

Atlanta, GA

The Hilton Atlanta



hello & Welcome to Atlanta

We are honored to be hosting the AABP 2019 Conference, and look forward to seeing all the familiar and new faces gathered here. Georgia Trend has been based in Atlanta for over 30 years. I'd like to say my job is easy because there's always so much business news — but it isn't! Atlanta is a 20-county region in a state with 159 counties. Yes, that is a lot of competition, and we're the referee.

That's why I have to attend the AABP Summer Conference every year, to step away and find perspective. It is so important in these unpredictable media times for us to share best practices in order to adapt to new platforms and maintain legacy integrity. We need each other more than ever.

I hope you enjoy your stay here and look forward to learning from another great AABP experience. Thanks for coming to Atlanta.

Ben Young

Editor-in-Chief and Publisher, Georgia Trend



to the 2019 Committee

• Conference Chair •

Mitch Bettis

Publisher – Arkansas Business

• Keynotes Chair •

Rob Kaiser

Publisher – Greater Wilmington Business Journal

Sales Track •

Kaysi Curtin

Sales & Marketing Manager – The Business Journal Fresno

Marty Goodnight

Associate Publisher – Springfield Business Journal

Chris Santilli

Publisher – Hartford Business Journal

• Editorial Track •

Brad Kane

Editor - Worcester Business Journal

Gwen Moritz

Editor – Arkansas Business

• Events & Sponsorships Track •

Maggi Apel

Events Director – Greater Wilmington Business Journal

Donna Rofino

Marketing & Events Manager – Providence Business News

Audience Development Track •

Bonnie Roche

Chief Customer and Innovation Officer – Crain Communications

Schedule at a Glance

THURSDAY, JUNE 27

1-2:30pm: Magazine Member Roundtable

2:45-3:45pm: Cost + Revenue Survey Workshop

4-5pm: Sales Roundtable / Editorial Roundtable Audience Development Roundtable / Events Roundtable

5-7pm: Opening Reception at hotel

FRIDAY, JUNE 28

7:30-8:30am: Group Breakfast

8:30-9:30am: Keynote: Nick Friese, CEO of Digiday: A Founders Story: The Five Lessons I Learned Building a Modern Media Company

9:30-9:45am: Break 9:45-10:45am: SESSION 1

EDITORIAL/ DESIGN

Managing a Newsroom

ADVERTISING SALES

Q&A with Nick Friese, CEO of Digiday

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Like Moths to a Candle: Attracting & Converting Your Best Customer

EVENTS/ SPONSORSHIPS

Trends in Event Technology

10:45-11:15am: Refreshment Break/ Network with Exhibitors

11:15am-12:15pm: SESSION 2

EDITORIAL/ DESIGN

The Art of Visual Storytelling

ADVERTISING SALES

Selling to the Buyer's Journey

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Cross-channel
Campaign Monitoring:
Planning, set up and
Analytics to Inform
Audience Success
Audience (Joint
Session)

EVENTS/ SPONSORSHIPS

Cross-channel
Campaign Monitoring:
Planning, set up and
Analytics to Inform
Audience Success
Audience (Co-track
with Audience
Development)

12:15-1pm: Group Lunch

1-2pm: Lunch Keynote: Why the Biggest Criminal Conspiracy in U.S. History Remains Covered Up, with Walter Robinson of Spotlight

2-3:15pm: SESSION 3

EDITORIAL/ DESIGN

Sit Down with Spotlight

ADVERTISING SALES

Best Practices for Planning and Monetizing Events (Joint Session)

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Create It, Lock It and They Will Pay: Proving Paywall ROI

EVENTS/ SPONSORSHIPS

Best Practices for Planning and Monetizing Events (Event/Sales Co-Track)

3:15-3:45pm: Refreshment Break/ Network with Exhibitors

3:45-5pm: SESSION 4

EDITORIAL/ DESIGN

Best Ideas

ADVERTISING SALES

Process & Playbooks for Everyone

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Measuring and Monetizing Your Product Portfolio

EVENTS/ SPONSORSHIPS

Event Marketing Boot Camp

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

8-9am: Group Breakfast 9-10:15am: SESSION 5

EDITORIAL/ DESIGN

Everyday Watchdog for Business Journalists

ADVERTISING SALES

Becoming a Motivational Leader

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

GDPR, California Consumer Privacy Act

EVENTS/ SPONSORSHIPS

Events: What's Working? What's Not Working? What's New?

10:15-10:45am: Refreshment Break/ Network with Exhibitors

10:45am-Noon: SESSION 6

EDITORIAL/ DESIGN

The Business of Business Journals

ADVERTISING SALES

The Art and Science of Accountability

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

What Hat are you Wearing Today?

EVENTS/ SPONSORSHIPS

Challenges to Event Management

Noon-1:30pm: Lunch on Your Own

1:30-2:45pm: SESSION 7

EDITORIAL/ DESIGN

Just Add Water- Quick-Hit Story Ideas

ADVERTISING SALES

Advertiser Perspective - an Event/Sales Co-Track (Joint Session)

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Whiteboard Session: Innovation & Audience

EVENTS/ SPONSORSHIPS

Advertiser Perspective - an Event/Sales Co-Track (Joint Session)

2:45-3pm: Break 3-4pm: SESSION 8

EDITORIAL/ DESIGN

The Editorial/ Audience Dance: Engaging and Growing Your Audience (Joint Session)

ADVERTISING SALES

Stop Discounting! How to Build Rate Card Integrity

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

The Editorial/ Audience Dance: Engaging and Growing Your Audience (Joint Session)

EVENTS/ SPONSORSHIPS

Whiteboard Session

greetings

from the conference chair

Each session at the summer conference has been crafted by your AABP peers who know your day-to-day challenges.

Who better to know what training is needed than those from our very own ranks?

I am confident you find this year's summer conference energizing and valuable, and one or two great ideas can help propel your publication forward in meaningful ways. Editors, sales managers, event planners and audience specialists have collaborated for weeks to create a training experience that will elevate the performance of our team members.

I'm proud of the AABP members who have volunteered their time to thoughtfully put forward four training tracks to help each of us amp our skills and equip us to contribute to our teams and communities in a more powerful way.

We look forward to you and many of your publication's team members joining us in Atlanta.

Mitch Bettis

Conference Chair, Arkansas Business

Opening Keynote

Friday, June 28, 8:30-9:30am

A Founders Story: The Five Lessons I Learned Building a Modern Media Company

Nick Friese, Founder and CEO, Digiday Media

Named one of Fast Company's 10 Most Innovative Media Companies in the World, Digiday takes a global view of the media and marketing industries and connects with its audience across web, email, podcasts, a quarterly magazine, a membership program and in-person events. Founder and CEO Nick Friese will outline the five lessons he has learned building Digiday and where he sees things headed in B2B media. Following this keynote will be a Sales track sesion, Q & A with Nick Friese, for a chance to dig even deeper.

Lunch Keynote

Friday, June 28, 1-2pm

Why the Biggest Criminal Conspiracy in U.S. History Remains Covered Up

Walter Robinson of Spotlight

Seventeen years after Walter Robinson and his Spotlight Team at the Boston Globe daylighted a wide-ranging child sex abuse conspiracy in the Roman Catholic Church, the full extent of the church's crimes remains largely a mystery, with horrifying details being disclosed all the time. The media — particularly daily newspapers - have dropped the ball on their watchdog responsibilities, including investigations of the Church. But new players have emerged to fill gaps in the country's news deserts. Nonprofits and small publications are finding better ways to be sustainable, and organizations like business journals can take advantage of innovative, digital techniques to continue to propel the Cause of Journalism forward. Following this keynote will be an Editorial track session with Walter Robinson to answer your questions and discuss the role that business publishers have in producing high quality investigative journalism.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Nick Friese Founder and CEO, *Digiday Media*

Nick Friese, Founder and CEO of Digiday Media, a global media company dedicated to rethinking and reshaping the business of media and content. Digiday Media's mission is to chart how industries like media, marketing, fashion, luxury and retail are moving from analog to digital. The approach is to continually reimagine and reshape the media we cover and create, guided by our core values of quality, honesty, curiosity and tenacity.

Digiday Media currently operates two global media brands: Digiday (media, marketing and retail) and Glossy (fashion and beauty). Under his leadership, Digiday Media was named one of Fast Company's top ten most innovative media companies in the world, Inc Magazine's fastest growing companies five years running, and named one of the fastest growing businesses in NYC.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Walter V. Robinson Editor At Large, The Boston Globe

Walter V. Robinson is Editor At Large at the Boston Globe, where his high-impact stories about local, national and international events have graced the front page since 1972. He is the Edith Kinney Gaylord Visiting Professor in Investigative Reporting at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University, and Journalist in Residence at Northeastern University.

Robinson led the Boston Globe Spotlight Team that won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its investigation of the sexual abuse of children by Catholic priests.

The Spotlight Team's groundbreaking investigation exposed a decades-long cover-up that, in Boston alone, shielded the crimes of nearly 250 priests. Seventeen

years later, the team's work continues to spark similar disclosures across the country and around the world. Spotlight's investigation was made into the 2015 Academy Award-winning film, "Spotlight," starring Michael Keaton as Robinson.

As a Northeastern journalism professor, Robinson and his investigative reporting students produced 26 investigative stories appearing on Page One for The Boston Globe.

Robinson is a 1974 graduate of Northeastern University. He has been awarded honorary degrees by Northeastern and Emerson College. He has been a journalism fellow at Stanford University. Robinson is co-author of the 2002 book, "Betrayal: Crisis in the Catholic Church."



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Kim Alexandre
Vice President and Senior
Consultant,
The Center for Sales
Strategy

Kim Alexandre joined The Center for Sales Strategy in 2010 after successfully selling and then managing sales teams for over 17 years. She brings both real world experience as well as observations made from working directly with hundreds of successful salespeople and sales managers across the country.

Her expertise spans across all aspects of sales process as well as identifying and coaching to sales and management talents and helping to build cultures of engagement for medium to small size organizations. To learn about Kim Alexandre or The Center For Sales Strategy and Up Your Culture, check out her LinkedIn profile here: http://bit.ly/KimAlexandre



Maggi Apel
Events Director,
Greater Wilmington
Business Journal

Maggi Apel is the events director for the Greater Wilmington Business Journal and WILMA Magazine and co-director of WILMA's Women to Watch Leadership Initiative, out of Wilmington, NC. She has been with the company since 2008, starting in the sales department and then promoted in 2015 as the events director. Apel leads a two person team and is responsible for managing more than 25 events per year. She graduated from The Ohio State University with an a degree in Intrapersonal Communication and moved to Wilmington in 2006. She has been very active in multiple non-profit organizations as a board and committee member. Currently she is on the Wilmington Convention Center Advisory committee and volunteers for Habitat for Humanity and The Carousel Center.



Mitch Bettis
Owner and President,
Arkansas Business
Publishing Group

Mitch Bettis is the owner and president of Arkansas Business Publishing Group — the award-winning media and marketing company founded in 1995. He has more than 30 years of experience in management and publishing. He manages the daily operations of a digital marketing and publishing company producing more than 30 weekly, monthly, semiannual and annual titles in addition to contract publications and websites. He also serves as the publisher of Arkansas Business, founded in 1984. Arkansas Business covers business news in Arkansas in a weekly print magazine and on a daily website, Arkansas Business.com. Before ioining Arkansas Business, Mitch oversaw GateHouse Media's 19 print and digital products in 10 communities in Arkansas and Northern Louisiana. In that role, he led the publishing, editorial and sales efforts of more than 100 staff members.



Sara Brown
Director of Advertising,
Des Moines Business
Record

Sara Brown rejoined the Des Moines Business Record in 2017 as Director of Advertising, Sara originally joined the organization in 2004 as an account executive and spent eight years in that role. She currently leads the Business Record sales staff of five and manages the organization's 15 annual signature events. Sara has consecutively led her team to exceed its budget, and her adjustments to the event division garnered a 21% increase in year-over-year revenues without adding to the program of work. The events division has experienced a two year sell out streak in both sponsorships and tickets. Sara's current efforts include strategizing to grow the organization's signature events and curating new events to fill needs in the community. Sara is a graduate of Iowa State University where she received a degree in advertising & event planning and a minor in horticulture. She is a graduate of both Leadership Iowa and the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute and is active in the community serving annually on the event gala committees for non-profits including the Science Center of Iowa and American Heart Association. In addition, she is a coach for Girls on the Run and a volunteer with the Young Women's Resource Center.



Kristin Carriero
Associate Director,
Product,
Crain Communications

Kristin Carriero is an experienced senior operations and product executive. She has led digital and print operations, production, distribution, sales operations and product management at the Chicago Sun-Times, Tribune Publishing and the Los Angeles Times. Her penchant for developing and producing successful products while creating an environment for change allows her to execute strategy in a mindful way. She's transformed the way that products are created, monetized and distributed and helped companies stay ahead of industry trends. Kristin is currently the Associate Director, Product at Crain Communications.



Ashley CawthornDirector of Events and
Marketing,
Bizwest

Ashley has been producing events in Colorado for almost 8 years. She started off her career in Vail, CO coordinating small private events for Vail Resorts, Signature Clubs. After four years of "resort-life", Ashley joined the Vail Symposium where her affinity for event production, talent management and content curation really took off. In her two-vears with the Symposium, she produced over 100 events and served as the organization's program and development manager, interim executive director and finally the operations manager. It was that experience that brought her to the Front Range where she has called BizWest "home", serving as their director of events and marketing for the last two years. Ashley is also still an active producer, director and mentor in the TFDx Vail and Boulder communities



Linda CrawfordDirector of Sales,
BizTimes Media

Linda Crawford is the director of sales for BizTimes Media, where she and her team help a diverse group of clients exploit traditional and new media including print, digital and event marketing opportunities. A graduate of The University of Texas, Crawford joined BizTimes in 2014. Previously, she served in sales and sales management positions at The Business Journal, Trails Media, and the Journal Sentinel Specialty Media Group, among others.



Kaysi CurtinSales & Marketing
Manager,
The Business Journal

Kaysi Curtin, Sales & Marketing Manager with The Business Journal, Fresno since 2010. She manages both the Sales & Production departments, is in charge of all sales for national and local agencies and is responsible for putting on all company events. Kaysi has 14+ years sales experience and holds a BA Degree in Mass Communication & Journalism from California State University Fresno where she was a collegian cheerleader. She and her husband, Luke, a retired NHL/ECHL hockey player from Minnesota, have a 5 year old son, Kash.



Sara DePaulSeniour Director for Technology Policy, *SIIA*

Sara DePaul is SIIA's Senior Director for Technology Policy, where she directs technology and privacy policy initiatives to promote innovation and responsible data practices. Previously, Sara was an attorney with the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) Office of International Affairs. In that role, she worked on a broad range of policy, enforcement, and technical assistance issues relating to privacy and consumer protection, and served as the FTC's principal delegate in several international networks. During her tenure at the FTC, Sara also served as Counsel to Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection and as an enforcement attorney in the FTC's East Central Regional Office, Sara has a JD from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, and a BA from Kent State University.



Marty Goodnight
Associate Publisher,
Springfield Business
Journal

Springfield Business Journal Associate Publisher, Marty Goodnight, joined SBJ 3 years ago after founding an inbound marketing agency where he worked with a range of businesses as a Certified HubSpot Partner Agency. Prior to that, Marty was a 17-year media sales veteran. Marty emerged as a leader within a transforming media landscape and was a pioneer in leading and changing sales cultures from service organizations to world-class sales organizations. Marty has worked with thousands of locally owned businesses during his tenure with three of the largest media companies in the U.S. (Knight Ridder, McClatchy and Gannett) and combines a strategic and creative approach to generating sales. Marty was inspired by the Inbound Marketing approach and has focused sales training on his team to be driven by the Buyer's Journey. 57% of consumers use the Internet to research products and services before they ever contact a solution provider. Marty's SBJ team helps their customers maximize how consumers shop and spend to get their clients results.



Dr. Keith HerndonProfessor of Practice in
Journalism,
University of Georgia

Dr. Keith Herndon is a Professor of Practice in Journalism at the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication and holds the William S. Morris Chair in News Strategy and Management. He serves as director of the James M. Cox Jr. Institute for Journalism Innovation, Management and Leadership and runs its Levin Leaders program and the Grady Mobile News Lab. He has more than 30 years of experience in media as a reporter, editor, technology executive and consultant. He was Administrative Editor at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and was Vice President of Operations and Vice President of Planning and Product Development with Cox Enterprises' internet division. Before moving into academia, Herndon was a strategic planning consultant with a variety of media and technology clients. He earned his Ph.D. in media and information from Australia's Curtin University and holds a master's degree from the University of Oklahoma and a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Georgia's Grady College.



Keon JacksonEvent Planning & Sales, *CVENT*

With over 10 years of event planning and sales experience, Keon Jackson exudes passion for the event industry. Keon joined Cvent in 2017, which is the industry's leading company for event management software. Keon has planned everything in between intimate board retreats, to extremely large multi-day festivals with over 15,000 attendees. Keon's work was published in the Charlotte Wedding Magazine in 2014. He even planned the wedding for Terrance Gore, the left fielder for the Kansas City Royals; all while obtaining his MBA at John Brown University. When Keon is not planning and designing events, you might find him iet skiing at the beach, or zip lining in the trees!



Bonnie Jacoby
Vice President of Business
Sales & Training,
Arkansas Business
Publishing Group

Bonnie Jacoby was born in Searcy and is a lifelong resident of Arkansas. She received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from Harding University in 1987. She began her career as a Premise Sales Rep for Southwestern Bell Yellow Pages. For the last 28 years, Bonnie has worked for Arkansas Business Publishing Group, the premier niche publishing company in the state. Currently she is the Vice President of Business Sales & Training, responsible for managing the suite of business publications. Bonnie lives in Cabot with her husband. Casev. They have been blessed with one son, Casey (CJ) Jacoby, Jr. and a daughter-in-law. Savannah. With a love for sports, she is an avid Arkansas Razorback and Texas Rangers fan. Teaching and sharing is an important part of her personal and professional life. In addition to being a sales trainer for ABPG, she has served in various teaching roles in her church over the years.



Brad Kane Editor, Worcester Business Journal

Kane came to Worcester from its sister publication Hartford Business Journal, where he most recently served as managing editor. Kane talked his way onto HBJ's staff in May 2010, previously working as a Boston Globe correspondent and a staff writer for the Patriot Ledger in Quincy. In another journalism life, he covered local politics in Northern Ohio and Southwest Florida. Kane has been honored for his work by the Alliance of Area Business Publications, the New England Newspaper & Press Association, the Florida Press Club. Ohio Associated Press, the New England Society of News Editors and the National Society of Professional Journalists. He graduated The Ohio State University. with an honor's degree in journalism. He lives a calm, sleep-filled life in Wilbraham, Mass. with his wife, five young children and dog. In his 42 minutes of weekly free time, Kane runs the sidewalks, streets and trails of Western Massachusetts



Mary KramerGroup Publisher,
Crain Communications

Mary Kramer is Group Publisher at Crain Communications Inc., a Detroit-based, family-owned publishing company in its third generation of leadership by the founding Crain family. She's responsible for four city/regional B2B publications in the top 20 markets of New York, Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland, as well as digital-only products in 20+U.S. cities. She is responsible for approximately one-fifth of company revenue.

In an industry disrupted by technology and a volatile advertising/marketing environment, she successfully has grown new and profitable products for the media group, such as the annual Detroit Homecoming, a civic and economic development initiative created by Crain producing more than \$400 million in new investments by Detroit-area expatriates. Her civic leadership includes being the first woman elected president of the historic Detroit Athletic Club. She chairs the board of trustees at Grand Valley State University, Michigan's fourth largest public university with 25,000 students. She is a trustee of the Detroit-based Skillman Foundation, a \$475-million endowment focused on children in the city. She is a past president of AABP and currently on the board. Mary was inducted into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame in 2017.



Katie KutskoPartner Development
Manager,
American Press
Institute

Katie Kutsko is a graduate of the University of Kansas and the partner development manager for the American Press Institute's Metrics for News program. She empowers prospective and newly-signed partners to understand how MFN's suite of products can help them build a loyal and engaged audience over time. While at KU, she served as editor-in-chief at the University Daily Kansan, where she led a newsroom transformation from a print mindset to a digital-first operation. She has interned at the Chicago Tribune, Indianapolis Star and Lawrence (Kan.) Journal-World.



Catherine Lanucha
Director of Business
Strategy,
Crain Communications

Catherine Lanucha, a senior digital media executive whose passion, leadership and experience in digital content, audience analysis, revenue optimization and technology has contributed to the transformation of the ever-evolving media industry. Currently, she oversees Product Management and Insights/Analytics teams as the Director of Business Strategy for Crain Communications Inc. Her 23-year career has included working at several noted media companies, including Scripps Howard, Sun-Times Media and Tribune Publishing.



Ashley Levitt
Events & Social Media
Marketing Manager,
Corridor Business Journal

Ashley Levitt is event and social media marketing manager for the Corridor Business Journal. She is responsible for the entire event life cycle, which includes the concept, marketing, planning and execution of 15 of the region's most popular corporate events. Ashley is a native of lowa and graduate of the University of lowa, where she earned bachelor's degrees in journalism and marketing. She is also a past chair of the lowa City Area Chamber of Commerce young professionals group, EPIC.



John Lohman CEO, Publisher & Co-owner, Corridor Media Group

John Lohman is CEO, Publisher and Co-owner of the Corridor Media Group (CMG), Inc, which he founded with his wife, Aspen, in 2004.

This independent, family-owned media business publishes the Corridor Business Journal, a weekly business publication focused on providing local business news and information to business and community leaders in the Cedar Rapids and Iowa City (Iowa) Corridor.

Mr. Lohman was formerly employed as the Communications Manager for the Duane Arnold Energy Center—lowa's only nuclear power plant; and Marketing Manager for Gazette Communications, where he helped launch the lowa City Gazette edition of the Cedar Rapids Gazette newspaper. He was also an adjunct professor at Kirkwood Community College, and has worked in a variety of fields including: politics, public relations, and journalism.



Deanna MilojkovicDirector of Consumer
Revenue,
Crain Communications

Deanna Milojkovic has worked on the business side of publishing for over 10 years. She is currently Director of Consumer Revenue for Crain Communications where she oversees the subscriber lifecycle – acquisition, engagement, and retention – for Crain's portfolio of B2B and B2C brands. Prior to that she managed audience development and marketing for Crain's Chicago Business, a Crain publication, for several years. She holds a bachelor's and Master's degree from Northern Illinois University, and started her career with internships in radio, TV, and media relations.



Gwen MoritzEditor,
Arkansas Business
Publishing Group

Gwen Moritz will mark her 20th anniversary as editor of Arkansas Business on August 2, 2019. Gwen also serves on the board of directors for AABP and is the incoming President in 2020.



Jennifer Mosley
Audience Development
Director,
Crain Communications

Passionate about content from the first time she realized her dad's mood was determined by the delivery (or absence) of the local newspaper, Jen Moslev joined Chicago Sun-Times in August of 2007. Throughout her time there, she held every combination of circulation positions, including director of consumer care and director of audience development. In addition, Mosley played an integral part in projects focused on industry change, such as combo orders, paywall, tablet bundles, social, vendor outsourcing, and price optimization. In 2015, she ioined Modern Healthcare, a Crain Communications publication, with an eye towards maximizing B2B niche content's potential in creating a sustainable publishing model. During 2017, Jen led the initiative to centralize audience development at Crain Communications where her department's profit margin improved by 15% from 2017 to 2018, and she currently serves as the audience development group director.



Ashley Mulder
Audience Strategist &
COO,
Twenty-First
Digital

Ashley is a Michigan native currently living in Dallas, Texas. She's been in publishing for over ten years working with city and regional publishers like D Magazine and Hour Media. During her time with these publishers, starting out in what was then "circ," she developed her passion for audience and data-driven marketing. Now, as an audience strategist and COO at Twenty-First Digital, she (along with their team of 5) help brands integrate systems. data, and staff efficiently and economically. After building the necessary technical and personnel infrastructure, TFD then work with brands to establish practices and processes to attract, convert and sell their products to their customers. Their customer portfolio now includes over 20 brands, in the consumer, B2B, and parenting sector.



José Reyes Creative Director, *Metaleap Creative*

José Reyes has been the creative director of Metaleap Creative since he founded the firm in 2002. After receiving his B.F.A. in 1995 from Savannah College of Art and Design, he worked as a designer at several major advertising and design firms in the South. Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Turkey, Utah, New Mexico and Florida, his love and curiosity of all things keeps him traveling and searching for inspiration in the world around him.



Bonnie Roche
Chief Customer &
Innovation Officer,
Crain Communications

As Chief Customer & Innovation Officer Bonnie Roche has a single mission – to deliver to customers the best experiences across any and all channels they choose to engage. Full stop. This entails bringing new and innovative ideas related to process, product and customers to life. Bonnie ioined Crain Communications in 2014 to manage large marketing initiatives, including consolidating audience databases, marketing automation and systems migrations. Since then, she has transformed multiple functional groups across Digital, Audience Development, Customer Service and Database Operations into a single team: Audience, Marketing, Product, known as AMP. Although she did not start her career in the media world her background in trade publishing, product development, marketing communications, project management and content creation and distribution laid the foundation to learn from media gurus and colleagues, at every level. With her belief that the sum of a business can far exceed its individual parts if looked at holistically, she brings a passionate, unique view on how to explore Audience Development in general and Audience Monetization specifically in all its facets.



Donna RofinoMarketing & Events
Manager,
Providence Business News

A Rhode Island native, she joined the publication in 2011 and was promoted to her current position in 2016. She is responsible for all facets of the creation, management and execution of 15 annual events, growing them steadily year over year while increasing ROI. Previously Rofino held several marketing, communication and product management roles at the former Fleet Bank (Bank of America) for nearly 18 years. A graduate of Bryant University with a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing, she has recently returned as a guest lecturer for communications and event planning. She is also an active volunteer for several organizations in North Attleboro, MA where she currently resides.



Alliya Samhat
Acquisition Marketing
Manager,
Crain Communications

Alliya Samhat has been in the media & publishing industry for a decade now leading projects within email marketing, social media strategy, data analysis and marketing research. Alliya is currently the Acquisition Marketing Manager on the Crain Communications Corporate Audience team. The new acquisition team focuses particularly on acquiring new subscribers to Crain's print & digital products, growing their brand's email lists and driving new audience growth across various touch points such as email, web, and social media. Alliya holds a bachelor's degree in English and broadcast journalism from DePaul University in Chicago, IL.



Chris SantilliPublisher,
Hartford Business Journal

Chris Santilli, Publisher Hartford Business Journal since August 2018,with 18 years in B2B media started in sales in 1999 at Providence Business News, Appointed Ad Director in 2004 and to VP Sales and marketing in 2008. Holds a BS and MS Degree and has Outdoor Advertising, Banking and Public Sector experience.



Michael SilbermanSVP Strategy,
Piano

Michael Silberman is SVP Strategy at Piano, overseeing Strategic Services, which provides Product Development Strategy, Launch Services and Revenue Optimization to Piano clients. In that role, Silberman applies his extensive experience in media to bear on behalf of Piano's customers. Prior to joining Piano, he was General Manager. Digital Media at New York Media, overseeing product, technology, design, consumer marketing and business development. During his time at New York, he quadrupled digital revenue and grew audience more than 10-fold, launched Vulture.com and TheCut.com as standalone sites and helped transform the company from a regional magazine to a national network of digital brands. Silberman lead digital editorial and product development at Rodale, and started his digital media career at MSNBC.com as one of the top editors, helping to launch and grow the site into one of the leading news sites of the web 1.0 era. Pre-digital (yes, there was such a thing) he was a producer at CBS News.



Fay SteigerAssociate Publisher,
Delaware Business Times

Fay Steiger is masterful at connecting C-Level Executives with each other, is dedicated to supporting their business goals and is passionate about delivering results. Fav has over 16+ years of consultative B2B sales and business development experience joining Delaware Business Times, a Today Media Company in 2018 as the Associate Publisher. Delaware Business Times, located in Wilmington, DE, publishes 26 informative issues, plus a daily digital version packed with vital, up-to-theminute news, editorials, analyses and insights on the companies, people, events, topics and trends that are driving business throughout Delaware. Delaware Business Times is the exclusive business to business publication in the state of Delaware with integrated media platforms to reach decision makers in print, in person and in digital. Since joining Delaware Business Times, Fay created two new events, the Book of Lists Party, a networking event coupled with games to engage the companies who made the list and the Fastest 50 Awards, a black tie optional award program honoring 50 of the fastest growing companies.



Kim Waatti Product Director, Crain's Detroit Business

Kim Waatti is the product director at Crain's Detroit Business, a full-service communications company that connects affluent and influential decision makers by providing insights, analysis and opinion needed to navigate Southeast Michigan's business landscape. Crain's integrated approach across print, digital, in-person events and custom content platforms - aligns powerful content with a powerful audience. Kim oversees Crain's diverse product portfolio and leads the strategic planning and execution for all Crain's products and new initiatives. Throughout her 11-year career at Crain Communications Inc. Kim has held various leadership positions at other sister brands within the Crain Communications Inc umbrella. Her previous roles include brand strategy manager and, most recently, marketing and event director. Kim holds a bachelor's degree in organizational communication and a minor in imaging/graphic design from Western Michigan University.



Cody Winchester
Training Director,
IRF

Cody Winchester has been a reporter, data specialist and web developer for daily newspapers in South Dakota, Nebraska and Texas. Before joining IRE as a training director in April 2017, he was a news applications specialist at the Austin American-Statesman. Cody has a communications degree from Black Hills State University and a master's degree in international journalism from Baylor University.



Friday Sessions

9:45-10:45am: **SESSION 1**

Managing a Newsroom

How do you provide top-notch journalism to your audience with limited resources and budget? Led by Dr. Keith Herndon from the University of Georgia's Grady College of Journalism, this session will focus on issues big and small in newsroom management, from how you onboard new reporters to bigger-picture issues like creating a beat structure and interacting with your audience.

11:15am-12:15pm:

SESSION 2

The Art of Visual Storytelling

You've spent days, weeks, months reporting on a story and tracking down photographs. Now, how do you take all that information and make it sing for the reader? How can your entire publication pop? Led by José Reyes from the design firm Metaleap, winner of multiple design awards from the prestigious Society of Publication Designers, we will delve into the principles of modern design, emerging trends in publications and new tools for eye-popping visuals to show how business journals can maximize information and artistic delivery to their audiences.

2-3:15pm:

SESSION 3

Sit Down with Spotlight

Following his luncheon keynote, Walter Robinson from the Boston Globe will answer questions from Editorial & Design tract participants and offer on-the-ground, actionable steps AABP newsrooms can take to launch their own Spotlight-like projects, even on smaller budgets.

3:45-5pm:

SESSION 4

Best Ideas

Back by popular demand, this will be a discussion between all Editorial & Design tract participants on their best ideas from the last 18ish months. In a slightly different format from previous years, moderator Brad Kane from Worcester Business Journal will pick out 7-10 of the best of the best ideas in advance and focus the bulk of the conversation on those, although the group will hear from everyone who submitted an idea.



Saturday Sessions

9-10:15am: **SESSION 5**

Everyday Watchdog for Business Journalists

Led by Cody Winchester from Investigative Reporters & Editors, this session will discuss how to build watchdog work into your daily routine and produce meatier stories on the business beat, even in breaking news situations. We'll cover the best habits of watchdog reporters, getting in a data and documents mindset and building checklists to be ready for many situations. We'll also get some real-world tips on time management, organization and focusing on enterprise.

10:45-Noon: **SESSION 6**

The Business of Business Journals

What role do editorial and design departments play in the overall business operations of a publishing company? This session is especially for all the aspiring publishers and owners in the room. Mary Kramer from Crain's and Mitch Bettis from Arkansas Business will discuss their journeys from the newsroom to the executive suite, and talk about what makes for a good and profitable business journal and how content fits into that effort.

1:30-2:45pm: **SESSION 7**

Just Add Water Story Ideas

What are quick-hit story ideas that can still have lasting impact for your audience? This session will be a conversation between all Editorial & Design tract participants led by Gwen Moritz from Arkansas Business. The focus will be on stories needing just a little bit of local flavor that can be inserted in a local business journal. We'll also use this session to discuss the idea of developing a national co-op between AABP members to share the costs of freelancers, stories and photos.

3-4pm: **SESSION 8**

Engaging & Growing Your Audience

Writing, reporting and designing the news is only half the battle. You still have to get it in front of your core and extended audience, in a world with millions of content options all available at the click of a button. In this frank conversation between the AABP Audience Development and Editorial & Design groups, we'll delve into the best practices for getting eyeballs on your publication and creating fan bases willing to pay for your content. This joint session will focus on new metrics for tracking audience engagement, especially as more publications are switching their digital operations away from advertising-centric models and moving toward subscriber-based models. No topic will be off the table as we explore how Audience Development and Editorial & Design can help each other.

ADVERTISING SALES

Friday Sessions

9:45-10:45am:

SESSION 1

Q&A with Digiday

Following the "Founders Journey" keynote, attendees of this session will have time to ask Nick Friese more detailed questions about his talk and what we can learn from his knowledge to grow our own businesses.

11:15am-12:15pm:

SESSION 2

Selling to the Buyer's Journey

The buyer's journey has changed and advertisers have different expectations about marketing. This session will positions business publications in the buyers journey and teach attendees how to shift the conversation sales discussions away from ad space and frequency towards helping customers with consideration and differentiation among their competition. Speaker: Marty Goodnight, Associate Publisher, Springfield Business Journal

2-3:15pm:

SESSION 3

Event/Sales Co-Track

Two brilliant tracks combine for a one-two punch. First, attendees will hear best practices and strategies for developing and planning effective events. Second, we'll talk about monetizing events through ticket sales, sponsorship sales, engaging audiences and creative value for advertisers. Take a smaller bite of the apple and get with the Events team for a planning call. Event & Sales Co-Track: Panelists: Fay Steiger, Delaware Business Times; John Lohman of Corridor Business Journal; Kerrie Richmond of Greater Baton Rouge Business Report; Sara Brown of Des Moines Business Record. Donna Rofino

3:45-5pm: **SESSION 4**

Process & Playbooks for Everyone:

Launching a new idea effectively requires everyone at the table. This session will talk about best practices and strategies for open communication and effective processes for launching that initiative the right way for everyone. Panelist: Marty Goodnight, Springfield Business Journal; Annmarie Brisson, Providence Business News



Saturday Sessions

9-10:15am: **SESSION 5**

Becoming a Motivational Leader

Building a culture of engagement and understanding the impact emotional intelligence has on an organization can help you reduce regrettable turnover, increase productivity and increase key customer retention. In this session, you will learn how to lead and motivate your team using the 6 Emotional Leadership Styles. We will review each of the 6 Emotional Leadership Styles, when to use them and how to use them. Speaker: Kim Alexandre of the Center for Sales Strategy

10:45am-Noon: **SESSION 6**

The Art and Science of Accountability

Holding your team accountable to results can sometimes feel more like a wish than reality. In this session, you will learn calculable tactics you can use in the office and in the field with each of your salespeople that will in turn, motivate your team to hit the KPI's you need the to hit on a regular basis for overall revenue growth and success. Speaker: Kim Alexandre of the Center for Sales Strategy

1:30-2:45pm: **SESSION 7**

Advertiser Perspective - an Event/Sales Co-Track

Hosting a panel of 3 to 4 advertiser that present their perspective and then open up for Q and A's. Moderator: Kim Alexandre of the Center for Sales Strategy

3-4pm: **SESSION 8**

Stop Discounting! How to Build Rate Card Integrity:

Utilize the value of the rate card to stop discounts, build value, increase investments and provide incentives for advertisers. Panelist: Chris Santilli, Hartford Business Journal, Kaysi Curtin, Fresno Business Journal, Bonnie Jacoby, Arkansas Business, Linda Crawford, BizTimes Media, Facilitators: Maggi and Donna Rofino



Friday Sessions

9:45-10:45am:

Like Moths to a Candle

Attracting and Converting Your Best Customer. Ever wonder if you're chasing **SESSION 1** after the right customer? Or if your customers are as in love of your products as you think they are? What is your Market Share? What are your best channels – social, email, web, search, etc. Focus on Social? How to define customer journeys that convert? Using automation to your advantage? Speaker: Ashley

SESSION 2

11:15am-12:15pm: Cross-channel Campaign Monitoring: Planning, Set Up and Analytics to Inform Audience Success (Co-Track with Sales)

Mulder of Twenty First Digital with Alliya Samhat of Crain Communications

It's simple. Audience Development's singular goal is to attract and retain customers mainly to drive new and renewal subscription revenue, put butts in event/webinar seats, promote newsletter list growth and provide an audience profile that advertising clients want to talk to. This is a very costly and time-intensive endeavor. How do we ensure that every dollar spent and every resource hour results in the conversions we seek? Join us in this session as a panel discusses best practices to set up, monitor and track campaign and product performance success. To be covered: Web Analytics (Adobe Analytics/GA), Campaign Metrics (What campaigns/ channels driving ROI), Database Reporting. Speaker: Cybba With Jennifer Mosley of Crain Communications. Panelist: Alliya Samhat

2-3:15pm: SESSION 3

Create It, Lock It and They Will Pay

Proving Paywall ROI. The paywall dilemma. Put a paywall up and lose customers that purchase product or provide the traffic to drive digital advertising revenue. Don't put up a paywall and you could be missing out on opportunities to entice subscription conversion. How do you figure out the best type and which levers within the paywall journey to pull to optimize this channel. For those thinking of implementing a paywall learn from the 50% of AABP members (source: AABP Audience Track Survey 2018) who have implemented a paywall. For those that already have one, learn from each other. Speaker: Michael Silberman of Piano with Deanna Milojkovich of Crain Communications

3:45-5pm:

SESSION 4

Measuring and Monetizing Your Product Portfolio

Audience Development success is directly tied to how well customers embrace the products that you offer. If your audience acquisition and retention are not keeping pace with your expectations, it may be time to look at your product portfolio. We will cover Portfolio Management – what products do you have?; What's the right mix for our audience?; What's on the horizon? When do you sunset, extend, introduce new products? Assessing Product ROI, Who owns product development/management?, How do you keep up with trends, The power of polling, Building Audience Personas. Speaker: Kim Waatti of Crain Communications with Kristin Carriero of Crain Communications



Saturday Sessions

9-10:15am: **SESSION 5**

GDPR, California Consumer Privacy Act

One in the Same? Balancing Customer Privacy and our business has been tough since GDPR. It could get tougher as the California Consumer Privacy Act goes into effect January 2020. Together we will explore how stricter guidelines impacts the strategies used to acquire and retain customers and what this means to the health of the audience database. Speaker: Sara DePaul of SIIA

10:45am-Noon: **SESSION 6**

What Hat are You Wearing Today?: Structuring for Success

There's too much work and not enough bodies to do it! I thought I was doing that. Did anyone hit send to get the last email campaign out? Did you submit that invoice for payment? Whose turn is it to turn on the coffee pot? Join us as we dig into the best ideas on how other media companies organize their business to be successful in the ever-changing media landscape. Speaker: Bonnie Roche of Crain Communications

1:30-2:45pm: **SESSION 7**

Whiteboard session: Innovation & Audience

Share and learn — Curious to see what others are doing and discover new, creative ways of growing and retaining your subscriber base? Join us in this white boarding session as we draw out what your peers are doing today and what they aspire to do in the future. Topics Covered: ; Sponsored Subscriptions - Chambers, Farm Bureaus, Bar Association — paid subscriber; Does Audio have a role in growing audience?; Tactics to attract and market to the generations.; What can we learn from other industries? Moderator: Bonnie Roche of Crain Communications

3-4pm: **SESSION 8**

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Friday Sessions

9:45-10:45am:

SESSION 1

Trends in Event Technology

Technology is ever evolving and our industry has undergone massive change in the last decade alone. What's next you ask? Join me in taking a deep dive into the future of event technology and what that means for you. Additionally, we will look at initiatives Cvent is taking to help event producers move towards the future. Presenter: Keon Jackson, MBA, Account Manager, Cvent Event Solutions

11:15am-12:15pm: **SESSION 2**

Cross-channel Campaign Monitoring: Planning, Set Up and Analytics to Inform Audience Success

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2-3:15pm: **SESSION 3**

Event Co-Track

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3:45-5pm: **SESSION 4**

Event Marketing Boot Camp

Learn best practices for event marketing campaigns and what's different about event marketing and why it is important.

Saturday Sessions

9-10:15am: **SESSION 5**

EVENTS: What's Working? What's Not? What's New?

Hosting a panel of 3-4 event managers to share events that are working in their perspective markets and what makes them successful. Hear some success stories and find out new ideas. We'll also hear about events that have struggled and ways they have been brought back to life or dropped all together. Panelists: Maggi Apel, Greater Wilmington Business Journal; Ashley Cawthorn, Bizwest; Fay Steiger, Delaware Business Times

10:45am-Noon:

SESSION 6

Challenges to Event Management

A panel of event managers will discuss challenges they face in negotiating with vendors, keeping expenses in check, pressure to increase ROI, dealing with competition and copy cats in their marketplace and wearing multiple hats among other topics.

Panelists: Ashley Levitt, Corridor Business Journal; Donna Rofino, Providence Business News

1:30-2:45pm:

SESSION 7

Advertiser Perspective - an Event/Sales Co-Track

Hosting a panel of 3 to 4 advertiser that present their perspective and then open up for Q and A's. Moderator: Kim Alexandre of the Center for Sales Strategy

3-4pm:

SESSION 8

Whiteboard Session

Following up from the roundtable discussion at the start of the conference, what questions do you have for your fellow event managers as the conference comes to a close? What actions are you most likely to take? We'll go through the questions everyone has written down throughout the conference.

atlanta eats

LUNCH

Peachtree Center, more than 50 restaurants and retail shops located downtown Atlanta center offering little lunch spots for casual dining. 225 Peachtree Street NE. 404-654-1296. peachtreecenter.com

SunTrust Plaza, the second-tallest building in Atlanta is home to three full-service restaurants and a Food Court with eight casual eateries. See the website for phone numbers. 330 Peachtree Street NE. suntrust plaza.com

Fairlie, Poplar Historic
District, part of the central
business district in downtown
Atlanta. Named for the two
streets that cross at its center –
Fairlie and Poplar. You can find
international fare in this district
including Vietnamese, Indian,
Asian Fusion, Cajun, Japanese
and Mediterranean, as well as
traditional offerings. 404-5216600. atlanta.net

DINNER

Ray's In the City, an upscale setting for seafood, meats and a notable wine list. Live jazz Thursday through Saturday. 240 Peachtree Street. 440-524-9224. raysrestaurants.com

Glenn's Kitchen,

casually sophisticated restaurant offering American comfort food with a Southern flair and hand-crafted cocktails. 110 Marietta St., NW. 404-469-0700.

White Oak Kitchen & Cocktails, (also lunch) contemporary Southern cuisine in an airy, modern-rustic space with a 360-degree bar that focuses on wine, whisky and bourbon. 270 Peachtree Street NW. 404-524-7200. whiteoak kitchen.com

Atlanta Grill, a modern bar and steakhouse located in the Ritz-Carlton. 181 Peachtree Street NE. 404-659-0400. ritz carlton.com

Terrace Bistro, located in the boutique Ellis Hotel and specializing in American Southern Bistro-style entrees. *176 Peachtree Street NW*, 678-651-2770. ellishotel.com

BARS

Red Phone Booth, chic speakeasy offering craft cocktails, small plates and cigars. 17 Andrew Young International Blvd. NE. 404-228-7528. redphone booth.com

Trader Vic's, (also dinner) located in the Hilton Hotel serving Pacific Rim dishes in a kitschy, tropical–themed décor. 255 Courtland Street NE. 404-221-6339. tradervicsatl.com

Der Biergarten, more than a dozen craft beers, pretzels and other traditional German food offered in an authentic, spacious beer garden and restaurant. 300 Marietta Street NW. 404-521-2728.

derbiergarten.com

SkyLounge, a rooftop bar with city views and craft cocktails in a covered outdoor setting atop the Glenn Hotel. 110 Marietta Street NW. 404-521-2250. glennskylounge.com

COFFEE

Condesa Coffee, café and espresso bar also serving teas craft beers, and cocktails. 480 John Wesley Dobbs Avenue NE, 404-524-5054 and 145 Auburn Avenue NE, 678-515-0899. condessacoffee.com

Café Lucia, serving espresso, drinks and tea in a historic setting. 57 Forsyth Street NW. 404-968-9658. cafeluciaatl.com

The Bean Counter,

traditional coffee shop also serving desserts. 191 Peachtree Street. 404-223-0500. atlants downtown.com

Lasseter's Coffee

Café, downtown spot for American coffee and tea. 230 Peachtree Street NW #180. 404-577-5522.