THE WASHINGTON PROGRAM TURNS 50
MEMORIES FROM DECADES OF LEARNING

A TRIBUTE: CECILIA VAISMAN
DEDICATED TEACHER AND RADIO PRODUCER

ALUMNUS DICK STOLLEY HONORED IN NYC
A CAPITAL IDEA: THE MEDILL WASHINGTON PROGRAM
A look back at how reporting from D.C. has changed 50 years of journalists’ lives

A TRIBUTE: THE LATE CECILIA VAISMAN
A dedicated teacher, and award-winning radio producer

CLASS NOTE: DICK STOLLEY
The Time Inc. veteran gets inducted into the Deadline Club’s New York Journalism Hall of Fame.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In the book “Inventing Medill,” author Alice W. Snyder described the school’s graduate program in Washington as “a uniquely successful enterprise” that evolved from a “go-for-broke” style.

In April we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Washington program with a special ceremony that features stories from alumni who worked as part of the Medill News Service.

The timing is perfect for several ambitious new efforts in San Francisco and Chicago in 2016 and special plans for the Evanston campus.

Medill still has a “go-for-broke” style. Build-out is starting on our San Francisco site at 44 Montgomery St. The space will include classrooms, a broadcast studio, a design lab with the McCormick School’s computer science program, and spaces for small-group work similar to the style at new-media companies.

Also in the spring we will open a new Chicago site at 303 East Wacker Dr., overlooking the river, for our graduate students. The architectural plans for Chicago are similar to the San Francisco site.

Gensler, with offices in San Francisco and Chicago, is the design firm for both locations.

It is unusual to take on so many projects at the same time, but our academic buildings need significant work. Plus, Northwestern is significantly upgrading the main Evanston campus and wants the teaching and research spaces to be top quality, reflective of a world-class university.

The spectacular Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Center for the Musical Arts just opened on the lakefront east of Medill, and the new Kellogg School of Management building is rising along the lakefront next to the Allen Center.

By 2017, the plan is for a renovation of historic Fisk Hall, a Daniel Burnham building dedicated in 1899. We will select an architect in the spring.

The Fisk renovation offers a new building but not additional space. A review of Medill’s student life and technology needs shows that a much larger building is essential for our many programs in Evanston. We likely will design an additional building that will link Fisk and the McCormick Foundation Center.

The expansion to San Francisco, along with construction in Chicago and Evanston, establishes Medill once again as a unique enterprise, the best school of its kind in the world.

THE ARTICLE

The article about John Bartlow Martin hit home with me. He’s the reason I went into magazine work (business-to-business media). I’ve never forgotten one point he made during our magazine class, and it has served me well. He told us that he edited his articles at least six times — trimming and trimming away — before submitting them for publication. As the writer, he needed to know everything first, and then craft the story with only the points that really mattered. Less, to him, truly was more. To this day, I follow that counsel in my own writing, and I’ve passed it on to staff and freelance writers with whom I’ve worked. His legacy lives on.

Maxine (Osdoby) Golding (MSJ74)

LETTER FROM THE DEAN

Bradley J. Hamm

Dean

MEDILL NEWS

MEDILL NEWS

IMC talentQ Expo

Medallist students, alumni, faculty staff and marketing communications professionals joined for an evening of discussion about the convergence of marketing and technology at this year’s talentQ expo in downtown Chicago on Thursday, Nov. 12.

By Kaitlyn Thompson (BSJ11)

Middle top: Panelist Paul MarsBeila, Haves Worldwide Chicago CEO, speaks with Medill students and alumni before the event on Nov. 12.

Middle second: L to R, talentQ Committee members Xinwei Zhang (IMC15), Xinwei Yang (IMC15), Lindsay Sarah (IMC10), Zachary Adler (IMC10), Sara Singh (IMC16)

Middle third: Keynote speaker Terry Davenport (MSA82), SVP Marketing for Starbucks, interacts with Medill students and alumni.

Middle fourth: L to R, Singh and Adler introduce panelists Paul MarsBeila, Mary Lou Song (BSJ89), FUELX CEO; moderator and IMC Assistant Professor Dan Gruber; Scott Campbell, Colgate-Palmolive general manager; and Pradeep Kumar (IMC03), PCB VP, consumer intelligence director.

Bottom: L to R, Panelists MarsBeila, Song, moderator Gruber and panelist Campbell (plus Pradeep Kumar (IMC03), not pictured) discuss the convergence of marketing and technology.

Above: Davenport delivers his keynote speech.

A Journalist Is...a voice for the voiceless.

Medal Winner Kathy Gannon Visits Medill


Bottom: Diane Foley, mother of James Foley (MSJ04), participated in a student-led Twitter event for conflict journalists before the medal presentation and lecture.

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NEW YORK CITY HAPPY HOUR FOR MAGAZINE ALUMNI - OCT. 19

RIGHT: L to R, April Daley (MSJ13) and Esther Bergdahl (MSJ15)

FAIR RIGHT: L to R, Victoria Fine (BSJ07, MSJ15) and Kate Gardiner (MSJ15)

BELOW: L to R, Laura Bradley (MSJ14), Jackie Zimmermann (MSJ14) and Mitch Goldish (MSJ14)

CLUBS

CHERUBS - JULY 23
Medill Hall of Achievement member and Board of Advisors member Dick Stolley (BSJ52, MSJ53) speaks to the summer Cherubs.

MIDDLE LEFT: L to R, Kathy Neumeyer (BSJ66) and Jennifer Hontz (BSJ93)

FAIR LEFT: Medill Hall of Achievement member and Fox Searchlight President Nancy Utley (BSJ77, MSJ78) spoke at the Medill Club of SoCal Gala.

LEFT: L to R, Thomas Greanias (BSJ87, MSJ87) and wife, Laura

CLUBS

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE - JULY 8

L to R, Noor Wazwaz (MSJ15), Kenneth Piner (MSJ93) and Ezra Kaplan (MSJ15) at the D.C. reception for the National Association of Native American Journalists conference.

MEDILL TAILGATE OCT 17

L to R, Christina Stewart (IMC15), Alex Keeshihan (MC15), Sam Dyson (MC15), Brandon Marzanc (MC15) and Ethan Bailey

MEDILL DEAN’S RECEPTION FOR HOMECOMING - OCT 16

LEFT: L to R, Marc Zarefsky (BSJ07), NU Trustee Christine Brennan (BSJ80, MSJ81) and Gabe Gutierrez (BSJ05)

ABOVE: L to R, Pat Phillips (BSJ54) and Joel Sprayregen (BSJ55)
I was in D.C. the summer of the Iran-Contra hearings, and it was one of the most amazing summers of my life. I was assigned to two newspapers in Maine, and both senators from Maine were on the Iran-Contra hearing panel. This meant I was seated in the front row between the Los Angeles Times and the Boston Globe—and both senators swiftly returned my phone calls. I felt a heady sense of power and responsibility.

Everything about that experience has stayed with me, including finding news on a slow news day. Even getting to wear the press badges and descend on the Press Club on Friday nights for the free buffet was exciting for me. I feel extremely lucky to have had that opportunity.

Karen Dillon (MSJ87)

My decision to participate in Medill’s Washington program was the first stepping stone toward a career I’m more passionate about every day. And a few of those [Washington] moments have stuck with me.

National Press Club pass. This is when I really felt legit (and I didn’t hate getting to chat with rapper Ludacris about his foundation). Interviews with congressmen and senators. As a 24-year-old graduate student, getting the chance to interview Sen. John McCain about health care issues and industry reform is something I’ll never forget.

Shooting a stand-up in front of the White House in the midst of an angry mob of health care protestors and loving it.

Pardoning the turkey. It was cool to have a front row seat as President Obama pardoned a turkey for Thanksgiving.

Alexandra Thomas Sadler (MSJ09)

I remember the first day we met Neil V. McNeil. A little intimidating, to say the least. The first order of business was a pop quiz on the presidency, cabinet and the admonition that we better know the basics if we expected to survive. Although McNeil was fair, he made it clear we were just nphony and he had a very high level of expectation from us.

I remember the day President Johnson died. McNeil grabbed me by the arm and bellowed, “Find out when they’re going to play the S.O.B.” There was a rumor [I never did ascertain if it was based in fact] that President Johnson had McNeil thrown out of a White House news conference several years earlier.

Mark N. Levine (MSJ73)

My most memorable experience in Medill’s Washington program required playing hanky.

I completed my bachelor’s degree at Medill in April of 1974, and headed to Washington for the Medill graduate program just a month after un-elected President Gerald Ford pardoned Nixon.

But there was no pardon for the president’s men, and that October John Ehrlichman, H.R. Haldeman, John Mitchell, Kenneth Parkinson and Robert Mardian went on trial on charges of obstructing the Watergate investigation.

A fellow student and I read that limited public seats were available at the trial, but we would have to line up in the morning in a court-house hallway in hopes of making the cut for the afternoon session.

When Ehrlichman returned from his lunch break, he charted a bit with those of us in line and even autographed my courthouse ticket.

Ann Silverberg (BSJ74, MSJ75)

D.C. MEMORIES

Karen Dillon (MSJ87)

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The year was 1966. The civil rights movement was gaining steam; Medicare and Medicaid had started to expand health services to the elderly and poor, and fighting escalated in Vietnam as public sentiment against the war grew. It was a turbulent era in Washington and, for the first time, Medill students were there to cover it with the launch of what would become Medill’s Washington program.

As a member of the inaugural spring quarter 1966 class, Al From (BSJ65, MSJ66) recalls just how innovative it was for Medill to establish a working newsroom in the capital staffed by student journalists—the first of its kind by any journalism program in the country.

“The school was so nervous we would do something bad to put the program in jeopardy,” From said with a laugh.

The experiment worked. As the program celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2016, Medill students in Washington cover news on Capitol Hill as fully credentialed journalists working alongside seasoned veterans. Building upon their training at Medill’s Evanston campus and in the Chicago newsroom, they continue to gain real-world public affairs reporting experience as they earn their degrees. The program has produced Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists, Emmy award-winning broadcasters, respected political strategists, nonprofit leaders, attorneys and corporate communications and public relations executives, among others.

When the program began, a handful of newspapers and radio stations subscribed to Washington dispatches from Medill students. The students worked under the leadership of the late Neil McNeil, a newspaper reporter from Houston who worked in Washington for the Scripps Howard newspapers, the Washington Daily News. From remembers McNeil as a “crusty old newspaper man” whose father also had worked in the business.

Charles Alexander, a Medill faculty member who served as editor and publisher of the Journal Herald in Dayton, Ohio, became the second director of the program in 1975. He over saw an expansion that included the addition of broadcast television stations to the client roster. Lou Prato, a veteran broadcaster who had worked at stations in the Midwest, taught broadcast students starting in 1983. Prato taught his students to do live shots and worked with them to build their demo reels so they could find jobs after graduation.

“We came to be recognized as a legitimate news operation for the local papers and stations that were our clients,” Alexander said. “That was very gratifying for me by the time I left.”

Shearer and Mary Coffman succeeded Alexander and Prato in the fall of 1984, becoming co-directors of the program, overseeing print and broadcast students, respectively. Coffman, a broadcast engineer for 20 years, retired as co-director in 2007 but remained teaching until 2010 when she became associate professor emerita, and Shearer continued on as director.

Shearer, whose career includes stints at Reuters, (New York) Newsday and United Press International, is most proud of creating the National Security Journalism program and the investigative projects she’s led for the Medill Washington program—particularly the 2004 and 2006 “Power Trips” investigative projects. In a joint effort with the Center for Public Integrity and American Public Media, Medill reporters analyzed tens of thousands of documents to create databases of privately sponsored travel for members of Congress and their staff to lavish resorts in exotic locations. The award-winning reports generated enough media interest that other media outlets delved deeper into the topic. The Washington Post broke the scandal that led to former Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff’s conviction and new policies for how lawmakers report trips financed by private interests.

When Shearer started leading the program, students were typically assigned to report exclusively for one or two media outlets. Now students write for multiple clients depending on their chosen beats, which include business, national security, education, environment, health care, science and technology, sports, politics and living. Partners now include the Christian Science Monitor, MarketWatch.com, McClatchy news service, PCWorld.com, USA Today.com, U2 News.com, four TV stations and two radio stations.

And there’s no longer such a divide between broadcast and traditional print; students post to Twitter, write long-form narratives and produce multimedia packages with videos and charts. “We keep evolving as the industry keeps evolving and we try to stay a step ahead,” said Shearer, who is also the William F. Thomas Professor at Medill and co-director of the Medill National Security Journalism Initiative. “We want to make sure the students are comfortable reporting across all these different platforms and excellent at one or two.”

Noor Wazwaz (MSJ15) covered national security from Washington and spent a week reporting from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for Medill. Now an intern at National Public Radio’s “Weekend All Things Considered,” Wazwaz said the Washington program gave her the opportunity to “be a ‘real’ journalist before graduation.

“What I mean by ‘real’ is I had access to Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court, the White House and State Department, where all the laws and policies for our country are being created,” Wazwaz said. “It was a great chance to not only witness history, but be a part of it. I was there, side-by-side, covering the same event with reporters from CNN, AP and Reuters.”
COVERING WASHINGTON’S MOVERS AND SHAKERS

HELENA ANDREWS-DYER (MSJ05)

With a nary an interest in politics, Helena Andrews-Dyer (MSJ05) wasn’t considering enrolling in the Washington program. That is, until the California native considered the alternative: spending the winter quarter in frigid Chicago. One of the first stories she covered was the swearing in of future U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, once a single mother and welfare recipient and the first black woman elected to Congress from Wisconsin.

After graduating from Medill, Andrews-Dyer expected to return to New York City, where she had been working since earning her bachelor’s degree from Columbia University. But “after being in the program I kind of caught the D.C. bug,” she said. She worked as a news assistant in the New York Times’ Washington bureau for a year before joining startup Politico, the Washington-based online political magazine, covering “congressional style,” which Andrews-Dyer calls “the ultimate oxymoron.” She left to write “Bitch is the New Black,” a memoir published by Harper Collins in 2010 that “Grey’s Anatomy” creator Shonda Rhimes called “authentic and funny,nothing like what it is to be young, black and single right now—from a voice both outrageously funny and heartbreakingly honest.”

Her biggest takeaway from Medill’s Washington program, Andrews-Dyer said, was learning to hook readers with the lead of a story. “It can’t happen on every story necessarily but you have to grab people—especially in the new media landscape,” Andrews-Dyer said. “That’s definitely stuck with me throughout my career.”

That’s what Andrews-Dyer aims to do as co-author of the Washington Post’s Reliable Source gossip column, where she covers the intersection of pop culture and politics. That coverage includes celebrity sightings around town, weddings and other major social events involving public figures, fashion and multi-million dollar real-estate sales.

FROM JOURNALIST TO POLITICAL STRATEGIST

AL FROM (BSJ65, MSJ66)

When Al From (BSJ65, MSJ66) started his journalism education, his idol was President John F. Kennedy’s press secretary, Pierre Salinger. Drawn to journalism and politics, From headed to Washington, D.C., to be part of the inaugural Washington newroom in 1966. From would go on to become a powerful political strategist playing a pivotal role in the Democratic Party’s return to power in the 1990s.

A native of South Bend, Indiana, From had spent several summers working at the South Bend Tribune and brought the newspaper on as a client of the Medill News Service in Washington. He had planned to return to journalism upon graduation from Medill in 1966 but instead stayed in Washington, joining fellow Medill alumna and Pulitzer Prize winner Edgar May in President Lyndon Johnson’s War on Poverty group. It was led by Robert Edgar May in President Lyndon Johnson’s administration. From graduated from Medill in 1966 but instead worked for a Washington newspaper on as a client of the Medill News Service in Washington. He had planned to return to journalism upon graduation from Medill in 1966 but instead stayed in Washington, joining fellow Medill alumna and Pulitzer Prize winner Edgar May in President Lyndon Johnson’s War on Poverty group. It was led by Robert Edgar May in President Lyndon Johnson’s administration.

From said, “My job was to go out around the country—in my case it was six states in the Deep South—because Sargent Shriver didn’t trust the bureaucrats to tell him what was going on in his programs. So he hired a bunch of young journalists and a few lawyers. Our job was to go out and spend a week reporting in the field and write long-form journalism pieces of what was going on.”

From continued working on Capitol Hill, working as the staff director of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations, serving as deputy adviser to President Jimmy Carter, and becoming executive director of the House Democratic Caucus, among other positions. Those leadership positions helped From establish the Democratic Leadership Council with governors, senators, and house members. The New York Times Magazine called the DLC one of the two “most influential think tanks in history.” The DLC championed national service, an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit, welfare reform, charter schools, community policing and expanded trade and other ideas that became the core of the Democratic Party’s agenda. From led the organization from 1985 to 2009; it was folded into the Clinton Foundation in 2011. He’s now principal of The From Company, LLC, a consultancy.

A documentary based on From’s 2013 book, “The New Democrats and the Return to Power,” is under consideration for the 2016 Sundance Film Festival. The book includes a forward by President Bill Clinton, who credits “a great deal” of his election to the DLC and From in particular. “It would be hard to think of a single American citizen who, as a private citizen, has had a more positive impact on the progress of American life in the last 25 years than Al From,” President Clinton said in a 2008 speech recounted in the book.

COVERING THE STORIES THAT MATTER TO HIM

TODD JOHNSON (BSJ08, MSJ09)

As a Medill student in the Washington program, Todd Johnson (BSJ08, MSJ09) covered education issues across the U.S., including stories about the success the organization from 1985 to 2009; it was folded into the Clinton Foundation in 2011. He’s now principal of The From Company, LLC, a consultancy.

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disability journalist at The Grio, a New York-based startup multimedia news site covering issues relevant to the black community. Johnson saw it as an opportunity to continue doing the work he started in Washington. After several months, he was sent to earthquake-ravaged Haiti to report on the disaster.

One of the stories he’s most proud of is The Grio’s reporting on a 70-year-old capital punishment case. In 1944, black teenager George Stinney Jr. became the youngest person ever executed in South Carolina. His trial lasted a few hours, no witnesses were called on his behalf and no appeal was filed. NBC Nightly News picked up the story and, in 2014, a judge vacated the conviction, clearing Stinney’s name.

“He here, he is, 70 years later, getting some form of justice and I feel like I had a very, very small, minuscule part of that,” Johnson said “I think we sort of moved the needle a little bit, along with NBC, in making that happen.”

Previously owned by NBCUniversal, The Grio is now independent, and Johnson is the managing editor. He credits Medill’s Washington program with providing the guidance he needed to become a better journalist and giving him the freedom he sought to cover the stories that mattered most to him.

“D.C. was the most memorable experience of my master’s program,” Johnson said. “It was all about the work. The university isn’t nearby. There isn’t a huge campus. You are Medill’s representative there. I didn’t want to leave.”

WASHINGTON PROGRAM A SPRINGBOARD TO INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM

FRANCES KUO (MSJ00)

Despite growing up nearby in Maryland, Frances Kuo (MSJ00) still was intimidated to cover Capitol Hill in 2000. She worked as a Medill News Service correspondent for WCAX, the CBS affiliate in Burlington, Vermont. It didn’t take long for Kuo, to develop strong working relationships with the Vermont congressional delegation and become acquainted with how the Beltway works.

“We were expected to generate story ideas, shoot B-roll and interviews, and file our stories in time for our respective station’s newscasts,” Kuo said. “The entire time I felt like I was in a real newsroom and knew that this was similar to one I’d hopefully find myself in in the professional world.”

After graduation, Kuo worked at TV news stations in Illinois, North Carolina, Indiana and Kentucky, where she earned two Emmy nominations. She then worked at the local NBC affiliate in Charlotte, North Carolina, and went on to join the foreign desk at NBC News Channel. Working for the foreign desk, she provided reports on international news stories to the NBC affiliates across the country. There she also served as part of the on-site production team for the 2012 London Summer Olympics and assisted in Olympics coverage for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

Kuo, a first-generation Chinese-American whose father was a journalist in China, is currently a Washington-based reporter, producer and writer for CCTV America, an English-language network that is part of China’s largest TV broadcaster. She covers international news for six daily news programs that are broadcast worldwide. Kuo has also come back to Medill’s Washington program to teach reporting seminars.

“I’m very proud to be able to return to the newsroom that was so vital to my growth process and provide that same foundation for the next classes of talented journalists,” Kuo said.
GREGG RAMSHAW (BSJ67, MSJ68)

Gregg Ramshaw was a student in Medill’s Washington program in 1968. Ramshaw was covering a Senate hearing when news broke that President Lyndon Johnson had ordered the call-up of military reservists. “That’s when Ramshaw, in his own words, ‘caught “Potomac fever.” He embraced the opportunity to return to Washington in 1968, and one of their first dates took place at The National Press Club. At the time, both were students in Medill’s broadcast program, experiencing firsthand in Washington the deadline-driven world of TV news. Jim Parenti was covering then-Sen. Bob Dole’s presidential campaign for CBS affiliate WIBW in Topeka, Kansas, Dole’s hometown news station. Alisa Parenti covered the North Dakota congressional delegation for WDAY, the ABC affiliate in Fargo, North Dakota. Married since 1989, the couple’s careers have taken them to Chicago, Syracuse, New York and Washington. Alisa is a Washington-based news anchor for Bloomberg Radio, she also has taught journalism at Georgetown University’s graduate journalism program, earning the Outstanding Faculty Award in 2011. Jim has spent the majority of his career in communications and administrative positions in state and federal government—including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and a White House detail—and higher education; he is a senior associate dean and chief administrative officer for the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

In Washington, the couple reconnected with the program that brought them together. The Parentis have served for more than a decade as volunteer coordinators of the Medill Mentors Program, hosting a reception in Medill News Service’s Washington newsroom each quarter to connect students with Washington-based Medill alumni. Many of these connections continue after the students become alumni seeking advice—and jobs—from their mentors.

“For us, these receptions call to mind our own days at Medill students in Washington—where we first met and fell in love—and allow us to reflect on the many meaningful ways in which Northwestern and Medill have contributed to our lives and to any success we have enjoyed,” Jim Parenti said. “We feel very blessed.”

CATCHING POTOMAC FEVER DURING A SENATE HEARING

WASHINGTON NEWS WITH A CHICAGO ACCENT

CARLOS ROIG (MSJ06)

When Carlos Roig (MSJ06) was evaluating graduate journalism programs, Northwestern’s Washington program was one of the deciding factors that spurred him to apply. The California native was attracted to everything the nation’s capital has to offer—and he hadn’t left the D.C. area since coming there as part of the Medill program. “It’s a great city for that mix of media and communications and policy,” Roig said.

Roig built his career at the intersection of media, communications and policy. After graduating, he joined USA Today as assistant news director, later becoming the news director of politics. In that position, he directed the 2008 presidential campaign, election and inauguration coverage for the organization’s digital platforms. He then became product innovation manager, a position that overlapped the editorial and business sides of USA Today.

In 2010, Roig left the newspaper to join a Washington-based public affairs agency now known as Subject Matter. He serves as the company’s executive vice president, working on business and strategy development for industry associations, large foundations and other clients.

Roig worked on a number of complex data-focused projects while he was at Northwestern. As an inaugural McCormick Tribune Foundation leadership scholar, Roig spent months sifting through data to break a story about Social Security data serving as a major source in terrorism probes since 9/11, which was published in the Washington Post. He now helps clients like the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation pull out newsworthy stories from their proprietary data about childhood obesity, for example, and partner with news organizations to publish trend pieces, interactive stories and data visualizations on public health issues.

“I used to joke that I felt like I was taking a full step out of journalism, but now I say I took a quarter step or an eighth of a step out,” Roig said. “You can apply the lessons of journalism to strategic communications by asking the right questions, creating the right context and making sure it gets in the right people’s hands.”

WILLIAM SWEET (MSJ75)

Although she’s been reporting from the nation’s capital for 22 years, Lynn Sweet (MSJ75) hasn’t lost her Chicago accent. It’s as obvious in the columns and news stories she writes as the Washington bureau chief of the Chicago Sun-Times as it is in her voice. She has followed then-U.S. Sen. Barack Obama to Africa and analyzed Rahm Emanuel’s transition from White House chief of staff to Chicago mayor, and she has covered topics both local and national.

Sweet’s career has flourished despite the downsizing that has impacted journalism in general and the Sun-Times in particular. Through it all, Sweet has embraced the change through digital journalism. She became one of the first Sun-Times reporters to write a blog and amassed more than 27,000 Twitter followers.

Known for asking tough questions, Sweet is also well-sourced. That combination results in scoops such as those that led to the downfall of former Illinois Congressman Aaron Schock. Schock appears regularly on CNN, Fox News and MSNBC and various Chicago radio shows. She is a fixture in Washington, attends the White House Correspondents Dinner, is the former president of the Washington Press Club Foundation and said she hopes she can continue doing what she’s doing for years to come.

“One thing that never gets old for me is just being able to get cleared in through the northwest White House gate,” Sweet said.

“Another thing is being able just to roam the halls of the Capitol and be able to walk up to the briefing rooms of the White House. Or to go to political events and see some of the big local and national figures up close. That never gets old.”
New York Times investigative reporter James Risen (MSj78) has built his career on keeping the federal government in check. In 2006, he won the Pulitzer Prize for national reporting for his stories about President George W. Bush’s warrantless wiretapping program. He got his first taste of Washington reporting as a correspondent for Edinburg (Texas) Daily Review during his fall 1977 quarter in Medill’s Washington program.

“It convinced me that Washington was where I wanted to be,” Risen said.

During the program, Risen reported on political discussions about merging the U.S. Customs, Immigration and Drug Enforcement agencies into a single organization. Although the idea didn’t gain any traction at the time, it did in the aftermath of 9/11 with the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security as a unified, integrated cabinet agency.

“I was kidding people that I was 25 years ahead on that story,” Risen said.

Risen was part of a reporting team that won the 2002 Pulitzer for explanatory reporting for post-9/11 coverage. In 2015, Risen was prepared to go to prison to protect the identity of a confidential source in a leak trial, but ultimately he wasn’t called to testify. Prosecutors first subpoenaed Risen in 2008 in the case of former CIA officer Jeffrey Sterling, whom they accused of leaking information to Risen for his bestseller “State of War: The Secret History of the CIA and the Bush Administration.” Sterling ultimately was convicted of violating the Espionage Act for revealing details about Operation Merlin, a botched attempt by the Clinton administration to sabotage Iran’s nuclear program, and in 2015 was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison.

Risen calls the Obama administration “the greatest enemy of press freedom that we have encountered in at least a generation” for its use of the Espionage Act to crack down on leakers and whistleblowers. The Radio Television Digital News Association, the New England First Amendment Coalition and The Nation Institute are among the journalism advocacy groups that have recognized Risen for his commitment to press freedom—a cross he never expected to bear.

“I never thought I would end up in this situation,” Risen said. “I always was just a reporter for my whole career. I didn’t think the government would come after me the way they have. So it was kind of forced on me.”
MARIA DE LOURDES LASO (BSJ’84), known to most as Mari Liu, 53, of Orange County, California, died Sept. 28. After her graduating from Northwestern University, Laso worked copy-editing jobs at the Austin American-Stateeman in Texas and the Orange County Register. It was at the Register that she met her future husband, Stephen Elders, who was also a copy editor. They married in September 1989. Laso joined the Los Angeles Times Orange County Edition as a copy editor in 1992. At both the Register and the Times she wrote an array of columns reviewing children’s books, which helped fuel her passion to write young-adult novels and picture books. In 1999, she became managing editor of eToys’ children’s books department, which was the job she loved the most. She next followed her dream of writing children’s books, and became mentor to both aspiring and experienced writers. Laso taught a volunteer weekly writing class for senior citizens in Orange. In spring 2015, she realized her dream of becoming a published author when Scholastic Books bought her middle-grade novel “The Morning Come.” It will be released in spring 2017. Laso is survived by her husband, Stephen, mother, Maria; brother, Andy; nephew, Andrew; sister; a half-brother and half-sister, Theresa and Loretta Grennon, and sister, Mary.

BARBARA S. SULLIVAN (BSJ’57), 79, of Wheaton, Illinois, died June 25. Sullivan was a retired Chicago Tribune reporter who spent more than 20 years covering everything from the Cook County courthouse to Chicago’s new laws for the paper. Sullivan earned a Peter Lisagar Award for excellence in education reporting along the way. She wrote in Cook County’s award-winning tennis and bridge player, a voracious reader and an inverter traveler who spent time in Turkey, Greece, Italy, Nepal, Peru, Costa Rica, China, Mexico and France, often writing about her adventures. She also wrote two books and newspapers. She was also a RNMC memorial fund has been set up in her memory at http://support. rmhc.org/JamieHaberkorn.

WILLIAM SCHUJT (MSJ’52), 25, of Lake Forest, Illinois, died Sept. 17. Schutt is survived by his parents, Stephen Schutt and Loretta Grennon, and sister, Mary.
When I dreamed of becoming a writer, my professors gave me feedback. When I expressed interest in documentaries, my peers lent me their tripods. When I became fascinated with code, the Knight Lab fostered a safe space for questions. When I sought to grow online audiences, my Journalism Residency at Time showed me the ropes. When I realized numbers could tell the most impactful stories, Medill alumni at The Texas Tribune expected excellence in data reporting. When I go forward in my journalism career, I know I’ll have the support of the Medill community, no matter how my pursuits in media evolve.

MALLORY BUSCH (BSJ15)
BUSCH SPENT HER FINAL QUARTER AT MEDILL IN PARIS FOR STUDY ABROAD

MEDILL ALUMNUS DICK STOLLEY INDUCTED INTO JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME

BY BETH MOELLERS

DICK STOLLEY (BSJ52, MSJ53) WAS IN GOOD COMPANY WHEN HE WAS INDUCTED INTO THE DEADLINE CLUB’S NEW YORK JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME IN NOVEMBER

The 2015 Journalism Hall of Fame inductees include Medill’s Dick Stolley, along with other notable journalists Charlie Rose, of CBS and PBS; Lesley Stahl, reporter for “60 Minutes”; Max Frankel, former executive editor of the New York Times; Juan Gonzalez, of the New York Daily News and co-host of “Democracy Now!”, and Paul Steiger, former managing editor of the Wall Street Journal and executive chairman of ProPublica.

Stolley, who retired from a 62-year career with Time Inc. in 2014, was a founding member of the Medill Board of Advisers and still serves the school in that capacity. He is also a charter member of Medill’s Hall of Achievement and helped to found the James Foley Medill Medal for Courage in Journalism.

Stolley has been a reporter, writer, bureau chief, senior editor and managing editor at Time Inc. since finishing his master’s at Medill in 1953. He has served as assistant managing editor and managing editor of Life magazine, founding managing editor of People magazine, and director of special projects for Time Inc. One of the biggest highlights of Stolley’s career was tracking down and purchasing for $150,000 the famed Zapruder film of President John F. Kennedy’s 1963 assassination.

Stolley has received lifetime achievement awards from the American Society of Magazine Editors and the Magazine Publishers of America.

L to R, Hall of Fame honorees included Max Frankel, former editor of the New York Times; Paul E. Steiger, former editor of the Wall Street Journal and ProPublica; Lesley Stahl, correspondent of CBS’s “60 Minutes,” Charlie Rose, host of “CBS This Morning” and “The Charlie Rose Show” on PBS; Juan Gonzalez, columnist for the New York Daily News and “Democracy Now!”; and Stolley, founding managing editor of People magazine who had a 62-year career with Time Inc. Photo courtesy of The Deadline Club
1950s


PAMELA LAJOWICKI MENAKER (BSJ75, MSJ87) was named “Publisher of the Week” on Oct. 12 by the Northwestern Alumni Association. Menaker, who is an adjunct lecturer at Medill and is a communications partner at Clifford Law Offices, also took a key role in organizing this year’s Alumni Homecoming celebration.

1980s

WILLIAM WEINBAUM (BSJ82, MSJ83) received an award during the 2015 Military Reporters and Editors Journalism Contact in the Domestic, Large Broadcast Category for ESPN’s “Outside the Lines” episode, “Friend Who Fired.” It tells the story of the Army Rangers involved in the death of Pat Tillman, the former professional football player. Weinbaum, the producer of the piece, was honored along with reporters Mike Fish and John Barr in October in Washington, D.C.

BARBARA GRAFF (MSA84) recently released a new contemporary solo piano album titled “Purity of the Heart.” The album’s title track, “Pergola,” was inspired by the namesake canopy of vines. This is Graf’s third instrument album. She has also released holiday-themed single with vocals, titled “Christmas Magic,” and a love song with lyrics, titled “This Way.” She is also collaborating on a country song.

ELIZABETH HENRY ALLER (BSJ85, MSJ87) was promoted to senior vice president of global communications for MetroHealth. She previously held chief communications positions at Huntington Bancshares, Dell, Staples, Raytheon, Local Corporation and Citicorp. Allen is a Medill Board of Advisers member and a member of the Medill Board of Trustees.

EMERALD MCDONALD (BSJ07, MSJ08) took part in a virtual observational bit signing ceremony that stemmed from a story she broke and followed as a reporter in Washington, D.C. Her story on Bill 4056 improves oversight of mobile home parks. It comes after unsatisfactory conditions and poor management forced the local county health department to push hundreds of out of their homes in the middle of winter. Her reports on this story earned a regional Emmy and a first place award from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. The Associated Press also has recognized her work. Morrow recently accepted a reporting position at WTSF-TV, the CBS affiliate in Florida’s Tampa Bay area.

2010s

LEE WHACK (MSJ11) was selected as the new press secretary for the 2016 Democratic National Convention. Lee Whack is a writer at Working America, the community affiliate of the AFL-CIO. Gentilviso is part of a six-person team that manages press and online communications and campaigns. The organization focuses on issues including jobs, health care, education and corporate accountability. Previously, he was politics editor at The Huffington Post.

MATT R. RICHTER (BSJ85) recently joined Horngren Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP’s Labor and Employment Department and its Wage and Hour Matter practice in the firm’s Detroit office. Previously, Richter worked at Bernabei & Wachtel PLLC in Washington, D.C. He has admitted to practice in Virginia and Washington, D.C. He is anticipating admission to the State Bar of Michigan in the coming months.

MELISSA HARRIS (MSJ02), has joined Origin Capital Partners, a Chicago-based private equity firm, as vice chairman and co-founder of Media Rise, a global production and content company. Harris is a four-time winner of the Ohio School Journalists Association’s优异奖, five Pacemakers and honored with the Best Award in photography. She was named ‘Wildcat of the Week’ on Oct. 12 by the Northwestern Alumni Association. Menaker, who is an adjunct lecturer at Medill and is a communications partner at Clifford Law Offices, also took a key role in organizing this year’s Alumni Homecoming celebration.

CHRIS GENTILVISO (BSJ09) is now a writer at Reuters and a senior editor at the Cleveland Plain Dealer. Gentilviso is part of a six-person team that manages press and online communications and campaigns. The organization focuses on issues including jobs, health care, education and corporate accountability. Previously, he was politics editor at The Huffington Post.

MATT E. RADLER (BSJ85) recently joined Horngren Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP’s Labor and Employment Department and its Wage and Hour Matter practice in the firm’s Detroit office. Previously, Radler worked at Bernabei & Wachtel PLLC in Washington, D.C. He has admitted to practice in Virginia and Washington, D.C. He is anticipating admission to the State Bar of Michigan in the coming months.

LINDA SCHWARTZ and COHN LLP’s Labor and Employment Department and its Wage and Hour Matter practice in the firm’s Detroit office. Previously, Radler worked at Bernabei & Wachtel PLLC in Washington, D.C. He has admitted to practice in Virginia and Washington, D.C. He is anticipating admission to the State Bar of Michigan in the coming months.
“Heal: The Vital Role of Dogs in the Search for Cancer Cures”
ARLENE WEINTRAUB
Publication date: Oct. 15, 2015

Drawn from extensive research and personal experience, Arlene Weintraub’s second book explores the intriguing collaboration between veterinarians and oncologists, as they work together to discover new treatments for cancers. The research focuses on the cancers that are similar in dogs and people, including lymphoma, osteosarcoma, breast cancer, melanoma and gastric cancer. Weintraub, who lost her sister to gastric cancer, describes the remarkable ability of dogs to sniff out early-stage cancer, as well as her late mother urging her to take more risks in life. Madigan is offered a job abroad and sees it as a sign. She moves to London with a new assignment for Natasha Spencer, a movie star, lifestyle guru and wife of a promising English politician. Natasha is selfish, temperamental and unwilling to let any regular food past her perfect lips. In-between testing dozens of food past her perfect lips, she finds adventure, but her attraction to her boss’s neglected husband is veering out of control. She knows there is no foolproof recipe to a happy life, but will she know when she has gone too far to get what she wants?

Today, we live in a world with a seemingly infinite amount of content and scores of methods for consuming that content. And that means marketing communication has to focus on appealing to individuals person by person. Effectively appealing to those individuals requires creating a brand experience that’s relevant and understandable, and then presenting it with a sense of style. In his new book, Wheeler answers the biggest question facing digital marketers today: How do you deliver brand content and experiences that build relationships and drive results? The quick answer is through data and analytics that drive targeted content and adaptive experiences. But since this answer is not as easy to achieve as it is to say, Wheeler’s guide is designed to help readers develop the understanding of marketing data, technology and analytics required to make it a reality.
GEORGE R.R. MARTIN AT MEDILL

MEDILL ALUMNUS GEORGE R.R. MARTIN (BSJ71, MSJ72), AUTHOR OF THE “A SONG OF ICE AND FIRE” SERIES, WHICH HBO HAS ADAPTED INTO THE EMMY AWARD-WINNING SHOW “GAME OF THRONES,” VISITED CAMPUS TO RECEIVE MEDILL’S HALL OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOV. 4-7.

OPPOSITE TOP: George R.R. Martin accepts an NU helmet from Athletic Director Jim Phillips and Willie the Wildcat at the NU vs. Penn State Game on Nov. 7. Photo credit: Stephen J. Carrera

OPPOSITE BOTTOM: George R.R. Martin joined Medill students in Wicker Park on Friday, Nov. 6, for a special “Game of Thrones” night at Geek Bar Beta. Photo credit: Jenna Braunstein Photography

TOP: L to R, George R.R. Martin (BSJ71, MSJ72) with panelists Orko Manna (BSJ16), Darren Franich, senior writer for Entertainment Weekly and Niala Boodhoo (MSJ99) on Nov. 4 at the McCormick Foundation Center in Evanston. Photo credit: Jenna Braunstein Photography

MIDDLE LEFT: George R.R. Martin and Northwestern President Morty Schapiro at an event at Cahn Auditorium on Nov. 4. Photo credit: Jenna Braunstein Photography

MIDDLE RIGHT: Medill students at the Nov. 4 event honoring George R.R. Martin’s induction into the Medill Hall of Achievement. Photo credit: Jenna Braunstein Photography

BOTTOM: Medill students with George R.R. Martin at a luncheon in his honor Nov. 4 at Scott Hall’s Guild Lounge in Evanston. Photo credit: Jenna Braunstein Photography
SAVE THE DATE! Please save the evening of Thursday, April 7 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Medill’s Washington program at NPR headquarters, 1111 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, D.C.

PHOTOS:
On the cover and above are undated photos from the Medill archives. Whoever can ID any or all of the students or faculty will receive a Medill prize!

Photo at right: Gino Vicci (MSJ12) reports in Washington during his D.C. quarter. Vicci is currently a reporter and fill-in anchor for WNEM TV5- MY5 Meredith Corporation in Saginaw, Michigan.