



Sanjena Sathian does everything so quickly — walking, talking, reading, thinking, writing — that it can be hard to imagine her coming of age in Georgia, where the pace is rather more leisurely. “But when she hits the dance floor, you can definitely see the Hot-lanta,” one OZY employee pointed out at the holiday party, fairly marveling at her Bollywood-meets-hip-hop moves.

She still misses Georgia’s sweet tea and grits, though her personality lacks for neither sweets nor grit. Hyperverbal, hyperliterate, hyperarticulate and sometimes just hyper, the former national debate champion uses her powers (mostly) for good, thankfully: During OZY’s first year, Sanjena — the longest-running editor at the mag — kept the trains running, the stories coming and the ship from capsizing. We’re not exaggerating. These days, Sanjena is back on the beat, or three: She’s covered Silicon Valley, literature and South Asia and its diaspora. One of our favorite Sathian stories had her [playing celebrity](#), to enormous effect. She also captains the [Rising Star](#) section.

Before OZY, Sanjena chased stories everywhere from South Asia to Latin America to, hey, rural Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Maine, too. And stories there were many, including some wild times immersing with female Maoist ex-combatants, striking Chilean miners, Gurkha soldiers-in-training, and the children of itinerant migrant farm workers. Faced with the prospect of writing a senior thesis at Yale, Sanjena found herself unable to decide on fiction or something academic, so she chose not to choose and wrote two of them: *helllllooo* a year of novelisting and *Zadie Smithing* simultaneously. Eventually she made her way to newsrooms in Boston and Pittsburgh, and then to OZY.

As an American lit junkie, she’s really excited to be in the Great American West, realizing a dream shared by so many Steinbeck & Stegner devotees before her. When at play, she can be found trying to get the hang of handstands in hot yoga class, convincing people to trust her map-reading skills on redwood trails (you probably shouldn’t), or, you know, just dancing through San Francisco with friends, never in stilettos. [Tweet at her](#) or get in touch to talk OZY, literature, politics, great stories, and more.

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