

BENJAMIN RAPPAPORT

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EDUCATION

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Bachelor of Arts in Media and Journalism, UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media

Minors in Politics, Philosophy and Economic (PPE), Urban Studies and Planning [*Cum Laude*]

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dec 2021

EXPERIENCE

Border Belt Independent

Staff Reporter

Columbus County, North Carolina

June 2023 - Present

- Investigating and reporting deep-dive stories about rural southeastern North Carolina, producing weekly stories focused on education, environment, elections and local government affecting Bladen, Columbus, Robeson and Scotland counties.
- Managing social media pages including creation of Facebook and Instagram graphics via Canva and Photoshop.

Chatham News + Record

Staff Reporter, Social Media Editor

Chatham County, North Carolina

April 2022 - June 2023

- Reported daily stories on local government, education, etc. in rural communities to serve Chatham County, building an extensive local network of sources to better inform audiences of breaking news and enterprise stories.
- Ran social media feeds and increased engagement 20% by consistently scheduling posts and creating graphics.

Bush Radio

Reporting Intern

Cape Town, South Africa

Jan 2022 - April 2022

- Reported and produced daily radio news packages about local issues impacting Cape Town, South Africa.
- Hosted “The Moves,” a weekly on-air show discussing transportation and accessibility issues within the Western Cape.
- Booked guests ranging from artists to public officials and managed on-air production on several daily news magazines including “Morning Cruise” and “Sakhisizwe”

The Daily Tar Heel

Assistant Opinion Editor, Editorial Board Member

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Jan 2021 - Jan 2022

- Authored, edited and curated daily editorials and columns for the opinion desk, and contributed weekly columns about issues affecting Chapel Hill and UNC.
- Led team of 15-20 writers, including facilitating weekly editorial board meetings and content production.

Carolina Connection

Student Reporter and Producer

Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dec 2019 - Dec 2020

- Wrote and edited daily web and radio stories on the Orange County community and local governments, conducting in-depth interview with prominent community leaders to provide readers with perspectives on local issues
- Wrote, edited and produced weekly stories and podcasts for radio shows about university issues and local government, and human interest audio features.
- Trained new reporters and led pitch meetings to foster collaborative newsroom environments.
- Oversaw production of radio stories for the newsroom by making show rundowns and reviewing story scripts.

AWARDS

- First Place General News Reporting — N.C. Press Association 2023
- First Place Social Media Excellence — N.C. Press Association 2022
- First Place Local Government Reporting, First Place Business Writing — N.C. Press Association 2022
- First Place Excellence in Student Audio Newscast — Edward R. Murrow Awards 2020
- Ken White Best Student Newscast Award, Best Student Feature Reporting — RTDNAC 2020

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Staff Reporter | *97.9 The Hill WCHL and Chapelboro.com* [Aug 2019 - May 2022, Chapel Hill, N.C.]

Reporting and Podcasting Intern | *Heart of Waraba* [Apr 2020 - Jan 2022, Remote Internship]

Podcaster | *Career Up Now* [July 2020 - Jan 2021, Remote Internship]

Podcast Producer | *UNC Institute for the Environment* [May 2020 - Dec 2020, Chapel Hill, N.C.]

SKILLS & PUBLICATIONS

Technical: AP Style, Adobe Pro Suite Programs, WordPress and SEO design

Production: Social Media Management, Graphic and Vertical Video Development, Field Recording, On-Air Hosting, Audio Editing

Work has also appeared in: *The Assembly, Hunterbrook Media, Rest of World, College Basketball Times*

Certification: Audio Intensive Storytelling for Journalists from *Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas*

References available on request.