her decision to pursue journalism.  
"So many of the major cities have diverse communities that are not reflected in the newsroom," she said. "This has to change."  
KCET, an independent television station, provided Ms. Martinez with journalistic growth opportunities. Her mentors motivated her and offered strong advice.  
Ms. Martinez, a web editor at the Institute, said that she is ready to go anywhere, as long as it is challenging and makes a positive difference.