

20 12 CAR

S T . L O U I S

PRESENTED BY IRE AND NICAR

FEB. 23-26



Welcome to Missouri, the home of IRE and NICAR.

And welcome to St. Louis, home of toasted ravioli, training director Jaimi Dowdell and the Gateway Arch.

This week will serve as your gateway to the latest and best in computer-assisted reporting. (Yes, that's a cheesy transition, but I'm not apologizing).

For those of you just getting started, we've got plenty for you, such as our introduction classes for spreadsheets and databases. If you can, start off Thursday morning at the welcome session at 8:30, followed by "Getting Started: Digging Deep with Data Journalism" at 9 a.m.

For those looking to sharpen their skills, we've got sessions on mapping, statistical software, programming and more.

For those looking to find the latest developments on the CAR frontier, check out sessions like "Rapid Fire Future" on Saturday at 11 a.m.

For everyone, regardless of experience, we'll help you find and negotiate for data and we'll help you generate story ideas in lots of coverage areas, including this year's elections.

If you and your newsroom are watching your pocketbook, we've got numerous sessions on free tools and software.

And we've got dozens of hands-on sessions, for everyone from beginners who want to gain spreadsheet skills to those looking to develop programming chops.

NewsCamp is back for a second year. The theme is "From Words to Data and Back," and it serves as an introduction and immersion in unstructured text like emails, tweets and records. The hands-on sessions are full, but the morning panels on Thursday are still open as long as space remains. NewsCamp is sponsored by the Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute.

We're excited this year to debut a new event. We're joining with the fine folks at ScraperWiki to hold a marathon Liberate the Data night starting at 6 p.m. Thursday and ending at 6 a.m. Friday.

If you're looking for inspiration, you'll find it plenty of places, but nowhere more so than at the Philip Meyer Journalism Award presentation, where we honor three stellar projects from 2011. Don't miss the reception on Friday at 5:15 p.m. in Regency A/B.

And while we've got more than enough panels and hands-on sessions to keep you busy, make sure to make some new friends and create some connections. You'll be glad you did the next time you're wrestling with some data and need a helping hand.



Mark Horvit, IRE Executive Director



THANK YOU!

SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



Thanks to the Missouri School of Journalism, which provides space and resources to IRE. NICAR is a joint program of IRE and the school.



NICAR

Jennifer Leonard Scholarship

For women who have worked in journalism for three years or fewer or who study journalism, these scholarships were established by IRE member David Cay Johnston to honor his wife, president of the Rochester Area Community Foundation and a national leader in promoting ethical standards for endowments.

- Laura Keller, Columbia University

General Conference Committee

- Manny Garcia, *El Nuevo Herald* (co-chair)
- Josh Meyer, Medill National Security Initiative (co-chair)
- Sarah Cohen, Duke University
- Tom Fiedler, Boston University School of Journalism and Mass Communication
- Stephen Stock, KNTV-San Francisco

Local Committee Members

- Jean Buchanan, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*
- Margie Freivogel, *The Beacon*
- Brant Houston, University of Illinois
- David Hunn, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*
- Jennifer LaFleur, ProPublica
- Chris Nagus, KMOV-St. Louis

CONFERENCE ESSENTIALS

Atrium – 2nd Floor Conference Center

	Registration	Sales	Fundraising	Cyber Café
Wednesday	3-5 p.m.	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thursday	7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	7:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Friday	8 a.m.-5 p.m.	8 a.m.-5 p.m.	8 a.m.-5 p.m.	8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday	8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.	8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Sunday	Closed	8:30-10:30 a.m.	Closed	Closed

Reprints and Tipsheets

Stop by the 2nd Floor Atrium located in the Conference Center to pick up copies of some of the top investigative work in the country using computer-assisted techniques, along with extra tipsheets and panel handouts. If you have copies of stories to share, please contact an IRE staffer. Don't forget that all tipsheets will be available from IRE's website and the Resource Center a short time after the conference.

Demo Room (Missouri Pacific)

Drop by to check out informal discussions about the latest applications for CAR. Today's topics may be essential tools in the not-too-distant future. NICAR Database Library staff will be available throughout the conference to answer questions and demonstrate the many datasets IRE and NICAR make available to journalists.

Cyber Café

(Atrium - 2nd Floor Conference Center)

Computers are available to check your email on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Wireless Internet

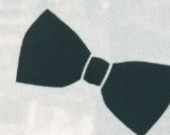
Wireless Internet is complimentary to all CAR conference attendees. Instructions on how to access the Internet will be provided onsite.

Philip Meyer Journalism Award Presentation

5:15-6:30 p.m., Friday – Regency A/B, located on the first floor in the Garden Section of the St. Louis Union Station Marriott

Join fellow CAR attendees for the presentation of the Philip Meyer Journalism Award at a reception with light hor d' oeuvres and a cash bar.

For more on the 2011 winners, see pp. 10-11.



Brown Bag with Media Lawyers

Sponsored by Smallman Law PLLC and IRE

12-1:50 p.m. Friday, New York Central
Here's your chance for informal Q&A about legal issues. Bring your "hypotheticals" and your own lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

IRE Hands-on Classes

Most classes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Pre-registration is required for the mini-boot camp, Build your first News App with Django and NewsCamp hands-on classes. No pre-registration is required for the other hands-on classes.

REMINDERS

Please set all cell phones to silent or vibrate while in sessions.
The speakers and fellow attendees will appreciate it.

Please fill out an evaluation.

Your feedback helps us plan future events that meet members' needs. After the conference you will receive an email with a link to complete an online evaluation of the conference. By completing this evaluation, you are entered into a drawing for free registration for the 2013 CAR Conference.

NewsCamp::

From words to data and back

Sponsored by Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute

This daylong workshop held Thursday, Feb. 23, will give you a practical understanding of how to approach information that comes in inconvenient, unstructured forms: tweets, emails, reports, videos and other records. You'll learn the basics of unstructured data analysis and tools you can use to lasso your records. Join us for NewsCamp, and you too can learn from the best in the business.

Whether you are a journalist with an interest but no technical background or an experienced developer or programmer, you'll walk away from NewsCamp with new knowledge and skills you can use right away.

Thursday's NewsCamp panel sessions are open to all attendees. NewsCamp's hands-on training, Music Lessons and Jam Sessions, are limited to pre-registered attendees only.

Tableau Public – Thursday

Hosted by Tableau Public

Tableau for Beginners (hands-on training)

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. - Grand Hall 1

Learn how to create beautiful, interactive data visualizations on short deadlines. No programming required.

You'll learn everything you need to build data visualizations and publish them to your website just like a video. We'll teach you how to:

- Connect to Excel files and other data
- Create maps and charts
- Format them beautifully
- Make them interactive

Tableau Public is a free tool for journalists. No previous experience with Tableau is necessary to take this class. Walk-ins are allowed until the class is full.

Tableau for Pros (hands-on training)

1:30-5:30 p.m. - Grand Hall 1

Take your data visualization skills to the next level. In this class we'll push Tableau's capabilities further to create more complex visualizations. You'll learn how to:

- Clean and format dirty data
- Use multiple data sources in the same visualization
- Build more advanced visualizations
- Employ advanced interactive elements

Tableau Public is a free tool for journalists. Class participants should have some experience with Tableau or have taken the morning beginner course. Walk-ins are allowed until the class is full.

Liberate the data with ScraperWiki

New York Central located
on the 2nd floor of the Conference Center

IRE and ScraperWiki are hosting a 12-hour data liberation marathon during the CAR Conference from 6 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 23, to 6 a.m. Friday, Feb. 24.

Join the experts from ScraperWiki in an overnight scraping fest. The group of data liberators who attend will choose which government data set to go after and then create a scraper to access the data. Everyone is welcome regardless of experience.

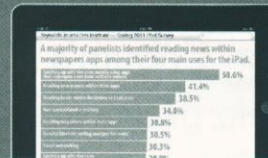
IDEAS - EXPERIMENTS - RESEARCH - SOLUTIONS

The Donald W. Reynolds Fellowship program provides an exciting opportunity to apply the most exciting new **ideas**, test them with real-world **experiments**, use social science **research** to assess their effectiveness and deliver **solutions** that citizens and journalists can put to use in their own communities.

Reynolds Fellowship



Research



RJI uses applied research for news organizations and companies that address marketplace, technology and communication innovation and opportunities. RJI also provides quality survey research services.

A testing venue for new journalism and advertising methods and technologies. The lab provides an environment where students, faculty and industry partners prototype journalism innovations for delivery to media audiences.

Futures Lab



rji donald w. reynolds journalism institute
Missouri School of Journalism rjionline.org

CONFERENCE ESSENTIALS

CAR Mini-Boot Camp

Kick start your data skills with IRE's Mini-Boot Camp. This series of hands-on classes will introduce you to **spreadsheets** and **databases** with IRE's proven techniques. IRE's current and past trainers will walk you through sorting, calculating and interviewing data. You'll come away with a solid base for using **data analysis** in your own newsroom. In addition, we'll provide you with our boot camp materials to help keep you on track long after you leave the conference. This option is limited to pre-registered attendees.

If you signed up for the CAR Mini-Boot Camp, you will be assigned to an orange or green team. (The orange or green dot on your nametag is a reminder). The orange team will attend hands-on classes in Grand Hall I; the green team meets in Grand Hall II. See items marked "CAR Mini-Boot Camp" in the schedule.

Build your first News App with Django

This workshop will walk you through the process of taking a dataset from raw data and turning it into a searchable online database using the **Python language** and the Django Web framework. This workshop is limited to pre-registered attendees. See items marked "Build your first News App with Django" in the schedule.

Tweet during the conference

Please use #nicar12 in your tweets so everyone can follow the latest news and observations. Stop by the registration desk to see the live tweets as they happen on our announcement monitor.

Free Reynolds Business Journalism Workshop

Attend a free workshop presented by the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism on Wednesday. The workshop, "Follow the Money – Tracking Companies' Influence on Politics," will feature Ron Nixon of *The New York Times* and Bill Allison of the Sunlight Foundation. They will help you find campaign contributions and lobbying expenditures by companies at the state and federal level, tie company spending on candidates or lobbying to legislative or regulatory actions, and find corporate contributions to independent groups. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. The workshop will be held from 1-5 p.m. in New York Central.

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The choice of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be based solely upon advertisements.

WEDNESDAY

New York Central

Follow the money - Tracking companies' influence on politics presented by the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism

- Bill Allison, Sunlight Foundation
- Ron Nixon, *The New York Times*

THURSDAY PANELS AND CLASSES

	New York Central	Illinois Central	Frisco/Burlington	Missouri Pacific (Demo Room)	Grand Hall 1	Wabash Cannonball	Jeffersonian/Knickerbocker
1-5 p.m.	Follow the money - Tracking companies' influence on politics presented by the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism						
8:30-8:50 a.m.			Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaimi Dowdell, IRE/NICAR • Mark Horvit, IRE/NICAR • Megan Luther, IRE/NICAR 				
9-9:50 a.m.	NewsCamp:: Text as data (Sponsored by Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noah Smith, Carnegie Mellon University 	Why learn programming: A reporter's perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tommy Kaas, Kaas & Mulvad • Ryan McNeill, <i>The Dallas Morning News</i> 	Getting started: Digging deep with data journalism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaimi Dowdell, IRE/NICAR • Rob O'Dell, <i>Arizona Daily Star</i> • Momi Peralta Ramos, <i>LA NACION</i> 		Grand Hall 1 Tableau Public (Hosted by Tableau Public) Tableau for Beginners		
10-10:50 a.m.	NewsCamp:: Investigating text in the wild (Sponsored by Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Cohen, Duke University 	Free tools for wrangling data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Doig, Arizona State University • Matt Stiles, NPR 	How to track cheating in your local schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Gillum, The Associated Press • Holly Hacker, <i>The Dallas Morning News</i> • John Perry, <i>The Atlanta Journal-Constitution</i> 	Bring your mapping dreams to fruition: Tricks to customize basic tools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Minkoff, The Associated Press 	9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.		
11-11:50 a.m.	NewsCamp:: Tools for unstructured text (Sponsored by Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loretta Auvil, National Center for Supercomputing Applications • Chase Davis, Center for Investigative Reporting 	Social media sleuthing: Backgrounding people and companies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doug Haddix, Kiplinger Program/ Ohio State University 	The art of requesting and negotiating for data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Hunn, <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i> • Jennifer LaFleur, ProPublica 	From your computer to the Web: Using Microsoft Cloud and Google Docs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coulter Jones, IRE/NICAR • Cheryl Phillips, <i>The Seattle Times</i> 			Jeffersonian/Knickerbocker NewsCamp::Jam Sessions Hands-on training (Sponsored by Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute) 11 a.m.-5:50 p.m. (pre-registered attendees only)
Noon	Lunch on your own						
2-2:50 p.m.	Network analysis for news <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Aldhous, <i>New Scientist</i> • Peggy Heinkel-Wolfe, <i>Denton Record Chronicle</i> 	Locating the story: The latest in mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Herzog, IRE/NICAR • Ben Welsh, <i>Los Angeles Times</i> 	Integrating CAR: Story ideas for the whole newsroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaimi Dowdell, IRE/NICAR • Mark Wert, <i>The Cincinnati Enquirer</i> 	CSVKit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony DeBarros, <i>USA Today</i> • Christopher Groskopf, PANDA 	Grand Hall 1 Tableau Public (Hosted by Tableau Public) Tableau for Pros	Wabash Cannonball NewsCamp::Music Lessons Hands-on training (Sponsored by Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute) 1:30-4:50 p.m. (pre-registered attendees only)	
3-3:50 p.m.	CAR on a shoestring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Crowe, Investigative NewsSource • Patrick Sweet, <i>The Citizens' Voice</i> • Mary Jo Webster, <i>St. Paul Pioneer Press</i> (moderator) 	Worth doing for money - turning good work into money <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chase Davis, Center for Investigative Reporting • Matt Wynn, <i>Omaha World-Herald</i> 	Health analyses for any newsroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Ornstein, ProPublica • Jeff Porter, Association of Health Care Journalists 	Data tables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christopher Schnaars, <i>USA Today</i> 	1:30-5:30 p.m.		
4-4:50 p.m.	Turning your stories into a tablet/phone app <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel Lathrop, <i>The Dallas Morning News</i> • Will Sullivan, Lee Enterprises 	Free tools for Web scraping without programming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Keller, Madison.com • Michelle Minkoff, The Associated Press 	Data for business investigations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Taggart, OpenCorporates • Maurice Tamman, Thomson Reuters 	Get the most out of Google Fusion Tables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Shapley, Google 			
6 p.m.-6 a.m.	Liberate the data with ScraperWiki (New York Central)						

FRIDAY PANELS

	New York Central	Illinois Central	Frisco/Burlington	Missouri Pacific (Demo Room)
9-9:50 a.m.	Using data journalism to investigate the news <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin Bersett, <i>Belleville News-Democrat</i> Thomas Hargrove, Scripps Howard News Service Rob O'Dell, <i>Arizona Daily Star</i> 	Best visualization practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kat Downs, <i>The Washington Post</i> 	Year in CAR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mark Horvit, IRE/NICAR Megan Luther, IRE/NICAR 	PowerPivot and NodeXL: This is not your father's Excel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peter Aldhous, <i>New Scientist</i> Tom Torok, <i>The New York Times</i>
10-10:50 a.m.	How to edit a story made of software <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scott Klein, ProPublica Aron Pilhofer, <i>The New York Times</i> 	Free tools for data visualization and analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharon Machlis, <i>Computerworld</i> Cheryl Phillips, <i>The Seattle Times</i> 	Hidden databases: Mining the private parts of public officials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ryann Grochowski, <i>Investigative Newsource</i> Russ Ptacek, <i>KSHB-Kansas City</i> 	Making friends with map projections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Corey, <i>Center for Investigative Reporting</i> Ben Welsh, <i>Los Angeles Times</i>
11-11:50 a.m.	What you need (and don't need) to do an election night map <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Keefe, WNYC Al Shaw, ProPublica Scott Klein, ProPublica (moderator) 	Latest trends in open records battles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wendell Cochran, <i>American University</i> Mark Sableman, <i>Thompson Coburn</i> David Smallman, <i>Smallman Law PLLC</i> 	OK, but where did that data come from? Data validation in the digital age <ul style="list-style-type: none"> J.T. Johnson, <i>Institute for Analytic Journalism</i> Cheryl Phillips, <i>The Seattle Times</i> 	Web scraping with Google Docs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acton Gorton, <i>University of Illinois</i> Sean Sposito, <i>American Banker</i>
Noon	Media Lawyers Brown Bag (Sponsored by Smallman Law PLLC and IRE)	Lunch on your own		
2-2:50 p.m.	What to do when there is no data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helena Bengtsson, <i>Sveriges Television</i> Jennifer LaFleur, ProPublica 	Collaborating with data: Challenges and payoffs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin Crowe, <i>Investigative Newsource</i> Tom Detzel, ProPublica Brant Houston, <i>University of Illinois (moderator)</i> 	Crime analyses for any newsroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeremy Kohler, <i>St. Louis Post-Dispatch</i> Doug Smith, <i>Los Angeles Times</i> 	PANDA Project show & tell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brian Boyer, <i>Chicago Tribune</i> Christopher Groskopf, <i>PANDA</i>
3-3:50 p.m.	Capturing and analyzing Twitter feeds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alastair Dant, <i>The Guardian</i> Daniel Lathrop, <i>The Dallas Morning News</i> 	Making sure you tell a story <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anthony DeBarros, <i>USA Today</i> Ron Nixon, <i>The New York Times</i> Ben Welsh, <i>Los Angeles Times</i> 	Failing government monopolies and looming alternatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brad Guilmino, <i>HNTB Corporation</i> Paul Overberg, <i>USA Today</i> 	Reporters' Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tyler Dukes, <i>Reporters' Lab</i> Charlie Szymanski, <i>Reporters' Lab</i>
4-4:50 p.m.	The Web as an investigative tool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaimi Dowdell, IRE/NICAR Mark Horvit, IRE/NICAR 	Lightning Talks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Derek Willis, <i>The New York Times (moderator)</i> 	Editing the CAR story <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manny Garcia, <i>El Nuevo Herald/Miami Herald</i> Mike Williams, <i>Thomson Reuters</i> 	Mining federal contract data with the Federal Procurement Data System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mike Fabey, <i>Aviation Week</i> Yang Wang, <i>Houston Chronicle</i>
5:15-6:30 p.m.	Philip Meyer Journalism Award Presentation & Reception Regency A/B, located in the Garden Section of the St. Louis Union Station Marriot			

FRIDAY CLASSES

Grand Hall 1	Grand Hall 2	Grand Hall 3	Wabash Cannonball	Jeffersonian/ Knickerbocker
Intro to Google Fusion Tables • Ryan Murphy, <i>Texas Tribune</i> • Matt Stiles, NPR 24	Introduction to SPSS • Ron Campbell, <i>The Orange County Register</i>	Fundamentals of programming in Python • Jeremy Bowers, <i>The Washington Post</i> • Serdar Tumgoren, <i>The Washington Post</i> 34	Excel 1 • Joe Kokenge, ProPublica	Intro to SQLite • Troy Thibodeaux, <i>The Associated Press</i> 12
Advanced Google Fusion Tables • Adam Playford, <i>The Palm Beach Post</i> • Rebecca Shapley, Google 24	SPSS: Basic linear regression • Ken McCall, <i>Dayton Daily News</i>	Fundamentals of programming in Python (cont'd) • Jeremy Bowers, <i>The Washington Post</i> • Serdar Tumgoren, <i>The Washington Post</i> 30	Excel 2 • Aaron Kessler, 100 Reporters	Intro to Simile Exhibit • David Karger, MIT 13
Network analysis with NodeXL • Peter Aldhous, <i>New Scientist</i>	Using logistic regression • Jennifer LaFleur, ProPublica	Intro to MySQL • Alex Richards, <i>Chronicle of Higher Education</i> 26	Excel 3 • Rich Exner, <i>The Plain Dealer</i>	

Mini-Boot Camp - Orange (pre-registered attendees only) • Brant Houston, University of Illinois	Mini-Boot Camp - Green (pre-registered attendees only) • Jaimi Dowdell, IRE/NICAR	Build your first News App with Django (pre-registered attendees only) 18	Access 1 • Matt Carroll, <i>The Boston Globe</i>	Google Refine • Dan Nguyen, ProPublica 38
Mini-Boot Camp - Orange (pre-registered attendees only) • Jennifer LaFleur, ProPublica	Mini-Boot Camp - Green (pre-registered attendees only) • David Donald, Center for Public Integrity	Build your first News App with Django (pre-registered attendees only)	Access 2 • Doug Haddix, Kiplinger Program/Ohio State University	Advanced functions in Excel • Mary Jo Webster, <i>St. Paul Pioneer Press</i> 26
Mini-Boot Camp - Orange (pre-registered attendees only) • Megan Luther, IRE/NICAR	Mini-Boot Camp - Green (pre-registered attendees only) • Coulter Jones, IRE/NICAR	Build your first News App with Django (pre-registered attendees only)	Access 3 • Jo Craven McGinty, <i>The New York Times</i>	GeoCommons • Paul Monies, <i>USA Today</i> 15

Philip Meyer Journalism Award Presentation & Reception
 Regency A/B, located in the Garden Section
 of the St. Louis Union Station Marriot

SATURDAY PANELS

	New York Central	Illinois Central	Frisco/Burlington	Missouri Pacific (Demo Room)
9-9:50 a.m.	Own your own map stack: Open source maps from the ground up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Amico, NPR Brian Boyer, <i>Chicago Tribune</i> Matt Stiles, NPR 	Open gov – New data available from the transparency movement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex Howard, O'Reilly Media Abhi Nemani, Code for America Chris Taggart, OpenCorporates David Herzog, IRE/NICAR (moderator) 	Tracking social media and turning it into investigations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brant Houston, University of Illinois Nils Mulvad, Kaas & Mulvad 	Getting started with GitHub <ul style="list-style-type: none"> James Wilkerson, <i>The Washington Post</i>
10-10:50 a.m.	The ins and outs of internal APIs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anthony DeBarros, <i>USA Today</i> Christopher Groskopf, PANDA John Keefe, WNYC James Wilkerson, <i>The Washington Post</i> (moderator) 	Unsession: What we should be teaching the next generation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Doig, Arizona State University (moderator) 	Federal stats for local stories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ron Nixon, <i>The New York Times</i> Gavin Off, <i>The Charlotte Observer</i> 	Navigating the storm: Using data to bolster the traditional weather story <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephen Stirling, <i>The Star-Ledger</i>
11-11:50 a.m.	Rapid fire future – quick talks on what's on the horizon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matt Waite, University of Nebraska (moderator) 	Lockdown – Make sure your information is secure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Doig, Arizona State University Jacob Harris, <i>The New York Times</i> 	Government CAR for any newsroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim Miller, <i>The Press Enterprise</i> Mc Nelly Torres, Florida Center for Investigative Reporting 	Dealing with real-time data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alastair Dant, <i>The Guardian</i>
Noon	Lunch on your own			
2-2:50 p.m.	Creative uses of Web scraping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francis Irving, ScraperWiki Dan Nguyen, ProPublica 	What we can find out about elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aaron Bycoffe, <i>Huffington Post</i> Jeremy Dunck, <i>Votizen.com</i> Derek Willis, <i>The New York Times</i> 	Integrating CAR into a daily beat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Megan Luther, IRE/NICAR Kate Martin, <i>Skagit Valley Herald</i> 	Map graphics for video <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael Corey, Center for Investigative Reporting
3-3:50 p.m.	Automation and free text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reg Chua, Thomson Reuters Jonathan Stray, The Associated Press 	Predicting the news: Tell your readers what will happen, before it happens <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Jo Webster, <i>St. Paul Pioneer Press</i> Matt Wynn, <i>Omaha World-Herald</i> 	Mining data around the globe <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helena Bengtsson, Sveriges Television Andy Lehren, <i>The New York Times</i> Nils Mulvad, Kaas & Mulvad 	Hacking the Census <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Overberg, <i>USA Today</i> (moderator)
4-4:50 p.m.	When data visualization does the heavy lifting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Bones, <i>Verdens Gang</i> Ken Schwencke, <i>Los Angeles Times</i> 	Getting to yes: Battling data price tag inflation and other roadblocks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ryan McNeill, <i>The Dallas Morning News</i> Mary Jo Webster, <i>St. Paul Pioneer Press</i> 	Environmental analyses for any newsroom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elizabeth Lucas, Center for Public Integrity 	Hacking the Census (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Overberg, <i>USA Today</i> (moderator)

SUNDAY PANELS AND CLASSES

	New York Central	Illinois Central	Grand Hall 1	Grand Hall 3
9-9:50 a.m.	Mining the web for data and stories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaimi Dowdell, IRE/NICAR 	Data U: The databases you need to cover higher ed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Holly Hacker, <i>The Dallas Morning News</i> Alex Richards, <i>Chronicle of Higher Education</i> 	Mini-Boot Camp - combined Orange/Green (pre-registered attendees only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coulter Jones, IRE/NICAR 	Webscraping/data munging hackathon with Python <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeremy Bowers, <i>The Washington Post</i> Serdar Tumgoren, <i>The Washington Post</i>
10-10:50 a.m.	Storyboarding your ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sarah Cohen, Duke University Brant Houston, University of Illinois 	A Day in the Life of a News App: An intro to Internet infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ted Han, DocumentCloud Jeff Larson, ProPublica 	Mini-Boot Camp - combined Orange/Green (pre-registered attendees only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jaimi Dowdell, IRE/NICAR Jennifer LaFleur, ProPublica 	Webscraping/data munging hackathon with Python (cont'd) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jeremy Bowers, <i>The Washington Post</i> Serdar Tumgoren, <i>The Washington Post</i>

SATURDAY CLASSES

Grand Hall 1	Grand Hall 2	Grand Hall 3	Wabash Cannonball	Jeffersonian/ Knickerbocker
RegEx to the rescue • Troy Thibodeaux, The Associated Press 11		Intro to QGIS • Mike Corey, Center for Investigative Reporting 24	Web scraping without programming • Chris Keller, Madison.com • Michelle Minkoff, The Associated Press 24	Intro to SQL with Access • Jaimi Dowdell, IRE/NICAR
American FactFinder2 • Ron Campbell, <i>The Orange County Register</i>	Intro to R • Jacob Fenton, Sunlight Foundation 22	QGIS2 • Mike Corey, Center for Investigative Reporting 23	Getting data into Excel: From PDF to HTML • Matt Wynn, <i>Omaha World-Herald</i> 27	Intro to SQL with Access (cont'd) • Jaimi Dowdell, IRE/NICAR
Census.ire.org • Joe Germuska, <i>Chicago Tribune</i>	Web scraping • Mark Ng, Reynolds Center for Business Journalism 25	TileMill • Chris Amico, NPR • Brian Boyer, <i>Chicago Tribune</i> • Matt Stiles, NPR 33	PowerPivot • Tom Torok, <i>The New York Times</i> 30	CAR wash 1: How dirty is it? • Jennifer LaFleur, ProPublica
Lunch on your own				
Mini-Boot Camp - Orange (pre-registered attendees only) • David Herzog, IRE/NICAR	Mini-Boot Camp - Green (pre-registered attendees only) • Jaimi Dowdell, IRE/NICAR	Build your first News App with Django (pre-registered attendees only)	Displaying data geographically with ArcView • Tom Meagher, <i>The Star-Ledger</i>	CAR wash 2: Cleaning • Jennifer LaFleur, ProPublica 27
Mini-Boot Camp - Orange (pre-registered attendees only) • Jennifer LaFleur, ProPublica	Mini-Boot Camp - Green (pre-registered attendees only) • David Donald, Center for Public Integrity	Build your first News App with Django (pre-registered attendees only)	Importing and selecting data by attribute with ArcView • Janet Roberts, Thomson Reuters	Web inspector • Dan Nguyen, ProPublica 23
Mini-Boot Camp - Orange (pre-registered attendees only) • Megan Luther, IRE/NICAR	Mini-Boot Camp - Green (pre-registered attendees only) • Ron Nixon, <i>The New York Times</i>	Build your first News App with Django (pre-registered attendees only)	Geocoding to merge databases with addresses into maps with ArcView • Andy Lehren, <i>The New York Times</i>	PANDA Project provisioning party • Brian Boyer, <i>Chicago Tribune</i> • Christopher Groskopf, PANDA

Watchdog Workshops

The Watchdog Workshop series brings affordable training to cities around the United States. Use the schedule to find a session near you, or contact IRE if you're interested in bringing one to your area. IRE's staff teams up with veteran journalists to lead the training.

Upcoming Workshops

- March 3-4: Spokane, WA
- March 3-4: Stillwater, OK
- March 10-11: New Haven, CT
- April 13-14: Los Angeles, CA
- April 13: Chattanooga, TN

Philip Meyer Journalism Award Investigative Reporters and Editors announces winners of 2011 Philip Meyer Award.

Three major investigative reports that used social science research methods to: expose serial killings, shine a light on school cheating, and reveal truths about the home foreclosure crisis were named as winners.

First place is awarded to "Murder Mysteries" by Thomas Hargrove of Scripps Howard News Service. The series resulted in what experts say is the most complete database available of unsolved murders. Hargrove developed a unique algorithm to identify the likely traces of serial murders. Police in at least eight cities have acknowledged that the clusters found by Hargrove are either confirmed serial cases or are likely to be such.

Second place is awarded to "Testing the System," by Marisol Bello, Jack Gillum, Linda Mathews, Greg Toppo, Jodi Upton and Dennis Cauchon of *USA Today*; Denise Amos of the *Cincinnati Enquirer*; Chastity Pratt Dawsey, Peggy Walsh-Sarnecki and Kristi Tanner-White of the *Detroit Free Press*; and Anne Ryman of *The Arizona Republic*. Taking their analysis to a national level, the project examined the chronic problem of schools that cheat on standardized tests. The series has prompted a federal Department of Education investigation into the testing practices of D.C. schools and a tightening of the security around testing.

Third place is awarded to "Tale of Three Cities: Foreclosures Don't Always Follow the Script" by Sanjay Bhatt of *The Seattle Times* and Jennifer LaFleur of ProPublica. The project challenged common stereotypes about home mortgage foreclosures by analyzing demographic and financial patterns of foreclosures in three cities.

The Meyer Award recognizes the best uses of social science methods in journalism. The awards will be presented on Feb 24 in St. Louis, at the 2012 Computer-Assisted Reporting Conference. The first-place winner will receive \$500; second- and third-place winners will receive \$300 and \$200, respectively.

The award is administered by the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting (a joint program of Investigative Reporters and Editors and the Missouri School of Journalism) and the Knight chair in journalism at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

The Meyer Award honors Philip Meyer, professor emeritus and former Knight chair of journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Meyer is the author of "Precision Journalism," the seminal 1973 book that encouraged journalists to incorporate social science methods in the pursuit of better journalism. As a reporter, he also pioneered the use of survey research for Knight-Ridder newspapers while exploring the causes of race riots in the 1960s.

Knight-Risser PRIZE

for Western Environmental Journalism

The **Knight-Risser Prize for Western Environmental Journalism** recognizes excellence in reporting on environmental issues and stories in the North American West — from Canada through the United States to Mexico.

Deadline
for entries:
MARCH 15, 2012

http://knightrisser.stanford.edu/eligibility_guidelines.html

Sponsored by the John S. Knight Journalism Fellowships and the Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford.

The **prize** is open to print, broadcast and online journalists, staffers and freelancers.

The **\$5,000 prize** is awarded at the annual **Knight-Risser Prize Symposium at Stanford University**. The symposium brings together journalists, researchers, policymakers, advocates, students, and the public to explore new ways to ensure that probing, creative, moving environmental journalism continues to thrive in a rapidly evolving journalism landscape. The panel of judges for the prize includes journalists, scholars and scientists actively working in the American West.

Here are details on the winners of the 2011 Meyer Award:

FIRST PLACE

“Murder Mysteries,” Scripps Howard News Service
Staff: Thomas Hargrove

The Scripps Howard News Service “Murder Mysteries” series is a sterling example of the power of precision journalism to find revealing patterns in data. Thomas Hargrove began the project by wondering if the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Report could be used to detect the work of serial killers among the nation’s more than 185,000 unsolved murders. He first discovered that local police failed to report thousands of murders to the FBI and spent months using Freedom of Information laws to gather details of more than 15,000 unlogged murders across the country. After building what experts say is the most complete database of unsolved murders available, Hargrove developed a unique algorithm that used the statistical technique of cluster analysis to identify the likely traces of serial murders, as marked by victims of similar demographics killed by similar means. Police in at least eight cities have acknowledged that the clusters found by Hargrove are either confirmed serial cases or are likely to be such. The database was placed online so readers could do their own interactive analysis of local murders, and the entire dataset is available for anyone to download and explore. At least one armchair detective has used the data to find a cluster that police in his area agree is the work of a heretofore unacknowledged serial killer.

SECOND PLACE

“Testing the System,” USA Today
Staff: Marisol Bello, Jack Gillum, Linda Mathews, Greg Toppo, Jodi Upton and Dennis Cauchon, (USA Today); Denise Amos (Cincinnati Enquirer); Chastity Pratt Dawsey, Peggy Walsh-Sarnecki and Kristi Tanner-White (Detroit Free Press); Anne Ryman (The Arizona Republic)

USA Today’s “Testing the System” project examined the chronic problem of schools cheating on standardized tests. Taking their analysis to a national level, the team of reporters and database editors laboriously gathered and cleaned at least five years of test score data and answer-erasure rates for six states and the District of Columbia. Using linear regression and analysis of variance, schools with suspiciously huge gains in scores were identified as statistically unlikely outliers and used as leads for on-the-ground reporting. The series has prompted a federal Department of Education investigation into the testing practices of D.C. schools and a tightening of the security around testing.

THIRD PLACE

“Tale of Three Cities: Foreclosures Don’t Always Follow the Script,” The Seattle Times and ProPublica
Staff: Sanjay Bhatt (The Seattle Times); Jennifer LaFleur (ProPublica)

“Tale of Three Cities,” a joint project of *The Seattle Times* and ProPublica, challenged common stereotypes about home mortgage foreclosures by analyzing and comparing the demographic and financial patterns of foreclosures in three fundamentally different cities: Seattle, Baltimore and Phoenix. The reporters identified a randomly selected sample of 400 foreclosures from each of the cities, and then with considerable shoe-leather reporting gathered details for each case covering deeds, promissory notes, prior bankruptcies and the aftermath of the foreclosure. Analysis of the resulting database showed that, contrary to conventional wisdom, only about a quarter of foreclosure cases involved loans that could be considered as predatory, and that in more than half of the foreclosures, the homeowners were able to keep their homes after lenders agreed to loan modifications.

The judges for the Philip Meyer Award for Precision Journalism were:

Ira Chinoy, associate professor at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland and a former director of computer-assisted reporting of *The Washington Post*.

Sarah Cohen, Knight chair in computational journalism at Duke University and a former database editor of *The Washington Post*.

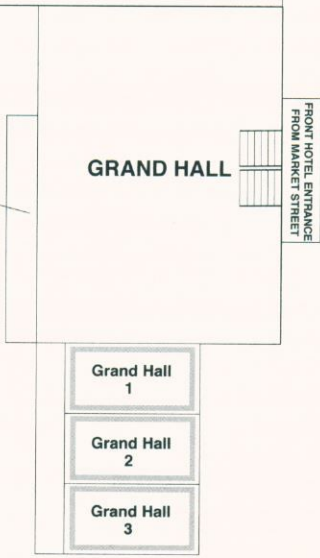
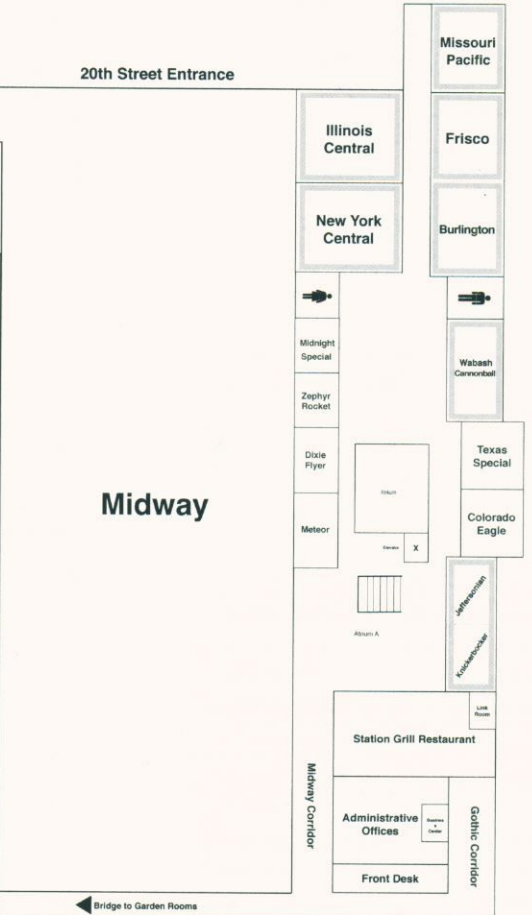
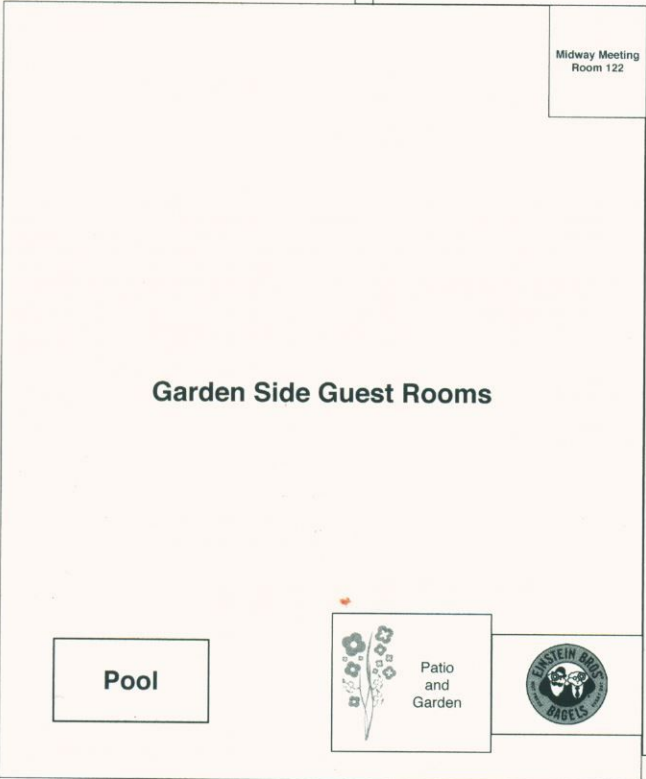
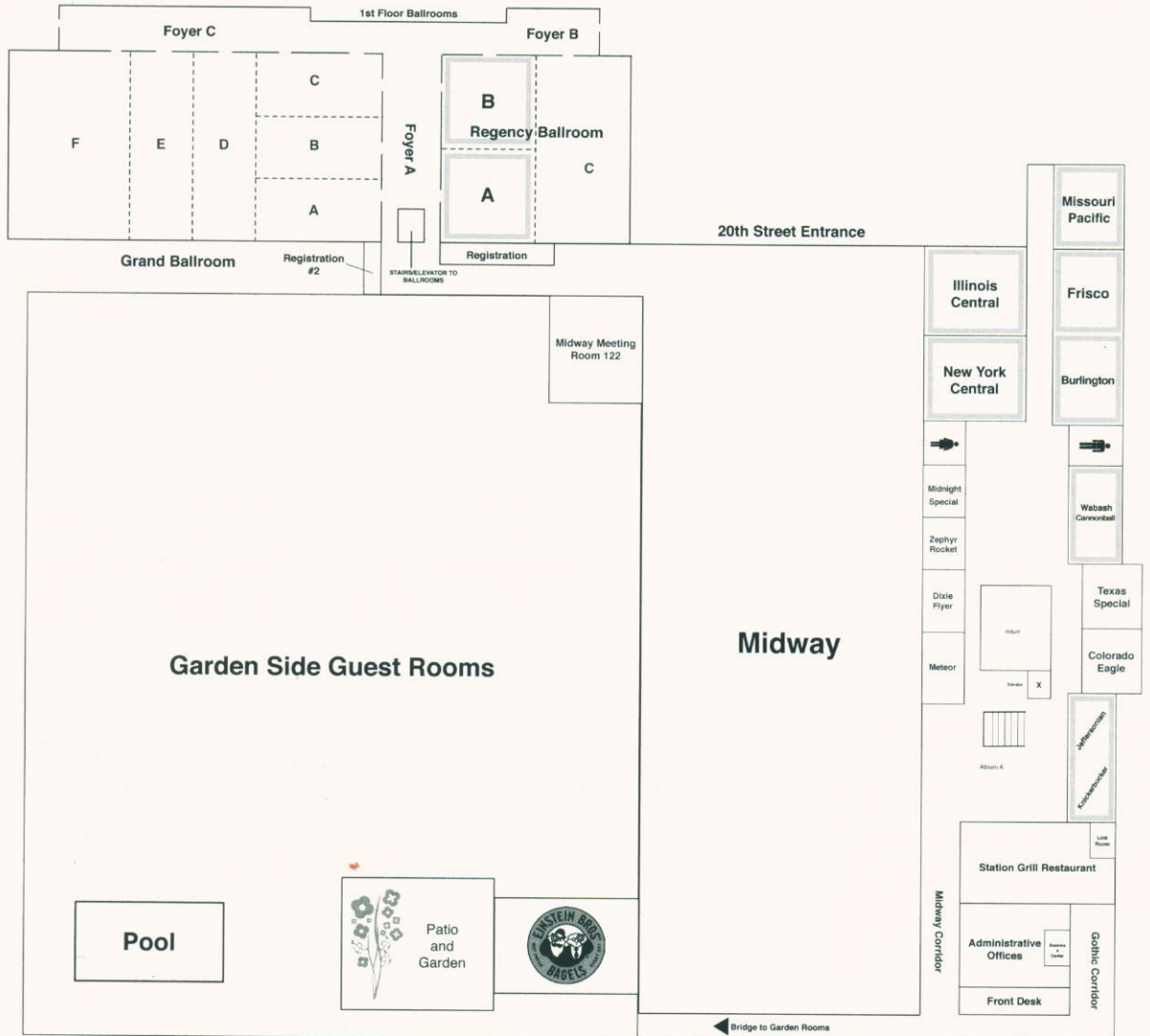
Steve Doig, Knight chair in computer-assisted reporting at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication of Arizona State University and a former research editor of *The Miami Herald*.

Brant Houston, Knight chair in investigative reporting at the University of Illinois and the former executive director of Investigative Reporters and Editors.

Cynthia M. Taeuber, principal of CMTaeuber & Associates, a former research associate at the University of Baltimore, and retired from the U.S. Census Bureau, where she focused on policy uses of the decennial census and the American Community Survey.

The Philip Meyer Journalism Award follows the rules of the IRE Awards in its efforts to avoid conflicts of interest. Work that included any significant role by a member of the IRE Board of Directors or by a Meyer Award contest judge may not be entered in the contest. This often represents a significant sacrifice on the part of the individual — and sometimes an entire newsroom. The IRE membership appreciates this devotion to the values of the organization.

HOTEL MAP AND DINNING GUIDE



Marriott
ST. LOUIS UNION STATION

Restaurants in Walking Distance:

Union Station:

- **Station Grille Restaurant in the Hotel**
- **Landry's Seafood Restaurant**
- **Hard Rock Café**
- **Food Court**

• Lombardo's Trattoria

201 S. 20th St. (p) 314-621-0666

www.saintlouisdining.com/lombardos

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-10 p.m.

Pastas, hand-cut steaks, veal, chicken and fresh seafood. Three-Star Mobil Travel Guide Award. Reservations recommended. Closed Sat. lunch and Sun.

• Harry's Restaurant & Bar

2144 Market St. (p) 314-421-6969

www.harrysrestaurantandbar.com

Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. & 5-11 p.m.; Fri., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. & 5 p.m.-midnight; Sat., 5 p.m.-midnight.

Innovative American cuisine and an extensive wine list. Reservations highly recommended. Enjoy an award-winning view and elegant atmosphere.

• Maggie Obrien's

2100 Market St. (p) 314-421-1388

www.maggiobriens.com

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 11-3 a.m.

Irish Pub

Short ride away:

• Eleven Eleven Mississippi

1111 Mississippi Ave. (p) 314-241-9999

www.1111-m.com

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.;

Fri. 11 a.m.-midnight; Sat. 5 p.m.-midnight

Just minutes from downtown St. Louis, Eleven Eleven Mississippi offers a casual rustic yet upscale and trendy atmosphere. The creative use of space is accentuated by our open display kitchen where the oak fired brick oven takes center stage as well as a glass enclosed wine cellar designed to double as a private dining area.

• Sqwires

1415 South 18th St. (p) 314-865-3522

www.sqwires.com

Hours: Lunch Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m.;

Dinner Tues.-Sat. 5 p.m.;

Alacarte Brunch Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m.

Sqwires serves seasonal menus, fresh seafood and innovative menu items using the freshest seasonal ingredients. And don't forget our homemade dessert

• Broadway Oyster Bar

736 S. Broadway (p) 314-621-8811

www.broadwayoysterbar.com

Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-

1:30 a.m.; Fri. & Sat., 11 a.m.-3

a.m.; Sun., 11 a.m.-midnight.

Cajun-Creole and American delicacies as well as the freshest seafood available. Catch local and national bands nightly playing blues and R&B.

CESSA
VITAL RESOURCE RELEVANT IN-DEPTH FORUM
COMPELLING
CREDIBLE
LOCAL ENGAGE

As the largest news organization in the St. Louis area, we take our responsibility seriously. We care about our community and are committed to making a difference by living up to the journalistic standards embodied in the words above - each day and in every article.

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



stltoday.com

DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL DYNAM

• Charlie Gitto's Pasta House

207 N. Sixth St. (p) 314-436-2828

www.charliegittos.com

Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-10

p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

A legendary establishment since 1974. A popular lunch and dinner spot frequented by celebrities, sports figures and fans alike.

• Schlafly Tap Room

2100 Locust St. (p) 314-241-2337

www.schlafly.com

Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-10 p.m., (bars

until 1 a.m.); Fri. and Sat., 11 a.m.-midnight

(bars until 1 a.m.); Sun., noon-10 p.m.

Microbrewery and brewpub featuring handcrafted Schlafly beers brewed in sight. Traditional American and European dishes. Open 7 days. Free parking.

• BB's Jazz, Blues & Soups

700 S. Broadway (p) 314-436-5222

www.bbsjazzbluessoups.com

Hours: Mon.-Sun., 6 p.m.-3 a.m.

Nightclub restaurant specializing in St.

Louis-style cuisine with St. Louis and

national jazz and blues acts Sun.-Sat.

• Carmine's Steakhouse

20 S. Fourth St. (p) 314-241-1631

www.saintlouisdining.com/carminessteakhouse

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (Lunch);

Mon.-Thurs., 4:30-10 p.m. (Dinner);

Fri. & Sat., 4:30-11 p.m. (Dinner).

The newest addition to the downtown dining scene created by the Lombardo family. Aged Angus beef, fresh seafood and classic family recipes.

• Kemoll's Restaurant

One Metropolitan Square (p) 314-421-0555

www.kemolls.com

Hours: Mon.-Sat., 11 a.m.-2 p.m. & 5-9

p.m.; Sun., 5-8:30 p.m. A landmark

restaurant offering superb Italian dishes, steaks and seafood in an elegant atmosphere. Private parties. Reservations recommended. Open for lunch Mon.-Fri.; dinner daily after 5 p.m.

• Mike Shannon's Steaks & Seafood

620 Market St. (p) 314-421-1540

www.shannonsteak.com

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-11 p.m.;

Sat., 5-11 p.m.; Sun., 5-10 p.m.

Fine dining in sophisticated sports atmosphere for lunch and dinner. Named #1 Beef Restaurant in Metro area. Reservations recommended. Private dining facilities and catering available.

• Tony's Restaurant

410 Market St. (p) 314-231-7007

Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 5-11 p.m.;

Fri. & Sat., 5-11:30 p.m.

AAA Four Diamond award winner.

Mobil Four-Star award winner.

Award-winning wine list. Tableside

service. Fine dining at its best.

• 1860s Hard Shell Cafe & Bar

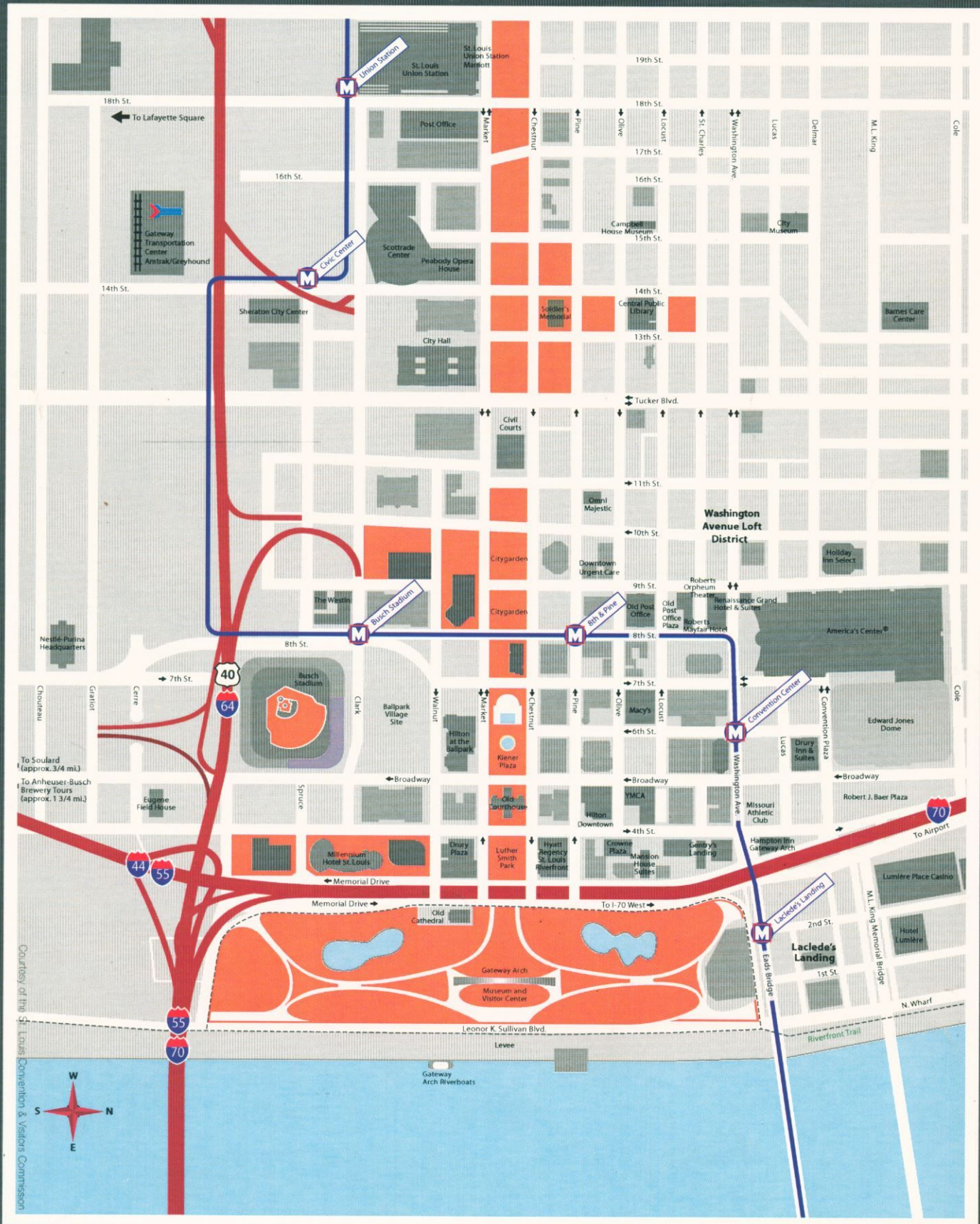
1860 S. Ninth St. (p) 314-231-1860

Hours: Sun.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-11 p.m.;

Fri. & Sat., 11 a.m.-12 a.m.

Catch the hottest sounds in town here. Live blues, rock and more, seven nights a week, plus Sat. from 2:30-6:30 p.m.

DOWNTOWN MAP



2012 CAR CONFERENCE SPEAKER BIOS

(Speakers were invited to include their Twitter handles if they use the social media service)

PETER ALDHOUS is San Francisco bureau chief with *New Scientist* magazine, reporting on biology, medicine, social sciences and the environment. He also teaches in the Science Writing Program at the University of California, Santa Cruz. At NICAR 2012 Peter will be talking about network analysis with NodeXL – and putting the tool through its paces to visualize voting patterns in the U.S. Senate.

BILL ALLISON is a senior fellow at the Sunlight Foundation. He worked for The Center for Public Integrity for nine years, where he co-authored “The Cheating of America” and was co-editor of *The New York Times* best-seller “The Buying of the President 2004.” He edited projects on topics including the role of arms smugglers and private military companies in failing states around the world and the rise of Section 527 organizations in American politics. He blogs at <http://realtime.sunlightprojects.org>.

CHRIS AMICO is a journalist and Web developer based in Washington, DC. Since February 2011 he's been application developer for NPR's StateImpact, where he's building a platform for local reporters covering issues that matter in their states. He also built the technology platform behind Homicide Watch DC, a site covering every murder in the nation's capital from crime to conviction. Before moving to NPR, he worked as the Interactive Editor for the PBS NewsHour, where he told stories with data and documents.

LORETTA AUUIL works at the Illinois Informatics Institute (I3) at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. She received a MS in Computer Science from Virginia Tech and a BS in Applied Mathematics and Computer Science from Alderson-Broadbent College. She has worked with a diverse set of application drivers to integrate machine learning and information visualization techniques to solve the needs of research partners. Previously she spent many years at NCSA on machine learning and information visualization projects and several years creating tools for visualizing performance data of parallel computer programs at Rome Laboratory and Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

HELENA BENGTTSSON is database editor for the CAR team at the News and Current Affairs Department at Sveriges Television, the national broadcasting company in Sweden. Since 1994, she has served as a researcher, assistant producer and projects editor with the company. During 2006-07, she was a database editor at the Center for Public Integrity in Washington, D.C. (@HelenaBengtsson) Website: svt.se/pej

KEVIN BERSETT is a St. Louis native, who currently reports for the *Belleville News-Democrat*. Berset started his career in Austin, Texas, where he helped establish and edit, the Austin Homeless Advocate. He spent the next four years writing for community, alternative and online publications in St. Louis, Costa Rica and the Czech Republic. From 2005 to 2010, Berset was a reporter and editor for the *Rio Grande SUN* in New Mexico.

JOHN BONES is a journalist at VG, Norway's most read daily newspaper. Bones has, for several years been the computer-assisted reporting specialist at the newspaper and has previously been news desk editor and political editor. He is educated in history, international politics, statistics and French. He has been a speaker and a trainer at the GLOBAL Conferences, at the national Conferences in Norway, Denmark, Belgium/Netherlands and at the European Data Journalism Network.

JEREMY BOWERS is a senior developer at the *Washington Post*. Previously, he worked for the *St. Petersburg Times* and *PolitiFact.com*. (@jeremybowers) Website: www.jeremybowers.com

BRIAN BOYER is news applications editor at *Chicago Tribune*. He runs projects, designs products, edits news applications and occasionally even writes code. He loves his job. Twitter: (@brianboyer) Website: apps.chicagotribune.com

AARON BYCOFFE is an interactive news developer at The Huffington Post. He was previously a developer at the Sunlight Foundation, the *Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk, Va., and the *Daily Press* in Newport News, Va. Prior to shifting into programming, Aaron was a copy editor.

DAVID CABO – M.Sc. Software Engineering, B.Sc. Psychology – is an organizer of AbreDatos, the biggest Open Data hackathon in Spain. He created dondevanmisimpuestos.es, a visualization of public administrations' budgets (with OKFN), and the EU access to information site AsktheEU.org (with Access Info). David launched the crowdsourcing of Spanish parliamentarians' financial disclosure reports, and collaborated with investigative journalists (ICIJ) in the extraction and analysis of public records. Currently building tuderechoasaber.es, an FOI site for Spain crowdfunded by 150+ people.

MAR CABRA is a Spanish multimedia investigative reporter working with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. She is a former Fulbright Scholar and Columbia Journalism School graduate. For the past year she has investigated the power of the fishing industry in Europe and South America. Her previous projects include the overmedication of foster children and student lending in the U.S. She's now focusing her attention on the data journalism movement and advocating for transparency in Spain.

RON CAMPBELL is a staff writer for *The Orange County Register*. He began his journalism career at the (Fairfield, Calif.) *Daily Republic* and later reported for *The Bakersfield Californian*. In addition to his once-a-decade census assignments he founded the paper's computer-assisted reporting program and has covered immigration, fraud, charity, campaign finance and the trade in human body parts. (@rcampbell_ocr)

MATT CARROLL is a database reporter for *The Boston Globe*. He was a member of the Spotlight team, which won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its coverage of the Catholic priest sexual abuse crisis. (@GlobeMattC)

REG CHUA is Editor, Data and Innovation, at Thomson Reuters, where he leads development of computer-assisted reporting and newsroom technology capabilities. Before joining Reuters last April, he was Editor-in-Chief of the *South China Morning Post*; he's also worked for *The Wall Street Journal* in New York, Hong Kong, Hanoi and Manila and previously for Reuters in Singapore.

WENDELL COCHRAN is an associate professor at the American University School of Communication, where he teaches computer-assisted journalism and journalism ethics. He also is the founding senior editor of the school's Investigative Reporting Workshop, where he oversees BankTracker. Previously, Cochran spent more than 25 years in daily journalism. He has won the John Hancock Award for Excellence in Business and Economic Journalism, the Amos Tuck Award for Economic Understanding and the National Headliners Award. He is a former IRE board member. (@wcochrn)

SARAH COHEN is the Knight Chair at Duke University and a member of IRE's board of directors. At Duke, she runs the Reporters' Lab, a project aimed at adapting, creating and curating new tools, methods and techniques for investigative reporters. Prior to joining Duke in 2009, she was a database editor at the *Washington Post*, where her work earned the Pulitzer Prize in investigative reporting, the IRE medal and the Goldsmith Prize. She's worked as a beat reporter in Florida and as IRE's training director.

MICHAEL COREY is the digital innovations editor at the Center for Investigative Reporting in Berkeley, Calif. He specializes in interactive mapping, user interface design, and front-end development. Michael was formerly the digital projects editor at *DesMoinesRegister.com*, where his work received several national awards. (@mikejcorey)

JO CRAVEN MCGINTY is a projects editor for CAR at *The New York Times*. She has been a reporter for *Newsday*, an academic adviser to IRE and NICAR and she taught CAR at the Missouri School of Journalism. She is author of an IRE beat book, “Home Mortgage Lending: How to Detect Disparities,” and won the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for public service with a team of reporters from the *Washington Post* for its series about the use of deadly force by police. She has been a reporter at *The (Burlington, N.C.) Times-News*, and a reporter and editor at *The Durham (N.C.) Sun*, *The (Durham, N.C.) Herald-Sun* and *The Raleigh (N.C.) Extra*.

2012 CAR CONFERENCE SPEAKER BIOS

KEVIN CROWE is a CAR specialist for Investigative Newsource in San Diego. He has worked on projects covering the whooping cough epidemic in California, water infrastructure, municipal expenditures on claims and lawsuits and air safety in and around San Diego. Prior to joining Investigative Newsource, he worked for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, reporting on campaign finance, phantom real estate buyers and local government spending. (@kcrowebasspro)

ALASTAIR DANT leads the interactive technology team at Guardian News & Media. His award-winning work includes visualizing the Wikileaks war logs, inventing one of Steve Jobs' favorite iPad apps and playing ball with Twitter. In previous lives he built everything from real estate search engines to pet monster games. It's fair to say he likes the itchy rush of coffee-drenched deadlines. His team is currently working on cross-platform content based on real-time data, open source toolkits and Iron Man style body suits that will enable cyber-editors to conduct the newsrooms of the future. (@ajdant) Website: www.guardian.co.uk/profile/alastair-dant

CHASE DAVIS is the director of technology for the Center for Investigative Reporting, where he leads the organization's news applications and CAR team. Previously, he worked as an investigative reporter at California Watch, *The Des Moines Register* and the *Houston Chronicle*. He is also the co-founder of media-technology firm Hot Type Consulting. Chase is a graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism.

ANTHONY DeBARROS is senior database editor at *USA Today*, leading a team that mines data for stories. Last year, his work included writing code to handle Census 2010 and helping lead the relaunch of the *USA Today* Best-Selling Books list Web app. Before *USA Today*, he worked at the *Poughkeepsie* (N.Y.) *Journal* and WPDH-FM and taught journalism at Marist College. His reporting has won awards from the Education Writers Association, Missouri School of Journalism and The Associated Press.

PAM DEMPSEY covers social and economic issues in Central Illinois for CU-CitizenAccess.org, an investigative and enterprise community online news and information project based at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is also the project coordinator for the Investigative Journalism Education Consortium, a network of journalism faculty and students at Midwest universities and colleges funded by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation in Chicago. (@pamelagdempsey) Website: www.cu-citizenaccess.org / www.ijec.org

TOM DETZEL is a senior editor at ProPublica and has collaborated on investigative projects with more than two dozen news organizations.

STEPHEN K. DOIG holds the Knight Chair in Journalism, specializing in computer-assisted reporting, at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism & Mass Communication of Arizona State University. Before joining ASU in 1996, he was Associate Editor/Research of *The Miami Herald*. Data projects on which he has worked have won the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, the IRE Award, the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting, and the George Polk Award. He is a former IRE board member and coordinator of the annual Philip Meyer Award for Precision Journalism. (@sdoig)

DAVID DONALD leads the data team at the Center for Public Integrity in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the Center in 2008, he served as training director at Investigative Reporters and Editors and the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting for five years. Donald also spent 11 years at the *Savannah Morning News* in Georgia where he was research and projects editor. His work has been awarded the James K. Batten Award, a Peabody, the Dart Award, a Philip Meyer Award and a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award. He holds a master's degree in journalism from Kent State University and earned a media management fellowship at the Poynter Institute in 1991.

JAIMI DOWDELL joined IRE as training director in October 2008. Before that she was computer-assisted reporting editor at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* for more than three years. In addition to her work at the *Post-Dispatch*, she taught a CAR course for Washington University in St. Louis. Previously she worked at IRE and NICAR in the Database Library and Resource Center while completing her master's degree at the University of Missouri. Email: jaimi@ire.org (@JaimiDowdell)

KAT DOWNS is an information designer based in Washington, D.C. She works for the *Washington Post*, where she creates data-driven graphics and multimedia pieces that feature powerful storytelling and strong interaction design.

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RICH EXNER is *The* (Cleveland) *Plain Dealer's* data analysis editor, working with all departments of the paper to develop stories for print and online, implement interactive maps and databases online, provide maps for the graphics department, and teach computer skills. He previously was a copy editor, reporter and assistant metro editor at the paper, the Cleveland bureau manager and Ohio state editor for UPI. (@RichExner) blog: cleveland.comdatacentral

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MANNY GARCIA is the executive editor of *El Nuevo Herald*. He is a former metro editor, special projects editor, courts and cops editor and member of *The Miami Herald's* I-team. Garcia was a key reporter and writer in *The Herald's* 1999 and 2002 Pulitzer Prize-winning investigations. He and Jason Grotto shared a 2004 IRE Award for their project "Justice Withheld." Garcia has done numerous seminars about journalism. Garcia is president of IRE's Board of Directors.

JOE GERMUSKA is a news application developer for the *Chicago Tribune*, where he brings nearly 20 years of Web development experience to a team which fosters innovation in investigation and publishing. Before coming to the *Tribune*, Joe led the software development team at an interactive marketing agency in Chicago. He began his career in Northwestern University's Instructional Technology Group working with faculty in much the same way he now works with journalists. (@JoeGermuska) Also, our team blog is <http://blog.apps.chicagotribune.com>

JACK GILLUM is an investigative reporter at The Associated Press, where he focuses on money in politics ahead of the presidential election. Previously, he was a database editor at *USA Today*, where he pursued data-driven investigations on standardized test cheating, college athletics and border crime. He has also reported for the *Arizona Daily Star* in Tucson, his hometown.

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CHRISTOPHER GROSKOPF is the lead developer on the PANDA Project and an alumni of the *Chicago Tribune's* News Applications Team. He is also the provocateur behind the Hack Tyler project and the maintainer of many open source packages, including csvkit and django-boundaryservice. He lives in Tyler, Texas. (@onyxfish)

BRAD GUILMINO serves as HNTB's Chief Financial Consultant and provides specialized financial expertise in the development of financial plans and capital market debt strategies to assist clients in implementing and funding capital projects. Brad has experience with a wide range of public transportation agencies and has specific expertise with project finance, tolling, revenue and sales tax bonding, federal programs and P3 projects. Before joining HNTB, Mr. Guilmino worked as an investment banker for Citigroup in their infrastructure and transportation group.

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THOMAS HARGROVE has been a national correspondent specializing in quantified research at Scripps Howard News Service since 1996. He also co-founded the Scripps Survey Research Center at Ohio University. Hargrove developed an algorithm to identify serial homicides in FBI computer files and challenged the accuracy of tens of thousands of SIDS death diagnoses among CDC infant mortality files. Both projects took top honors in the Philip Meyer Journalism Award for 2008 and 2011.

JACOB HARRIS is a senior software architect at *The New York Times* and one of the founding members of the interactive newsroom technologies team there. He builds newsroom tools with Ruby on Rails, although he has earned the occasional byline. (@harrisj)

PEGGY HEINKEL-WOLFE has been a staff writer with the *Denton Record-Chronicle*, a small-market daily, since 2005. She reports on a variety of stories and topics – from election irregularities and special taxing districts to shale gas drilling and production – that affect Denton and the surrounding communities. She has a master's degree in journalism from the University of North Texas and through the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Conference manuscript prize had her book, "See Sam Run," published in 2008.

DAVID HERZOG is an associate professor at the Missouri School of Journalism, where he teaches CAR. He serves as the academic adviser to NICAR and is managing editor of *Uplink*, the institute's newsletter. As a fellow at the Reynolds Journalism Institute, he launched OpenMissouri.org, where journalists and citizens can find, request and share state and local government data. He has been an investigative reporter for *The Providence Journal* in Rhode Island and the computer-assisted reporting editor at *The Morning Call* in Allentown, Pa. Email: dherzog@ire.org (@davidherzo)

DANIEL HOM joined Tableau a year ago as a Data Analyst tasked to find data that tell great stories, primarily in the financial industry. His role is to champion Tableau Public by creating visualizations for the Web and cultivating a community of users to do the same. He has a multimedia journalism background and loves talking to others who dream of numbers and stories at night.

MARK HORVIT is executive director of IRE. He oversees training, conferences and services for more than 4,300 members worldwide, and for programs including NICAR and DocumentCloud. Horvit also is an associate professor at the Missouri School of Journalism, where he teaches investigative reporting. He serves as a member of the board of directors of the National Freedom of Information Coalition. Horvit most recently served as projects editor at the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. (@markhorvit)

BRANT HOUSTON is the Knight Chair in Investigative Reporting at the University of Illinois where he teaches investigative and computer-assisted reporting, and oversees an online newsroom that does enterprise journalism in central Illinois. He is co-author of "The Investigative Reporter's Handbook" and author of "Computer-Assisted Reporting: A Practical Guide". Houston is chair of the board of directors of the Investigative News Network and a co-founder of the Global Investigative Journalism Network. Houston was the executive director of IRE for 12 years. Prior to IRE, Houston was an award-winning investigative journalist for 17 years.

ALEXANDER HOWARD is the Government 2.0 Correspondent at O'Reilly Media, where his focus is on the intersection of government, citizens and the Internet, sharing the voices, technologies and issues that matter in that space. In addition to corresponding for the O'Reilly Radar, he has contributed to the National Journal, Forbes, the Huffington Post, Govfresh, ReadWriteWeb, Mashable, CBS News' What's Trending, Govloop, Governing People, the Association for Computer Manufacturing and the Atlantic, amongst others. He is frequent speaker and moderator at O'Reilly Media conferences and many other events.

DAVID HUNN has covered St. Louis City politics and government since 2010. He came to the *Post-Dispatch* in 2005 after covering schools for the *Bakersfield Californian* and teaching seventh grade in Los Angeles. His stories have been honored regionally and nationally, including a first place in 2004 from the Education Writers Association, a first place in 2008 from the Missouri Press Association, and Pulitzer Prize finalist honors for team coverage of a 2008 shooting rampage. (@davidhunn) www.stltoday.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/political-fix

FRANCIS IRVING, CEO of ScraperWiki, is a computer programmer living in Liverpool, UK. He was founding developer at mySociety, which over the last 8 years has made the world's most innovative democracy websites. In 2004, TheyWorkForYou was the first website to scrape a Parliament and make a better interface for citizens. Other sites Francis helped make at mySociety include: FixMyStreet, the first national interface for reporting graffiti, potholes etc.; WhatDoTheyKnow, the first interface for making Freedom of Information requests in public. In his earlier career, Francis founded developer tool TortoiseCVS.

TOM JOHNSON, a professor emeritus of journalism, has been covering the digital revolution since the late '70s and teaching analytic journalism since 1988. He has lectured and conducted workshops for journalists and journalism educators in the UK, Europe, South Africa and half dozen countries in Latin America. He is the managing director of the Institute for Analytic Journalism, Santa Fe, New Mexico. Email: tom@tjohnson.com

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BILL KEAGGY is a Creative Director at Dachis Group, where he makes complex information easier to understand by making it visual. Previously, he was a founding partner of XPLANE – The Visual Thinking Company, the world's leading information design firm. He spent eight years in the newsroom of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and is the author of two books & thousands of Web pages. Keaggy lives in St. Louis with his wife Diane, a journalist, and children Liam & Rena. (@keaggy)

JOHN KEEFE is the Senior Editor for Data News & Journalism Technology at WNYC, New York Public Radio, leading the station's data reporting, interactive news applications, map mashups and texting-based crowdsourcing projects. Keefe was WNYC's news director from 2002 to 2011, growing the station's capacity for breaking news, election coverage and investigative reporting. (@jkeefe) Website: <http://johnkeefe.net>

CHRIS KELLER coordinates digital audience development for madison.com, developing systems and workflows to bring structure to news and advertising data, and locating, organizing and packaging local information to be used in a variety of digital news products. He has more than 15 years of newsroom experience, having served as the editor of two weekly newspapers, and as an assistant sports editor, reporter, assignment editor and online content editor at a daily newspaper outside Chicago.

AARON KESSLER covers fraud and corruption for 100Reporters, a newly formed investigative journalism nonprofit started by several veterans of *The New York Times*. He previously reported on the housing meltdown for the *Sarasota (Fla.) Herald-Tribune*, where he also investigated contaminated Chinese drywall for more than two years. Kessler has also covered government and business issues for the *Detroit Free Press*, *Charlottesville (Va.) Daily Progress* and *Joplin (Mo.) Globe*, and his investigative work has also appeared in *The Kansas City Star* and the *Richmond (Va.) Times-Dispatch*.

SCOTT KLEIN is editor of news applications at ProPublica. He directs a team of journalist/programmers building large interactive software projects that tell journalistic stories and that help readers find the relevance of complex national stories to themselves and their communities. ProPublica's News Application desk's awards include an Online Journalism Award for General Excellence and a Society for News Design special recognition for "defining the design language of data-driven news apps." Scott is also co-founder of DocumentCloud, a two-time recipient of the Knight News Challenge. Prior to ProPublica, Scott worked at *The Nation* and *The New York Times*. (@kleinmatic)

JEREMY KOHLER is an investigative reporter on the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* projects team. He joined the paper as a staff writer in 1998 and has been a finalist for several national journalism awards, including the IRE, Dart, Nakkula and Livingston. His work with Joe Mahr in 2008 exposed how St. Louis police worked with a towing company to impound and keep people's cars; their investigation into lax drunken-driving enforcement in 2009 inspired state leaders to overhaul Missouri's DWI laws. His investigation with medical reporter Blythe Bernhard won the 2011 Sweepstakes Award for best all around work of journalism from the APME in Missouri. (@jeremykohler)

JOE KOKENGE was the Digital Content Editor at the *Des Moines Register* before joining ProPublica as a computer-assisted reporting specialist. He has also worked for *The Dallas Morning News* and the Center for Public Integrity in Washington, D.C. As a graduate assistant in the NICAR Database Library, he worked on projects for CBS affiliates in Miami and Los Angeles. (@josephkokenge)

JENNIFER LAFLEUR is director of computer-assisted reporting for ProPublica, a public interest investigative newsroom in New York. She formerly was the CAR editor for *The Dallas Morning News*, where she worked on the News' investigative team. She has held similar positions at the *San Jose Mercury News* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. She was IRE training director back in the old days and co-authored an IRE beat book on mapping. (@j_la28)

JEFF LARSON is a news applications developer at ProPublica where he has developed various news applications including the Unemployment Insurance Tracker, the Transparency Tracker and most recently the Stimulus Speed Chart. He maintains ProPublica's open source projects, among other projects. Before joining ProPublica he was online director at *The Nation*.

DANIEL LATHROP tells stories with computer code at *The Dallas Morning News* as news applications editor. A Seattle native, he began his journalism career as a police and courts reporter at *The Tribune* of Ames, Iowa, after attending Haverford College. He went on to do nationally award-winning work at the Center for Public Integrity. In 2008 he shared a White House Correspondents Association Edgar A. Poe Award for work at the *Seattle P-I* revealing the failure of the post-9/11 FBI to pursue white-collar criminals.

ANDREW W. LEHREN, a reporter at the *New York Times*, has analyzed the wikileaks troves of diplomatic cables and war logs, examined substandard Chinese chemical ingredients tainting pharmaceuticals, exposed insurers defrauding their own customers, and probed questionable policing practices and worked a wide range of other stories. He has won numerous awards, including a Polk, Peabody, three Investigative Reporters & Editors awards, and a Daniel Pearl investigative award. He has worked for NBC News, the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting, and teaches investigative reporting at CUNY.

ELIZABETH LUCAS is a reporter for the Center for Public Integrity; she manages the data components of investigative projects for various beats including environment, health and politics. She was CPI's data reporter on the *Poisoned Places* project with NPR, a finalist for the 2012 Goldsmith Prize. She is a graduate of the Missouri School of Journalism and has a Bachelor's in English. How she went from reading poetry to crunching data is a mystery.

MEGAN LUTHER is a training director with IRE. She has worked in radio, TV and most recently, newspapers. Before she joined IRE, Megan was a government reporter for *Argus Leader* and a CAR Specialist for *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. Previously, she worked at IRE and NICAR in the Database Library while completing her master's degree at the University of Missouri.

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KATE MARTIN is the government reporter for the *Skagit Valley Herald* in northwest Washington state. In 2011, she was the first Rural Computer Assisted Reporting fellow and attended the NICAR data boot camp. Kate's first major investigation led to the resignation of three school board members and the creation of a state law. That experience piqued her interest in data reporting. You can find Kate at (@KateReports)

KEN MCCALL has been the database reporter for the *Dayton Daily News* since 2000. He has worked on several award-winning investigative projects, including, a series on environmental damage caused by factory farms that was a 2003 finalist for the Goldsmith Prize, and a series on soldier deaths and suicides, and Iraqi civilian claims that won the 2005 Joseph L. Galloway Award for Distinguished Journalism by Military Reporters & Editors.

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RYAN MCNEILL has been computer-assisted reporting editor at *The Dallas Morning News* since 2008. He was most recently involved in an investigation of patient safety at Parkland Memorial Hospital that included an analysis of millions of patient records. He was also part of a team that investigated a land deal involving Gov. Rick Perry, as well as oversight of the Texas Emerging Technology Fund, that became a key issue in the governor's campaign for president. He has also testified multiple times before the Texas Legislature on access to public information. McNeill was previously at the South *Florida Sun-Sentinel* and *The Oklahoman* (Oklahoma City, Okla.).

TOM MEAGHER is the CAR editor at *The Star-Ledger*, New Jersey's largest newspaper. His small team of reporters chases enterprise stories, builds visualizations and tries to learn everything they can about the wonderful new data journalism tools. Before joining the Ledger, Tom was an editor and reporter at the New Jersey Local News Service, the *Herald News* in West Paterson, N.J. and, many moons ago, the *Lawrence Journal-World* (unfortunately, well before the advent of Django). (@ultracausal)

JIM MILLER covers the state Capitol for *The Press-Enterprise*, a newspaper based in Riverside, Calif. He has been a newspaper reporter since 1992 and has spent the past 11 years writing about state government and politics. A 2000 boot camp got him interested in computer-assisted reporting and he later earned an associate's degree in GIS. He is a graduate of the University of California-Davis. (@jimmler2)

MICHELLE MINKOFF, an Interactive Producer for the Associated Press, creates data-driven Web projects and visualizations for news designed to capitalize on the Web's interactive nature. Recently, she has focused on political applications and mapping. Previously, she was a Data Producer at PBS and interned at the *Los Angeles Times*' Data Desk. She's a 2010 graduate of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. (@michelleminkoff)

PAUL MONIES is a data journalist at USA Today in McLean, Va. He has worked at newspapers in Texas, Missouri and Oklahoma covering crime, business and government. Most recently, he spent nine years at *The Oklahoman* newspaper in Oklahoma City, first as a business reporter and then as database editor on the Watchdog Team. Monies earned a master's degree at the University of Missouri School of Journalism, where he worked for IRE/NICAR as a student assistant. (@pmonies)

NILS MULVAD is a partner and editor at Kaas & Mulvad and an associate professor at The Danish School of Media and Journalism. He was executive director of the Danish International Center for Analytical Reporting, DICAR. Along with Jack Thurston from UK-based EU Transparency, in 2005, he co-founded the European network on getting data out on beneficiaries of agricultural subsidies. In 2006 he was awarded European Journalist of the Year for this work and his work on access to data. In 2007 he received the IRE Award on Freedom of Information. He was co-founder of the Global Investigative Journalism Network. He is co-author of two Danish textbooks on CAR.

RYAN MURPHY is currently a data reporter with *The Texas Tribune*, where he assists in the development of the *Tribune's* growing collection of data interactives and applications, conducts data analysis and oversees the maintenance of the government employee salary database. Ryan graduated in 2010 with a degree in multimedia journalism from the University of Texas at Austin. (@rdmurphy)
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ABHI NEMANI is Director of Strategy and Communications at Code for America. For the past two years, he has led Code for America's national outreach and awareness campaigns, as well as spearheading new program development, such as the launch of a civic startup accelerator. Previously Abhi managed the research teams at the Rose Institute to increase transparency in local government using technology, and with Google, he pioneered a strategy to leverage social media for consumer engagement. Abhi has extensive experience creating award-winning websites, magazines, graphics, and publications.

MARK NG is the Web developer for the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism at Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. Previously, he worked in the Cronkite School New Media Innovation and Entrepreneurship Labs, building apps and teaching students about programming and product development. (@markng)

DAN NGUYEN is a news application developer at ProPublica. He spearheaded two of ProPublica's most popular projects: Dollars for Docs, a public database of drug company payments to doctors, and SOPA Opera, a site tracking the positions of Congressmembers on the Stop Online Piracy Act. He is also the author of the *Bastards Book of Ruby*, a comprehensive guide for beginners on practical programming. (@dancow)

RON NIXON is a Washington correspondent for *The New York Times*. At the *Times* he has authored or co-authored investigations into the Small Business Administration, congressional earmarks, companies doing business in Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions and lobbying by foreign governments. Before joining the *Times* he worked for the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* on the paper's investigative team. He also worked for Investigative Reporters and Editors as training director. Before that he was a reporter for the *Roanoke Times* in Virginia.

ROB O'DELL, 33, is the computer-assisted reporter for the *Arizona Daily Star*. He covered Tucson City Hall for six years before becoming CAR reporter in 2011. O'Dell was a 2009 Gerald Loeb Award finalist for his investigation into the waste of \$200 million by Tucson's downtown redevelopment district, which led to reforms by the state. He was named Arizona Journalist of the Year in 2009 and 2010 by the Arizona Newspaper Association and Associated Press.

GAVIN OFF is the database reporter at the *Charlotte Observer*. He joined the paper in September after three years as the database editor at the *Tulsa World*. In 2008, Gavin worked as a database reporter for Scripps Howard News Service in D.C. He has a bachelor's in journalism from UNC - Chapel Hill and a master's from Missouri, where he worked as a data analyst for NICAR.

CHARLES ORNSTEIN is a senior reporter at ProPublica. Previously he was a member of the metro investigative projects team at the *Los Angeles Times*. In 2004, Ornstein was a lead author on a series on a troubled hospital in South Los Angeles, which won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service, the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, and the Sigma Delta Chi Award for Public Service. He also was a finalist for the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. His most recent project, Dollars for Docs, was awarded the 2010 Gannett Award for Innovation in Watchdog Journalism from IRE. Ornstein is board president of the Association of Health Care Journalists. (@charleornstein)

PAUL OVERBERG is a database editor at *USA Today* and member of its data team. He helps to shape its demographic trend coverage, but also analyzes data on subjects from war casualties to highway traffic. He also helps to produce data maps, graphics and interactive applications. He had earlier been a science and environmental reporter and editor at Gannett News Service in Washington and a reporter and editor at *The Courier-News* in Bridgewater, N.J. (@poverberg)

ANGÉLICA PERALTA RAMOS is the multimedia development manager at LA NACION, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Since 2011, she has lead a data journalism development project at LA NACION. She co-founded Lanacion.com in 1995, has been project leader, product development manager, product manager and was general manager of digital media at LA NACION. She launched a research and development area for content development at Lanacion.com and newsroom transformation from single media to multimedia including: multimedia and digital training programs, mobile journalism research, planning and training and social media development programs.

ROSS PEREZ joined Tableau Software as a Data Analyst in 2009. His role is to tell the world about the wonders of interactive visualization and typically his days are spent hunting for interesting data and visualizing it with Tableau Public. As part of the vanguard of "vizzers" (visualizers) attempting to make sense of the world's data, he has a special insight into the problem of the modern data deluge.

JACOB PERKINS is the cofounder of www.weotta.com and the author of "Python Text Processing with NLTK 2.0 Cookbook". He blogs about NLTK and Python at <http://streamhacker.com> and has created a set of NLTK based demos and APIs at <http://text-processing.com>. You can also find him on (@japerk) and use some of his code at <https://github.com/japerk>.

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JOHN PERRY is a computer-assisted reporting specialist on the investigative team of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*. He was a senior fellow at the Center for Public Integrity, where he worked on projects including "City Adrift: New Orleans Before and After Katrina," "Political Consultants: The Price of Democracy," and "Windfalls of War II: Baghdad Bonanza." Before that, he worked 16 years at *The Oklahoman* in Oklahoma City, most recently as database editor.

CHERYL PHILLIPS is data enterprise editor at *The Seattle Times*. She supervises CAR efforts and works across the newsroom to publish interactive news features and applications. She was one of the editors involved in coverage of the shooting of four police officers, which received a Pulitzer Prize for breaking news in 2010. Phillips also has twice been a member of reporting teams that were finalists for a Pulitzer. She co-edited a project on foreclosures by *The Seattle Times* and ProPublica which received third place honors in the 2011 Philip Meyer Award. She is a former board member of IRE and is a member of a Tableau Public policy and advisory board.

ARON PILHOFFER is editor of Interactive News Technologies at *The New York Times*, overseeing a team of journalist/developers who build dynamic, data-driven applications to enhance online reporting. He is co-founder of DocumentCloud, a Knight Foundation-funded Website and Web service designed to make primary source documents easier to publish, find and share. Previously, he was database editor at the Center for Public Integrity in Washington, D.C. (@pilhoffer)

ADAM PLAYFORD is a reporter, programmer and database specialist on *The Palm Beach Post's* investigative team. When not writing stories, he builds news applications in Django and Javascript. He graduated from New York University with a concentration in computer-assisted reporting.

JEFF PORTER is the Association of Health Care Journalist's special projects director and plays a lead role in planning conferences, workshops and other training events. He has trained journalists to use databases, spreadsheets and online resources since 1998. Previously he served six years as the database library director for IRE and NICAR. In that position, he conducted and directed data analysis for broadcast and print investigative projects, served as lead instructor for CAR boot camps and provided journalism training across the United States and overseas. Previously, he worked 20 years as an award-winning newspaper journalist.

RUSS PTACEK's reporting has sparked federal probes, congressional hearings, and resignations. His cyber investigations have garnered 7 million YouTube hits, warned consumers of smartphone security risks, and exposed a victim's nude photos on a politician's Photobucket account. His review of 40,000 FOIA documents at a secret nuclear bomb part building identified deadly toxins and more than 450 sick or dead employees. A follow-up FOIA showed the government paid a PR firm \$234,000 to manage the resulting "media crisis."

ALEX RICHARDS is a reporter at *The Chronicle of Higher Education* in Washington, D.C., where he helps manage the newsroom's data coverage and is part of the interactive development team. He was a finalist for the Pulitzer prize and was awarded the Goldsmith and the Scripps Howard Farfel investigative reporting prizes, among others, for the *Las Vegas Sun* series "Do No Harm," with ProPublica's Marshall Allen. Alex was also a data analyst for IRE and NICAR while attending the Missouri School of Journalism.

JANET ROBERTS is a Reuters reporter who specializes in analyzing data and mining documents for material that informs stories. She joined Thomson Reuters in October 2011, after almost seven years on the computer-assisted reporting team at *The New York Times*.

MARK SABLEMAN is a partner with Thompson Coburn LLP in St. Louis, Missouri. His practice focuses on litigation of libel, privacy, intellectual property, advertising, unfair competition, and Internet cases. He is author of "More Speech, Not Less: Communications Law in the Information Age", published by Southern Illinois University Press, and many articles in law reviews and trade publications. He also teaches Censorship and Free Expression, and has taught Internet Law, as an adjunct professor at Washington University School of Law.

CHRIS SCHNAARS, a database editor for *USA Today*, has worked at newspapers throughout the northeastern United States for the past 16 years. He received a National Press Club award in 2008 for his analysis of Pennsylvania puppy mill inspection records and has won Pennsylvania and New Jersey press association awards for examinations of restaurant inspections and property tax records. His specialties include SQL Server, Excel and Python. Blog: www.chrisschnaars.org (@chrisschnaars)

KEN SCWENCKE is a programmer, journalist and general-purpose nerd at the *Los Angeles Times*. He works on projects across the spectrum, from The Homicide Report to value-added teacher evaluations, from maps of marijuana dispensaries to NHTSA vehiclecomplaints. (@schwanksta)
Home page: <http://datadesk.latimes.com>

REBECCA SHAPLEY is the product manager for Google Fusion Tables, a Web application and API for data management, collaboration and visualization. She has a masters in Information Management from the U.C. Berkeley iSchool where she focused on user experience and how technology serves people. Her passion for data management started in her former career as an ecologist collecting specimens in remote reaches of the world. She has co-authored 15 papers and written for New Scientist. (@googleleft)

AL SHAW is a news applications developer at ProPublica. Previously he was Designer/Developer at Talking Points Memo and creator of TPM's PollTracker application. (@A_L_)

DAN SINKER is the director of the Knight-Mozilla OpenNews project. From 2008-2011 he taught in the journalism department at Columbia College Chicago where he focused on entrepreneurial journalism and the mobile Web. He is the author of the popular @MayorEmanuel twitter account and the mobile storytelling project CellStories. He was the founding editor of the influential underground culture magazine *Punk Planet* until its closure in 2007. He is the editor of "We Owe You Nothing: Punk Planet, the collected interviews" and was a 2007-08 Knight Fellow at Stanford University.

DAVID SMALLMAN is managing member of Smallman Law PLLC, a Manhattan-based boutique firm that specializes in media, entertainment and intellectual property law, and provides global insurance/risk management advice. The firm is longstanding outside general counsel to IRE, and David is contributing legal editor of *The IRE Journal*. Among other clients, Smallman Law PLLC represents documentary filmmakers Caveh Zahedi ("The Sheik and I"), Andrew Rossi ("Page One: A Year Inside *The New York Times*") and Laura Poitras ("The Oath") and authors Joshua Foer, Cyrus Copeland, Grace Coddington and former CIA officer Valerie Plame Wilson ("Fair Game"). (@dbslaw)

DOUG SMITH is database editor at the *Los Angeles Times*. In 40 years at the *Times*, he's covered sports, police, courts, schools, politics, local government, disasters and war. Highlights include writing the main bar for Pulitzer-winning coverage of the North Hollywood shootout and five trips to Iraq. In 2005, he was named database editor. Among the projects Smith has participated in have been analyzing insurance payouts to civilian casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan (T. Miller's Selden Ring award winner), analyzing California student test scores and building a California schools website and, most recently, working on *The Times* report on value-added test score analysis.

NOAH SMITH is Finmeccanica Associate Professor in the School of Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University. He received his Ph.D. in Computer Science, as a Hertz Foundation Fellow, from Johns Hopkins University in 2006 and his B.S. in Computer Science and B.A. in Linguistics from the University of Maryland in 2001. His research interests include statistical natural language processing, especially unsupervised methods, machine learning for structured data, and applications of natural language processing. More: www.cs.cmu.edu/~nasmith

SEAN SPOSITO covers banking technology at American Banker. Before joining *American Banker* in New York, Sean was a year-long intern at *The Star-Ledger* in Newark, New Jersey, where he covered residential and commercial real estate and worked on computer-assisted reporting projects. His work has appeared in *The Boston Globe*, *The Record* (Bergen County, N.J.), *The Arkansas Democrat Gazette* and the *Columbia Daily Tribune* (Missouri). He is also a former data analyst at the National Institute of Computer-Assisted Reporting.

2012 CAR CONFERENCE SPEAKER BIOS

MATT STILES is a data journalist at NPR in Washington, D.C. He most recently worked as a reporter and data apps editor at The Texas Tribune, a nonprofit digital news organization in Austin. He has also covered government, politics and law enforcement at both *The Dallas Morning News* and the *Houston Chronicle*. (@stiles) Blog: <http://thedailyviz.com>.

STEPHEN STIRLING is a member of the CAR Team at the *Star-Ledger* in Newark, NJ. A weather geek since childhood, he officially became the resident weather expert at the paper last June when he was tabbed to write a regular weather blog on NJ.com. Since then, he has been blamed for and helped navigate the paper through some of the most extreme weather events in state history, bolstering the *Star-Ledger's* coverage using public data and interactive visualizations. (@sstirling)

JONATHAN STRAY believes in public access to information, hacking for the pleasure of it, and tropical weather. He began his career writing software for Adobe Systems, then moved to Hong Kong and worked as a freelance reporter, where he contributed to *The New York Times*, *Foreign Policy*, and *Wired*. He leads the Overview project, a Knight News Challenge-funded open source system for visualizing the content of very large document sets. (@jonathanstray)

WILL SULLIVAN is the Director of Mobile News for Lee Enterprises Inc. and was previously a 2010-2011 Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Fellow at the University of Missouri, where he studied mobile, tablet and emerging technologies. He's won a bunch of awards and all that stuff people put in bios but he's already almost over the 75-word limit, so if you want more info just Google him, follow (@Journerdism) or go to Journerdism.com.

PATRICK SWEET recently took a job as a data analyst and news programmer for the *Wilmington News Journal* in Delaware. Before that, though, Patrick was a beat reporter, data analyst and graphic artist for *The Citizens' Voice* in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. A 2011 graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, Patrick has also spent much – possibly too much – of his recent history following David Herzog on Twitter. (@PatSweet)

CHARLIE SZYMANSKI is the lead developer at the Reporters' Lab at Duke University. He has previously done data visualizations at the Sarasota Herald-Tribune and as freelance for IRE.

CHRIS TAGGART, originally a magazine journalist then later publisher, stumbled into open data three years ago, having failed to find much UK public data on which to do data journalism. That led him to start OpenlyLocal, which uses scraping to extract data from local council websites, and more recently OpenCorporates, which is the largest open database of companies in the world, with over 30 million companies in over 35 jurisdictions, and is revolutionising company information. Website: <http://OpenCorporates.com> (@countculture)

MAURICE TAMMAN is data editor with Reuters in New York. Before that he was a database editor and reporter with the *Wall Street Journal*. His work included a Pulitzer-finalist series examining Medicare fraud and abuse. He also worked on home lending, banking and the financial crisis. Previously he worked on data management and Web development for the *Sarasota Herald Tribune's* Pulitzer finalist "Broken Trust" abusive teacher series. He also developed the IBISEYE.com hurricane tracking Web site. Previously, he was database reporter on *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* projects team, and he worked for *Florida Today* in Melbourne, Fla.

TROY THIBODEAUX is editor for Newsroom Innovation at the Associated Press. Based in New Orleans, Troy works with reporters and editors, designers and developers throughout AP to tell visual and textual stories with data.

TOM TOROK heads *The New York Times* computer-assisted reporting team. In the past nine years the team has played a role in seven projects that have won Pulitzer Prizes and two that were Pulitzer finalists.

MC NELLY TORRES is an award-winning journalist and the associate director and co-founder of Florida Center for Investigative Reporting, the first bilingual investigative nonprofit in Florida. Torres was the Stimulus Team Leader for EdMoney.org, a project of the Education Writers Association. Torres was a consumer writer for the *Sun-Sentinel* in Fort Lauderdale. Her consumer watchdog stories have won state, regional and national awards and her work at the *San Antonio Express-News* contributed to the conviction of a school building architect. She was elected to the IRE board of directors in 2008.

SERDAR TUMGOREN is an ink-stained reporter turned data geek. The hunt for stories in government documents and databases led him into the world of programming and open-source software. When he's not busy enlisting converts to Python and Linux, he builds data-driven Web applications for the national/politics desk at *The Washington Post*.

MATT WAITE is a professor of journalism at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, founder of the Drone Journalism Lab and co-founder of Hot Type Consulting LLC, a Web development firm. From 2007-2011, he was a programmer/journalist for the *St. Petersburg Times* where he developed the Pulitzer Prize-winning PolitiFact. Before that, he was an award-winning investigative reporter for the *Times* and co-author of *Paving Paradise: Florida's Vanishing Wetlands and the Failure of No Net Loss*.

YANG WANG, a computer-assisted reporter for the *Houston Chronicle*, has reported on substandard housing, public safety, poverty and various social issues uncovered from public databases. She had previously worked as a database editor for KHOU-TV in Houston. Wang graduated from the Missouri School of Journalism with a Master's degree, where she worked as an analyst for the NICAR database library.

MARY JO WEBSTER has been the computer-assisted reporting editor at the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* since 2005. Her job includes a combination of reporting, training and building internal and external searchable databases. Recent work includes an investigative series on slumlords and an analysis of unused sick time payouts to retiring state workers. She teaches database reporting at the University of Minnesota journalism school. Previously she worked at *USA Today*, the Center for Public Integrity, IRE and various newspapers in Minnesota and Wisconsin. (@mmdatamine)

BEN WELSH develops news applications for latimes.com and conducts analysis for reporting projects. He lives in down town Los Angeles, but grew up in Swisher, Iowa. He blogs at palewire.com. (@palewire)

MARK WERT has been data and investigations editor at the *Cincinnati Enquirer* since June 2011; he also directs polling at the paper. He previously was an assistant business editor, working with reporters covering the economy, banking and the airline industry. Earlier in his career, at the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, he was a public affairs editor that used databases to track campaign finance. He started in Rochester as a reporter covering transportation, utilities and airlines. (@wers)

JAMES WILKERSON is a developer/geek at *The Washington Post*, working mostly in Django/Postgresql. Until June 2011, he led a small development team at *The Des Moines Register*, and previously worked as a newsroom developer at *The New York Times* and CAR editor at *The Morning Call* in Allentown, PA. Before that, he wandered around Pennsylvania working a variety of reporting jobs. He is a 1993 graduate of the University Of Texas at Austin, and is still trying to sell his house in Iowa if anyone's in the market. Email: jwilkinson@gmail.com (@jameswilkinson)

MICHAEL WILLIAMS is the global enterprise editor for Reuters. Previously, he worked at *The Wall Street Journal* for 18 years, where his roles included page one editor, deputy managing editor and Tokyo bureau chief. Williams is a graduate of Harvard University.

DEREK WILLIS is a member of Interactive News Technology at *The New York Times*, where he works on election and political applications. He also builds and maintains *The Times's* government data APIs. He has worked at *The Washington Post*, the Center for Public Integrity, *Congressional Quarterly* and *The Palm Beach Post*. Find him online at open.nytimes.com, blog.thescoop.org or (@derekwillis.)

MATT WYNN is a watchdog reporter and django developer at the *Omaha World-Herald*. Before joining the *Herald*, he was a data reporter for *The Arizona Republic*, where he partnered with reporters on data-driven stories and built interactive Web experiences. If you want to see him get geeky, ask him about baseball, public records laws or his kids.

2012 CAR CONFERENCE PANEL DESCRIPTIONS

Thursday, Feb. 23

8:30–9 a.m.

Welcome

Welcome to the conference! IRE staff will highlight key sessions and events that you won't want to miss while in St. Louis. We'll also give you a brief rundown on some of the resources IRE has to offer.

9–9:50 a.m.

NewsCamp::Text as data

A computational linguist describes key ideas in thinking about text as data that, through statistics, can help us understand the behavior of people and society. We'll show a range of examples that illustrate tradeoffs in statistical and computational complexity, linguistic sophistication, and weak vs. strong domain assumptions.

Why learn programming: A reporter's perspective

Learn how adding a programming language to your toolbox can make you a better reporter.

Getting started: Digging deep with data journalism

Are you new to data journalism, or does this happen to be your first time at a CAR conference? If so, this session will help you get on track to make sure that you get the best experience possible from the 2012 CAR Conference. We'll highlight sessions and give you tips for success during and after the conference.

Against all-Spanish-Odds

In Spain, "lobbying" is taboo, campaign contributions are a mystery and transparency an illusion. It's the only European Union country with more than one million people without an open records law. Journalist Mar Cabra and computer developer David Cabo will explain their tricks to make data journalism and accountability work in such a harsh environment. David and Mar will be sharing some of their recent work, and welcoming the brainstorming of new ways around the system.

10–10:50 a.m.

NewsCamp::Investigating text in the wild

How investigative reporters have found stories buried in text and ways investigators in other industries have mined their documents.

Free tools for wrangling data

Before you get to enjoy the thrill of finding that smoking-gun pattern in some data for your big project, you have to deal with the drudgery of acquiring and cleaning up the data. Happily, a well-stocked and expanding toolbox of free services and applications exists to help you scrape data from websites, export it from clunky formats like pdf, and clean up messy, unstandardized variables.

How to track cheating in your local schools

Erasing to the top – How to tell if school testing gains are legitimate or too good to be true?

Bring your mapping dreams to fruition: Tricks to customize basic tools

In recent years, Web cartographers have seen a nearly unprecedented leap in the tools available to us. But the question remains – how do we manipulate these tools to tell OUR stories, ripe with data? What can we do to make our maps stand apart from the pack? This session will demo some strategies, with minimal HTML and JavaScript, that anyone can use to bring life to the mapping dreams you have in your head.

11–11:50 a.m.

NewsCamp::Tools for unstructured text

Reporters are used to working with rows and columns, but some of the best data available comes in the form of unstructured text. This session will give a sense of the tools and techniques critical for working with unstructured data, as well as their applications in the newsroom.

Social media sleuthing: Backgrounding people and companies

Tips and techniques for using Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and other social media services to dig deep on individuals and organizations.

The art of requesting and negotiating for data

Getting any record can be a challenge, but wrangling data can introduce even more challenges. We'll give you some tools and tips for getting data out of government agencies.

From your computer to the Web: Using Microsoft Cloud and Google Docs

Let your audience search your data. Learn tricks on how newsrooms can use Microsoft Cloud and Google Docs to quickly and easily display dynamic information online without programming.

2–2:50 p.m.

Network analysis for news

What is network analysis (aka social network analysis)? How can I use it in my reporting? We'll cover the basic concepts involved in analyzing the connections between people and organizations, and provide examples of how network analysis can be used – from documenting cronyism in the selection of a Grand Jury, to visualizing differences in the Twitter conversations surrounding the Occupy and Tea Party movements.

Locating the story: The latest in mapping

See how journalists are using geographic information system (GIS) mapping to plot trends and uncover hidden spatial relationships. Also, learn how open-source and commercial GIS programs compare.

Integrating CAR: Story ideas for the whole newsroom

Data based reporting shouldn't be just a tool for economics, transportation or crime reporters; it can be used in other parts of the room. From features to sports, we'll talk about stories and techniques that can be used throughout the newsroom.

CSVKit

This suite of Python utilities is a Swiss Army knife for converting and working with comma-delimited text files. This demo will explain ways it can help you, from rearranging and trimming columns to generating stats and SQL statements to make tables.

3–3:50 p.m.

CAR on a shoestring

How to do CAR stories with limited resources. Panelists will offer tips for winning over your boss, carving time out of your overworked schedule, useful (and cheap!) tools and story ideas that can be done anywhere.

Worth doing for money – turning good work into money

News applications can be so much more than Infographics 2.0. This session will talk about examples about how news apps teams have transformed their work into something more: namely, products – including some that actually make money. We want this to be a discussion. Come with your thoughts on methods, ethics and ideas.

Health analyses for any newsroom

All newsrooms can produce meaningful stories about health care in their own communities with a dose of data. This session will focus on Medicare and Medicaid data you can localize, how to track disciplined doctors in your state, and the care of vulnerable residents in nursing homes. You'll leave with a handout listing online resources to explore and tips for both CAR beginners and longtime data users.

Data viz in 20 minutes: jQuery DataTables

Use DataTables, an open-source jQuery plug-in, to post sortable datasets online within 20 minutes.

4–4:50 p.m.

Turning your stories into a tablet/phone app

As news organizations dabble in new ways of finding revenue and journalists look to tell stories in new ways, what does a CAR story or project look like as a stand-alone app? We'll explore the emerging world as it relates to native apps, HTML5 apps, eBooks and other mobile-enabled formats.

Free tools for Web scraping without programming

Turning wild data on the Web into structured formats that are useful for analysis and presentation can be one of the toughest barriers to data journalism. We'll take a rapid-fire tour of free tools on the Web (which don't require programming) that can help – some tried and true, some recently in production.

2012 CAR CONFERENCE PANEL DESCRIPTIONS

Data for business investigations

We'll discuss concrete and essential tools for investigating business with data. This session will look at U.S. and global corporate data and navigating your way through the tangled (and incomplete) Web with OpenCorporates.

Get the most out of Google Fusion Tables

Google Fusion Tables allows you to easily publish relatively large data sets. Learn how this free tool can help journalists create maps, graphs and timelines, mash-up different data sets and collaborate on data.

6 p.m.–6 a.m.

Liberate the data with ScraperWiki (6 p.m. Thursday until 6 a.m. Friday)

Join the experts from ScraperWiki in an overnight scraping fest. The group of data liberators who attend will choose which government data set to go after and then create a scraper to access the data. Everyone is welcome regardless of experience.

Friday, Feb. 24

9–9:50 a.m.

Using data journalism to investigate the news

Often journalists report on events as they happen. But when reporters start asking questions, following up on hunches and digging with data they often find there is more to the story. From serial killers to banks to overdoses, this session will help you understand how to use everything from statistical analysis to basic data skills to investigate the news.

Best visualization practices

Data journalists are good at finding data, getting data, cleaning it and analyzing it, but what do you do when it comes to the visualization? Many of us are lost when it comes to color theory, type and legends. This session will walk you through ways to help you make the most of your visualizations.

Year in CAR

What were the big stories of the year? What were the most creative uses of data analysis? See what your colleagues have been up to and pick up some story ideas at the same time.

PowerPivot and NodeXL: This is not your father's Excel

Handle millions of calculations in a flash; join tables from different sources and do some cool network analyses with Excel, yes, Excel. A demo of free but extremely powerful analytic tools.

Excel 1*

Performing simple calculations and sorting.

Intro to SQLite*

SQL is the lingua franca of the database world. It'll let you get up close and personal with your data in ways that few tools can. SQLite is a popular, free and portable database manager. (If you use Firefox, you already have it installed!) This hands-on session will get you up and running, quickly creating your own SQLite databases and asking them to reveal their deepest secrets.

Intro to Google Fusion Tables*

Google Fusion Tables allows you easily to publish relatively large data sets. Learn how to create maps, graphs and timelines, mash-up different data sets and collaborate on data using this free, point-and-click tool.

Introduction to SPSS*

Navigate SPSS using descriptive statistics and frequencies. Create basic counts and percentages to help you understand your data. Do crosstabs to show the data in different ways, and statistical tests.

Fundamentals of programming in Python*

A crash course in basic programming that will walk you through the process of writing your first Web scrape.

10–10:50 a.m.

How to edit a story made of software

There's a lot to think about when it comes to news apps, but not all of it is coding. What story is it telling? Does it tell it consistently and in a fact-based way? Does the story it tells agree with the reporting? What's the lede, what's the nut (yes, apps have those).

Free tools for data visualization and analysis

Get an overview of more than 20 different free tools available for cleaning, analyzing, visualizing and displaying data, as well as a discussion and examples of how some of these tools have been used to develop and present data-based stories.

Mining data around the globe

Databases in the U.S. can help reporters in other nations uncover key stories in their countries, and data from abroad can shed light on U.S. laws and businesses. From abuses in EU subsidy programs for businesses, to tracking dangerous imports, to the U.S. exporting environmental problems, this panel will highlight the wide range of possibilities from exploring databases both here and overseas.

Making friends with map projections

An intro into the crucial but often intimidating world of map projections: What they are, why you have to care, and how you can use them to make maps from different sources play nicely together.

Excel 2*

Calculating ratios and rates

Intro to Simile Exhibit*

Hands-on session reviewing the publication tool Simile Exhibit to make presentations of data, timelines and maps.

Advanced Google Fusion Tables*

With Google Fusion Tables and the tiniest dose of Javascript, you can create a highly custom interactive in a matter of hours. In this hands-on session, learn how to turn election results into an interactive map that tells a story, including a crash course on combining Fusion Tables with Google's mapping API to let readers dive into the data themselves. Best of all, you can do the whole thing without being an expert programmer, though comfort with simple Javascript will help.

SPSS: Basic linear regression*

Fundamentals of programming in Python (cont'd)*

A continuation of the session from 9 a.m.

11–11:50 a.m.

What you need (and don't need) to do an election night map

Election day is coming. If you think your site can't compete with the big national sites in covering your corner – or even all corners – of election night using live maps and data, you may be wrong. Come hear how some entrepreneurial sites did just that with existing staff and resources that are within the reach of even small newsrooms.

Latest trends in open records battles

Learn about the newest developments and trends that can help or hinder your attempts to get data and documents from government agencies, and that can provide protection – or leave you exposed – when your stories run.

OK, but where did that data come from? Data validation in the digital age

We know "all data is dirty," but do you know it might not be valid or even how it came to be? Understanding the pedigree/genealogy/parentage of the data set is a crucial step prior to even cleaning the data, or analyzing it. This session will provide tips and methods to help you know if and when your data is legit and in appropriate context for your anticipated story.

Web scraping with Google Docs

Review methods for importing Web data into the Google Docs platform. Learn to fetch external Web data, create scripts to schedule fetches in batches and process the data. No programming skills required. Those familiar with the Microsoft Excel application will be familiar with many of the concepts. Experienced programmers can learn to develop Web application proofs of concept, prototyping and fetching through API.

An * indicates a hands-on class. Class size is limited to the number of computers in a classroom. If a session is full, please check the schedule to see if it is offered at another time. At the instructor's discretion, a limited number of standing-room attendees may be allowed. Please arrive on time as the sessions cover a lot of information, and the instructor may not be able to help late-comers catch up.

2012 CAR CONFERENCE PANEL DESCRIPTIONS

Excel 3*

Learn **pivot tables**, **filtering** and more.

Network analysis with NodeXL*

NodeXL is an add-in for Excel 2007 and 2010 that makes network analysis (aka social network analysis) simple and intuitive. You'll learn how to use the software by turning data from 2007 on voting patterns in the U.S. Senate into an informative graphic revealing the chamber's underlying dynamics – and highlighting the few senators who broke the partisan mold.

Using logistic regression*

Linear regression helps you find relationships between two or more variables, but when an outcome has only two possibilities, you need a different tool. That my friends, is where logistic regression comes in.

Intro to MySQL*

The world's most popular database is also free. As in beer. This class will get you up to speed on the same software that powers Twitter and is used around the world for high-level analysis of big datasets.

2–2:50 p.m.

What to do when there is no data

Just because there isn't a database doesn't mean you can't do the story. Using sampling, surveys and other techniques can help you build your own database. We'll give you some tips on how to build your own data.

Collaborating with data: Challenges and payoffs

Databases can and have provided dynamic starting points for collaborations among independent nonprofit newsrooms. This session will look at how to choose the right databases and how to begin a collaboration with data analysis.

Crime analyses for any newsroom

A rundown of data-driven stories mined from the cops beat: analyzing the Uniform Crime Report, debunking most-dangerous-cities lists; studying officer-involved shootings; building a community-based crime report and integrating it into the news flow.

PANDA Project show & tell

PANDA wants to be your newsroom data appliance! Come learn what it can do for your organization and have a chance to ask questions and help guide the next six months of development.

Access 1*

The purifying experience of filtering your data. Learn to select and sort data items you choose

Google Refine*

Learn how to use Google Refine to work with messy data, such as detecting and fixing inconsistencies; and transforming data from one structure or format to another. Use Google Refine when you need something: more powerful than a spreadsheet; more interactive and visual than scripting; more provisional / exploratory / experimental / playful than a database.

3–3:50 p.m.

Capturing and analyzing Twitter feeds

At peak times more than 12,000 Tweets are posted every second. 13.7 million were sent during the Super Bowl. With the Twitter API you can harness that raging river of noise and extract the signals that help you cover, communicate and explain the world around you. Oh, and we'll tell you how to get good leads.

Making sure you tell a story

You have the data, the analysis, the graphics and the apps. But how well are you telling a story with them? This panel will examine ways to elevate your CAR work from mere data dump to something that informs and delights readers.

Failing government monopolies and looming alternatives

For a century, building roads and delivering mail have pretty much been government monopolies. Taxes built roads; postage moved the mail. Both schemes fall way short these days. So roads are built, run and even owned outright by investors. That means tolls, even if governments are still involved. And the Postal Service, facing big losses and shrinking volume, is begging for the chance to get into new businesses.

Reporters' Lab

The Reporters' Lab is out to make your job as an investigative reporter easier, and our team wants to show you how. Learn how the lab is curating the best products for your newsroom and see a test drive of some of our own open-source tools for analyzing historical data and annotating video. We also want to hear your suggestions for reporting problems you'd like us to solve.

Access 2*

Summarizing databases with counting and summing.

Advanced functions in Excel*

String functions, **IF statements** and other powerful tools you'll wish you had learned earlier.

4–4:50 p.m.

The Web as an investigative tool

If you're like most journalists, the Web has become one of your favorite places to go for backgrounding, digging and tip seeking. Imagine how much is out there that you haven't heard about. With a careful strategy and knowing where to look you can make your time online more effective and efficient. This session will help you do all these things and point you to the latest sites you never knew you couldn't live without.

Lightning Talks

Sometimes you don't need 45 minutes to explain a useful technique or interesting resource. Join your colleagues for a session of short (5-minute) talks about doing CAR, Web development or other related topics. Anyone can suggest an idea, and the most popular talks will be given at this session. We'll provide a computer with Internet access and a projector, and the rest is up to you.

Editing the CAR story

Even veteran editors can find it imposing when they're responsible for assuring the accuracy of a CAR project. Get tips and advice on the best methods and practices for bulletproofing a story with a heavy data component.

Mining federal contract data with the Federal Procurement Data System

Learn how to acquire and attack federal contracting data. This session will help you discover different ways of searching and downloading federal contract data from Federal Procurement Data System and USAspending.gov; and it will compare the pros and cons of the two data warehouses to give a clearer idea about how to efficiently get the type of data you want. We also will focus on using data provided by NICAR to dig deep into government contacts – especially Pentagon deals – for trends and travesties.

Access 3*

How to join tables, matching information from one file to another.

GeoCommons*

Can't afford ArcGIS? Learning curve for QGIS too steep? Need to quickly analyze and present geographic data on deadline via the Web? Take GeoCommons out for a spin in this hands-on demonstration of the online mapping service.

Saturday, Feb. 25

9–9:50 a.m.

Own your own map stack: Open source maps from the ground up

Life after Google Maps: From TileMill to QGIS, learn about open-source mapping options for displaying and geocoding your data.

Open gov – New data available from the transparency movement

Transparency advocates inside and outside of government are pushing to make more data available. Learn how you can tap into this information for your analysis and Web applications.

An * indicates a hands-on class. Class size is limited to the number of computers in a classroom. If a session is full, please check the schedule to see if it is offered at another time. At the instructor's discretion, a limited number of standing-room attendees may be allowed. Please arrive on time as the sessions cover a lot of information, and the instructor may not be able to help late-comers catch up.

2012 CAR CONFERENCE PANEL DESCRIPTIONS

Tracking social media and turning it into investigations

This session will look at examples and the best practices of building investigative stories from social media. The session will cover the challenges in collecting social media material, archiving, analyzing and verifying it.

Getting started with GitHub

Learn the basics of the coding equivalent of Facebook. With a learning curve of less than a couple of hours, you'll be storing, sharing and searching code with the best of 'em.

Web scraping without programming*

We'll walk through some in-depth tutorials of free tools that don't require you to know programming to bring structure to information you find on the Web, including OutwitHub and manipulating the distinct parts of a Web page. We'll cover tasks as simple as grabbing all of the images off the page, and as complex as paging through a searchable database.

Intro to SQL with Access*

Structured Query Language, or SQL, is a powerful item to add to your data toolbox. This session will give you an introduction to using SQL to interview, sort, select and summarize your data. While the class is taught in Microsoft Access, this language is widely used and can be taken to other database managers with some minor tweaks.

RegEx to the rescue*

Regular expressions, a mini-language used for matching patterns in text, can be found everywhere: from databases to text editors to programming languages like Python and Ruby. In this hands-on class, we'll demonstrate how to use regex in a variety of contexts to perform basic data-cleaning and querying.

Knight-Mozilla OpenNews Q&A

As the Knight-Mozilla News Technology partnership enters its second year, it has been rechristened Knight-Mozilla OpenNews and enters the new year with an expanded plan for building an ecosystem around news on the open Web. With tons of entry points and places to collaborate, OpenNews wants YOU – to be a Knight-Mozilla Fellow, to help host hackfests, to teach an online class, and much more. Sit down with Dan Sinker, the Director of the Knight-Mozilla OpenNews initiative, over coffee for a conversation about the 2012/13 plan.

Intro to QGIS*

A hands-on introduction to using Geographic Information Systems using open-source software.

10–10:50 a.m.

The ins and outs of internal APIs

Dozens of public and private groups are opening up treasure troves of data using APIs, which are quickly becoming the new standard for shuffling data around the internet. Learn how easy it can be to get started building them for your own use, and get some tips from power users on how to make use of what's already out there.

Unsession: What we should be teaching the next generation

Where is the next generation of CAR reporters and news apps developers? It's clear that the unmet demand for data driven jobs won't slack off any time soon. What skill set divides current j-school graduates from succeeding in these jobs? How and where can j-school grads get these skills, and what is being done to ensure future grads will be prepared to dive into future data projects?

Federal stats for local stories

The federal government keeps a treasure trove of data, but knowing where to find what you need can be daunting. This session will help show you the way and give you some ideas of how you can turn federal numbers into stories with local impact.

Navigating the storm: Using data to bolster the traditional weather story

Weather stories are a fact of life for reporters across the country. Mountains of useful data, in all sorts of formats, is made readily available by the government and other independent agencies, but rarely used by newsrooms. Where to find it, how to use it to build interactivity into every day weather stories and how to use data to look beyond your typical "it rained yesterday" article.

Getting data into Excel: From PDF to HTML*

In the real world, your key dataset probably isn't going to come in an easy-to-use package. This hands-on session will cover how to import data into Excel from a variety of formats.

Intro to SQL with Access (cont'd)*

This is a continuation of the session from 9 a.m.

American FactFinder2*

Is American FactFinder a fiendish plot or a tool of the devil? Ron Campbell demystifies and defangs the Census Bureau's data finder.

Intro to R*

Run stats without paying a dime! R is free statistical software that does everything from simple regressions and correlations to beautiful charts, maps and visualizations. We'll focus on importing data, running statistical tests, and looking for hidden relationships between variables.

QGIS2*

Connecting to external data, performing calculations and reprojecting files in QGIS, an open source GIS tool. Requires QGIS 1 or previous experience with GIS software.

11–11:50 a.m.

Rapid fire future – quick talks on what's on the horizon

Struggling to keep up? Want to know what's on the horizon but not ready for prime time yet? This panel, in short bursts, gives you a taste of tech and ideas on the cusp of becoming tomorrow's tools for journalists. Drones, learning machines, distributed computing and more, all on the horizon and maybe in your newsroom soon.

Lockdown – Make sure your information is secure

In an age of increasing electronic surveillance by governments and corporations, journalists owe it to their confidential sources to be extra-careful about keeping their identities and other information absolutely secure. This session will explain how to use tools like anonymous servers, burner cellphones and cryptography programs to keep your data and contacts safe from prying eyes.

Government CAR for any newsroom

Budgets, audits, contracts, businesses, sweet deals and corruption are all part of government coverage. Whether you work in a large newsroom or one-person bureau, we'll show you how to use all the technology available to follow the money and produce quick hits and/or in-depth stories.

Dealing with real-time data

Time flows through every news story – online, we zoom from long-running chronologies to minute-by-minute updates. Real-time sources pose problems in both the design and development of digital content. Here are a few ideas about how we can face these challenges.

PowerPivot*

The session will cover importing and joining very large data sets as well as pivoting and filtering with slicers using PowerPivot, a free add-in for Excel 2010.

CAR wash 1: How dirty is it?*

As anyone who has dealt with government data knows, it's seldom perfect when we get it. These two sessions will give you some suggestions for integrity-checking your data to find the holes and how to fill them.

Census.ire.org*

The Census provides a wealth of data, but finding exactly what you need, in the format you need it, can be complicated. Census.ire.org was developed by journalists, for journalists, and this session will show you how to use the free site to find key data, compare statistics from 2000 to 2010, and more.

Web scraping*

Some of the most useful datasets are on the Web, and while they don't require FOIAs, you might need to do some work to get them into your spreadsheets. In this class, we'll take a look at techniques for mining data from the Web and making it useful.

2012 CAR CONFERENCE PANEL DESCRIPTIONS

TileMill*

We'll go from a public dataset and a blank canvas to a working interactive map using TileMill, an open source map design studio. This session will focus on how to use TileMill, how to style your map and how to get it on the Web.

2–2:50 p.m.

Creative uses of Web scraping

Web scraping is more than just copying HTML files onto your computer for later reading. Knowing how to navigate a variety of website types and formats will let you create useful, structured data from complex websites.

What we can find out about elections

Between microtargeted ads, near real-time disclosure of finances and troves of increasingly available data, the tools of the modern campaigns are much different than they used to be. Journalists need to catch up. This session explores ways to cope with the rapid developments in elections and how to build tools that will help uncover the story.

Integrating CAR into a daily beat

It can be tough to do CAR and meet your daily story quota, but it can be done. We feature organizing tips, ways to improve efficiency and how to negotiate with your editor for CAR time. We also will highlight quick-hit CAR stories and ways to insert CAR nuggets into your daily stories.

Map graphics for video

Learn how to use the wealth of freely available satellite imagery and other GIS materials to make high-quality video graphics on an affordable budget.

Displaying data geographically with ArcView*

CAR wash 2: Cleaning*

This is a continuation of the session at 11 a.m.

3–3:50 p.m.

Automation and free text

Data to text, and text to data. Some types of news stories are really dressed up data, such as financial reports and sports scores, and we'll take a look at the newsrooms and technologies that are already being used to produce these stories automatically. In the other direction, documents like financial disclosures or bulk incident reports contain useful data that can be extracted. Tools for reporting on large volumes of unstructured text are coming along slowly, but much is possible today.

Predicting the news: Tell your readers what will happen, before it happens

We often report on things that have already happened, but statistical techniques can predict events before they occur. See how knowing what will happen – or what should have happened – can reveal new kinds of stories.

Hidden databases: Mining the private parts of public officials

Tools to identify usernames and e-mail addresses used by politicians and others and how to use that data to track the subject's digital footprint from dating sites, social networks, and even the documents that reveal the "private parts" of public officials. We'll also look at little-known data sources that reporters can request about their congressmen and women. You'll leave with a list of these data sources, where you can request them, and ideas for stories you can get out of them.

Hacking the Census

Almost every journalist has to deal with Census data at some point so we're sharing the load. Come watch a series of 5-minute demos by journalists sharing tricks of the trade: bits of code, tools, shortcuts and backgrounders all the way up to full working apps. We'll offer basic stuff any journalist can use in the first hour and work up to coding and programmer tricks in the second hour.

Importing and selecting data by attribute with ArcView*

Web inspector*

Learn how to use the Web browser's built-in Web inspector to navigate the source details and structure of a webpage. The tool is most often used by Web developers to debug and design sites, but it's equally useful for poking around and finding hidden data files

4–4:50 p.m.

When data visualization does the heavy lifting

The newest trends in getting data to tell the story – constantly updated or just better than words. Methods and examples using interactive graphics on the Web for investigative journalism.

Getting to yes: Battling data price tag inflation and other roadblocks

What do you do when a government agency wants you to pay hundreds or even thousands of dollars for data? Panelists will offer up tactics for negotiating, examples of common problems that often lead to inflated price tags and some success stories.

Environmental analyses for any newsroom

Topics we'll cover: Key federal environmental data sets: how to get them and navigate their endless caveats. Some possibilities for state environmental data – and what to do when regulators aren't tracking the data you need. Using visualization tools like Tableau Public and Google Fusion Tables to find stories in those messy data. One example we'll use is CPI/NPR's "Poisoned Places" 2011 investigation of coal-fired power plants; Lucas led CPI's data analysis for that story, and Golden produced a Wisconsin-specific viz.

Hacking the Census (cont'd)

This is a continuation of the session from 3 p.m. This final hour will cover Census coding and programmer tricks.

Geocoding to merge databases with addresses into maps with ArcView*

PANDA Project provisioning party*

Take home a present from your trip to St. Louis – a PANDA for your newsroom! The PANDA Project team will walk you through the easy steps to set up a site on Amazon Web Services.

Sunday, Feb. 26

9–9:50 a.m.

Mining the Web for data and stories

The Web is one of the first places we go for information, but so much of it is hidden deep beyond search engines' eyes. This session will highlight strategies for finding data that can't be found with a traditional search engine and will point you to the best sites for tracking down local, national and international data.

Data U: The databases you need to cover higher ed

A wealth of information is at your fingertips when it comes to putting colleges in context for your readers. This panel touches on the resources at the national, state and campus level that you need to know about to make it happen.

Webscraping/data munging hackathon with Python*

An open session for help on any Python-related subject, from basic install questions to help on work or personal coding projects.

10–10:50 a.m.

Storyboarding your ideas

Don't leave the CAR conference without a battle plan for putting your new knowledge and skills to work back home. In this freewheeling group session, we'll discuss your story ideas, flesh them out, and develop strategies for doing them amid the daily demands of every newsroom. We'll talk about navigating office politics and help you develop a personal action plan.

A day in the life of a news app: An intro to Internet infrastructure

CAR reporters and news apps developers have many similar skills. But what differences they do have can be illuminated through the lives of Web applications. We'll discuss the specifics of how Web apps do their thing, and in general about what you need to know about the Internet to understand how Web apps work.

Webscraping/data munging hackathon with Python (cont'd)*

An open session for help on any Python-related subject, from basic install questions to help on work or personal coding projects.