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Bay News Rising's return this summer

Hello everyone, this is Nico. My day job is reporting and editing at Berkeleyside, but this year I took on a new role as director of the Guild's summer mentorship program, Bay News Rising.

Bay News Rising matches student journalists from around the region with a Guild member who serves as their mentor and guide in developing an article or photo essay focused on an issue of labor or justice. The students became Guild members during the six-week, paid program, joining the freelance unit. And each week, they heard from other journalists from around the Guild who joined them for seminars to share advice on topics like

navigating early journalism careers, how to protect yourself while freelancing and the role of the Guild in the modern news business. The interns greatly appreciated these opportunities to learn from Guild members, who took the time to help the next generation of journalists — and helped demonstrate how the union is there to support them as they embark on their careers.

The program had gone dormant for a couple of years, so we were thrilled to bring it back this summer with a cohort of five interns from San Francisco State, City College of San Francisco and UC Berkeley. We published their projects on the Bay News Rising website last month (if you see one that you think could be a good fit to republish at your media organization, please get in touch). I'm biased, but I think these projects showcase some really thoughtful and creative journalism about our communities:

- Reporter Lylah Schmedel-Permanna investigated what happened to workers who formed the nation's first unionized strip club in her story, which was published by the LA Public Press
- Photojournalist Giselle Garza Lerma produced a photo essay and written piece about Elizabeth Beeson, a proud vaquera whose ranch and programs for youth make horses accessible to young people on the Peninsula
- Reporter Brenda Vasquez wrote about how estate planning is more than just a process to divvy up your stuff — it's a way to protect your loved ones and ensure your values are honored
- Reporter Marrion Cruz explored how, despite a historic strike two years ago that won better pay and working conditions, many San Francisco hotel workers are still being squeezed

- Photojournalist Autumn DeGrazia captured the experiences of women at the Cal Maritime Academy, who are working to open up an industry where over 98% of jobs are held by men

I'm grateful to our mentors — Bill Snyder, Annie Sciacca, Jessica Christian and David Bacon — and to the Guild members who took part in seminars: Ko Lyn Cheang, Vivienne Aguilar, Thomas Peele, Felicia Mello, Nigel Duara, Adriana Heldiz and Alejandra Armstrong. Special thanks to Annie and Michael for all of their support.

It's great to have Bay News Rising back, and we're already looking forward to next year's program.

Nico Savidge

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