

October 23RD 2025

At 03:00 PM (Doors Open at 02:30 PM)

WELCOME
TO THE

21ST

DR. LEWIS B. O'DONNELL
MEDIA SUMMIT

Hewitt Ballroom, Hewitt Hall

Welcome Letter

Welcome to the 21ST edition of the Dr. Lewis B. O'Donnell Media Summit! Today, the Media Summit kicks off 3 days of celebrations for the College of Communication, Media and the Arts (CMA). Nearly 20 years of work has led to this moment. This week we celebrate the \$80 million renovation of Hewitt Hall with a ribbon cutting ceremony. With this milestone, CMA emerges as the premiere College for programs in media and visual art.

Across the arts corridor sits Tyler Hall, our spectacular fine and performing arts building, which has also been renovated and modernized. Thanks to the support of the University and the SUNY Construction Fund, nearly \$127 million has been invested in the College of Communication, Media and the Arts, helping CMA realize its goal of artistic convergence. We create, we collaborate, we captivate, and we communicate.

The Evolution of an Idea: How to Nurture Creativity in the Digital Age, is a fitting theme for this year's Media Summit. As we wrestle with the ethical and practical implications of artificial intelligence, questions about the value of higher education, and attacks on free speech, we look to our students to help us think critically and find solutions. That has always been one of the most satisfying aspects of the Media Summit, the fact that our students drive the conversation and inspire intellectual curiosity. Eventually, those students turn into successful alumni, and today we are lucky to have four brilliant experts to guide the conversation. They are leaders in their industries, transcending ordinary achievements, telling stories that matter and make a difference. They are Laker Legends, and we have a front row seat. Enjoy!

Jennifer L. Knapp



CMA Dean Jennifer Knapp



21ST



DR. LEWIS B. O'DONNELL
MEDIA SUMMIT

THE EVOLUTION OF AN IDEA

How to Nurture Creativity in the Digital Age

This year, participants at the Media Summit will explore practical strategies for fostering creativity in a world increasingly influenced by digital tools and technologies. We will discuss how to balance technology's impact with the power of human imagination, offering techniques to spark innovation, enhance problem-solving, and refine creative processes.

Meet Our Panelists & Moderators



Michelle R. Garcia '06 | Moderator

Michelle R. Garcia, a member of the class of 2006 with a B.A. in Journalism, has dedicated most of her career to serving as an editor and leader for various web-based publications and magazines, including Vox.com. Alongside her editorial work, she is deeply passionate about advocating for LGBTQ+ individuals and marginalized racial groups, often weaving her political advocacy into her daily responsibilities. In 2020, Garcia became the Editorial Director for NBC BLK, a news vertical focusing on the African American community from an African American perspective. Her strong commitment to highlighting marginalized communities has earned her recognition for her efforts, including an award from Folio in 2014, acknowledgment from the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists' Association, and a nomination from the Western Publishing Association for Best Web Publication.



Gabriel Almanzar '05 | Panelist

Gabriel Almanzar is the Vice President of Creative and Editing Operations at CBS News, where he oversees design strategy, post-production, and visual storytelling for major broadcasts. An accomplished multi-Emmy Award winner, he has over two decades of experience in both news and sports media. A graduate of SUNY Oswego, he holds a Bachelor's Degree in Graphic Arts and a minor in Spanish. Almanzar actively engages with the School of Communication, Media, and the Arts Advisory Board. His creative initiatives, technical expertise, and notable achievements are recognized as significant contributions to modern broadcast design.



Barry Gliner '84 | Panelist

Barry Gliner is from Brooklyn, New York, and attended SUNY Oswego, where he pursued a degree in broadcasting and communications. During his studies, he was involved in organizations such as WTOP and Lanigan Television Studios. After graduating, Barry gained hands-on experience in video editing, production, and post-production, while also evolving his editorial direction skills. He currently serves as the Director of Post Production for Warner Bros. Discovery, exemplifying the qualities of a key leader and ensuring that productions maintain the highest quality standards.



Kimberly Abbondondolo '16 | Panelist

Kimberly Abbondondolo, a member of the class of 2016, is a three-time New York Emmy-winning Branded Content Producer at MSG Networks and has received 16 Emmy nominations. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Broadcasting and Mass Communications. While studying at SUNY Oswego, Kimberly was actively involved with WTOP-10 and WNYO, where she anchored, hosted, and reported on sports-related original productions. Since graduating, Kimberly has dedicated her career to content creation while maintaining a strong passion for the athletics industry. She works as a collaborative producer, director, editor, project manager, and videographer, with clients including WWE, FanDuel, DoorDash, BMW, and Delta. Kimberly takes pride in her branded and original content as well as her work on on-air promotions and social media content, all of which can be found on her website, kabbondondolo.com.

Meet Our 2025 Career Connectors



Emma Leavy '20

Camera Operator & Filmmaker

Seung Guk Damon Park '20

Assistant Video Editor &
Taekwondo Master



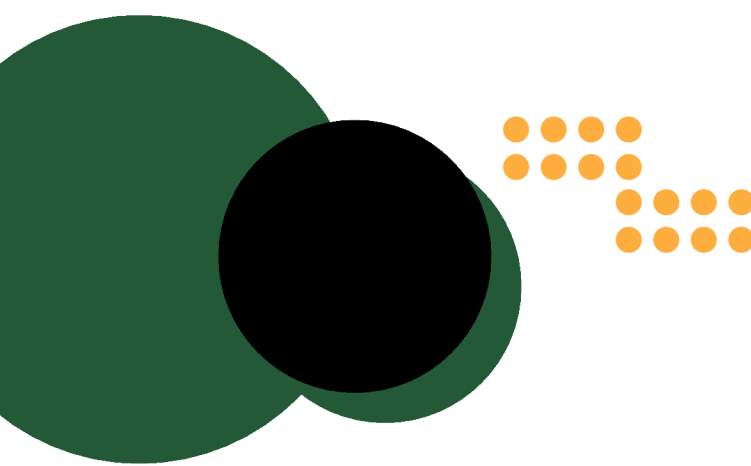
Kaylee Filighera '21

Associate Manager, Social Media

Theresa Personna '19

Book Publicist





Event Program

3:00 PM

SUNY Oswego President Peter Nwosu's
welcome video.

3:03 PM

Students' e-board welcome video.

3:10 PM

Student e-board directors' opening
remarks.

3:15 PM

Media Summit panel discussion.

4:00 PM

Q&A session.

4:30 PM

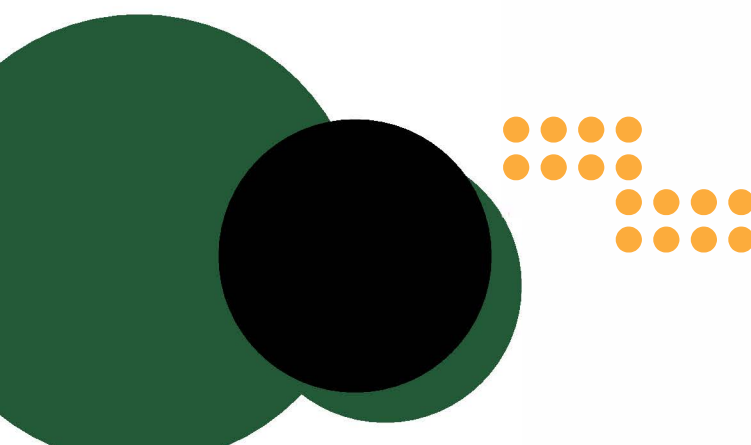
Media Summit panel ends.

4:35 PM

Closing remarks by Media Summit Faculty
Director Associate Professor Francisco
Suarez.

4:45 - 6:00 PM

Career Connectors Networking Event at the Hewitt
collaborative corridor.



Student Attendance Check In Form

If you are a student and need to check your attendance for this event related to an extracurricular activity or any of your classes, please click below or copy and past the link into your browser to access the Google Form for student attendance.

CLICK HERE

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScSexTj9UBkTE1E4J_6W6NXVPh4AGHy3aADcbedfhBuJviaQw/viewform?usp=sharing&ouid=115243729724214438255

