



School of Journalism
and Mass Communication
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

CLASS OF 2026

MASTERS AND PHDS

MENGYU LI

PhD

Favorite Memory

“Office chats and long festival meals with peers,
who became my family in Madison.”



MICHAEL AGUILAR

PhD

One Thing You Learned

"I learned to read research papers critically, a skill that proved invaluable when evaluating how studies are interpreted in practice. It reinforced that understanding what the evidence shows matters more than accepting conclusions at face value."



LYNNE COTTER

PhD

One Thing You Learned

"The skill I will use most is how to effectively structure an argument, and how to think critically about what evidence is available. I am so appreciative of how all my advisors continually nudged me towards research questions and methods that truly addressed the real-world problems I wanted to tackle."



KALI MICK

Professional M.A.

One Thing You Learned

“Storytellers thrive at the intersection of creativity, strategy and empathy! If you love what you do, that love will always come back to you.”



YIBING SUN

PhD

Favorite SJMC Memory

"My favorite SJMC memory is the time spent with friends, supporting each other and growing together through both challenges and achievements."



VINCENT HESPRICH

Professional M.A.

One Thing You Learned

"Not only are professionals willing to help, they truly enjoy it."



XINING LIAO

PhD

Favorite SJMC Quote

"A quote I heard from Hernando: 'It does not happen until it happens.'"

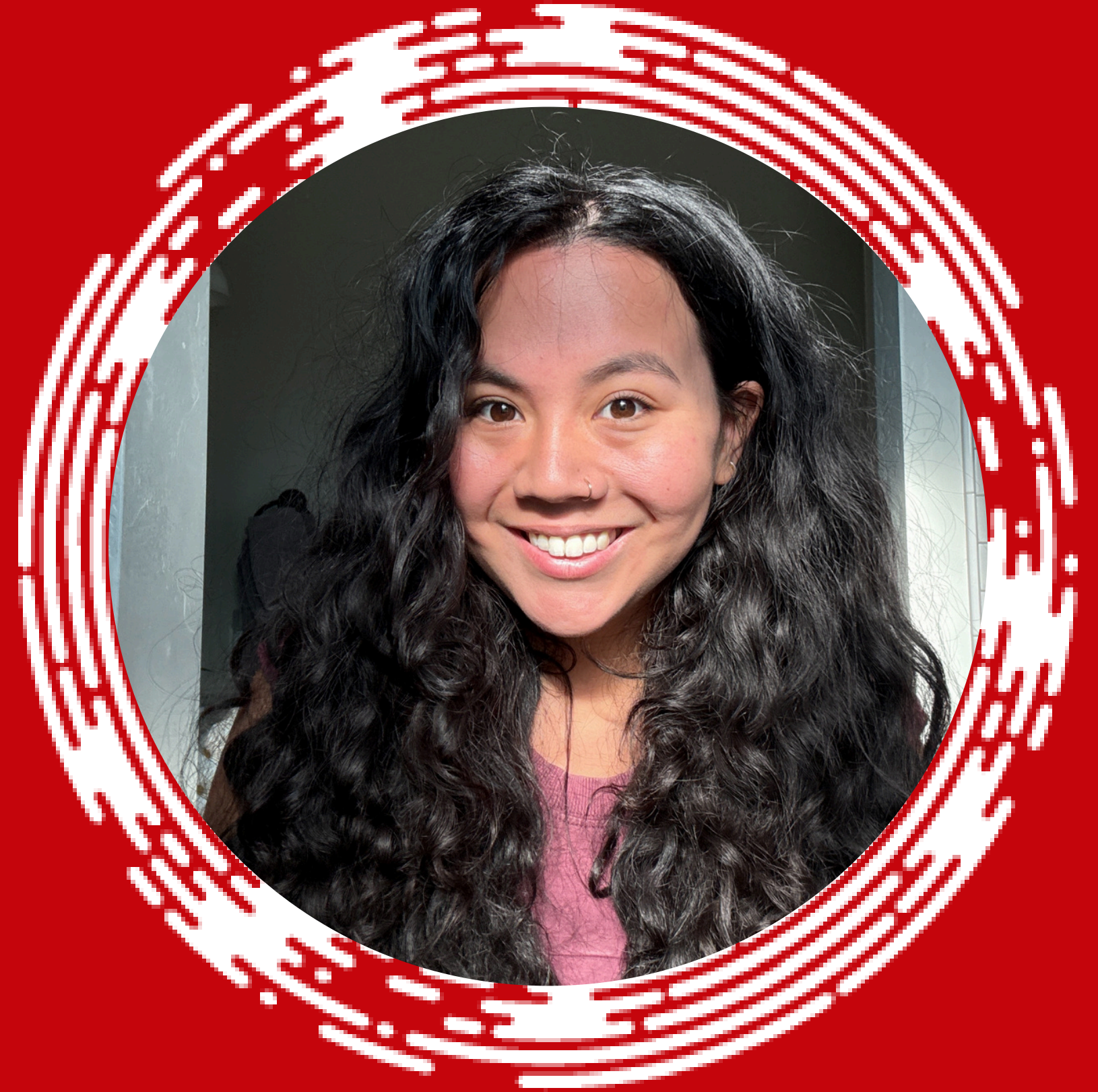


ELAINE ALMEIDA

PhD

One Thing You Learned

"The opportunity to engage with students, particularly in our discipline, is what keeps our work relevant and our commitment to equitable futures fresh-- it's like they say, "iron sharpens iron" and our students made me a better teacher, researcher and student myself!"



CARLOS DÁVALOS

PhD

Favorite SJMC Memory

"I have many memories. Dr. Kathryn McGarr's seminar and working with my advisor, Dr. Sue Robinson, gave me many beautiful memories. Same with my friends and colleagues."



JIWON KANG

PhD

One Thing You Learned

"The importance of working together, and the many lessons I've gained from my colleagues throughout my time in SJMC."



ALEXUS MOORE

PhD

One Thing You Learned

"How to collaborate with others from all over the world 🤝❤️"



ISABELLE DUNAI

Professional M.A.

Favorite SJMC Quote

"Storytelling is a magical craft for humans to take in. As writers, nurture it, celebrate it and protect it."



JONÁS TIJERINO

Professional M.A.

Favorite SJMC Memory

“As much as I didn't enjoy losing sleep, I have to admit that one of my favorite memories was proof day for Curb Magazine. It was a challenging experience that made finalizing our magazine all the more satisfying.”

