

CAL Career Readiness Conference Alumni Bios

CATHERINE CARMICHAEL

'21, Cultural Anthropology

Employer: Bright MLS

Position: Senior Tech Talent Acquisition

Catherine gathers technical position details from various internal stakeholders (such as Engineering Management), sources applicable profiles, sets up interviews internally, and deals with tasks related to candidate management within the Human Resources sector.



[linkedin.com/in/catherine-carmichaeldc](https://www.linkedin.com/in/catherine-carmichaeldc)

MARIBEL CASTAÑEDA

'15, International Affairs

Employer: Confluence of States and Our Virginia Outdoors

Position: Manager and Coordinator

CAL Alumni Board President

Maribel is a passionate coalition builder with experience in local and state government working in areas such as education, community development, and constituent engagement. She currently leads two outdoor recreation coalitions providing strategic thought-leadership to grow membership. Her primary duties include coalition management, outreach and engagement, policy analysis, program and event planning, and relationship building.

[linkedin.com/in/maribel-r-castaneda](https://www.linkedin.com/in/maribel-r-castaneda)



BETH CONGBALAY

'87 History and French

Employer: Congregational Summer Assembly

Position: Communications Coordinator

CAL Alumni Board Member

Beth is a communications professional with extensive experience in writing, public relations, special events and content development for print and the web. Beth is currently editing a weekly newsletter and annual publication, and specializes in social media, special events, and company content.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/bethcongbalay>

CAROLINE COURNOYER

'10, Journalism and History

Employer: CSG Justice Center

Position: Director of Digital Communications

Caroline is a public policy editor and communications leader with more than 15 years of experience in newsrooms, nonprofits, and government agencies. In her current position, Caroline aids CSG in achieving their mission of developing research-driven strategies to increase public safety and strengthen communities.



[linkedin.com/in/carolinecournoyer](https://www.linkedin.com/in/carolinecournoyer)

THOMAS DEARY

'04 History, '09M Sports and Recreation Leadership

Employer: The Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute

Position: Senior Director of Codes



Tom is the Senior Director of Codes for the Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute. Tom represents the HVAC, Refrigeration, and Water Heating industries in their building code, fire code, and energy efficiency code activities. Tom also advocates for the adoption of updated codes at the state and local level, and briefs state lawmakers on emerging code issues. Tom has given presentations on code issues across the country and is a member of the National Fire Protection Association, the International Code Council, and the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/thomas-deary-88682495/>

TAYLOR DOMINIQUE

'21, History

Employer: Federal Aviation Administration

Position: Law Clerk

Taylor graduated from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. Following graduation and the bar exam, Taylor started her new position in the Office of Chief Counsel at Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Headquarters in Washington, D.C. as a Law Clerk. Taylor works in their Ethics and Compliance practice area.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/taylor-dominique-9b583a72/>



ISABELLE FOLEY

'19, Justice Studies

Employer: Offender Aid and Restoration- Jefferson Area Community Corrections

Position: Senior Probation Officer

Isabelle is the Probation Team Lead at OAR-Jefferson Area Community Corrections. Isabelle graduated from JMU in 2019 and received her Masters Degree from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell in 2022. At OAR, Isabelle has run the Domestic Violence Unit, liaised with local judges and commonwealths to enact new policies around Domestic Violence and the Therapeutic Docket, been a subject matter specialist on Motivational Interviewing, and sits on the Legislative Committee for VCCJA.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/isabelle-foley-357422129/>

KARA FRANK

'12, Communication Studies

Employer: Stratacomm

Position: Vice President

Kara serves as the day-to-day campaign manager for several multi-million dollar campaigns. Her work includes strategic planning, planning for and placing large-scale paid media and creative development, budget and resource management and planning, and project management. Kara manages Stratacomm's internal marketing efforts (social media, blog content, etc.) and contributes to new business development (market research, proposal writing, etc.). Kara has expertise in integrated campaign development and management, communications planning, digital strategy and grassroots/advocacy campaign management.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/karalfrank/>



DANIEL GEORGE

'20 Psychology, '22M Counseling & College Administration

Employer: James Madison University

Position: Lecturer

SCOM Alumni Board Student Relations Chair

Daniel is currently a Lecturer in the Department of Undergraduate Psychology here at James Madison University. He teaches classes on General Psychology (PSYC 101) & Counseling Psychology and is also a major academic advisor for 300 psychology students.

ANDREA GIRON

'23, Modern Foreign Language (Spanish) & Justice Studies

Employer: Volunteers of America

Position: Executive Assistant, External Affairs

Andrea enjoys challenges and seeks opportunities to learn through her position at Volunteers of America, where she aids in providing affordable housing for low income individuals.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/andreagiron/>

ALLISON HOOVER

'07, Communication Studies

Employer: Chenega Corporation

Position: Senior Vice President, Contracting and Business Services

SCOM Alumni Board President



Allison oversees all aspects of financial and business development reporting systems for Chenega Corporation, and manages the budgeting process. She works with executives to resolve issues, develop growth strategies, and mitigate programmatic risks for the Corporation. Allison develops pricing strategies and coordinates and approves pricing documents as part of the Corporation's proposal response team efforts, all while overseeing new project and company startups. Allison is a Certified Federal Contracts Manager with almost two decades of diverse multi-department executive leadership experience in the public and private sector. She is a long standing member (and Fellow) of the National Contract Management Association (NCMA), and presently serves her third term externally as President of the James Madison University Alumni Association School of Communication Studies (SCOM).

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/allisonhoover1/>

TERRANCE L. KING

'87, Communications

Employer: National Children's Center (NCC)

Position: President/CEO

SCOM Alumni Board Member

Terrance leads the National Children's Center with a focus on championing inclusive growth and ensuring comprehensive services for children and adults of all abilities. With a background in strategic operations, Terrance's approach combines innovative strategies with meticulous risk management, driving the organization's mission forward in a sustainable manner



[linkedin.com/in/tking1987](https://www.linkedin.com/in/tking1987)



KENDRA KOJCSICH

'05, Communication Studies

Employer: Porter Novelli

Position: Senior Vice President

Kendra Kojcsich has over 15 years experience developing and implementing integrated marketing and communication campaigns for a wide variety of clients. Kendra leads strategic communications and public education campaigns for government, coalition, association, non-profit and private sector clients in many focus areas including government, purpose, CSR, social impact, lifestyle, health, food and nutrition.

Since joining Porter Novelli in 2005, Kendra has had the pleasure of working with a wide range of clients, including The Walt Disney Company, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society, Hermès, Department of Health and Human Services, and more. Kendra's areas of expertise and skills include corporate social responsibility, strategic partnerships, health and social impact, food and nutrition, event planning, influencer relations, account management, media relations, social media, strategic planning, paid media and marketing

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kendrakojsich/>

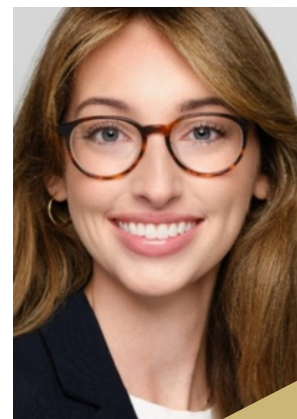
KALEIGH KOUDELA

'21, Political Science, History

Employer: Children's Hospital Association

Position: Federal Affairs Manager

Kaleigh is the Federal Affairs Manager for a membership association of children's hospitals, health systems and related organizations that care for children in their communities and beyond. Prior to joining the Children's Hospital Association, Kaleigh served as a Legislative Assistant in the U.S House of Representatives



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kaleighcallis/>



DELANI FARRAR KRAFT

'18, Communication Studies

Employer: U.S. Court of Appeals for Fourth Circuit

Position: HR Specialist

SCOM Alumni Board Philanthropy/ Fundraising Chair

Delani supports and maintains all HR functions of the Court including recruitment, onboarding, off boarding, and interviewing processes. She works with her teammate to support all employees with regard to various benefits, policies, and procedures.

[linkedin.com/in/delani-farrar](https://www.linkedin.com/in/delani-farrar)

SOPHIE LEFEW

'20, Modern Foreign Languages, Spanish

Employer: Accenture Federal Services

Position: Strategy and Consulting Specialist

Sophie coordinates, prepares, and writes proposals for Accenture Federal Services to win government work.



[linkedin.com/in/sophie-lefew](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sophie-lefew)



KEELYN LEONARD

'20 Communication Studies

Employer: REQ

Position: Account Manager

SCOM Alumni Board Vice President

As an Account Manager with REQ, Keelyn brings a passion for collaboration and experience in public relations to her day-to-day work strengthening relationships with clients, helping them maximize their visibility, and delivering strategies to drive their goals. Before joining REQ full-time, Keelyn served as a Public Relations Intern at REQ. In addition, Keelyn has worked in the sports and music industries where she gained insight in the fast-paced markets of global sponsorships, broadcast journalism, and music production.

Her passion for PR began in college when she joined the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) and then served on her chapter's Executive Board as the Chapter Delegate.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/keelyn-e-leonard/>

WILLIAM MACGILL

'92, Mass Communications

Employer: Macy's

Position: Sr. Director - Video + Event Production

CAL Alumni Board Vice President

William leads all video + event productions for Macy's, Inc. as part of Enterprise Corporate Communications.



[linkedin.com/in/willmacgill](https://www.linkedin.com/in/willmacgill)

RYAN MAGLIO

'15, History

Employer: Invesco

Position: ETF Specialist



Ryan works to increase Market Share of Invesco ETF's across the Southeast. Ryan is a driven financial services professional with a proven track record of delivering complex products to clients and managing the growth of a large territory. He focuses on serving as a trusted advisor to senior leadership, implementing processes that attracts, develops, & retains the best advisors & clients.

[linkedin.com/in/ryan-maglio](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ryan-maglio)

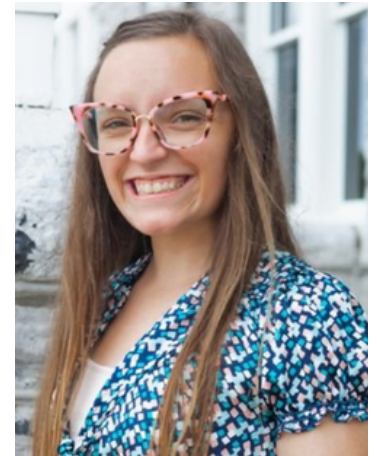
MEGAN N. MEDEIROS

'17, '21M English

Employer: Massanutten Regional Library

Position: Director of Advancement

Megan N. Medeiros is a writer, scholar, web designer, social media marketing expert, and community organizer. She is the Director of Advancement at Massanutten Regional Library, managing all their promotional materials, press, marketing, and fundraising for all seven branches in the library system. She served as AAAD's first administrative assistant as well as Furious Flower's first Communication and Marketing Specialist, managing the web presence and communication of the Center. She is an adjunct professor for JMU's School of Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Communications (WRTC).



She earned both her BA and MA in English from James Madison University, concentrating in Digital Humanities and Narrative Theory. In 2021, she joined the International Society for the Study of Narrative, joining the Narrative for Social Justice Committee a year later to support and encourage diversity and accessibility in the society. In 2017, she launched her own media company, Medeiros Writing where she wrote for many journals, websites, and magazines; developed and maintained websites; and managed social media marketing for a wide variety of businesses. Medeiros also organizes local art festivals that are free for art vendors in order to promote local artists. She is the designer of JMU's African, African American, & Diaspora (AAAD) Studies Center website, as well as four other websites at JMU and the creator of AAAD's podcast, AAAD Presents: Good Trouble.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/medeiros-writing/>



LISA S. MUNDT

'11, Writing, Rhetoric & Technical Communications and Media Arts & Design; '13M WRTC

Employer: The Pulse of GovCon

Position: Co-Founder

Lisa is the Co-Founder of The Pulse, a research and advisory firm dedicated to the empowerment of Government Contractors. She helps manage the strategic business direction of The Pulse and works closely with clients to empower their growth efforts. She has 13 years of experience in Federal Proposal Development and procurement trend analysis and reporting, touching more than 200 proposal efforts totaling billions of dollars in wins across a

multitude of government agencies and departments. She is also a renowned training facilitator experienced in training clients on business development, capture management, proposal management, and Orals Coaching. She has appeared in over 45 presentations and made 10 podcast appearances over the last 3 years. She sits on the board of the JMU Federal Dukes Alumni Chapter and is the President Elect of Women in Technology (WIT).

[linkedin.com/in/lisasheamundt](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lisasheamundt)

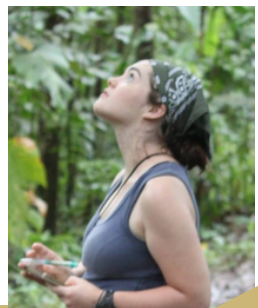
JENNA OWENS

'18, Anthropology and English

Employer: Southwest National Primate Research Center

Position: Ph.D. Student and Research Assistant

Jenna Owens is a Research Assistant/Monkey Enrichment Specialist at the Texas Biomedical Research Institute, and is pursuing her Ph.D.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jenna-owens-7b1884120/>

Employer: KForce Inc.

Position: Case Analyst

CARROLL PARFITT

'15, Justice Studies

Carroll graduated in December 2015 with a Bachelor of Science, with a major in Justice Studies and minor in Humanitarian Affairs. Parfitt currently works as a Junior Investigator on Index Analytics' No Surprises Act (NSA) Provider Enforcement and Transparency contract. Carroll began employment with Index Analytics in July 2023 as a Case Analyst II, performing Quality Control and Advanced Research on the Independent Dispute Resolution contract. Carroll moved to the Provider Enforcement & Transparency federal engagement in September 2024 and is training as an investigator, with the role of reviewing consumer complaints of balance billing in violation of the 2022 Federal No Surprises Act, and to refer substantiated billing violations to Provider Enforcement.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/carroll-parfitt-b72638162/>



JENNA F. POLK

'14, Media Arts & Design, '21M Educational Technology

Employer: James Madison University

Position: Assistant Director of Media Production and Makerspace Services,
Adjunct Professor

As the Assistant Director of Media Production and Makerspace Services, Jenna helps to provide leadership and strategic insight for the Media Production and Makerspace Services department. She oversees the development, design, and delivery of media production related services and initiatives across the department to ensure a holistic and integrated approach. As an Adjunct Professor within JMU's College of Education, Jenna teaches one course entitled LDT 380 - Digital Media for Learning. Jenna previously taught LDT 374 , Photography for Learning; LDT 376, Video for Learning; and LDT 378, Web Design for Learning.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jenna-polk-630105a8/>

AARON M. PRITCHETT

'96, Mass Communications

Employer: Newport News Shipbuilding, A Division of HII

Position: Senior Video Production Specialist

Aaron is the Senior Video Production Specialist for Newport News Shipbuilding's Communications Division, and is in charge of all public relations and internal executive video productions, as well as telling the stories of the incredible work that the 25,000+ shipbuilders do to bring the nation's nuclear powered aircraft carriers and submarines to life for the U.S. Navy.

Aaron is passionate about storytelling and taking viewers along a visual journey to experience the people, places and subject matter that make this life so special.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/aaron-pritchett-11932734/>

JONATHAN RHUDY

'95, Journalism

Employer: Rhudy & Co. Strategic Communications

Position: Partner

CAL ALumni Board Member



Jonathan Rhudy likes to run — road races and businesses. As partner and chief operating officer of Rhudy & Co. Strategic Communications, Jonathan leads a Richmond, Va.-based team helping Fortune 500 companies, nonprofits, government agencies, and entrepreneurial ventures navigate their communications strategies. He is one of four former Breeze staffers on the Rhudy & Co. team, reinforcing a foundation built on storytelling, engagement, and communications. Jonathan's career has spanned Fortune 500 companies, employee-owned agencies, and entrepreneurial ventures. He began as a Hotdogger for Oscar Mayer, crisscrossing the country in the iconic Wienermobile as a brand spokesperson. He later worked in internal communications at Capital One and led electronic employee communications at Dominion. For nearly a decade, he was an employee-owner at Carter Ryley Thomas (now Padilla), where he advised technology, energy, and consumer product clients and led the

media relations team for the Experimental Aircraft Association's Countdown to Kitty Hawk—a centennial celebration of the Wright brothers' first powered flight, sponsored by Ford Motor Company and Microsoft Flight Simulator. Jonathan brings a hands-on, honest approach to helping organizations use communications to drive results. An accredited member of the Public Relations Society of America, he also serves on the James Madison University College of Arts and Letters Alumni Advisory Board. He is proud to support his daughters' nonprofits, Girl Power Grants and BabyIn BabyOut.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jonathan-rhudy-apr-2838434/>

KATIE SENSABAUGH

'12, Justice Studies and Political Science

Employer: James Madison University

Position: Director of Study Abroad

Katie currently serves as Director of Study Abroad at James Madison University. In that role, she oversees all aspects of education abroad programming which includes a portfolio of 100+ programs supporting more than 1,400 students annually. Prior to her current position, Katie worked in the Office for Student Accountability and Restorative Practices at JMU, the International Journal of Transitional Justice, and the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery. She received her Masters at the University of Cape Town in Cape Town, South Africa in International Justice and Transformation and received her undergraduate degree from JMU in Political Science and Justice Studies.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/katie-sensabaugh-4598b031/>



STEPHANIE SWAIM

'91, Mass Communications

Employer: Blandy Experimental Farm, University of Virginia

Position: Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator

CAL Alumni Board Member

Stephanie is the Blandy Experimental Farm Public Relations and Marketing Coordinator for the University of Virginia.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/stephanie-swaim-162a01166/>

MALCOLM L. TAYLOR

'82, Criminal Justice

Employer: Virginia Department of Corrections

Position: Public Safety Administrator (Retired)

CAL Alumni Board Member

Malcolm worked in the human services field for 37 years. His work has included roles in non-profit and local government agencies. His early career included roles as a probation officer, senior probation officer, and regional manager, culminating in his being named chief of District 7 Probation and Parole in Petersburg, Virginia. In 2011, Taylor was appointed Acting Deputy Director of Probation and Parole System in Virginia. Later he was selected to be the first Regional Operations Chief of the Central Region of Virginia. He retired in 2019 as the Chief Executive Officer of Virginia Correctional Enterprises, the manufacturing division of the Virginia Department of Corrections, concluding a 30 year career with the agency.



[linkedin.com/in/malcolm-l-taylor-21163a14](https://www.linkedin.com/in/malcolm-l-taylor-21163a14)



MICHAEL TROCCHIA

'03, Philosophy

Employer: James Madison University

Position: Libraries Collection Administration Coordinator and Adjunct

Professor of Philosophy

Michael Trocchia's research and teaching interests are in philosophy of literature and poetry, philosophy of art, philosophy of language, metaphysics, existentialism, and ancient philosophy.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/michael-trocchia-92952123/>

LAURIE TURNER

'21, Media Arts and Design

Employer: Snow Company

Position: Account Director

Laurie is a media designer with training in account management, client service, and systems design. Laurie has found that the colleagues at Snow Company, and clients she has worked with have helped her learn and grow.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/turner-laurie/>

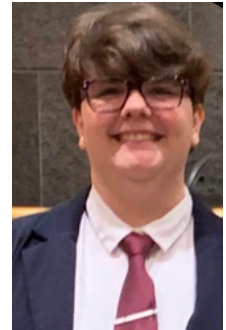
BECK WEBSTER

'15, Media Arts and Design

Employer: Board of Veterans Appeals

Position: Attorney- Advisor

Beck is an appellate attorney with a history of working as a Business Development Professional. Webster is skilled in legal writing, Microsoft Word, proposal writing, leadership, design, and research.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rebecca-webster-8900b710a/>



EMMA WHITTEN

'18, History

Employer: Central Virginia Legal Aid Society

Position: Health, Public Benefits, and Elder Law Attorney

Emma Whitten represents and advises clients within the Medical-Legal Partnership at VCU Health to advance health equity in the Richmond area.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/emma-whitten-1047b31b4/>