

Curriculum Vitae
MONI BASU

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UF profile: <https://www.jou.ufl.edu/staff/moni-basu/>

Blog: <https://monibas.com/>

- Award-winning journalist, with 39 years of experience and a specialization in narrative writing
- Director, MFA in Narrative Nonfiction, University of Georgia
- Charlayne Hunter-Gault Writer in Residence, UGA
- Professor of advanced reporting and writing
- University of Florida, Teacher of the Year, 2020
- Author, "Chaplain Turner's War," E-book, Agate Publishing, 2012
- Consulting editor, *The Bitter Southerner*
- National advisory board member, Asian American Journalists Association
- Trainer, Report for America and Poynter Institute
- Extensive knowledge of story production across all platforms
- Fluent in Bengali; proficient in Hindi and Spanish
- Skilled in multimedia storytelling

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Georgia

Director, MFA in Narrative Nonfiction and the Charlayne Hunter-Gault Writer in Residence (January 1, 2023-present)

I teach advanced reporting and writing classes in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. The cases are hands-on and interactive and students are expected to produce publishable quality work. I also run the low-residency MFA program in Narrative Nonfiction. I plan an eight-day residency each semester that provide students with high-quality workshops and sessions led by the best-known professionals in the field. The program attracts a diverse array of students of all ages, races and ethnicities and importantly, from all walks of life. Diversity is a key to the program's success. I teach students in the program along with other professionals who serve as mentors. I help promote the program and recruit students. I am also the Charlayne Hunter-Gault Writer in Residence and as such, I continue my work as a freelance journalist.

University of Florida

Michael and Linda Connelly Lecturer in Narrative Nonfiction (August 2018 – December 2022)

I teach advanced reporting and writing classes in the Journalism Department at UF and developed three

new courses in my first two years at UF. I mentor and guide students through difficult projects, including capstone and thesis submissions for graduate students. I oversee student journalists' work for *Atrium*, a narrative magazine I launched in 2021. I edit stories for the college's Innovation News Center, which houses Gainesville's public radio and television stations, and also for Fresh Take Florida, our pioneering student legislative news service. I was selected as Teacher of the Year in only my second year of teaching at UF.

University of Georgia

Distinguished Professor of Practice, low residency MFA in Narrative Media Writing (August 2015 – December 2022)

I am an instructor in the low residency MFA in narrative media writing. I work closely with four or five graduate students each semester, helping guide and shape work aimed at publishing as a book or a lengthy magazine piece. I also served as an adjunct professor in the spring semester of 2011 and taught a magazine writing class in which students learned to conduct effective interviews, report their stories thoroughly and then write concisely with clarity, authority, structure and detail.

The Bitter Southerner

Consulting editor (March 2022 — present)

I am part of a team that puts out the magazine online as well as two print publications each year. I work with writers on shaping stories and edit submissions.

CNN

Senior Writer, CNN.com (May 2009 – August 2018)

I was on CNN Digital's Enterprise Team, which produced multi-media storytelling and magazine-style narratives to a website known for breaking news. My focus was on issues of trauma, resiliency, race, gender and identity. I reported from Haiti in the aftermath of the devastating 2010 earthquake and Nepal after the 2015 earthquake. I produced original stories from South Asia and the Middle East. I traveled nationally to write takeouts on the biggest issues of the day like police violence, racial injustice and the undocumented.

Other duties included:

Covering breaking news

Producing television packages and short video documentaries

Going on air live from the field and in the studio with my stories

TV-Web integration — transforming on-air TV packages into well-written Web stories

Working with all-platform journalists to produce substantive Web stories and multi-media packages

Mentoring CNN interns and fellows from around the world

Coaching and editing colleagues

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Sunday enterprise writer (July 2008 – May 2009)

I held a variety of positions in my 19 years at the AJC. Here are some:

I wrote in-depth narrative pieces for the Sunday edition on a variety of topics, from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the salmonella outbreak. I traveled to Iraq seven times, spending almost 18 months in the war zone and reporting in extreme conditions; five trips were embedded with the U.S. Army and Marines during the height of combat operations.

As a national/international reporter, I covered the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, the war in

Afghanistan, Atlanta's global agencies — including CARE, the Carter Center and refugee organizations, the 2004 presidential elections and served as the Cox Newspapers correspondent in Jordan and Iraq.

As an editor, I oversaw the night news operation and designed the front page of the newspaper. I edited copy from reporters and wire services for the daily news section as well as the Sunday edition. I also worked for a while as the editor for the Perspective section of the Sunday newspaper.

The Tallahassee Democrat

News editor (June 1989 – November 1990)

Edited wire service and local copy. Decided story play and designed the front page and main news pages.

Florida Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services

Communications director for Children, Youth and Families (July 1988 – June 1989)

Produced quarterly magazine on child abuse prevention; wrote speeches for the director and commentary pieces for Florida newspapers; wrote press releases and organized media coverage for the agency.

Florida Flambeau

Editor (August 1986 – July 1988)

Produced a small daily newspaper. Managed a staff of 40. Wrote editorials and edited stories. Helped break a story about a gang rape at the Florida State University Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house that became a major national story. Covered the Florida Legislature, the death penalty, migrant field workers and a wide range of other topics, often scooping the newspaper of record.

United Press International

Freelance reporter (July 1985 – July 1988)

Covered the Florida Legislature and criminal justice issues.

EDUCATION

M.A. Florida State University, International Affairs. December 1983

B.A. Florida State University, Political Science. June 1981

HONORS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Sunshine State Awards. 2022

Serious Feature, first place. "Drivin' the Dixie Highway: How Florida's Dream Road Turned to Dust"

Florida Magazine Association Charlie Award. 2022

"Drivin' the Dixie Highway: How Florida's Dream Road Turned to Dust"

Wilbur Award, Religion Communicators Council. 2021
Winner, online story. "In Search of Spirits in Cassadaga"

University of Florida, Teacher of the Year. 2020

Wilbur Award, Religion Communicators Council. 2019
Winner, online story. "A gunman killed his brother. Now Farris Barakat is on an American journey"

Asian-American Journalists Association. 2017
Winner, general excellence in multi-media reporting. "These crossings are nothing but fatal"

South Asian Journalists Association. 2017
Winner, outstanding story by a South Asian journalist in North America. "These crossings are nothing but fatal"
Finalist, outstanding multimedia story on South Asia. "From the darkness of disaster, a ray of hope for one girl in Nepal"

American Society of Newspaper Editors. 2016
Finalist, Batten Medal, honoring public service journalism

South Asian Journalists Association. 2015
First place, feature story. "Missing plane mystery: "A hole in the clouds, an empty space on Earth"

Society for Features Journalism. 2013
First place for integrated storytelling. "The Undecided"

Society for Features Journalism. 2013
First place for best series. "Race and Politics"

Peabody. 2012
Arab Spring Coverage, CNN team

Reuters/Stanley Foundation. 2012
Global Security Seminar for Journalists in Istanbul, Turkey. Awarded to senior level foreign policy reporters

Military Reporters & Editors. 2012
Honorable mention. "Seven months in Iraq, six years back home: A soldier's war on two fronts"

Asian-American Journalists Association. 2012
Winner, unlimited subject matter. "Seven months in Iraq, six years back home: A soldier's war on two fronts"

South Asian Journalists Association. 2012
Winner, outstanding story on any subject. "Seven months in Iraq, six years back home: A soldier's war on two fronts"

Society for Features Journalism. 2012
Honorable mention, general feature, excellence in writing. "Seven months in Iraq, six years back

home: A soldier's war on two fronts"

National Association of Drug Court Professionals. 2012

National Media Award. "Seven months in Iraq, six years back home: A soldier's war on two fronts."

Peabody. 2011

Gulf Oil Spill coverage, CNN team

Society for Features Journalism. 2011

Second place, general feature, excellence in writing.

The Pulitzer Prizes. 2009

Nominated in the features category. "Chaplain Turner's War," an eight-part narrative series chronicling a military chaplain's service to his country from Baghdad to Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington.

The Religion Newswriters Association. 2009

Reporter of the Year, excellence in enterprise reporting and versatility. "Chaplain Turner's War." Judges said the series "had credibility and authenticity because the writer, in the best tradition of unblinking reporting, told her readers what she witnessed firsthand."

Supple Award, Religion Writer of the Year. "Chaplain Turner's War." Judges said the series was "a vivid, touching entry about the many-faceted role of religion in an ungodly circumstance."

Joseph Galloway Award for Distinguished Reporting. 2009

The Military Reporters and Editors, best in military reporting. "Chaplain Turner's War." The judges said the story was "quiet and moving." The "portrayal of the burdens of war, both emotional and physical, unfolds through the story of a 35-year-old chaplain and the soldiers of Bravo Company. ... Basu "reports sensitively on the damage war does to soldiers' marriages and to their faith, even to the faith of a chaplain."

Clarion Award. 2009

The Association for Women in Communications, first prize in newspaper feature reporting. "Chaplain Turner's War"

Asian-American Journalists Association. 2009

First prize, print, unlimited subject matter. "Chaplain Turner's War"

South Asian Journalists Association. 2009

Outstanding story on any subject by a journalist of South Asian origin. "Chaplain Turner's War.

American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors. 2009

Second place, narrative feature. "Chaplain Turner's War"

Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University. 2008

Notable narrative: "Chaplain Turner's War"

Georgia Associated Press. 2008

First place, feature writing. Iraq War stories

Georgia Press Association. 2007

First place, feature writing. Iraq War stories

Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma. 2007

Ochberg Fellow. A fellowship from the Dart Center to attend workshops, seminars and lectures aimed at improving coverage of violent events (including war, domestic abuse and natural disasters) and to build relationships with like-minded colleagues and experts in the field of traumatic stress studies.

Georgia Press Association. 2006

First place, feature writing. Iraq War stories

Georgia Associated Press. 2006

First place, feature writing. Iraq War stories.

Clarion Award. 2005

The Association for Women in Communications, first prize in newspaper feature reporting. Iraq coverage.

Print Journalist of the Year. 2005 Atlanta Press Club

South Asian Journalists Association. 2004

Second prize, print. Iraq coverage

Associated Press Managing Editors award for international perspective. 2003

Awarded to the staff of the AJC's Atlanta & the World section

Society of Newspaper Design. 1997

Best front-page design. 1996 Olympics, Atlanta Constitution

FEATURE STORY HIGHLIGHTS

The Bitter Southerner

Ashley Jones Now! April 2022

[The Stories I will Live By.](#) August 2020

[Can Mexico Beach be Mexico Beach Again?](#) June, 2019

Flamingo Magazine

[Drivin' the Dixie Highway: How Florida's Dream Road Turned to Dust.](#) November. 2021

[In Search of Spirits in Cassadaga.](#) October, 2020

[Veterans Hook Fish and Friendship on the Water.](#) July, 2020

[Racing Icon Hurley Haywood Gets Real About His Personal Life & Career.](#) February, 2020

CNN

“A gunman killed his brother. Now Farris Barakat is on an American journey.” February 2018.
<http://cnn.it/2Ejo35R>

Sherry Johnson was raped, pregnant and married by 11. Now she's fighting to end child marriage in America.” January 2018. <http://cnn.it/2BCLvca>

“I on India: An Indian American rediscovers her rapidly changing homeland.” October 2017.
<http://cnn.it/2z2OLNg>

“From Gandhi to guns: An Indian woman explores the NRA convention.” April 2017.
<http://cnn.it/2oJy2Oa>

“The dreams of ‘Baby Noor.’” March 2017. <http://cnn.it/2o0JL7l>

“After attack, Indian immigrants reconsider the American dream.” March 2017. <http://cnn.it/2ILlrY6>

“In biblical lands of Iraq, Christianity in peril after ISIS.” November 2016 <http://cnn.it/2fxV1mC>

“Good Morning, Mosul: Pirate radio risks death to fight ISIS on airwaves.” October 2016.
<http://cnn.it/2euJ56>

“These crossings are nothing but fatal.” August 2016. <http://cnn.it/2bME1IY>

“How the Syrian crisis came home to small-town Canada.” March 2016.
<http://cnn.it/21P7Md4>

“Ghosts of rape past: Can a survivor find solace in return to the crime scene?” November 2015.
<http://cnn.it/1SA3tPg>

“Our Ferguson, ‘After MB.’” August 2015. <http://cnn.it/1NaDdIS>

“In Nepal, second quake brings second chance for one little girl.”
May 2015. <http://cnn.it/1BlmPPc>

“Heaven, dotted with pockets of hell.” May 2015. <http://cnn.it/1JEJYRx>

“Bringing Tom Home.” May 2015. <http://cnn.it/1JpdZo0>

“Watching ‘Selma’ with 103-year-old matriarch of the movement. January 2015. <http://cnn.it/1KucBT>

“The Crucible of Ferguson – and a family it changed.” January 2015. <http://cnn.it/1FLk2kH>

“Hotel Death: It's a place of celebration, where dying guests are promised freedom for their souls.” April 2014. <http://cnn.it/1ijB3tC>

“Dead Man Walking: Botched execution unmasks botched system. August 2014. <http://cnn.it/1paB7iH>

“Beyond Boston.” April 2014. <http://cnn.it/1p3VEa5>

“Dead or alive: Hunt for man-eating tiger won’t end well for conservationist.” February 2014.

<http://cnn.it/1ka51kl>

“The girl whose rape changed a country.” November 2013.

<http://www.cnn.com/interactive/2013/11/world/india-rape/>

“Veteran confronts rape, suicide: September 2013. ‘I am angry that others are going through this.’”

<http://cnn.it/1kcp8ui>

“Historic ruling opens door for immigration for same-sex spouses.” <http://on.cnn.com/1eGOIVM>

“Iraq’s Baby Noor: An unfinished miracle.” March 2013. <http://on.cnn.com/14RXFLA>

"Last white Democratic congressman in the Deep South fights for political survival." November, 2012.

<http://bit.ly/VtWSfs>

"A daughter faces demons of father's war." November 2012. <http://bit.ly/PRwCKw>

"The Undecided: "He started over. Who will restart America?" October 2012. <http://bit.ly/RE0wPt>

"Nationality, identity and the pledge of allegiance." July 2012. <http://bit.ly/VtXO3i>

“Even after execution, no finality for mother.” April 2012. <http://bit.ly/Kg0BVm>

“A symbol of defiance in Gadhafi's Libya, Eman al-Obeidi just wants to be left alone.” April 2012.

<http://bit.ly/IMNU4k>

“America’s anomaly: The Place Where War is a Constant.” October 2011. <http://bit.ly/rGRoUy>

“The War at Home: A Soldier’s Story on Two Fronts.” May 2011. <http://bit.ly/kIF7AV>

“Libyan Revolt Offers New Hope in Search of Father.” February 2011. <http://bit.ly/q17u12>

“Buried Alive for Six Days, Earthquake Survivors Reunite for first time. December 2010.

<http://bit.ly/g8hoCW>

“From Haiti to America -- and Back. Quake Survivor Caught Between.” August 2010. One woman’s journey to the United States. <http://bit.ly/aZnXvf>

“For Sean Penn, on Ground in Haiti, Time is of the Essence.” A day spent with the Hollywood actor as he tries to navigate the aid world. May 2010. <http://bit.ly/dgGN5G>

“After Son’s Death in Iraq, Father Embeds With Unit to Tell His Story.” A most unusual journey to Iraq. September, 2009 <http://bit.ly/OrNf9>

The Atlanta-Journal-Constitution

“Chaplain Turner’s War.” An eight-part narrative series chronicling the intersection of God and guns. June 2008

“Anatomy of an outbreak: How Salmonella sleuths solved a deadly mystery.” March 2008

“A widow’s journey to justice.” A look at the Brian Nichols murder rampage through the eyes of Claudia Barnes. December 2008

“A father’s grief, visible.” How Robert Stokely, the Coweta County solicitor, deals with the untimely death of his soldier son in Iraq. September 2006

“From Iraq with love.” A platoon sergeant writes poetically about the Iraq war to his 3-year-old daughter. January 2006

“War comes through the door.” A day in the busiest combat hospital in the world. March 2007

“Iraqis curse silver bullet.” Was depleted uranium to blame for Iraqi illnesses? June 2006

“Grief, haste imperil atrocity evidence.” Thousands of bodies unearthed at Shiite mass grave.

May 2003 “Iraqis, Kurds reap a bitter harvest.” The fight over land in northern Iraq. May 2003

“Carter wins Nobel Prize.” The former president from Georgia receives the prize that eluded him for so long. October 2002

“Rescued mom, baby a tiny counterbalance to India’s rising body count.” The Gujarat earthquake. January 2001

BLOGS

Moni Basu: Personal blog, which looks at newsworthy events and people through a very personal lens and is an extension of the Evil Reporter Chick blog that started in Iraq. <https://monibasus.com/>

In America. CNN’s Identity blog. 2012-2013. http://inamerica.blogs.cnn.com/?hpt=us_bn1

Belief Blog: 2011-2014. <http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/>

Blogging Trauma. The Dart Society blog for journalists who cover traumatic events. <http://dartsociety.com/>

DIGITAL BOOK

“Chaplain Turner’s War.” Agate Publishing. April 2012

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Workshop leader. Report for America. 2019-present

Workshop leader. The Poynter Institute. 2018-present

Panelist. "First-person journalism." Association of Writers and Writing Programs. March 2022

Panelist. NonfictionNow conference. December 2021

Speaker. "Crisis journalism." SPJ. September 2021

Workshop leader. University of Notre Dame, Department of Journalism. June 2020.

Guest lecturer. Emory University, University of Georgia, Georgia State University, North Georgia State and Military College, University of Alabama. 2001 – 2018

Keynote Speaker. Women's Empowerment Symposium at Champlain College. February 2016.

Keynote Speaker. Google America event on women's empowerment. May 2015.

Speaker: Three acts of trauma. University of Georgia/Ochberg Society. April 2014.

Keynote Speaker. "The state of American narrative journalism." Danish Narrative Journalism and Nonfiction. May 2013.

Speaker. "Covering These Troubled Times: What journalists should know about trauma." The Atlanta Press Club. November 2009.

Speaker. "Covering journalism's most difficult stories." Society for Professional Journalists. August 2009.

Speaker. Women's voices lecture series at the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Georgia. April 2009.

Speaker. "Aftermath: Journalism, storytelling and the impact of violence and tragedy." Harvard University. February 2009.

Speaker. The McGill Symposium, University of Georgia. November 2007.

Speaker. Military Reporters and Editors. October 2007.

Speaker. South Asia Journalists Association town hall meeting with the community. February 2007.

ARTICLES

Documentary. In process

Profiled in NRI Pulse. January 2015.

Profiled in "Like the Dew," an online journal of Southern culture. May 2009. Profiled in The Telegraph

(India). December 2007.

Profiled in Aaj Kaal (Kolkata, India). February 2012.

Profiled in Florida State Times. August 2007.

Profiled in Khabar Magazine. September 2007.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & SERVICE

Investigative Reporters and Editors

Asian-American Journalists Association: National board member Society for Professional Journalists

Military Reporters and Editors

Dart Center on Journalism and Trauma

The Dart Society

South Asian Journalists Association

Religion Newswriters Association

Atlanta Press Club

Saris To Suits

Judge, 2010 Arizona Press Club Contests

Judge, 2010 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards