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

Maxine (Osdoby) Golding (MSJ74)

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)
NEW YORK CITY HAPPY HOUR FOR MAGAZINE ALUMNI - OCT. 19
RIGHT: L to R, April Dailey (MSJ15) and Esther Bergdahl (MSJ13)
FAR RIGHT: L to R, Victoria Fine (BSJ07, MSJ10) and Kate Gardiner (MSJ09)
BELOW: L to R, Laura Bradley (MSJ14), Jackie Zimmermann (MSJ14) and Mitch Goldish (MSJ14)

CHERUBS - JULY 23
Medill Hall of Achievement member and Board of Advisors member Dick Stolley (BSJ12, MSJ13) speaks to the summer Cherubs.

MEDILL TAILGATE OCT. 17
L to R, Christiana Stewart (MCJ15), Alex Keshishian (MCJ15), Sam Dyson (MCJ15), Brandon Marzana (MCJ15) and Ethan Bailey

MEDILL CLUBS OF SOCAL 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA - OCT. 4
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 (BSJ17, MSJ78) spoke at the Medill Club of SoCal Gala.
LEFT: L to R, Thomas Grearres (BSJ87, MSJ87) and wife, Laura

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE - JULY 8
L to R, Noor Wazwaz (MSJ15), Kenneth Piner (MSJ93) and Ezra Kaplan (MSJ75) at the D.C. reception for the National Association of Native American Journalists conference
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 felt extremely lucky to have had that opportunity.

Karen Dillon (MS78)

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. Care issues and industry reform is something I'll never forget. 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.

Alexandra Thomas Sadler (MS79)

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 president’s 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 neophytes 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 what they’re going to play the S.O.B. in.” There was a rumor [I never did ascertain if it was based in fact] that President Johnson had McNeil throw out of a White House news conference several years earlier.

Mark N. Levine (MS73)

I was in D.C. for the winter quarter in 1973. I had some questions for the late Illinois Sen. Charles Percy and my editor along with him: “Is this it?” she asked calmly, holding up the ring. I was too astonished to say, “What do you mean ‘Is this it?’ How many gold bands do you expect to find on a 24-year-old?” She took the ring. I was too astonished to say, “What do you mean ‘Is this it?’ How many gold bands do you expect to find on a 24-year-old?” She took the ring.

Art Ellis (MS73)

As a Medill graduate student, poised before the White House and then the House of Representatives, I got to work as a Medill graduate student, poised before the White House and then the House of Representatives.

John Hamill (BS76, MS69)

I was in D.C. immediately following 9/11. The professors were, to put it mildly, shell-shocked by the situation. Security had doubled, tripled around the city, and the papers and TV stations that subscribed to the Medill News Service were demanding stories and coverage beyond what we were capable of handling. Not only that, we were all new to the D.C. area (and to this kind of news coverage) and were essentially thrown right into the thick of the action from day one.

The experience I gained was phenomenal. At times it was tiring and sad, but it was about as real a crisis situation as could be expected. It was some of the best news experience I’ve had in my journalism career.

The Medill program was located in an old office building, on the ninth floor (I think). By late spring, the weather was warm and our office had no air-conditioning so we kept the windows open. I was a personal fan of McGovern, who had just lost the presidential election to Richard Nixon. I so badly wanted to drop my microphone and ask for McGovern’s autograph, but I stuck to my duties and kept on tape.

Percy and tagged along with him as he left a committee hearing. The interview continued as I joined him.

Maria Vitale Gallagher (MS79)

I was a graduate student, getting the chance to interview Sen. John McCain about health care issues and industry reform is something I’ll never forget. 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 (MS79)

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

Mark N. Levine (MS73)

I was in D.C. for the winter quarter in 1973. I had some questions for the late Illinois Sen. Charles Percy and my editor along with him: “Is this it?” she asked calmly, holding up the ring. I was too astonished to say, “What do you mean ‘Is this it?’ How many gold bands do you expect to find on a 24-year-old?” She took the ring. I was too astonished to say, “What do you mean ‘Is this it?’ How many gold bands do you expect to find on a 24-year-old?” She took the ring.

I was in D.C. immediately following 9/11. The professors were, to put it mildly, shell-shocked by the situation. Security had doubled, tripled around the city, and the papers and TV stations that subscribed to the Medill News Service were demanding stories and coverage beyond what we were capable of handling. Not only that, we were all new to the D.C. area (and to this kind of news coverage) and were essentially thrown right into the thick of the action from day one.

The experience I gained was phenomenal. At times it was tiring and sad, but it was about as real a crisis situation as could be expected. It was some of the best news experience I’ve had in my journalism career.

The Medill program was located in an old office building, on the ninth floor (I think). By late spring, the weather was warm and our office had no air-conditioning so we kept the windows open. I was a personal fan of McGovern, who had just lost the presidential election to Richard Nixon. I so badly wanted to drop my microphone and ask for McGovern’s autograph, but I stuck to my duties and kept on tape.
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 oversaw 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.”

Ellen 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 broadcaster 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 investiga- tive 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 spon- sored travel for members of Congress and their staff to lavish resorts in exotic locations. The award-win- ning 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, USAToday.com, U2News.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.”

LISA (SMITH) PARRO (MSJ02) is public affairs manager at Advocate Health Care in Downers Grove, Ill. She spent two quarters in Medill’s Washington program reporting for MarketWatch.com and the now-defunct The News of Mexico City.
COVERING WASHINGTON’S MOVERS AND SHAKERS

HELENA ANDREWS-DYER (MSJ05)

With 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 the two “most influential think tanks in America” 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.

I continued working on Capitol Hill, working as the staff 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.

As a Medill student in the Washington program, Todd Johnson (BSJ08, MSJ09) covered elections and politics. He used his own voice to pursue stories about underrepresented communities. Some of his stories included First Lady Michelle Obama’s commencement speech for a Washington public charter high school; coverage of an event featuring then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons and actress Gabrielle Union promoting foster care; and a contestant from the U.S. Virgin Islands participating in the ultra-competitive Scripps National Spelling Bee.

A broadcast student, Johnson planned to follow the traditional career path: honing his skills by starting at a small TV news station before moving on to larger and larger markets. Instead, he was hired as a digital 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. “Here he is, 70 years later, getting some form of ‘justice’ and I feel like I had a very, very small, miniscule 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.

“I consider him the most memorable mentor 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 felt 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 could see myself 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 pivotal in my growth process and provide that same experience to the next generations of talented journalists,” Kuo said.
Jim and Alisa Parenti (both MSJ88) 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 as 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

**GREGG RAMSHAW (BSJ67, MSJ68)**

Gregg Ramshaw (BSJ67, MSJ68) was a student in Medill’s Washington program in 1968. Ramshaw was covering a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing when news broke that President Lyndon Johnson had ordered the call-up of military reservists. “Everybody at the press tables jumped up and bolted for the doors to get to the telephone in the nearby press room to call the network,” Ramshaw said. “It just captured the essence, in a way, of being a Washington correspondent. I wanted to do home papers,” Ramshaw said. “It just 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,” Ramshaw 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.”

### USING DATA TO TELL STORIES, SOLVE BUSINESS PROBLEMS

**CARLOS ROIG (MSJ06)**

When Carlos Roig (MSJ06) was evaluating graduate journalism programs, Medill—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 hasn’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 codified 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.”

### WASHINGTON NEWS WITH A CHICAGO ACCENT

**LYNN 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 once 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 taken her nearly full circle, as a student in Medill’s Washington program in 1975, her clients were two Illinois newspapers: the Alton Telegraph and the Southern Illinoisan. After graduating, she built upon what she started at Medill by continuing to cover Illinois politics and government — first from Chicago and starting in 1993 from Washington. Sweet said, “I owe everything career-wise to Medill for getting me started in the business.”

“People here are smart, they’re interested in public policy issues, and the professional connections that you make last 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.”
WASHINGTON WATCHDOG: PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST CHAMPIONS FIRST AMENDMENT

JAMES RISEN (MSJ78)

New York Times investigative reporter James Risen (MSJ78) has built his career on keeping the federal government in check. In 2006, he won the Pulitzcr 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.

He has been covering the Capitol as a professional since 1990 when he transferred from the Los Angeles Times’ Detroit bureau to the Washington bureau. In 1998 he was hired by the New York Times to report from the newspaper’s Washington bureau, where he’s been ever since.

Risen was part of a reporting team that won the 2002 Pulitzcr 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.”

WASHINGTON AFTER 9/11

BY LISA PARRO (MSJ02)

I opted to spend a second quarter in Washington, covering the economic fallout from 9/11 for my next client, MarketWatch.com. One of my first assignments was to cover President Bush’s 2002 State of the Union address alongside my fellow Medill News Service writers. A sense of resolve and resiliency permeated the joint session of Congress. It was an extraordinary time to be a cub reporter rubbing elbows with fellow credentialed journalists, writing the first draft of history.

Although I left journalism for a career in public relations, the lessons I learned at Medill and specifically reporting from the capital in the aftermath of 9/11 have remained with me:

“Follow the money. Question authority. Don’t bury the lead.”

The now-defunct News of Mexico City, an English-language daily. When my boyfriend (now my husband) visited, we took the subway to Arlington to view firsthand the destruction at the Pentagon. Then the anthrax scare hit, specifically targeting politicians and journalists in Washington. As the Washington program celebrates its 50th anniversary, I’m grateful to those who paved the way before me and honored to be counted among Medill’s Washington alumni.

Although I left journalism for a career in public relations, the lessons I learned at Medill and specifically reporting from the capital in the aftermath of 9/11 have remained with me:

“Follow the money. Question authority. Don’t bury the lead.”

As the Washington program celebrates its 50th anniversary, I’m grateful to those who paved the way before me and honored to be counted among Medill’s Washington alumni.

Although I left journalism for a career in public relations, the lessons I learned at Medill and specifically reporting from the capital in the aftermath of 9/11 have remained with me:

“Follow the money. Question authority. Don’t bury the lead.”

As the Washington program celebrates its 50th anniversary, I’m grateful to those who paved the way before me and honored to be counted among Medill’s Washington alumni.
“Cecilia was a generous and warm teacher, who loved her students and the art of audio storytelling,” friend and colleague, Associate Professor Mei-Ling Hopgood said. “She inspired and encouraged students to find the real heart of the story. Cecilia also helped Medill develop the innovative bilingüal reporting and storytelling class, and the Buenos Aires journalism residency program. We will miss her dearly.”

Vaismans was an award-winning radio journalist, multime-}
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.

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

JAMES MCCARTNEY (MSJ53), former Knight-Ridder national security reporter was in the process of writing the book “America’s War Machine: Vested Interests, Endless Conflict,” when he died in 2001. His wife, former Washington Post staff writer Molly Sinclair McCartney recently completed the book and it was published in 2003. The book describes James McCartney’s experience as a teenage soldier on the front line in World War II and his front row seat as a Washington reporter covering the military-industrial complex as it expanded to envelop the nation’s political, cultural and intellectual institutions. McCartney writes that these elements are now part of the complex: Congress, which has a history of approving more military weapons than even the military wants; the intelligence community, which provides information to support White House and Pentagon decisions to use the military; and the think tanks that supply the intellectual rationale for military actions. The result, according to McCartney, is a perpetual war machine that drives U.S. foreign policy and leads to military interventions around the world. In recent years, McCartney filed stories from more than 30 countries. He wrote extensively on nuclear proliferation and the Cold War as well as the ongoing crises in the Middle East. He became an expert on nuclear weapons and authored the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. McCartney was a co-founder of Media Rise, a global advocacy organization that produced the film “Ever Far.”

1960s

BYRON HARRIS (MSJ72), a WFAA Dallas-on-air investigative reporter for more than 40 years, retired Oct. 9. During his time with WFAA, Harris traveled beyond the U.S. border to cover wars in Somalia and Iraq. In the 1990s, he went to Russia, where he uncovered the misappropriation of NASA money wired to the U.S. space program. More recently, Harris’ reports on the misuse of Medicaid money spurred congressional hearings and the resignations of the director of the Texas Dental Board. Harris has written for Texas Monthly, the Wall Street Journal, and The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He also wrote a book titled “The Secret Life of an American.”

STACI ADELMAN VINCENT (BSJ87, MSA84) recently released an instrumental album, “This Way.” She is also a four-time winner of the Ohio School Music Educators Conference. Her album’s title track, “Pergola,” was inspired by the nesmesian canopy of vines. This is Graff’s third instrumental album. She has released a 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 HALLER ALLEN (BSJ75, MSJ76) was promoted to senior vice president of external affairs at The MetroHealth System in Cleveland. In her new role, Allen oversees marketing, internal and external communications, government relations and community engagement programs for MetroHealth. She previously held chief communications positions at Huntington Bancshares, Deloitte, Staples, Raytheon, Local Corporation and Citicorp. Allen is a Medill Board of Advisers member and a member of the Medill Board of Visitors.

1970s

PAMELA LADOWICH MENAKER (BSJ75, MSJ76) was named “Woldie” of the Week on Oct. 12 by the Northwestern Alumni Association. Menaker, who is an adjunct lecturer at Medill and a communications partner at Clifford Law Offices in Chicago, also played a key role in a 2014 documentary film about furloughed workers. The film “This Side of the Mic,” a memoir highlighting the trials and tribulations of what it’s like to be an announcer.

1980s

WILLIAM WEINBAUM (BSJ82, MSJ83) received an award for his coverage of 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 insect that inspired the story of the man who tried to save Pat Tillman, the former professional football player. Weinbaum, the producer of the piece, was honored along with reporters Mike Fish and John and Barr in October in Washington, D.C.

BARBARA GRAFF (MSA84) recently released a new contemporary solo piano album, “Purity.” The album’s title track, “Pergola,” was inspired by the nesmesian canopy of vines. This is Graff’s third instrumental album. She has released a 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 HALLER ALLEN (BSJ75, MSJ76) was promoted to senior vice president of external affairs at The MetroHealth System in Cleveland. In her new role, Allen oversees marketing, internal and external communications, government relations and community engagement programs for MetroHealth. She previously held chief communications positions at Huntington Bancshares, Deloitte, Staples, Raytheon, Local Corporation and Citicorp. Allen is a Medill Board of Advisers member and a member of the Medill Board of Visitors.

VALERIA LADOWICH MENAKER (BSJ75, MSJ76) was named “Woldie” of the Week on Oct. 12 by the Northwestern Alumni Association. Menaker, who is an adjunct lecturer at Medill and a communications partner at Clifford Law Offices in Chicago, also played a key role in a 2014 documentary film about furloughed workers. The film “This Side of the Mic,” a memoir highlighting the trials and tribulations of what it’s like to be an announcer.

1990s

JEFF GORMAN (MSJ92) is a four-time winner of the National Association of Broadcasters’ “Bill of Rights” award for his work on the Lake County Captains, one of the Cleveland Indians’ minor-league baseball teams. Gorman is author of “This Side of the Mic,” a memoir highlighting the trials and tribulations of what it’s like to be an announcer.

2000s

MELISSA HARRIS (MSJ02), has joined Origin Capital Partners, a Chicago-based private equity firm, as vice chair. Harris has extensive experience breaking national and local news. She moved on from her position as business columnist at the Chicago Tribune in October.

CORINA QUINN (MSJ06) was recently named digital travel editor for Travel + Leisure, part of Time Inc. Previously, Quinn served as senior editor at La Cucina Italiana magazine, and as a freelance writer and editor for publications including Yoga Journal and 5280 Home, as well as several luxury food and wine brands.

ERICA SCHLAIKER (BSJ07) is a digital content creator at The Roman Catholic Diocese of Toledo, Ohio. She is also co-founder of Media Rise, a global nonprofit and community engagement platform that connects people and ideas to promote media for social good. Additionally, Schlaiker was named EMBARG media relations and online engagement coordinator for World Resources Institute and as managing editor for TheFlyFix.com.

LEE WHACK (MSJ11) was recently appointed as the new press secretary for the 2016 Democratic National Convention. He was previously the communications director for the Convention team from the U.S. House of Representatives where he served as a communications director for Rep. Jan Schakowsky. Prior to his work for Rep. Schakowsky, Whack was public relations manager for the D.C. Housing Finance Agency. Before that, he was a communications staffer for several Democrats in the Illinois State Senate. He also managed press for the National Public Housing Museum and the 2010 Illinois state treasurer’s race. Previously, he was a local news reporter for the Chicago Tribune. Photo credit: Sarah Tijlita.
**HEAL: THE VITAL ROLE OF DOGS IN THE SEARCH FOR CANCER CURES**

**ARLENE WEINTRAUB**

Author Arlene Weintraub explores the intriguing collaboration between veterinarians and oncologists, as they work together to discover new treatments for cancer. The book features extensive interviews with veterinarians and oncologists, who share their experiences and findings. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the latest developments in cancer research and treatment.

**THE WARMING**

**LORIN ROBINSON (BSJ65)**

Publication date: Feb. 24, 2015

In this emotionally charged novel, author Lorin Robinson explores the consequences of a single act of violence. The story follows the lives of two young people who are forever changed by a tragic event. It is a thought-provoking and poignant exploration of the impact of trauma on individuals and society.

**WHAT PRETTY GIRLS ARE MADE OF**

**DANA BATE (MSJ05)**

Publication date: Aug. 3, 2015

In this funny and revealing biography of celebrity icons Andy Griffith and Don Knotts, author and journalist Daniel de Visé celebrates the powerful, real-life friendship behind one of America’s most iconic television programs. The book features extensive interviews with those closest to both men. It is a touching and intimate exploration of the friendship that defined the characters of Matlock and Barney Fife.

**TOO MANY COOKS**

**ANDY & DON: THE MAKING OF A FRIENDSHIP AND A CLASSIC AMERICAN TV SHOW**

**DANIEL DE VISE (MSJ90)**

Publication date: Nov. 1, 2015

Like generations of little girls, writer Lauren Kessler fell in love with ballet the very first time she saw The Nutcracker at age five. From that day on, she dreamed of becoming a ballerina. But when she was 12, her very famous ballet instructor crushed those dreams—along with her youthful self-assurance—and she stepped away from the barre. Fast forward four decades later to when Kessler—suddenly, powerfully, thrillingly—restores at midlife—embarks on a Transcontinental Nutcracker Binge Tour. She attends a string of performances in Chicago, New York, Boston and San Francisco and it reignites her love affair with ballet. What ensues is not only a story about The Nutcracker itself, but also an inside look at the sleazy, unglamorous hidden world of ballet. It’s a peek at all that happens out of the audience’s eye and precedes the magic on stage—told from the perspective of someone who not only loves it, but is seeking to embrace it wholeheartedly. Kessler’s quest to dance The Nutcracker with the Eugene Ballet Company tackles issues of fear angst, risk, resilience, the refusal to “settle in” to midlife and the refusal to become yet another “invisible woman.”

**RAISING THE BARRE: BIG DREAMS, FALSE STARTS AND MY MIDLIFE QUEST TO DANCE THE NUTCRACKER**

**LAUREN KESSLER (BSJ71)**

Publication date: Nov. 24, 2015

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 understands its context. 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 all real.
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.
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.