

Wisconsin Public Radio

For Immediate Release

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From Missouri, Nashville And Boston, Wisconsin Public Radio Welcomes Three Journalism Fellows

Madison, Wis. – Three new journalism fellows have joined Wisconsin Public Radio's (WPR) news team. All three are early in their careers, but have already done exceptional work. Developing the next generation of public media journalists is a top priority for WPR. "In a rapidly changing world, young reporters face challenges like never before," said WPR Director Mike Crane. "WPR is deeply committed to preserving our values of fair, accurate, unbiased journalism. Through these fellowships, we mentor young reporters not only in craft, but in serving the public with research-based journalism."

Bram Sable-Smith joins WPR as the new Mike Simonson Memorial Investigative Reporting Fellow. During the one-year fellowship, Sable-Smith will work collaboratively with WPR and Wisconsin Watch, the news outlet of the Wisconsin Center for Investigative Journalism. He'll deepen his skills in investigative journalism, editing, and on-air production for broadcast and digital platforms. Before moving to Wisconsin, Sable-Smith spent five years reporting on health care at KBIA in Columbia, Missouri and as a founding reporter for Side Effects Public Media, a reporting collaborative in the Midwest.

Named for award-winning WPR reporter Mike Simonson, who passed away unexpectedly in 2014, funding for the fellowship came from private donors who valued Simonson's legacy of investigative reporting. "This fellowship has been a win-win for WPR and Wisconsin Watch," said Noah Ovshinsky, news director. "Now in its fourth year, this partnership has produced high impact reporting on a wide range of topics, from labor trafficking to government accountability. With Bram on board, we plan to build on this already impressive track record."

Fresh from an internship at WPLN in Nashville, Tennessee, Alana Watson is WPR's new Second Century News Fellow. Based in Milwaukee, Watson is actively researching, producing and filing stories originating in Wisconsin's largest city. Created in 2016, the Second Century News Fellowship provides an opportunity for young journalists from diverse backgrounds to gain hands-on experience in public media news production. Watson studied journalism at Western Kentucky University, where she was awarded Best College Radio Reporter from the Kentucky AP Broadcasters Association. "What sets public radio apart is the way it can tell positive stories," said Watson. "I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to come to Wisconsin and to learn by working alongside experienced professionals and grow as a journalist."

Directly following a fellowship at WBUR in Boston, Miranda Suarez joins WPR as the 2019 Lee Ester News Fellow. Based in Madison, Suarez will hone her investigative and reporting skills covering state politics and other stories as part of WPR's statewide news department. This fellowship was created in memory of long-time Wisconsin journalist Lee Ester to provide opportunities for early career journalists to gain practical experience in public media news production. "This is an incredible opportunity to learn from some of the best in public broadcasting," said Suarez. "I'm looking forward to learning about Wisconsin and telling many of its stories."

“The knowledge journalism conveys is crucial to maintaining a successful democracy, but as more and more newsrooms are closed and consolidated, it's becoming difficult for young journalists to get the training they need to do an outstanding job,” said Kyla Calvert Mason, assistant news director. “Helping develop the next generation of journalists is some of the most important work WPR does.”

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About Wisconsin Public Radio

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