

SPJ Region 11 Spring Conference 2013 Speakers

Award-winning media critic **Alicia C. Shepard** has spent three decades as a newspaper and magazine reporter, author and university journalism professor. She spent nearly four years as National Public Radio Ombudsman. Shepard is author of the critically acclaimed book, "Woodward and Bernstein: Life in the Shadow of Watergate," which explores the lives of two of America's most famous journalists and their impact on the profession. She teaches media ethics among other courses. Traveling widely, Shepard sailed with her family through the South Pacific for three years on a 32-foot sailboat.



columns and editorials for a variety of clients, as well as the completion of marketing and branding initiatives for recognized names like Brookstone, TJX and UNO Restaurant Group.

Robyn Davis Sekula is an award-winning freelance writer living in the Louisville, Ky. metro area. She regularly writes for Louisville magazine, Kentucky Homes & Gardens, Victorian Homes, Presbyterians Today, Business First of Louisville, Smart Business (Dallas edition). She has been published in The Washington Post, The New York Times and US Airways magazine. Sekula's areas of expertise are business, personal finance, home and garden and general features. She also frequently works with local organizations as a media consultant.



If you want to learn how to pry public records away from the government, **David Cuillier** has some great advice on how to loosen the grip. Cuillier, Ph.D., is director and associate professor at the University of Arizona School of Journalism, where he teaches computer-assisted reporting, public affairs reporting and access to public records. He was a government reporter and editor at daily



newspapers for a dozen years in the Pacific Northwest, was the Society of Professional Journalists Freedom of Information Committee chairman for four years, and has been an SPJ newsroom trainer since 2005. He and Charles Davis co-authored "The Art of Access: Strategies for Acquiring Public Records" and the blog www.theartofaccess.com. Cuillier will be installed as SPJ's next national president during the Excellence in Journalism conference in August 2013.

Jeff Cutler is constantly on the forefront of online and social media journalism. In 1992, Cutler was delivering words to MacConnection, HomeQuarters Warehouse, the Boston Herald and the Mariner Newspaper chain. From there he expanded into projects for Fidelity Investments, WearGuard, Talbots and a host of other respected businesses. These days, in addition to his new-media presence, Cutler's a credentialed reporter covering events like major golf tournaments and sporting events, the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, and film festivals and lifestyle events all over the world. His current project load includes articles and features for Gatehouse Media, a slew of social-media projects including blogs and podcasts,



Lindsey Mastis is a multimedia journalist who writes, takes photos, and uses social media. She is a correspondent and the assistant bureau manager for the new Feature Story News Los Angeles bureau. Since joining Feature Story News, Mastis has reported on the health crisis in Los Angeles' infamous Skid Row. She traveled to Denver, Colo., to report on the tragic theater shooting. Her report on prostitution and human trafficking was featured during a special segment on PBS's "SoCal Insider" show. She has also worked at WUSA in Washington, D.C. She recently went to India as part of the International Reporting Project to research and report on child mortality. She writes a nationally known blog featuring apps for journalists and how they use them.



Tom Gorman is executive editor with the Las Vegas Sun. He came to the Sun after 32 years with the Los Angeles Times — as a reporter, national correspondent based in Las Vegas and assistant metro editor. He joined the Sun in 2005 as a columnist and asked to become an editor so he could park in shade. Now he's even got a reserved spot in the parking garage, as the Sun's executive editor. But he still enjoys writing.



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