

Newsletter

William Paterson Society of Professional Journalists

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Edition 3



Meet Christina Carrega

Join WPSPJ in welcoming Christina Carrega, crime and justice reporter and producer for CNN. Carrega is an award-winning journalist, and has worked with the New York Daily News, the New York Post, ABC News, the Queens Daily Eagle and the Brooklyn Daily Eagle. She graduated from St. John's University with a bachelor's degree in Journalism and started out her career as a freelancer.

Carrega has covered wrongful conviction cases, reported on high-profile trials and investigated alleged scams in the travel and childcare industries. In 2013 and 2017, The New York Association of Black Journalists awarded her first place for Best Spot News for her outstanding news coverage.

March 4 at 6 p.m.

DM @WPSPJ on Instagram for the Zoom link

Journalism Tip



Don't know if you're supposed to use affect or effect? Or if you should abbreviate boulevard or avenue in an address? Check the AP Stylebook since it provides a detailed explanation of how to use these terms and many more.

But, if all else, remember "affect," which means to influence, should always be used as a verb, not a noun. On the other hand, "effect" can be used both as a verb and a noun.

National Campus Chapter of the Year Celebration Recap

John Conlow, WPSPJ President

"I think anytime any chapter wins a national annual award like this, it's saying something, but to have done it at the start of a pandemic is remarkable."

Those were the words of Matthew Hall, the president of the Society of Professional Journalists, at a Feb. 8 event celebrating William Paterson's selection as the national campus chapter of the year.

President Hall shared advice for student journalists in the Zoom audience, which also included COAC Dean Loretta McLaughlin Vignier and Provost Joshua Powers.

"Realize that the only constant in journalism is change, but the people's appetites for news has never been bigger," Hall said. "So you're coming into the industry at a precarious but also an exciting time, so find a way to tell stories that matter to people who care and make people care. Be creative."

WPSPJ beat out almost 100 chapters across the country for the national campus chapter designation, and dethroned four-time champion Ohio University.

"I'm very grateful to have spent these past three years working with all those generous journalists and our journalism students," said WPSPJ Adviser Dr. Nick Hirshon.

The evening featured pre-recorded congratulatory messages from WPSPJ alumni and journalists who have agreed to speak to WPSPJ this semester, such as CNN reporter Christina Carrega and ABC News executive editor Wil Cruz.

The celebration ended with a surprise. After running through a WPSPJ trivia game on Kahoot, Hirshon unveiled a congratulatory video from NBC Nightly News anchor Lester Holt.

"Hey William Paterson University, just wanted to take a moment and congratulate you on being named SPJ's outstanding campus chapter," Holt said. "I look forward to seeing your class continue to honor and support our responsibility as journalists to inform the public and hold leaders accountable."