

# **Barbara Benitez-Curry**

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### **Professional Media Accomplishments and Experience**

- Award-winning journalist based in Washington D.C.
- Extensive field production and reporting throughout the United States and Latin America.
- Senior producer on multi-camera interviews with world leaders and newsmakers such as former NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Bolivian President Evo Morales, and filmmaker Oliver Stone.
- Lead planning and onsite producer for the United Nations General Assembly in New York in 2009-2011.
- Adept in international journalism and global affairs.

### **Digital Media Skills**

- Digital media skills include camera work with both traditional mini-HD, DSLR, and mobile devices.
- Adept in immersive media including basic knowledge of Unity VR and 360 multimedia.
- Editing with Final Cut Pro, Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Audition, Adobe Photoshop.
- Social media skills using Twitter, Facebook Live, Instagram and Snapchat.
- Prolific writer across multiple platforms.
- Basic HTML skills.
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### **Career Awards and Academic Fellowships**

**2017** Diversity Faculty Fellowship Towson University \$1500

**2005** Peabody Award on behalf of CNN for contributions of the Coverage of Hurricane Katrina

**2005** DuPont Award on behalf of CNN for contributions of the Tsunami Disaster in South Asia

**2004** National Headliners Award on behalf of CNN for contribution on the Capture of Saddam Hussein

### **Academic Degrees and Certificates**

**Queens University of Charlotte, Charlotte, NC**  
**Graduated 2016**

***Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing***

Multi-genre program with a focus on Latin American Literature and Culture

**Cardiff University of Wales United Kingdom Cardiff, UK.**  
**Graduated 2003**

***Master of Arts in Journalism***

Thesis: "Selling the Fourth Estate; How For-Profit Journalism Erodes Quality and Coverage"

Accredited with the United States Department of Education. 3.65 GPA

**California State University Northridge, Northridge, Ca.**  
**Graduated 2001**  
**Bachelor of Arts in Radio and Television Production** 3.8  
GPA Dean's List

**Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas:** Certificate Mobile Journalism  
2019

**University of California at San Diego:** Certificate Copyediting  
In progress

**Columbia College of Chicago Online:** Certificate Augmented & VR  
In Progress

**Poynter Institute:** Certificate Backpack Journalism  
2010

## **Academic Career Highlights and Experience**

### ***Lecturer***

***Effective January 2017***

### **Towson University Department of Mass Communication**

- Department of Mass Communication Website Editor
- Serve on the Social Media Committee for the Department of Mass Communications 2018-2019 term.
- Served as a Diversity Fellow for 2017-2018 cohort where I created a course in journalism entitled: "Diversity in Media; Reporting for Race, Gender and Sexual Orientation."
- Research topics of interest include media influences on race and gender, and social media as the new "Public Sphere."
- Oversee and mentor students in a course on digital media where they write stories for a multimedia platform.
- Devise curriculum for several courses and ensure it is current, engaging and includes critical issues about diversity in media.
- Teach four courses per semester including: MCOM 258 Newswriting and Intro to Multimedia, MCOM 101 Introduction to Mass Communications, and MCOM 385 Media and Society.
- Advise approximately 20-30 students per semester and offer guidance in selecting courses for future Mass Communication classes as well as assist with State of Maryland Degree Completion Form Mandate.
- Served on the Assessment Committee by assisting in the collection of reports by professors whose courses are part of the core classes which serve as a guide for the required student learning outcomes needed by the university.
- Attend workshops, conferences and other seminars which provide insights to new technologies, or best practices in teaching.
- Maintain a professional presence within the field of journalism which is imparted through lectures and course curriculum.

- Continue to monitor latest trends in journalism, and attend conferences where digital skills are taught, so that they may be incorporated into the course curriculum.

***Adjunct***

***Effective October 2016***

**University of Maryland University College; Department of Digital Media and Web Technology**

- Teach online and hybrid course entitled CMST 301 Digital Media and Society.
- Course explores the ever-growing presence of digital media and critically analyzes how data is used and has evolved over time.
- Oversee and instruct at least thirty students in an online environment through creation of engaging discussions over the 8-week term.
- Attend monthly meetings and keep abreast of new material being introduced to the course.
- Grade and provide ample feedback to each discussion and assignment completed within 72-hour window.
- Monitor for new material to suggest during course revisions.

**Professional Journalism Experience**

***Freelance Journalist-Washington D.C.***

***July 2016-***

***Present***

Pitch and write news reports for print, broadcast and digital content on an ongoing basis.

Clients include: CTGN and Al Jazeera International Channel

***Al Jazeera English News- Washington D.C.***

***February 2006-***

***July 2016***

***Deputy News Editor: 2013-2016***

- Monitor international news desk by finding sources of news and leading journalists in coverage, both in the field as well as in the newsroom live reporting. Assign stories to reporters and ensure accuracy in all coverage. Assist in the control room and with studio live events as determined by coverage.

**Senior Producer: 2011-2013**

- Covered stories from across the United States with a focus on issues of poverty, social justice, and natural disasters as both a Senior field producer and later as a reporter.
- Pitched and produced and reported stories from Latin America, Haiti and across the U.S. ranging from climate change in the Miskito Coast of Nicaragua, Racism in Ecuador.
- Senior Producer for three-camera remote location interviews with notable guests such Malawi President Joyce Banda, Bolivian President Evo Morales, U.S. Senator John McCain, Oliver Stone, Noam Chomsky, as well other world leaders and newsmakers for flagship magazine-styled program Talk to Al Jazeera, a half-hour segment which focused on international news.
- Planned and managed all phases of production from budgeting, hiring crews, and overseeing post-production to tight deadlines.

### **Planning Producer- The Americas: 2006-2010**

- Organized and led coverage on many major global events within the United State and Latin America, including special-event coverage for events such as the United Nations -General Assembly 2010, Oscars 2008-2010.
- Collaborated with executive production teams to adequately determine crews and coverage.
- Hired crew and assigned stories to reporters for futures productions, major events and feature and investigative coverage.

**CNN -Atlanta, Georgia**

**December**

**2002-January 2006**

### **Editorial Coordinator/Assistant Producer**

- Part of an award-winning team for three major events including the capture of Saddam Hussein, Hurricane Katrina, and the Asian Tsunami.
- Created video elements and graphics for on-air broadcasts and hourly live news casts.
- Assistant Producer for half-hour magazine program "Insight" with Jonathan Mann
- Assisted in the control room during live events and other breaking stories.
- Filled in as graphics producer and writer during breaking news from inside the studio.
- Assisted anchors with scripts and other needs during broadcasts.

### **Professional Societies and Associations**

- National Association of Hispanic Journalists
- Society of Professional Journalists
- PEN America

### **Volunteer Work: NTV Ulan Bator, Mongolia**

Mentored young journalists to improve newsgathering skills for a news organization in Ulan Bator and aided in the production of English news for a digital platform.