VITAE CHRISTA GALA REV.8-1-22

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**EDUCATION**

**M.A. English/Creative Writing**: North Carolina State University

**B.A. Journalism and Mass Communication**: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**May 2020:** Completed “Journalism in a Pandemic: Covering COVID-19 now and in the future,” a 25-hour online course at the University of Texas at Austin, funded by the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas.

**UNIVERSITY/TEACHING POSITIONS**

**NC STATE: August 22, 2018—PRESENT:** SeniorLecturer at North Carolina State University, teaching a variety of courses, including English 417, “Opinion and Editorial Writing,” English 214 “Introduction to Editing” (face-to-face and online sections), ENG 316 “Introduction to News and Article Writing” and “Advanced Reporting” in the English department’s journalism minor. Classes address freedom of the press, grammar, usage, AP Style, news values, leads, SEO, interviewing, bias, fake news/conspiracy theories, libel law, pitching, digital media, news stories, features, personality profiles and opinion. Students shape individual stories utilizing a workshop method of hands-on activities.

* **March-July 2022**: Developed a Study Abroad Class “The Struggle of the Free Press: Fake News and Conspiracy Theories,” approved by the Study Abroad office for Summer 2023; promoted to Senior Lecturer. Awarded $1,000 grant from NC State’s Global Engagement Fund.
* **October 2021**: Student Media Advisory Board of Directors (member).
* **September 2020:** One of four panelists at for the University Honors Program’s “Bias and Technology” seminar.
* **May 2020 – August 2020:** Contract work for the Laboratory for Analytic Sciences at NC State, a unique collaboration of industry, academia and intelligence professionals funded by the National Security Agency. https://ncsu-las.org/about/accomplishments/
* **November 2019,** participated in a campus-wide story celebrating The Technician’s 100th anniversary, interviewing with NC State student reporter Ben Wolf; the article published in **January 2020**. <https://digital.technicianonline.com/01302020/4/>
* **October 2019**, attended the North Carolina Scholastic Media Association’s regional workshopat UNC-Chapel Hill, participating in several sessions, including “Editing/SEO/Headline Writing,” and “Fact Checking: Fact or Opinion?”
* **August 2019,** served as a discussion leader for CHASS’ summer reading selection, “Born a Crime” by Trevor Noah, meeting with incoming freshman to discuss relevant themes, including apartheid, racism and abuse.

**UNC-CHAPEL HILL: August 2013— May 2019**: Instructor at UNC-Chapel Hill’s School of Media and Journalism teaching MEJO 153 “Writing and Reporting,” a pre-requisite for journalism majors; the class focused on AP Style, grammar, usage, reporting, research, interviewing, ethics, libel law, advertising, public relations and broadcast journalism. Covered live speeches with students for the Park Scholar and Mary Junck Colloquium lectures, including Brit Hume (Fox News), Peggy Noonan (New York Times), Kimberly Strassel (Wall Street Journal), Tucker Carlson (Fox), and Ken Auletta (The New Yorker), among others.

* **March 2019:** Writing coach: Mentored student reporter on her education piece for a university documentary called “Uprooted” in which students spent 10 days in Medellin, Colombia, to cover the Venezuelan migration. <http://uprooted.unc.edu/cost-of-dreams/>
* **October-December 2018**: Served as a pre-selection judge for the 2018 National Hearst Journalism Awards competition, reading submissions from UNC-Chapel Hill. Categories included feature writing, enterprise reporting and personality profile.
* **(Special project) \*March 2018**: *Writing coach:* traveled to Puerto Rico with 25 UNC-CH journalism students to assist in covering the aftereffects of Hurricane Maria, which made landfall in late 2017, producing five mini-documentaries across three platforms: film, digital and print. Topics included water, power, healthcare, coal ash and biodiversity. In September of the same year, the project won first place in the Online News Association’s national competition, earning the 2018 David Teeuwen Student Journalism Award. Project site: <https://aftermath.unc.edu>

**MANAGEMENT: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

**2015-2016**—Launched Raleigh Magazine, Raleigh’s first monthly city magazine. Established editorial calendar and budget—hiring writers, writing and editing copy, collaborating with the creative director and meeting print and digital deadlines. Built a network of sources to produce compelling pieces, such as a behind-the-scenes tour of Central Prison, including access to Death Row, and an interview with Robin Williams’ son on mental health awareness and gun control. <https://raleighmag.com>

**WRITER & EDITOR/SOLE PROPRIETOR**

**1999—PRESENT**

**PUBLICATIONS**

Healthline.com, Our State, Golf Digest.com, HuffPost.com

News & Observer (biotech, business, real estate, general features).

* Writing weekly Tar Heel of the Week column (Ended January 2019).

Charlotte Observer, The Durham Herald-Sun

Cary News (columnist 14 years, ended in 2015)

N.C. State’s Accolades Magazine

Tallahassee Democrat (opinion), Raleigh Magazine, Cary Living, Midtown, Pinehurst Magazine

QSR, FSR (national trade magazines for the restaurant industry)

The World Council of Credit Unions, book editing and proofreading: “Striking the Balance in Microfinance: A Practical Guide to Mobilizing Savings” (2002).

**CORPORATE WRITING & EDITING**

CRB Engineering & Consultants: (creating content for the biopharma industry for the design of manufacturing spaces for the COVID-19 vaccines and gene cell therapies (mRNA, monoclonal antibodies and more—ONGOING)

**AWARDS/RECOGNITION**

2022: Awarded grant from NC State’s Office of Global Engagement for press freedom research in Prague, Czechia.

2018: Writing coach for the UNC-Chapel Hill “Aftereffects” team for digital and long-form content, earning the 2018 David Teeuwen Student Journalism Award as well as second place in the Society of Environmental Journalists’ Ray Reece "Excellence in Environmental Journalism" Student Award.

2010: Four magazine feature articles placing in Writer’s Digest 79th Annual Writing Competition

2010-11: First place winner in the National Federation of Press Women competition

2006-2011: First place winner in N.C. Press Club competition