

## Bay News Rising; Spring/Summer 2016

As in years past, students would attend two meetings a week: One to work on skills that may not be taught in the classroom; a second to develop stories. The skills sessions will feature a talk by a working journalist. A tentative list includes:

- What it means to be a labor journalist – Carl Hall, executive officer PMWG. Carl will discuss the history of the union and introduce the concept of collective bargaining. The interns will form a bargaining committee to set stipends and rates of pay for articles published on the Guild's Web sites.
- How to cover the homeless – Kevin Fagan, SF Chronicle
- Covering the police beat – Harry Harris, Oakland Tribune
- Digging into the power structure of San Francisco – Tim Redmond, editor 48 Hills
- Data Journalism; an intro – Joaquin Palomino – SF Chronicle
- How to write a great feature – Cynthia Gorney – National Geographic
- Beyond the inverted pyramid – Nanette Asimov – SF Chronicle
- The art of the interview -- Rebecca Rosen Lum – freelance journalist
- Covering the tech beat – Harry McCracken, Fast Company, Ellen Lee, freelance journalist
- Great photos/videos with a smartphone – Ken Kobre – SF State University

There will also be a workshop led by Rebecca Rosen Lum on writing killer cover letters and resumes.

Each student will be assigned a mentor, all of whom are working journalists with years of experience.

Students will write at least three news or feature stories accompanied by photos, videos, or data presentations over the course of the program., plus at least two shorter pieces. Ideas will be discussed with the visiting presenters and formulated in class discussions and one-one-meetings with the program coordinator.

**Students who are interested may opt for an in-depth project that could extend beyond the end of the program, with the goal of selling it to an outside publication. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:**

**Life in a Single Room Occupancy hotel (SRO).** As rents soar, housing options for many workers shrink. Ideally a student would live in one for a number of days, or find a way to meet residents and follow them over the course of a few weeks. What are the conditions, how much is the rent, and how many residents are employed?

**You're sick, you're poor, where do you go?** There are only two hospitals serving the southeastern section of San Francisco, an area that is largely working class and heavily Latino and African-American. Practitioners are overwhelmed and patients say they must wait for weeks, or even months, to get a clinic appointment. Has Obamacare helped?

**Understanding the life of a cop.** The police have come under fire as a public employees union with generous (read: undeserved) pensions and other benefits. But what is a police officer's work life like? Ideally a student would embed with a member of the San Francisco, Oakland, or Richmond police department. At the very least, spend time on the beat with an officer and understand his or her challenges.

**The housing crisis:** Is San Francisco becoming a bedroom community for Silicon Valley? Why aren't South Bay communities where the tech companies are headquartered building housing? Is there a regional solution?