

Friday Luncheon Guest Speakers



Mike Iscovitz - Meteorologist on FOX 26 News

Originally from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Mike graduated with a Bachelors in meteorology from Florida State University and was the 69th person in the United States to be recognized as an AMS certified Broadcast Meteorologist. In 1999, Mike went to work as the weekend weather anchor at KLFY-TV in Lafayette, La., until joining the FOX 26 weather team in September 2000.

Sally Ramirez - News Director at KHOU 11 News in Houston

Sally is a non-stop news and leadership machine, and is known for generating a fountain of ideas, and specific plans for execution, all delivered with a smile and her signature, "We can do this!" Her success lead TEGNA to ask Ramirez to come on board as news director at its Houston station, KHOU. Shortly after Ramirez was hired, Hurricane Harvey delivered a nasty blow to Houston, and to KHOU specifically. With their building flooded, the staff was forced to evacuate and to spend months working out of multiple locations, with minimal equipment, and a set that was pieced together on the fly.



Brandi Smith- Reporter KHOU 11 News in Houston

Houston is a huge change from the tiny southern Oregon town (pop. 112) where Brandi Smith grew up. Brandi began her career in journalism when she applied for an internship at her hometown TV station (KPIC-TV) and got a job offer instead. She's since worked in cities in Idaho, Oregon and Texas as a reporter, producer, anchor ... you name it! Brandi and her videographer's heroic efforts to save a driver during Hurricane Harvey gained national recognition.



The Madd Hatta - Morning Show Host KBXX 97.9 The Box - Houston

The Madd Hatta is a twenty-year Houston radio icon. In 2008, while hurricane Ike bolted for the Houston skyline, The Madd Hatta stayed behind and remained "the voice of calm." Just a few months later, he single-handedly registered 5,000 people to vote for the historic Presidential election during a 90-hour live on-air voter drive. He has been nominated for the prestigious Marconi Award and Billboard's personality of the year. In 2013, Madd Hatta was inducted into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame.



Dan Gresham - Executive Producer / Host at KFDM / Fox4 in Beaumont, TX

A journalist for more than 40 years, he has produced and anchored thousands of hours of live TV, handled play by play of countless college football-basketball games for ESPN3 and Eleven Sports, while hosting a daily radio talk show. Dan has weathered his share of storms thru the years, reported live during three major hurricanes including Rita, Ike and Harvey. He has slept on newsroom floors, driven thru waist deep water, eaten MRI's and taken live calls from viewers stranded in strange places.



Janel Yglesias - Reporter at KXLN-TV Univision 45 - Houston

Janel Yglesias is a journalist and former Univision Houston reporter. She has distinguished herself as an influential journalist serving the Hispanic community at the local and national level. During her years as a reporter, Yglesias was been in charge of covering special news such as the death of Cuba's dictator - Fidel Castro, Hurricane Harvey and the Astros World Series win, among others. Her work has taken her to be nominated four times for the Lone Star Emmy Awards. Recently, Janel Yglesias won the 2018 Sylvan Rodriguez 'Best Houston Reporter Award'.

Moderators: Dr. Chandra Clark - University of Alabama & Scott Hodgson - University of Oklahoma

In 2011, two major tornado outbreaks rocked the Southeast and Midwest, killing hundreds. The NAB asked BEA for help in finding a documentary production team who could tell the story of the incredible efforts made by broadcasters to keep their communities informed in times of major disasters. It was the first time producer Clark and director Hodgson teamed up, but not the last. The nationally award winning duo has now covered some of the biggest natural disasters in recent history: Joplin & Tuscaloosa tornados ('11), Super Storm Sandy ('13), Moore, OK tornado ('13), Hurricanes Harvey & Irma ('17) and now Florence & Michael.

