

Samantha Jimenez Westfall

samanthajwestfall@gmail.com | sammywestfall.com

EDUCATION

Yale University, New Haven, CT (Graduated May 2021)

- Bachelor of Arts: Double major in History & Political Science with distinction.

International School of Manila, Manila, Philippines (Graduated May 2017)

- High School International Baccalaureate Diploma Program.

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

Washington Post, *Foreign Desk Reporting Intern*, Washington, D.C. (June–October 2021)

- *Bradlee Fellow*: Pitched and wrote articles for the Foreign Desk on foreign affairs—from breaking and feature coverage of the fall of Afghanistan to the Taliban to an explainer on the assassination of Haiti’s president. Selected as one of two Bradlee Fellows, in recognition of the “courage and integrity” the late Post executive editor instilled in the newsroom. Writer’s page can be found [here](#).

Yale Daily News, Yale University, New Haven, CT

- *Editor-in-Chief and President (Sept. 2019–Sept. 2020)*: Oversaw the Yale Daily News’ daily production for 40 hours a week, as well as a staff of 250+ people and budget of \$360,000. Made ethical journalistic decisions and final content calls, as well as proofed the opinion page every night. Responded to concerns as the face of the paper. Resolved internal, external, financial and legal issues. Pushed forward long-term projects to support the News’ diversity, multimedia, digital, internal culture, and content-related goals. Led the paper through a phase of unexpected remote production due to coronavirus.
- *Beat Reporter (Aug. 2017–Sept. 2019)*: Wrote 3-6 articles weekly as Cops and Courts beat reporter. Reported on policing and law in New Haven, including campus and city crime, immigration, Yale and New Haven police internal affairs, and criminal justice reform. Writer’s page can be found [here](#).

VICE, *Southeast Asia Reporter* (Summer 2020)

- Covered the Southeast Asia region, pitching and writing at least one timely story each day. Stories ranged from long features on stranded Filipinos during Manila’s COVID lockdown to explainers on back-and-forth sanctions between China and the United States.

Toledo Blade, *Reporting intern*, Toledo, OH (Summer 2019)

- Reported on local stories from features to breaking news. Sent on individual assignment to Elyria, OH to cover a national story about a libel trial that awarded a bakery \$44 million-dollars from Oberlin College.

Philippine Daily Inquirer, *Reporting Intern*, Quezon City, Philippines (Summer 2018)

- Helped cover the presidential beat and metro beat for Quezon City, focusing specifically on crime and the national drug war. Attended presidential press conferences, police press briefings, economic forums and national rallies. Visited jails and holding cells to report on national prison conditions and criminal justice.

The Politic, Yale University, New Haven, CT

- *Senior Staff Writer (March 2019–March 2021)*: Pitches, reports and writes long-form and investigative pieces for Yale’s political journal. Reported a long-form piece that inspired award-winning documentary *120 Years* about a New Haven wrongful conviction case. Writer’s page can be found [here](#).
- *Associate Editor (March 2018–March 2019)*: Pitched, reported and edited long-form pieces on local, national, and international politics. Worked closely with writers through writing and editing process.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE AND ACTIVITIES

Yale Admissions Office & Visitor Center, *Tour Guide* (2018–2021): Held paid campus tours twice weekly for applicants and visitors, representing Yale as an ambassador. Selected as one of 25 guides from 300+ auditionees.

Yale Undergraduate Prison Project, *Tutor* (2017–2020): Taught weekly at high-security prison facility. Prepared lessons to help students obtain their General Education Development certificate while incarcerated.

Yale International Students Office, *Counselor* (2018): Assisted international students in adjusting to college life.

AWARDS AND SKILLS

- **John Hersey Prize for a Body of Journalistic Work** reflecting the spirit and ideals of John Hersey: engagement with moral and social issues, responsible reportage, and craftsmanship (Yale, May 2021).
- **John Hersey Prize for a Longer Work of Fiction** reflecting the spirit, ideals of John Hersey (May 2021).
- **Suisman Reporting Prize 2021** to the student News editor who does the most “outstanding job reporting.”
- **Ezra Stiles Heinrich von Staden Cup** for “a senior who most consistently challenged the social and intellectual conscience of the College” (Yale, May 2021).
- **Languages**: English (native), Spanish (intermediate), German and Filipino (basic)