SPECIAL ELECTION SECTION

THE MEDILL PRESS CORPS

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A DAY IN THE LIFE
Medill’s new dean
Meet Brad Hamm and hear his thoughts on the future of the school.

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Get to know the first graduating class of journalism students from Northwestern University in Qatar.

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Public defender
John Sullivan is always on the hunt for a good story. The Pulitzer Prize-winning lecturer only needs to look in the mirror.

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Roy Elvove is the executive vice president and director of worldwide communications for advertising agency BBDO. Ray Whitehouse (BSJ12) follows him on a typical day at his office in Manhattan — and typical means beginning at 2:30 a.m.

A conversation with four alumni who are members of the White House press corps.

Prominent speechwriters from different eras compare notes.

Tim McNulty shares his D.C. experiences, and other faculty reminisce about election years.

Key players in election coverage.

Thank you for the support and for being a valuable member of the Medill Network.

Marc Zarefsky and Jessica Parker Gilbert Co-editors, Medill Magazine
My family moved to Evanston in August, and we are learning all about Northwestern and the North Shore. Yet I’ve known Medill alumni for years, so the transition to life in Fisk Hall seems natural.

Medill is an incredible school, and I am proud to be the new dean.

Several hundred alumni wrote, called or met with me since President Morton Schapiro and Provost Dan Linzer made the announcement in May. On a recent trip to South Korea and Japan to visit universities and media sites, I met a number of people who wanted to talk about Medill.

They recall specific events, professors, stories and peers. They remember lessons taught years ago. I share their pride and appreciate the history.

Medill is, and always will be, more than a specific location or a singular experience. New students and faculty arrive each year. We develop new programs and classes. We buy new equipment and renovate classrooms so students and faculty can reach their full potential. Medill is a great blend of history and values with innovation and change.

About 700 full-time faculty and staff work for Medill in Evanston, Chicago, Washington and Doha. They are talented and driven. Dozens more teach as adjuncts or support our programs. We want the ability to continue to attract and retain the best faculty and staff for many years.

Medill has a great history, from our esteemed Cherubs program to our innovative undergraduate journalism residencies to our graduate student work in D.C. and around the world. Graduate education in integrated marketing communications started at Medill, and our Qatar program is unlike any other model in the world in our field.

We work in classrooms in four cities, and we need to have the kind of facilities and equipment that foster and encourage excellence, creativity, collaboration and community. Our Doha program will move into a new building in two years, for example.

I have heard ideas from many faculty, staff, students and alumni. Over the next few months, I will visit with alumni in Washington, Los Angeles, New York and, of course, Chicago. We will plan events in other cities soon. In addition, we will meet with a great group of alumni at UNITY and AEJMC and will hold events at other conferences in the fall. I hope you will join us on visits to campus or at our alumni events.

A few years ago I read the autobiography of Herman Wells, a great university leader throughout much of the 20th century, and I often refer to a speech he made because it captures how universities can succeed.

Wells said that when there are great challenges, a university can respond with great resources: excellent faculty, quality students, forward-looking leaders and outstanding alumni. When those four groups work together, Wells said, anything can be accomplished.

I believe the strengths of these four groups at Medill and Northwestern University help us be the best school in the world.
Students and faculty involved with the Medill Watchdog program teamed with Chicago Tribune reporters to investigate the Chicago suburb of Rosemont and how the village was funding and awarding contracts for village-run ventures. The story ran on the front page of the Aug. 8 issue of the Tribune. Medill Watchdog also released a report on July 7 that examined Illinois legislators’ unwillingness to pass laws to prevent conflict of interest voting. The full report can be viewed at medillwatchdog.org.

Miranda Mulligan was named executive director of Northwestern University’s Knight News Innovation Lab. Mulligan, who is a seasoned innovator in journalism, education and news web design, began her new role on July 23.

In June, The Texas Tribune became the latest news organization to partner with Medill and feature work produced by graduate students in the Washington, D.C. newsroom. Co-founded by seasoned innovator in journalism, education and news web design, Mulligan, who is a seasoned innovator in journalism, education and news web design, began her new role on July 23.

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The Medill Media Teens program celebrated the graduation of its second class on May 12. The program, based at Medill’s downtown Chicago newsroom and directed by Sarahmaria Gomez (BSJ’05), allows Northwestern students to mentor teenagers from Chicago’s Gary Comer Youth Center with the hope of making the teens better candidates for jobs and college admission.

Medill selected 10 McCormick National Security Journalism Scholarship recipients on June 8 to participate in an innovative 11-week reporting program in fall 2012. The project, formally known as the National Security Reporting Project, will focus on the national security implications of energy.

Medill launched the Spiegel Digital & Database Research Initiative on May 22. The new center, led by Executive Director Tom Collinger and Research Director Ed Malthouse, focuses on leveraging academic research to solve marketing-industry-impacting problems that will improve financial results. The Spiegel Research Initiative was established with a gift from Medill Professor Emeritus Edward J. Spiegel and his wife, Audrey.

The Knight News Innovation Lab created nationalchicago.com, a website that showcased what was being said in news articles and on Twitter about the North Atlantic Treaty Organization leading up to and during its May 2012 meeting in Chicago. In March, the lab released a new tool to create digital timelines quickly, and also created congressionalprimaries.org, a website that featured a set of tools to help voters better understand their choices in Illinois’ 2012 congressional primaries.

More than 50 alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Medill came together during the UNITY 2012 convention at Mandalay Bay’s Border Grill in Las Vegas on Aug. 2. Guests were able to mingle with one another and also meet new Medill Dean Brad Hamm. Pictured above, from left, are: Alanna Attker (BS’05); reporter at WOWK-TV in West Virginia; Nomaan Merchant (BS’09); a reporter with the Associated Press; Medill Assistant Professor Charles Whittaker (BS’85, MS’85); and Terri Cope Walton, an assistant news director for WRTV6 in Indianapolis.

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By Anna Swindle Keller (MSJ’09)

MERSEY’S WORK EARNs HER TENURE

Rachel Davis Mersey (MSJ01) has observed Medill from two perspectives: as a student and as an assistant professor. Now, following a recent promotion to tenured associate professor, she is looking forward to the third chapter of her Medill experience.

Mersey, who was inspired to pursue a career in journalism because of her self-described “magazine addiction,” now focuses on the audience insight part of the industry, and says Medill is the ideal place to continue to delve into this niche. “One of the gifts of being at Medill is that you can experience both the practice and the study of the industry, and the school allows us to move seamlessly between the two,” Mersey says.

Her interest in audience insight was initially piqued while she worked at The Arizona Republic, where she realized there were so many complexities behind audience groups, extending beyond simple demographic data. In 2002, she published “Can Journalism Be Saved?” Rediscovering America’s Appetite for News,” which was co-authored with Professor Vijay Viswanathan, at the 2002 Marketing Science conference at Boston University on June 7-9.


Associate Professor Brent Huffman presented clips from his work-in-progress documentary, “The Buddhias of Aynak,” as part of an expert symposium to save Mes Aynak, an ancient Buddhist site in Afghanistan threatened by a Chinese state-owned copper mine. The event, hosted by the Alliance for the Restoration of Cultural Heritage, was held in Washington, D.C. on June 4-5.

Associate Professor Louise Kiernan offered a behind-the-scenes look at the first all-digital Pulitzer Prize deliberations during her faculty colloquium on May 23. Kiernan, who chaired the 2012 Pulitzer explanatory reporting jury, discussed what it takes to judge journalism’s most prestigious awards.

Assistant Professor Beth Bennett and Adjunct Lecturer Michael Sternoff co-produced a short documentary entitled “Spin” for the International Documentary Challenge. The piece was among 12 semi-finalists, and judges selected it for screening at the Toronto Hot Docs festival.

Professor Michele Wolter published the lead editorial on the CNN.com opinion page on Mother’s Day, titled “Single Mothers, Stand Proud.” She also wrote the lead editorial for the Chicago Tribune on March 25 about the Trayvon Martin case, titled “On Mothers Who Bury Their Sons.”

Professor Emeritus-in-Service Don Schultz presented the paper, “Does Online Media Impact Retailer Brand Preference?” which was co-written by Professor Martin Block, at the International Conference on Corporate and Marketing Communications on April 20 in Reines, France.

Associate Professor Zach Wise presented approaches to interactive multimedia storytelling during his faculty colloquium on April 11.

Assistant Professor Ashlee Humphreys delivered her research, “Wine Worlds,” at the University of Arizona in April. Her presentation examined the differences in the meaning attributed to wine by consumers and producers.

Professor Clarke Caywood made a presentation about using artificial intelligence for strategic communication planning to the Dallas Chapter of the Association for Strategic Planning in April.

Professor Craig Huff produced a video piece from South Bend, Ind., in March with New York Times national correspondent Susan Sallay. The story focused on efforts by neighborhoods to save abandoned houses on their blocks.

Professor Ed Malthouse delivered the keynote speech, titled “New Media Marketing Strategy,” at a conference on Digital Media and Advertising Platforms: Policy and Marketing Strategies that was held at National Chengchi University in Taipei in March.

Professor Loren Ghiglione was a consultant for Northwestern University in Qatar at a Content Consensus Conference on Feb. 29 and March 1 to brainstorm a global and digital exhibition about the media that would feature permanent and changing content. Ghiglione’s three-month, 14,063-mile project, “Traveling with Telem in Search of America’s Identity,” was also featured in the United Airlines’ Hemispheres Magazine.
Fulbright Winner to Study Olympic Impact

This spring was an award-winning season for William Carey (BSJ12), above. Carey was one of two winners of the 2012 Walter S. and Syrena M. Howell Essay Contest, an annual student competition analyzing propaganda use in journalism. He also was named valedictorian of the Class of 2011. But perhaps Carey’s most distinguishing accomplishment was that he was awarded the Fulbright Alistair Cooke Award in Journalism, an honor given to just one U.S. university student each year.

Carey will leave in September for London, where he will spend the next year studying the effects of the Olympic Games on London citizens.

“The Olympics are an incredible event that brings together so many people from across the world, but sometimes the impact of the games on the host country’s citizens gets lost,” Carey says. “I would like to use my time in London to put a human face to some of the effects. Throughout preparations for the games, people are displaced from their homes, money is diverted from other areas of the budget and many other things in the day-to-day lives of citizens are changed.”

“I’m hoping that by showing those effects through the stories of different people, it might make the experience of hosting the games more ‘real’ to others.”

By Christen Carter (MSJ11)

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4:47 A.M. Elvove starts his day at 2:30 a.m. in his Upper East Side apartment. He spends hours reading the latest news stories about BBDO and its clients, then sends an email with that information to a group of BBDO employees for them to read on their way to work.

3:11 P.M. Elvove’s day revolves around his constant communication with people, from a New York Times reporter and other media representatives to his colleagues at BBDO.

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8:47 A.M. Elvove takes a break for a cup of coffee in the BBDO kitchen.

10:23 A.M. John Osborn, president and CEO of BBDO, talks with Elvove about how to approach the company speech Osborn will make later in the day.

8:40 P.M. More than 14 hours after arriving at his office, Elvove heads home for the evening.

5:20 A.M. A snapshot of Elvove’s life can be found on a table in his apartment, including: a photo of Elvove with his wife, Caryn; a photo of his nieces, Elisa and Samantha, with his son, Zachary; his wallet; a book about baseball, a sport he used to coach; loose change; a tennis ball he throws for flexibility; a cell phone; and a key to his office.
INCOMING DEAN BRAD HAMM BRINGS EXPERIENCE, ENERGY AND A TRACK RECORD OF INNOVATION.

READY FOR THE SPOTLIGHT
When you have a conversation with Brad Hamm, a few things are immediately apparent: He loves journalism, and he loves higher education. But what he loves most is directing traffic at their intersection.

That’s just one of the many reasons why Hamm, who brings a professional background featuring a robust balance of reporting, teaching and administrative experience, is so excited to take the reins as dean of Medill, a school he considers “the place to be if you want to do journalism and journalism education at the highest level.”

“His erudite history; his incredible alumni; his as a very strong faculty and staff, and it’s well respected by everybody throughout North Carolina,” he says. “It has an incredible strength in terms of what it’s done in the past — the kinds of people associated with it — and where it stands right now.”

Hamm was announced as the dean-designate in May and officially started his tenure Sept. 1, nearly one year after the search for outgoing dean John Lavine’s successor began.

“When you look at great programs around the country or the world, YOU HAVE TO START WITH MEDILL. IT OFFERS THE KINDS OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR ANYONE TO EXCEL. MY GOAL THEN WOULD BE TO MAKE SURE THAT WE MAKE IT POSSIBLE THIS YEAR, NEXT YEAR AND TEN YEARS FROM NOW.”

— DEAN BRAD HAMM

“Brad was interested in fully understanding our objectives before he offered his thoughts on how we might fine-tune our programs and sponsorships to better serve students and the profession,” Porter says of Hamm’s collaboration with Scripps. “I think his ability to put his ego aside for the good of whatever program he’s addressing enables him to accomplish remarkable things.”

Another of Hamm’s pet projects, the National Sports Journalism Center at the Indianapolis campus, has seen tremendous success since its 2009 inception by offering the nation’s first master’s degree program in sports journalism and creating partnerships with the Associated Press Sports Editors and the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association.

“A lot of leaders will say they want to be the best at something. It’s one thing to say it, and it’s another thing to actually provide the support and resources to make that happen,” says Tim Franklin, managing editor of the Washington, D.C., bureau at Bloomberg News. In the sports journalism center’s former director. “Dean Hamm backed up his words, and he made it clear he was serious about building the center into a program of national distinction.”

FALL 2012
Ira W. Cole 1989-1996

Michael C. Janeway 1998-2001

Ken Bode 2001-2006

Loren Ghiglione 2006-2012

John Lavine 2012-

Brad Hamm

FEB. 8, 1921

Dedication

of Medill School of Journalism

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1980

1990

2000

2010

1921-1935

Harry F. Harrington,

Director of Medill School of Journalism

1937-1937

Kenneth E. Olson

1957-1983

Ira W. Cole

1984-1989

Edward P. Bassett

1998-2001

Ken Bode

2006-2012

John Lavine

2012-

Brad Hamm

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Director of Medill School of Journalism

1937-1937

Kenneth E. Olson

1957-1983

Ira W. Cole

1984-1989

Edward P. Bassett

1998-2001

Ken Bode

2006-2012

John Lavine

2012-

Brad Hamm

deanship. “It’s a matter of marshaling that talent, both out of people individually and being able to come up with the right chemistry where people can work together in a dynamic, cooperative way within Medill, across the University and with programs that we’re developing within the industry.”

Hamm recognizes the skill level inherent in the Medill community and says it is the dean’s job to “get the resources to talented people so they can do great things.” The timeless necessity of journalism combined with the potential of emerging technologies make it an ideal time for journalism schools to be as forward-thinking as possible, he says.

“No matter how good a place is, you have to keep moving or else you’ll just maintain rather than excel,” he says. “If you’re going to be at the forefront of any field, you have to be willing to take chances. Not everything will work out, but you have to be willing to try things.”

Some of this innovation is already happening at Medill, and Hamm says he expects the school to continue to push the interdisciplinary envelope on his watch.

“If you plan to be the comprehensive journalism education school in America or the world, then you need to be the leader in ideas, too,” he says. “You can train undergraduates and graduate students well, but there is an need throughout the journalism and IMC world for the ideas that will shape the future.”

Hamm is no stranger to brokering mutually beneficial interdisciplinary connections within a university. One of his final projects at Indiana was to partner with its Kelley School of Business to establish an entrepreneurial journalism initiative.

“No one lives in a zoned-off world — regardless of your field — and there is significant work done across areas,” he says. “Medill is already doing it in its work with computer science and engineering, and I think you’ll see these kinds of partnerships, however structured, just increase.”

Hamm, his wife, Hiromi, and their 2-year-old son, Yoshiki, moved to Evanston in early August. As he continues to learn the lay of the land in the city, and at Medill, Hamm says he is still sending notes to various colleagues and alumni from Indiana “to let them know how much I appreciated getting to know them.”

According to Scripps Howard’s Porter, Hamm’s leadership skills come not only from his friendly and inclusive nature but also from his ability to push others toward success. “Medill is exceptional, but the Brad I know won’t permit it to rest on its laurels,” she says. “He’ll want to hear what faculty, staff, students and alumni envision for their school. He’ll provide both practical and aspirational goals, inspire and motivate people to achieve them, and then ask, ‘What’s next?’”

For Hamm, what’s next is Medill, and he couldn’t be more excited.

“I only left Elon because of IU, and I only left IU because of Medill,” he says. “There are these opportunities that are once-in-a-lifetime, and you have to be able to think that you can make a difference. So I hope that with my experience and my work ethic, Medill will make a difference.”

MATT PAOLELLI IS A WEB CONTENT PRODUCER FOR NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY AND TEACHES A MULTIMEDIA JOURNALISM COURSE AT MEDILL.

These students are fearless — or maybe they just didn’t know any better — but they were asking questions that hadn’t been asked before and coming up with some really interesting stories on some taboo subjects”

— RICHARD ROTH

Senior Associate Dean for Journalism, Northwestern University in Qatar

Watch a sit-down interview with Brad Hamm in the tablet edition.
First Medill students in Qatar graduate, set path for future journalists

ike almost every other member of the Medill Class of 2012, Shannon Farhoud walked across the stage of Cahn Auditorium in June to receive her journalism degree. But Farhoud never had a class in Fish Hall or the McCormick Tribune Center. She spent her college years on a campus more than 7,000 miles from Evanston.

Farhoud (NU-Q 12) is one of 15 pioneering students in the inaugural class of graduates from Medill’s Middle Eastern outpost at Northwestern University in Qatar — a region that until recently was largely unaware of Medill’s reputation for journalistic excellence and still grapples with the notion of a free press.

These students took a chance on us. They’d never heard of Northwestern,” says Senior Associate Dean Richard Roth, recalling the process of interviewing prospective students, “We had no classrooms, no faculty and no facilities. We didn’t have much of anything except a story about Northwestern.”

That story in the Middle East began in 2006, when then-University President Henry Bienen arranged for Northwestern and the School of Communication to welcome the freshmen class in 2008. Invitation of Qatar’s Sheikha Mozah bint Nasser, Medill and the university President Henry Bienen arranged for Northwestern to join other American universities already offering university and teach a multimedia journalism course at Medill.

PhD by Christina Andrews (NU-Q 14)

NAZNEEN ZAHAN

PHOTO BY CHRISTINA ANDREWS (NU-Q4)

Read Q&As with nine of the graduates in the tablet edition.

Opportunities to increase their storytelling acuity abounded as students took more advanced classes and Resse their newfound journalistic muscles in a Middle Eastern society where freedom of the press remains more of a flirt than a reality. Although the Al Jazeera news network is headquartered in Doha, the station mainstreams conservative and global news, so students found a wealth of underreported stories that local media outlets had ignored for years, Roth says.

“Part of the culture there is that you don’t question authority,” Roth says. “These stories are fearless — or maybe they just didn’t know any better — but they were asking questions that hadn’t been asked before and coming up with some really interesting stories on some taboo subjects.”

Zainab Sultan (NU-Q 12) produced a documentary on breast cancer that Roth cites as inspiration for the creation of a breast cancer awareness organization in Doha. The group frequently screens Sultan’s work and encourages women to seek treatment for a disease that was previously viewed as a fatal divine punishment, Roth says.

“I’ve seen terrific work produced by these students, both in terms of writing and multimedia storytelling,” Abusharif says. “I would hold the work of these students up as an example to any Medill student.”

Evanton-based Medill Professor Jack Doppelt taught a five-week law and ethics course at NU-Q in Winter 2011, just as the Arab Spring revolutions were providing the perfect teachable moment. With a front row seat to the seismic changes taking place in the Middle East, NU-Q is a golden opportunity for everyone involved, he says.

“We are there at a moment in time when we can actually produce students who are knowledgeable about the environment, who are positioned to take jobs in the region and who are in a position for there to be jobs opening up because there isn’t a tradition of having them be reporters in a lot of places like this,” Doppelt says.

Many students in the inaugural graduating class are seizing the novelty of their situation and looking for journalistic work in the Gulf — or making their own opportunities.

“Just like at Northwestern, where we had a chance to be pioneers and really start off this program and lay the foundations, I think with the media industry in the Middle East we have an opportunity to do it all over again,” Sultan says.

In addition to landing jobs in Qatar, some students have gone back to their countries of origin to start companies and write for their newspapers.

Farhoud and three of her classmates are starting a production company together to educate Western audiences about Middle Eastern culture and we’re just starting off. We’re planning to apply for a master’s eventually.

WHAT’S NEXT: Create a production company [with Shannon Farhoud and Rana Shahid], we want to show the West and to give perspectives of people who live in the Middle East.

SHAMMAH FARHOUĐ
FROM: Jordan
WHAT’S NEXT: [With the company] we’re using Sadiya Morah’s vision of engineering women and journalists. There are lots of stories no one is talking about.

ZAINAB SULTAN
FROM: Sudan
WHAT’S NEXT: I got a few job offers in Doha, and infinitely I want to be in Doha because I think it’s such a young industry and we’re just starting off.

ASHLENE RAMADAN
FROM: Bangladesh, but family lives in Qatar
WHAT’S NEXT: Currently I’m going back to India to finish my undergraduate degree. After that hopefully I’ll be working in Doha.

WHAT’S NEXT: To produce clips [with the company] I shou’d check out culture to show the West and to give perspectives of people who live in the Middle East.

FACES OF NU-Q
Meet the nine students who traveled from Doha to Evanston to walk the stage at graduation in June.

BENAZIR KARIM
FROM: Bangladesh
WHAT’S NEXT: After graduation, I’m going to be going to France. I’m interning with United Nations in France, and after that hopefully I’ll be working in Doha.

CAMILA FERREIRA
FROM: Brazil
WHAT’S NEXT: Currently I’m going back to Brazil where I have a couple freelance jobs. I’m thinking about applying for my master’s.

NAZNEEN ZAHAN
FROM: Bangladesh, but family lives in Qatar
WHAT’S NEXT: I have interned with Al Jazeera, the Dubai Channel, and another company because I didn’t get the PR certificate that we have at NU-Q.

OLAB DIAB
FROM: Sudan
WHAT’S NEXT: I’m very interested in print journalism — I think I’m one of the very few here for that reason, but I want to find a job in print journalism in Qatar.

SHEREEN QAZI
FROM: Pakistan, born and raised in Qatar
WHAT’S NEXT: I’ve got an internship at Al Jazeera in London, France. I’m also planning to apply for a master’s eventually.

WHAT’S NEXT: To produce clips [with the company] with Shannon Farhoud and Rana Shahid, we want to show the West and to give perspectives of people who live in the Middle East.
SERVING THE PUBLIC
 THERE'S AN EASE

with which John Sullivan talks about sending people to jail. Take, for example, the..
Covering the White House is considered by many to be the pinnacle of political journalism, and Medill has a long and storied history of churning out reporters who have made 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. their second home—at least for a few years. Four Medill alumni who have or have been White House correspondents discussed their experiences with Elliott Smith (BSJ97) during the details and hard work that go hand-in-hand with the Oval Office beat. Photos by Ray Whitehouse (BSJ12).
A typical day in D.C. usually means getting to the White House in the morning and basing your schedule on the president’s schedule.”

Jeff Mason
Nicolle Wallace’s best-selling novels open the White House doors wide.

Story by Lini S. Kadaba (MSJ86) • Photos by Ray Whitehouse (BSJ12)

story by Lini S. Kadaba (MSJ86) • Photos by Ray Whitehouse (BSJ12)

Nicolle Wallace (MSJ96), a political-insider turned pundit and novelist, says she never kept a journal of her days as communications chief for George W. Bush’s White House and re-election campaign or as adviser to the McCain-Palin ticket. Yet her New York Times best-selling novels about the crisis-laden, coffee-fueled administration of America’s first female president swell with the kind of behind-the-façade details that make political junkies mute C-SPAN and spend a few hours devouring her words.

“Eighteen Acres,” which debuted in 2010, and the 2011 sequel, “It’s Classified,” are technically iction. But Wallace’s yarns, say those in the know, read spot-on.

“She has a great talent for observation,” says veteran GOP strategist Steve Schmidt, “and the ability to capture details and convey them. All of the settings are just very realistic.”

Former White House Press Secretary Dana Perino echoes that sentiment in an Amazon.com review of “It’s Classified.” “Nicolle is a remarkably talented writer,” she says. “While some people might think the stories could never happen, the details she provides — such as the back and forth with the White House press corps … even what’s best to order from the White House Mess — give her books a leg up on anything I’ve read before in this genre.”

Clearly, the 24/7 insanity of West Wing life left an indelible impression. “You just don’t forget,” Wallace, 40, says from New York’s Upper East Side, where she lives with husband Mark Wallace (also an ex-political player and now president of Tigris Financial) and 9-month-old son, Liam, when not in their Connecticut home. “I was always observing the little details … humanizing this always opaque, daunting place to friends and family.”

Some of those personal anecdotes include the Sub-Zero cool of the West Wing (“You lose your sense of what season it is,” she says), the time her heel stuck in the South lawn, the time she almost tumbled an exquisite grandfather clock in the Oval Office or the fat-free vanilla ice cream that President Bush regularly gobbled. Fictional President Charlotte Kramer’s life is a lot like reality.

The entertaining, but ultimately Washington, D.C.-damning novels, revolve around four powerful women: President Kramer, dignified despite her husband’s infidelities; the in-over-her-head vice president, Tara Meyers; the president’s confidante Melanie Kingston; and beleaguered Dale Smith, who traded her TV reporter gig to serve as the VP’s senior communications adviser.

Readers often assume Smith is Wallace, which she takes as a compliment, but she did not base the character on herself. Even before her West Wing days, she was known as sharp and likable, someone who “delivered her political attacks without snarling,” as The New York Times has noted.

“Nicolle is widely respected as one of the best communications operatives in the business in recent times,” Schmidt says. “She has an intuitive understanding about how to communicate simple things in a very complicated environment.”

But don’t let her girl-next-door niceness fool you, he adds. “She’s also tough,” he says. “She doesn’t take any crap. She made it to the top of a business that is still pretty male dominated, and she did it at a young age.”

Her career, though, has not been without its moments — the most infamous during the McCain-Palin campaign. Wallace was tasked with prepping vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin for her coming-out party and interviews with network anchors, including the game-changer with Katie Couric.

“She was a real good sport,” Wallace says. “Sarah figures, based on Palin’s book “Going Rogue,” that Palin “felt I was out to sabotage her.” Not true, Wallace insists, and suggestions otherwise get
Wallace thrived in politics. “You were working for something,” she says. “It wasn’t come in every day with a clean slate and cover something. You were trying to win a race or pass a law.”

Larry Stuelpnagel, an assistant professor of journalism and political science at Northwestern, remembers Wallace as a solid student at Medill who was drawn to political discussions. He says she was a media commentator, “She obviously has had a lot of big-time experience,” he says. “She was a professional and would make a great political analyst.”

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“At Medill, she spent one quarter covering the legal beat. “I used to drive them crazy with my questions,” she says. “I’m a curious person.”

“The Bay Area native honed her ability to communicate clear experiences, and she is what I saw when she was in Chicago and will continue the chronicles of the Kramer administration with Wallace’s trademark dry dose of realism. This time, the story is a single day during a terrorist attack. Wallace thriving in politics. “You were working for something,” she says. “It wasn’t come in every day with a clean slate and cover something. You were trying to win a race or pass a law.”

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He contemplated psychology but discovered how much science was involved. So he turned to English and finally settled on journalism. “I suppose there’s a certain sense of continuity there in being interested in why people do what they do,” McNulty says. “But as George H.W. Bush always said, ‘Don’t put me on the couch.’”

Now, 20 years after winning the White House Correspondents Association award for journalistic excellence, McNulty shares his passion with Medill students as a lecturer in global journalism and the co-director of the National Security Journalism Initiative (NSJI). His journalism career started small, with McNulty working his way through low-circulation newspapers in Michigan until finally landing a job with the Chicago Tribune in 1976. Shortly after, he volunteered to be a national correspondent and moved to a new Atlanta bureau to cover the South.

And then came China. In the late ’70s, the Trib was one of eight U.S. publications allowed to station a correspondent in China. So in 1979, he corralled his wife and three young children and moved to Beijing, first living in a hotel, then upgrading to a one-bedroom apartment. “It was always a little … tight,” he muses.

In 1985, after spending time covering post-revolution China and terrorist bombings in war-torn Beirut in the Tribune’s Jerusalem bureau, McNulty moved to Washington, D.C., to cover a variety of topics such as Congress and social policy. It was a position his bureau chiefs created to help fill McNulty’s desire to travel as much as possible.

Then they asked if he’d cover the White House. “I said, ‘Sure,’” he says, his voice much more Eeyore than ecstatic. “When you’re in Washington covering the White House, there’s a sense of being at the center of the world,” he says. “Some people love that feeling and want to stay with it, and others find a different kind of satisfaction with other kinds of journalism.”

Having reported on much of Ronald Reagan’s presidency in early 1988 and providing campaign coverage of then-Vice President Bush and Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, McNulty told his bosses he would cover four years of the Bush administration, but that was it. He was confident he would be ready to flee from presidential coverage after that, no matter who the president would be. “I told them I was either too old or too young to be the White House correspondent,” McNulty says, chuckling.

Shadowing George H.W. Bush was exhausting, like a body watch. “That’s what we used to call it,” says McNulty. “Then, it was accepted that even if she stepped out in Washington, there was always a press pool with him.”

He began to learn the nuances of the president’s personality—sensing how he would light up while answering questions about foreign policy. “You could see the change in Bush’s whole attitude and demeanor,” McNulty says. “He became much more alive and...
engaged and interested.”

One night McNulty awoke to the news of an attempted coup in Moscow. In that moment, McNulty says, the White House situation room streamed CNN because the journalists would often have the story at the same time as the CIA or FBI. It got him thinking. He wondered what difference it made that the White House had to react to news almost immediately. Did it matter if television reported news and the administration didn’t have a comment yet, even though everyone in the world could now see things instantly?

So he took a few months and wrote a series about the impact of satellite television on executive decision-making. In 1993, it led to the White House Correspondents Association Award for journalistic excellence.

There were certain perks that came with the job, like playing horses with shoes with the president on the lawn in Kennebunkport, Maine. McNulty also saw the world thanks to his trips aboard Air Force One. But Washington itself was not always paradise.

"There just weren’t enough sources to be able to do enough reporting," McNulty says. "And he’d often have to hear the same campaign rally speech five times during a 17-hour work day. It made it that much easier for McNulty to stick to his one-term promise. When Bush lost the 1992 election, McNulty closed another chapter in his reporting career.

His White House days behind him, McNulty stayed in D.C. as a special projects correspondent for the Tribune. He went on to hold a variety of positions, including national and foreign editor. He left the paper in 2005 after two-plus years as the public relations director. But there was an unfinished story in the 2008 Iowa caucuses, where Obama beat Hillary Clinton, who had been seen just a few months before as the inevitable Democratic nominee. Whatever your politics, the beauty of Iowa was seeing voters turn conventional wisdom on its head."

Virginia Brown is a writer and associate editor for Charlotte Magazine. She also is the editor of Where Magazine.

ELECTION MEMORIES

Larry Steulpnagel

Assistant Professor; Charles Deering McCormick University Distinguished Lecturer
• Former Senior State House Correspondent for New Hampshire Network News
• Covered the 1988 and 1992 presidential campaigns and conventions; conducted one-on-one interview with First Lady Barbara Bush in 1992

In 1992 it was the Democrats who had the smooth convention in New York while President George H.W. Bush and the Republicans struggled with tight election observations and what to do with Pat Buchanan. I had received a tip from a member of the New Jersey delegation about a meeting of all of the delegates in the state at an airport near Newark. My camera crew and I tagged along with the New Jersey delegates only to have the door slammed on our cameras, which was selling at the time. It was the perfect picture metaphor for the internal struggle the Republicans were having over the issue.


Steve Slavin

Associate Professor
• Former national staff reporter and Chicago bureau chief of The Washington Post
• Covered President Obama’s run to the White House beginning in 2007, the 2006 Bush-Gore recount in Florida and the Clinton-Dole race in 1996

For high drama and higher stakes, it’s hard to top the 17-days of the Florida recount that led to the 5-4 Supreme Court decision that ended George W. Bush’s long presidency.

There was an unfinished story in the 2008 Iowa caucuses, where Obama beat Hillary Clinton, who had been seen just a few months before as the inevitable Democratic nominee. Whatever your politics, the beauty of Iowa was seeing voters turn conventional wisdom on its head.

Clarke Caywood

Professor
• Served as “political expert” for ABC-TV in Chicago during the 1992 and 1996 presidential campaigns
• Former informal advisor to Texas Governor John Connally, who ran for president in 1980

Presidential primary campaigns in Wisconsin, where they were invented in 1980, were always the center of national attention before it became a “blue state.” Now that Wisconsin is “in play” for 2012, it reminds me of the committee I helped manage for Republican candidates and spokespersons in 1980. That included the very personable Sen. Bob Dole, controversial Gov. Wally申报, and Brian Williams for his rhythm and cadence.

Every afternoon during the 1992 conventions, I hosted running news chats on the TIME.com web site. At the Republican Convention in San Diego, we occasionally had GOP senators and members of Congress dropping in on the conversation. I invited George Stephanopoulos, then a 27-year-old White House spinner, to drop by for the first of the opposition in the afternoon and sit at the pod. He took me up on it and showed up in TIME’s convention newsmagazine.

Guy Benson (BSJ07)

Political editor, townhall.com

At 27, he’s getting attention for his blistering takedowns of the 2008 presidential candidates. He’s the best political reporter around, with the ability to take on every candidate in what’s shaping up to be a tight election year.

“His words are like a rapid fire machine gun,” says his former editor Dan Senor at TIME.com. “It’s really easy to get up in the morning and wade into the news cycle because the stakes are really high,” Benson says.

Benson works at a nearly breakneck pace, pumping out as many as six lengthy blog posts each day and appearing on Fox News several times a week, as an unapologetic pundit. He décembre pours a wide range of political and legal decisions, and he’s not afraid to go after the big names: George Tenet, Colin Powell, President Obama, and Newt Gingrich.

Virginia Brown is a writer and associate editor for Charlotte Magazine. She also is the editor of Where Magazine.

Benjamin Bowman (MSJ12)

Political news junkie, aspiring TV broadcaster

Bowman has high aspirations. Ask him what he wants and he will tell you David Gregory’s role on Meet the Press. Ask him what he wants to be and he will say the late Tim Russert for his command of the issues and Brian Williams for his rhythm and cadence.

The next step on the self-described political junkie’s path toward achieving his goals will be in Washington, D.C., where he will spend his fourth quarter reporting on the days leading up to, as well as the immediate aftermath of, the 2012 presidential election.

“Special report: The Super Bowl of politics," Bowman says. “It will be a baptism by fire experience." After graduating from Tennessee State University, Bowman spent two years at starting-first- and fourth-graders on Chicago’s West Side. He realized, though, that his greater passion was in public policy, not the classroom.

That is why he can’t wait to get going with Medill’s Washington program. “You’re reporting in Washington, D.C., and you’re still able to learn the tricks of the trade,” Bowman says.

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NAMES TO KNOW

Amy Hollyfield (BSJ92)

Assistant managing editor for politics, Tampa Bay Times

True or mostly true? Half false or partly-on-fire false? The Tampa Bay Times’ PolitiFact Truth-O-Meter separates fact from fiction when it comes to political spin, and in 2009 the Florida newspaper won a Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting for its coverage of the 2008 presidential election. Hollyfield oversees the newspaper’s state and national political coverage, including the PolitiFact team.

“My job is chaotic, demanding and at times overwhelming, but it’s also exactly where I belong,” Hollyfield says. PolitiFact faces a daunting task in sifting through a continuous stream of ads, political talking points and off-the-cuff remarks — then deciding which of those to cover. Longer write-ups go to items grabbing more national headlines. But PolitiFact is also seen by other political reporters as relatively neutral ground, and its assessments are widely cited — popular topics include stories related to Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney’s taxes and finances, as well as President Obama’s claims on job creation.

“We can’t get to everything we want,” Hollyfield says. “But we work hard to get to everything readers need.”

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David Weigel (BSJ04)

Slate political reporter, MSNBC contributor

Weigel is rethinking what it means to be part of the new generation of political reporters, even as he chuckles out tweets and blog posts from inside the Beltway.

Weigel’s more than $6,000 tweets a day at everything from political talking points to pop culture items in the news. Combine that with eight or more daily blog posts, plus several longer stories per week, and Weigel’s pace can seem frenetic, a point about which he is keenly aware.

“The point of blogging something that happens so fast of faded in the age of Twitter and micro-blogging,” Weigel says. “It’s fun, but what really lasts is a good tale told in short period.

That has Weigel looking for ways to balance the demand for posts with meatier stories. He questions whether political play-by-play stories add anything to the broader discourse when it’s just dueling responses from low-ball ads, or “pawing fighting points”

“The stories I think are really successful are the ones that look at a guy who gave $500,000 to a campaign, where it came from,” Weigel says. “I’ve started to slow down in order to do that, focus on something bigger.”

Virginia Brown is a writer and associate editor for Charlotte Magazine. She also is the editor of Where Magazine.

PETER SACHS IS AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER AND FREELANCE WRITER IN SAN FRANCISCO.
ANSWER: TWO ALUMS WIN BIG ON JEOPARDY!

Medill was well represented on Jeopardy! last year, with two alumni becoming champions. Andrew Baggarly (BS57), who covers the San Francisco Giants for Comcast SportsNet Bay Area, was a three-time champion in July. Baggarly followed in the footsteps of Cathy Guiles (MS60), who was a two-time champion on Jeopardy! in March. Guiles is a copy editor at SmartBrief in Washington, D.C.

Karen DeCrow (BS59) and Bob Uhlar (BS81) were part of the Wisconsin State Journal newsroom team that was named a finalist for the 2012 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news reporting. The staff was recognized “for its energetic coverage of 27 days of around-the-clock protests in the State Capitol over collective bargaining rights, using an array of journalistic tools to capture one breaking development after another.”

Dick Reif (MS77) is executive director of the Radio Television Digital News Association, the nation’s largest professional association of electronic journalists. Prior to accepting the position, Reif covered state and federal politics for ESPN, where he managed CBS-affiliated news divisions in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Tampa, Fla., and Nashville, Tenn.

George de Lama (BS79) became president for global development at Answers Media, LLC., an innovative Chicago digital media company growing rapidly in the fields of personal health care management, digital education, online culinary learning and other areas. De Lama will oversee all international online learning operations, focusing primarily on Latin America and the Caribbean.

James Fremgen (BS79) and DeeDee Moreda were named to the 2012 Missouri Lieutenant Governor’s Senior Service Award for Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas since 1999, was named the 2011 Volunteer of the Year for North America at Argus Media in Washington, D.C., where he works as not one, but two alumni became multi-day champions. Andrew Baggarly, who covers the San Francisco Giants for Comcast SportsNet Bay Area, was a three-time champion in July.

Bob Uhlar, the senior minister at Unity of Indianapolis, Uhlar previously spent 16 years in television and radio news as a reporter and producer. David Givens, who heads policy and power services for North America at Argus Media in Washington, D.C., spoke about the U.S. Bureau of Land Management on C-SPAN’s “Washington Journal” program on April 23.

Amy Pyle (BS83) became a senior editor at the Center for Investigative Reporting in May. Pyle oversees money, politics and government reporting, combining her background as a Los Angeles Times reporter and as associate managing editor of investigations at The Sacramento Bee.

Coca Cox (BS84), the CEO of Resource Center of Dallas, was named to the advisory committee for the Center for Family Counseling at Southern Methodist University’s Simmons School of Education and Human Development. The Dallas Voice also named Cox Best Local LGBT Role Model.

Glenn Coleman (BS84, MS87) was promoted to editor of Crain’s New York Business. He lives in Manhattan with his wife, Victoria Behm.

Frank DeCaro (BS84) wrote his second cookbook, “Christmas in Tinseltown,” which will be published in October 2012. The pop culture guide collects more than 60 recipes from gone-but-not-forgotten celebrities.

Cheryl Renée Gooch (MS86) was appointed dean of the School of Humanities and Graduate Studies at Lincoln University of Pennsylvania. She began her duties at Lincoln on July 2. Most recently she served as dean of the School of Humanities and Fine Arts, and Professor of Media Studies at Gainesville State College, University System of Georgia.

Timothy Drachis (MS86) was recently promoted to assistant managing editor at Newday, a 300,000-circulation newspaper based on Long Island, N.Y.

Alisa M. Parenti (MS87) was recently recognized at The 2012 Dietlaine Awards Dinner by the Society of Professional Journalists at the National Press Club. Parenti, who reports for MarketWatch’s Broadcast Division, won the award for Business Broadcast Reporting for her series on rising gas prices (Surviving Pain At The Pump).

Adam Beauch (BS190) had his graphic novel “HENCH,” which originally came out in 2004, published in a 2012 edition. This version is paired with an all-new sequel.

Steve Fries (BS194) was hired as a senior writer for POLITICO, specializing in covering the politics of technology. In April, he completed a Knight-Wallace Fellowship at the University of Michigan, following a decade of freelancing from Beijing and Las Vegas.

JP Paulus (BS194) will lead a workshop on the “4 Steps 2 College” at the national Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) conference. Paulus is president of His own firm, Do-Gooder Consulting, which aims to help churches, nonprofits and small businesses.

Clockwise from top left: Phil Brinkman (MS89), Matthew DeFour (BS85, MS86), Patricia Simms (MS86), Judy Newman-Coburn (BS74) and Deborah Ziff (MS96) were all part of the Wisconsin State Journal newsroom team that was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news reporting. The staff was recognized “for its energetic coverage of 27 days of around-the-clock protests in the State Capitol over collective bargaining rights, using an array of journalistic tools to capture one breaking development after another.”

FIVE ALUMNI PART OF PULITZER FINALIST TEAM
Sylvia Shaz Shwedler (BS’94) and Jeremy Shwedler (MS’28) adopted their son, Adrian Dowitt, Oct. 8, when he was 10 weeks old. Sylvia is a federal prosecutor in the Eastern District of New York, located in Brooklyn. Jeremy is a litigation associate at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP in Manhattan.

Cheryl Silber (MS’95) received the 2012 Media Representative of the Year Award from the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. Silber volunteers in memory of her dad, Melvyn A. Silver, who died of pancreatic cancer in 2009.

Christine (Bielinski) Moore (BS’98) was married in September 2011 to Alan Moore in Atlanta. She is currently Senior Director of Content Strategy at Cartoon Network Digital.

Victoria (Jonas) Davis (BS’01) is a corporate spokeswoman for Pfizer Inc., the world’s largest pharmaceutical company. She works at Pfizer’s office in Collegville, Penn. Davis lives outside Philadelphia with her husband, Ryan Davis (BS’00), and their 3-year-old daughter, Caroline.

Amy Swanson (MS’03) married Geoffrey King in October 2010 in Seattle. Swanson is currently an editor at Microsoft.

Julie Liisser (BS’04) was elected as the 2012-2013 recording secretary of the Junior League of Chicago. Liisser is a business litigation attorney at Umer & Berny LLP, a full-service, 200-attorney Midwest regional law firm. She also was named a 2012 Illinois Super Lawyers Rising Star.

Will Sullivan (MS’04) was featured in Editor & Publisher’s 2012 “25 Under 35” list of innovative young leaders in publishing. Sullivan is now the mobile products manager for the Broadcasting Board of Governors in Washington, D.C. Previously he was the director of mobile news for Lee Enterprises.

Kris Very-Philpips (MS’05) is the weekend morning news producer at CBS 5 San Francisco, where she produced one of the stories that helped the station’s morning team win the 2012 Mark Twain Award for continuing news coverage.

Beth Lipof (BS’06) recently graduated with a master’s degree and mentor in public history from Royal Holloway, University of London. She is currently working as a freelance journalist.

THE NEXT MEDILL GENERATION

Madeline Boardman (BS’12) became the latest member of her family to join the Medill and Northwestern alumni communities last June. Boardman, who works at Elle Traveler magazine, is pictured at graduation with, from left: her father David Boardman (MS’79), executive editor and senior vice president of The Seattle Times; her granddaughter Wayne Wilson, who graduated from Northwestern’s Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences in 2013; former Medill Dean John Lavine; and her mother Barbara Winshol Boardman (BS’79), who is a freelance editor.

THE TIZIANO PROJECT LAUNCHES NEW IDEA

Medill alumni Victoria Fine (BS’01, MS’07), far left, and Grant Slater (MS’04) whose hand at DIKFA in Kosovo this summer to launch StoriesFrom, an immersive platform for collaborative documentaries. It is the latest product of The Tiziano Project, which equips community members with multimedia journalism skills in underrepresented regions around the world. At the festival, they also led an iPad-only documentary video workshop, one of the first of its kind in the region. The results of Fine and Slater’s work can be seen at StoriesFrom.us.

La’Vada Gray (BS’00) of Los Angeles accepted a position as a professional development consultant with Math Solutions, of Scholastic Achievement Partners, in January. She will provide professional development for K-8 teachers, coaches, and administrators to support effective mathematics instruction.

Victoria (Crapanzano) Ronningen (BS’00) is currently a general assignment reporter for WHDH-TV in Boston, where she has worked for the past six years. On TV she goes by Victoria Warren.

Bill Chapin (BS’01) and Anna Mordyk of Oakland, Calif., were married Nov. 5, 2011 at the University of Collegeville, Penn. Davis lives outside Philadelphia with her husband, Ryan Davis (BS’00), and their 3-year-old daughter, Caroline.

Saraheva (Krancic) Monroe (IMC10) was hired as a senior advertising account manager at Advertising.com in La Crosse, Wisc. since July 2011.

Ross Jacobson (BS’10), a producer with The Steve Sayer show on WMAQ-TV in Chicago, was named Food Critic at the Northwest Herald in Crystal Lake, Ill.

Lauren Andrus, who is a freelance editor.

FALL 2012

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OBITUARIES

JIMMIE FRENCH SAPPER (BS’43), 89, passed away on March 5. Sapper was a Navy veteran who continued her service as a civilian at Heckam Air Force Base in Hawaii. She was a member of the Eastern Star and Daughters of the Nile. She is survived by her daughters, Faith Sapper; Roberta Reba and Lezliani Parr, and one grandchild.

HORACE B. BARKS (MS’47), 90, died on May 1. He graduated from Medill after serving as a communications officer in the U.S. Navy in World War II. Barks was the founder and president of Barks Publications, Inc., in St. Louis. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Elzie Dickson Barks; their children Elizabeth Van, Kate Freed (John Goggin), Joseph Barks (Barbara), Barbara Wachter (Willfried) and William Barks; and 12 grandchildren.

GEORGE E. ERICSON (BS’40), 77, passed away on May 17. Ericson worked in advertising at the Chicago Tribune for more than 46 years. He is survived by his wife, Virginia; his two daughters, Laura and Andrea; his son, Christopher; and five grandchildren.

THOMAS RANDALL MANSFIELD (MS’65), 66, died of brain cancer on Feb. 13. Mansfield, who had a lifelong love for athletics, won the 1965 and 1966 Ohio High School State Tennis Singles Championships. He is survived by Sherry Sherman, his loving partner of 58 years and three siblings, Mary Ann Mansfield Wolfe, Barbara Mansfield Regional and John Mansfield.

ELIZABETH DUFF SCHOGL (BS’54), 64, passed away on June 3. After graduating from Medill, Duff worked at Daily News in Chicago and served as advertising director of Glamour magazine as one of the country’s top-10 women college graduates. She worked for the Miami Herald before going to the Philadelphia Inquirer. She is survived by her son, Jeff; her two daughters, Katrina and Carolyn; her father, John W. Duff; three sisters; and a grandfather.

THOMAS M. BURKE (MS’72), 66, passed away on July 17. After graduating from Medill, Burke worked at Dance Fitzgerald Sample (later Saatchi & Saatchi) for 23 years. He joined Prudential Financial in 1996 as Vice President in Charge of Advertising and ran the in-house agency for 15 years. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Donna (Klekota); his son, Ryan; and his daughters Lindsay (Donn Ostrom) and Kristin (Blake Gooch); and five grandchildren.

Randall F. Becker (MS’93), 60, died on March 28 from complications of a brain tumor. He was an award-winning newspaper journalist and video writer/producer. Becker worked at newspapers in Davenport, Iowa, and Milwaukee before moving to Kansas. He and his wife, Judie Black; Becker were partners in Black & Becker Productions. He is survived by his wife of 35 years, and his son Jim.

Lauren Clark Geist (BS’85), 50, passed away on Feb. 10 after battling breast cancer for more than nine years. She co-authored “Praying Through Cancer,” which was published in 2006. The book is currently in its 17th printing and is being translated into Spanish. Geist is survived by her husband, Gary, and her two children, Geoffrey and Gretchen.
1. The Walk-On: Inside Northwestern’s Rise From Cellar Dweller to Big Ten Champ
Matt Stewart (BSJ97)
This inspiring true story takes you inside a college football program from a unique point of view: the walk-on. For decades, Northwestern finished at the bottom of the Big Ten Conference. But new head coach Gary Barnett brought a winning attitude to Evanston and engineered one of the greatest turnarounds in college sports history.

2. Along the Way: The Journey of a Father and Son
Hope Edelman (BSJ86)
Published in May, Edelman collaborated with the actors and filmmakers Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez to write their dual memoir. In alternating chapters, Sheen and Estevez tell stories spanning more than 50 years of family history, and reflect on their journeys into two different kinds of faith.

3. Groupon’s Biggest Deal Ever: The Inside Story of How One Insane Gamble, Tons of Unbelievable Hype, and Millions of Wild Deals Made Billions for One Ballsy Joker
Frank Sennett (BSJ90)
The exclusive, behind-the-scenes account tells of the rise of the coupon start-up to a $16.7 billion online giant. The story follows Groupon and its offbeat founder, Andrew Mason, as he created a juggernaut of online commerce and ignited a consumer revolution that is disrupting how people shop.

Roy Olson (BSJ60)
Olson and his wife Beth had been married for more than 44 years when she suffered a massive aneurysm, despite appearing in excellent health. As death seemed imminent, Olson sought out a miracle. In doing so, he turned to an odd combination: prayer … and the Internet.

5. Wear This Now: Your Style Solution for Every Season and Any Occasion
Michelle Madhok (HMC95)
That first date, job interview or dinner with your future in-laws may be stressful, but figuring out what to wear for it shouldn’t be. As a style expert and the editor of shefinds.com, Madhok makes it easy to build a foolproof wardrobe — without breaking the bank — and look stylish for every season, every occasion, every single day of the year.

6. Record of Wrongs
Bryan Gilmer (BSJ94)
It’s dark as Elliott Garrett heads home on a deserted, rural two-lane highway, thinking of his beautiful wife and infant daughter waiting for him in Raleigh, N.C. But Elliott doesn’t know that behind the next set of oncoming headlights is an ugly chapter of his life he thought was safely in the past — and that this moment, it’s heading straight for him.

7. Waiting for Bones
Donna Cousins (MSJ71)
Waiting for Bones is the story of two couples on an African safari who must transform themselves from tourists into agents of their own survival. Dehydration, sunstroke, savage vegetation and Africa’s most fearsome predators — some human — threaten at every turn. This book won a bronze medal in ForeWord Reviews’ 2011 Book of the Year Awards.

8. Joie de Vivre: Secrets of Wining, Dining, and Romancing Like the French
Harriet Welty Rochefort (MSJ69)
The French truly are singular in the way they live, act and think, from the lightness of their pastries to the decadence of their Hermes scarves. Rochefort, an American who married a Frenchman and has lived in Paris for more than 30 years, explores the secrets of the French, from romance and style to acting and flirting like a Parisienne.