

LORI JOHNSTON

Journalism Lecturer

Profile

An award-winning and prolific journalist, editor and media entrepreneur with bylines in major media outlets now serving the next generation as a professor in the University of Georgia's College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Contact

University of Georgia
120 Hooper St.
101-M
Athens, Georgia 30602
706-372-2482 | ljohns@uga.edu
grady.uga.edu/faculty/johnston
fastcopynews.com

Academic Degrees

MASTER OF FINE ARTS IN NARRATIVE NONFICTION WRITING

University of Georgia Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, 2017

- Thesis: "A Journey of Lives: A Collection of Reported Narratives on Faith and Family"

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN JOURNALISM

University of Georgia Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, 1995

Awards and Designations

Journalism Department Teacher of the Year for the 2020-2021 Academic Year

UGA Special Collections Libraries Faculty Fellow, 2019-2020

Finalist, 2019 Religion News Association Awards for Religion Reporting Excellence

Florida Magazine Association Silver Winner (Trade/Technical) for "Our Big Melting Pot," Naples REALTOR, 2018, and Charlie Award for "Safety First," Naples REALTOR, 2016

Professional Experience

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, AUGUST 2019-PRESENT

Lecturer, College of Journalism and Mass Communication

Teach Journalism Department courses for undergraduate and graduate students, including:

- Reporting and Writing Across Platforms, a core course for journalism and public relations majors
- Electives: Feature Writing and Special Topics: Religion Reporting (created new course)

Coordinate the introductory course (Reporting and Writing Across Platforms), which has about 180 students a semester, and provide resources and support to four to six instructors each semester in order to create a more cohesive learning experience across sections.

Director, Journalism Writing Lab, James M. Cox Jr. Institute for Journalism Innovation, Management & Leadership

Appointed in 2021 to lead a new experiential learning initiative sponsored by the Cox Institute, which operates as a unit of the Journalism Department in the College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

- Run the lab's cornerstone project, Covering Poverty (coveringpoverty.uga.edu), which was relaunched in 2021 by students funded through a \$7,500 Scripps Howard Foundation grant.
- Published more than 20 service journalism and feature stories by undergraduate students, graduate students and alumni in 2021 through partnerships with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and Athens Banner-Herald. Headlines include: 3 Things to Know About COVID Care Costs, How to Find Affordable Child Care in Georgia and For Local Nonprofits, Need and Support Swells.
- Mentor more than 10 undergraduate and graduate students who participate in the extracurricular activity
- Supervise, guide and support a graduate assistant who updates the Covering Poverty toolkit with fresh, new content for industry peers and stories about poverty-related matters for media outlet partners and the Solutions Journalism Network.
- Moderate and organize live events on Clubhouse and Twitter spaces where undergraduate students share tips on interviewing, reporting and writing.

Professional Experience

FASTCOPY COMMUNICATIONS, SEPTEMBER 2004-PRESENT

Co-Founder and CEO

- Produced more than 1,000 articles, photo galleries and other pieces annually for newspapers, magazines, websites and media entities. Clients include The Washington Post, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Wall Street Journal, American City Business Journals, Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles, People, Georgia Trend, Gulfshore Business, HGTV.com, Chase.com, Bankrate.com and WebMD.com
- Managed Fast Copy News Service, an editorial and writing agency with dozens of student and professional writers that contribute stories and photos on deadline to media outlets

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION, 2004-2019

Part-time faculty

- Taught variety of reporting and writing courses to hundreds of students
- Created learning goals and syllabi individually and in collaboration with faculty
- Developed assignments to teach skills, such as Associated Press style and fact-checking
- Served as guest lecturer and speaker in classes such as Information Gathering and Entrepreneurial Journalism

ASSOCIATED PRESS, ATLANTA, OCTOBER 2003-SEPTEMBER 2004

Reporter and weekend editor

- Reported and wrote news, business and sports stories on deadline
- Oversaw team of writers as weekend supervisor

FREELANCE JOURNALIST, ATHENS, GEORGIA, JUNE-OCTOBER 2003

Reporter and editor

- Contributor to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta Business Chronicle and Gulfshore Business

GULFSHORE BUSINESS, NAPLES, FLORIDA, SEPTEMBER 2001-JUNE 2003

Editor

- Helped redesign and relaunch Southwest Florida Business Magazine into Gulfshore Business, a glossy monthly regional publication under new ownership in three-county region with 25,000 circulation
- Managed team of freelancers to produce an award-winning publication

FREELANCE JOURNALIST, CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, JANUARY-SEPTEMBER 2001

Reporter and editor

- Contributed features to Charlotte Magazine, Charlotte Business Journal

CROSSWALK.COM, CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, AUGUST 2000-JANUARY 2001

Editor

- Added entertainment coverage to the faith-based website
- Managed freelancers providing movie and TV reviews, interviews with celebrities and commentary

THE BUSINESS JOURNAL OF CHARLOTTE, AUGUST 1999-AUGUST 2000

Reporter

- Worked the health care and retail beats with breaking and investigative stories

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, ATLANTA, APRIL 1997-AUGUST 1999

Reporter

- Covered national news and politics, including Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich and the Georgia Legislature

Professional Experience

THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE, JUNE 1995-APRIL 1997

Entertainment/teen writer

- Planned and wrote articles for the weekly entertainment and teen sections, along with daily and breaking news stories

THE RED AND BLACK, ATHENS, GEORGIA, SEPTEMBER 1991-JUNE 1995

Editor in Chief, staff writer, various roles

- Rose up the ranks of the independent daily student newspaper at the University of Georgia

Service

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION, AUGUST 2019-PRESENT

Lecturer

- Mentor Report for America corps member covering underserved communities for the Athens Banner-Herald/OnlineAthens.com and its Athens Equality Lab
- Served on faculty hiring committee for assistant professor position (2021)
- Served on committee that awarded Krensavage-Knight Scholarship (2020)

Additional Awards and Guest Speaking

- Moderator, Religion News Association Facebook Livestream with Hannah Gaber of USA Today, November 2021
- Moderator, Clubhouse chat, Interviewing in Journalism: How to ask compelling questions, April 2021
- Speaker, Journalism Ethics and Diversity (UGA), Fall 2021
- Speaker, Graduate Newsroom (UGA), Fall 2021
- Speaker, NewsCraft 2020, presented by Grady College's James M. Cox Jr. Institute for Journalism Innovation, Management and Leadership
- Finalist, 2019 Religion News Association Awards for Religion Reporting Excellence
- Moderator, 2019 Entrepreneurial Journalism Symposium presented by Grady College's James M. Cox Jr. Institute for Journalism Innovation, Management and Leadership
- Guest speaker, 2018 Society of Professional Journalists Region 3 Spring Conference, representing the Independent Journalists Resource Coalition, launched by Grady College's James M. Cox Jr. Institute for Journalism Innovation, Management and Leadership
- Guest speaker, 2017 and 2016 UGA Entrepreneurial Journalism Symposium, Grady College
- Platinum 2018 Hermes Award, Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP) in the Print Media/Writing/Publication Article category, "Engineering the Home of the Braves," Engineering Georgia May/June 2017
- Commentator, Peabody Awards Collection's The Peabody Decades event, March 2014, University of Georgia
- Silver winner, 2013 Florida Magazine Association Charlie Awards (Writing Excellence/Best Service Feature, Trade/Technical category) for Naples REALTOR® magazine story, "Closing the Door to Danger"
- Silver winner, 2012 Florida Magazine Association Charlie Awards (Best In-Depth Reporting less than 50,000 circulation) for Gulfshore Business story, "Emergency Conditions"

Professional and Academic Association Memberships

- Member, Religion News Association and membership committee
 - Relaunched RNA's mentoring program in 2021 with 20 participants

Selected Publications

WRITING

- Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles, September 2021, Tuxedo at the Park: An innovative new-build overlooking Chastain Park, the 2021 Southeastern Designer Showhouse balanced leading-edge design with luscious elegance
- Georgia Trend, August 2021, Gwinnett County | Lawrenceville: Connectivity and Collaboration
- Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles, July 2021, July 2019 and July 2018, Bath of the Year Award Winners
- Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles, January 2019 and January 2018, Kitchen of the Year Award Winners
- The Washington Post, Dec. 1, 2018, George H.W. Bush helped lead GOP toward evangelicalism
- Atlanta magazine, Sept. 21, 2018, Breaking the Chain
- The Washington Post, Aug. 30, 2018, Trump's evangelical advisory board violates the law, advocacy group argues in new filing
- The Washington Post, Feb. 15, 2018, This former gymnast raised an army to take on Larry Nassar. Can she take on sex abuse in churches next?
- The Washington Post, Nov. 6, 2017, After the Texas church shooting, can any church be open and welcome to all?
- Atlanta magazine special publication, Give Atlanta (served as editor and contributed stories for 2017 debut and 2018 edition)
- Wall Street Journal, May 30, 2014, Chef Hugh Acheson on eating on the road

EDITING

- Project editor, Top Workplaces, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
- Project editor, Give Atlanta, Atlanta Magazine, 2018, 2019
- Project editor, Medical Guide, Atlanta Magazine, 2018, 2019

Skills

- Reporting
- Interviewing
- Writing
- Narrative Storytelling
- Editing
- Entrepreneurship
- AP Style
- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- Project Management
- Personnel
- Staffing/Management
- Team Building
- Newspaper, Magazine and Website Design
- Web (WordPress)
- Canva
- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Outlook)
- Apple (Pages, Numbers)
- Google (Docs, Sheets, Forms, Slides)
- Prezi