

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER: THE MEDIA MAESTROS

THE EDUCATORS WITH EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE

Dr. Nick Taylor has been a member of the NMJCA staff since 2019, but his media experience goes much deeper than that.



Dr. Nick Taylor

Dr. Taylor has done it all from podcasting, reporting, producing, and even spent time in the Air Force. It was during his time as an airman that he learned the discipline and values that he shows in everything he creates today. One of those values being teamwork, Dr. Taylor and his partners have created nationally respected and award-winning productions.

Although Dr. Taylor has done it all, he finds it vital to understand all aspects of the production process, which is shown in the courses he teaches. He has a love for teaching sports/multimedia journalism, promotional production, news delivery and communication courses. Whether it's about hiring, funding, or technology, Dr. Taylor has the answer to any question a student can ask.

When asked about the department, he said, "We have instructors who understand the media/communication landscape and in many cases have worked as industry professionals. The students are a talented group who have skill and a passion for success. Weekly, we hear about new awards or accomplishments coming from orgs, instructors or individuals connected to NMJCA. My hopes for the future of the department are continued growth, recognition and success for all involved with NMJCA."

Expertise developed through professional work experience and a can-do attitude combined to make Dr. Taylor the talented, respected professor he is today.

Although Professor Jennifer Johnson joined the NMJCA department only four months ago, she is not new to the world of media.

Professor Johnson has previously worked in both the corporate and entrepreneurial sectors with clients ranging from national recording artists to beverage companies. She offered marketing and communication services to those clients and made several connections along the way. For example, "the exposure of working in radio opened doors to learning about how various industries operate. That same exposure, to this day, continues to connect me with numerous business owners and community stakeholders throughout the country." Professor Johnson also has experience in producing both livestreaming and television content.

Professor Johnson truly enjoys working with students and teaching them the arts of communication. Although she loves it all, her favorite areas to teach are visual content and storytelling.

When asked about her hopes for the future of the department, she said, "My biggest hope for NMJCA is even more growth in enrollment. We have the best media and communications program to offer in the region!"

While Professor Jennifer Johnson has not been here long, she is just getting started on making her mark on students and the NMJCA department alike.



**Professor Jennifer
Johnson**

Communication Students of the Past and Present



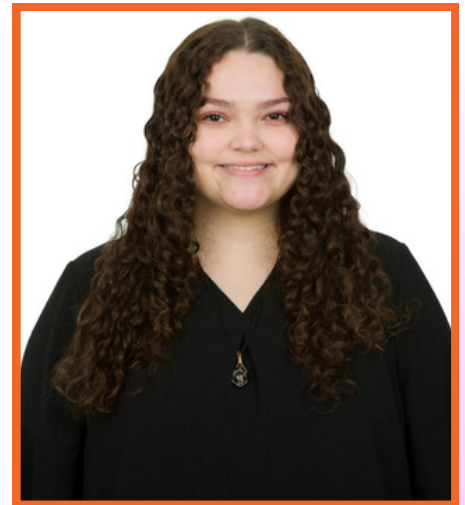
Colin Vedros

My experience as an NSU NMJCA student included multiple internships, working in student media, and broadcasting through ESPN +. I began at KNWD as a sports broadcaster/reporter, where I broadcast NSU football games through KNWD Radio. I then was a sports editor for the Current Sauce, where I covered most of NSU Athletics, including football, baseball, basketball, soccer and volleyball. After working as sports editor, I then went on to work back at KNWD as the sports director. During that time, I hosted a weekly sports radio show and broadcast football, basketball and baseball games, while also being a play-by-play broadcaster on ESPN +. I was selected as General Manager, when for one semester I led KNWD, helped host different events, hosted a weekly show, and put on a live music event, Demon Fest.

I was hired to work at KALB-TV as a Multimedia Journalist right before I graduated from NSU in the Spring of 2023. Since being hired, I have written stories about education, agriculture, crime, politics and even sports. I was then promoted to an anchor role as the host of 'Louisiana Latest,' which showcased the news across Louisiana. Now, I write stories every weekday, host a show each weeknight, and host a weekly podcast, 'Voice of the People,' where I talk with elected officials and others in state politics about their work. - Colin Vedros

When I came to NSU as a freshman, the communication department quickly became a safe space for me. I started working on the yearbook staff as a writer and over the years I moved up to now being the Editor-in-Chief. Last year we received awards from the College Media Association conference for second place best yearbook cover and third place yearbook of the year. It's very satisfying to see all our hard work be recognized.

Through my time in the communications department, I've gotten to know some wonderful professors that have helped prepare me for my future. The department has given me many opportunities to grow as a journalist. I think my favorite experience has to be the investigative reporting and beat reporting classes I took with Jim Mustian. I learned so much in those classes and would take them over and over again if I could. I've written for the Current Sauce, Shreveport Times, Fort Johnson Public Affairs Office, and I did a guest column for the Times Picayune. All opportunities wouldn't have been possible without this department. - Haley Wiggins



Haley Wiggins

Current and past students can attest to the level of education and experience that is available to them in the NMJCA department. Beginning from the first step onto campus, students are given opportunities to participate in organizations and projects that create professional level work. These opportunities mold students into standout applicants with exceptional portfolios.

It is the valuable skills taught at NSU that help students go from the classroom to careers.

