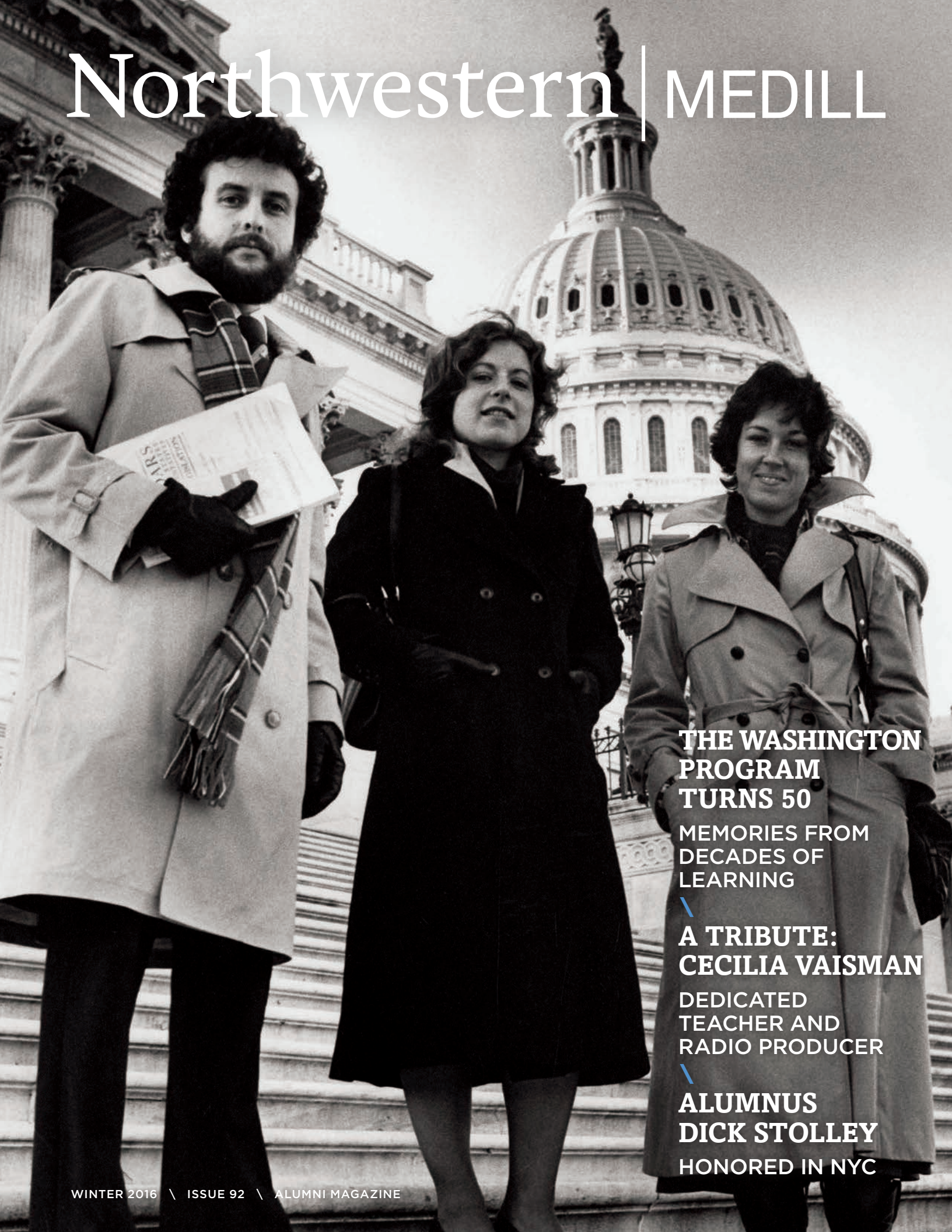


# Northwestern | MEDILL



**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**

# Turn on the Power of Northwestern's Online Community

# N



Plug into *Our Northwestern*, the University's online social community, and you'll find alumni of every generation, profession and pursuit. Whether you want to locate friends in the directory, share memories, network or continue your lifelong relationship with the University, ***Our Northwestern* is where Wildcats connect.**

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

**OUR.NORTHWESTERN.EDU**



## 10 **A CAPITAL IDEA: THE MEDILL WASHINGTON PROGRAM**

A look back at how reporting from D.C. has changed 50 years of journalists' lives

## 18 **A TRIBUTE: THE LATE CECILIA VAISMAN**

A dedicated teacher, and award-winning radio producer

## 21 **CLASS NOTE: DICK STOLLEY**

The Time Inc., veteran gets inducted into the Deadline Club's New York Journalism Hall of Fame.

5 **MEDILL NEWS** / 6 **CLUB EVENTS** / 19 **OBITUARIES** / 20 **STUDENT QUOTE** / 22 **CLASS NOTES** / 24 **KEEP READING ...**



**BRADLEY J. HAMM**  
DEAN

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

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

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

Medill still has a “go-for-broke” style.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

EDITORIAL STAFF

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

Belinda Lichty Clarke (MSJ94)

MANAGING EDITOR

Lindsey Kratochwill (BSJ12)

DESIGN

Amanda Good

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Jasmine Rangel Leonas

Kaitlyn Thompson (BSJ11)

FACULTY ADVISER

Charles Whitaker (BSJ80, MSJ81)

PHOTOGRAPHER

Jenna Braunstein

CONTRIBUTORS

Brad Hamm

Beth Moellers

Lisa Parro (MSJ02)

Lisa Dunn

Mallory Busch (BSJ15)

Anna Swindle Keller (MSJ09)

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Virginia Brown (MSJ11)

PLEASE SEND STORY PITCHES AND LETTERS TO:

1845 Sheridan Rd.  
Evanston, IL 60208  
b-clarke@northwestern.edu

PRINTED BY:

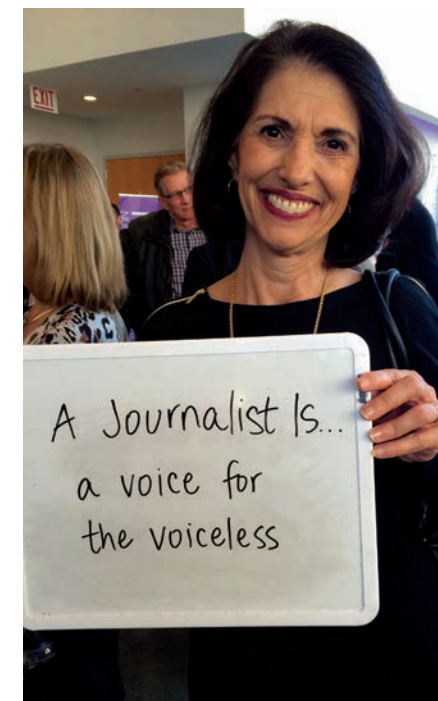
Active  
5500 W. 31st St.  
Cicero, IL 60804  
uniqueactive.com

COPYRIGHT 2016 MEDILL

Medal Winner  
Kathy Gannon  
Visits Medill

BELOW: Medal judge Dick Stolley (BSJ52, MSJ53) with 2014 James Foley Medill Medal for Courage in Journalism recipient and AP correspondent Kathy Gannon at Medill on Nov. 20

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



IMC talentQ Expo

MEDILL STUDENTS, ALUMNI, FACULTY, STAFF AND MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS PROFESSIONALS JOINED FOR AN EVENING OF DISCUSSION ABOUT THE CONVERGENCE OF MARKETING AND TECHNOLOGY AT THIS YEAR’S TALENTQ EXPO IN DOWNTOWN CHICAGO ON THURSDAY, NOV. 12.

BY KAITLYN THOMPSON (BSJ11)

MIDDLE TOP: Panelist Paul Marobella, Havas Worldwide Chicago CEO, speaks with Medill students and alumni before the event on Nov. 12.

MIDDLE SECOND: L to R, talentQ Committee members Xinwei Zhang (IMC15), Xinwei Yang (IMC15), Lindsay Saran (IMC15), Zachary Adler (IMC15), Sara Singh (IMC15)

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

MIDDLE FOURTH: L to R, Singh and Adler introduce panelists Paul Marobella; Mary Lou Song (BSJ91), FUELX CEO; moderator and IMC Assistant Professor Dan Gruber; Scott Campbell, Colgate-Palmolive general manager; and Pradeep Kumar (IMC03), FCB VP, consumer intelligence director.

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

ABOVE: Davenport delivers his keynote speech.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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)

» NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE - JULY 8

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



» CHERUBS - JULY 23

Medill Hall of Achievement member and Board of Advisers member Dick Stolley (BSJ52, MSJ53) speaks to the summer Cherubs.



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

RIGHT: L to R, April Daley (MSJ11) and Esther Bergdahl (MSJ13)

FAR RIGHT: L to R, Victoria Fine (BSJ07, MSJ09) and Kate Gardiner (MSJ09)

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



» MEDILL CLUB OF SOCAL 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA - OCT. 4

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

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

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



» MEDILL TAILGATE OCT. 17

L to R, Christiana Stewart (IMC15), Alex Keshishian (IMC15), Sam Dyson (IMC15), Brandon Manzano (IMC15) and Ethan Bailey



» MEDILL DEAN'S RECEPTION FOR HOMECOMING - OCT. 16

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

ABOVE: L to R, Pat Phillips (BSJ54) and Joel Sprayregen (BSJ55)

# Medill Alumni Remember Their Year in Washington

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 the only married student in my group. My wife, Sherri Sandow Dees, was back in Evanston working on her master's in music performance. I got to joking that the only reason I was married was that I couldn't remove my wedding ring. To prove my point, I shook my hand to one side, once, twice, then whoosh, the ring flew from my sweaty finger, over my neighbor's desk, against a sill, and out the window before plummeting to the busy sidewalk.

Bursting onto the sidewalk, I counted up the floors and across the windows to locate the window. Then I scanned back down the drab brick wall to the sidewalk. No ring. I ran into the street. I ran across the street and back again. I looked under parked cars and moving cars. I looked under pedestrians. Then I looked up the sidewalk to see a metal grate covering a subterranean labyrinth. I was sure that my ring had bounced, rolled or been kicked into the abyss.

By this time, an elevator load of my classmates had joined the search. Soon, one of them, a woman whose name I have long since forgotten, approached me. "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 the sidewalk this afternoon?" I don't think I said anything, but instead grabbed her and kissed her right on the mouth.

The impact left the ring less than round, and I gradually gained too much weight to wear it anymore. But fortunately, nearly 35 years later, I still have the same ring—and the same wife.

**David Dees (MSJ81)**

We were the first class 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.

**Rin-rin Yu (MSJ01)**

I was in D.C. for the winter quarter in 1973. I had some questions for the late Illinois Sen. Charles Percy and tagged along with him as he left a committee hearing. The interview continued as I joined him on the senators-only elevator. We descended one floor, and the late Sen. George McGovern stepped in. 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 settled for nods and polite smiles all around as the senators headed off toward the Capitol.

**Art Ellis (MSJ73)**

I was amazed at how readily we were accepted by our professional colleagues. Sure, we had press identification, but we certainly looked younger than most of the pros. There were times when we would be interviewing a senator or congressman and a pro was told to wait until we finished before they could ask their questions.

Every week, Sen. Everett Dirksen would meet with President Richard Nixon for lunch and then come by the Senate Press Room to discuss the issues of the day. It was heady stuff for a 24-year-old from California.

It changed me for life, without doubt.

During the fall quarter, I fell in love with a fellow graduate student, [also a part of the Washington program], Sue Hastings, and we were married at Christmastime. They were heady times indeed.

**William Michael (Mike) Cornner (MSJ69)**

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

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

**Karen Dillon (MSJ87)**

My decision to participate in Medill's Washington program was the first stepping stone toward a career I'm more passionate about every day.

And a few of those [Washington] moments have stuck with me:

National Press Club pass. This is when I really felt legit (and I didn't hate getting to chat with rapper Ludacris about his foundation).

Interviews with congressmen and senators. As a 24-year-old graduate student, getting the chance to interview Sen. John McCain about health care issues and industry reform is something I'll never forget.

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

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

**Alexandra Thomas Sadler (MSJ09)**

The best memory was covering Rep. Joseph E. Karth from St. Paul, Minnesota. One year after graduating I was working as his press secretary. Oh, I caught Potomac fever while with the Medill News Service and never imagined that I would be back to Washington that quickly. I had two stops between graduation and Capitol Hill: the Tulsa Tribune and the ABC affiliate in Tulsa. Medill certainly gets credit for one of the best jobs I ever enjoyed. (It paid very well, too.)

**John Hamill (BSJ68, MSJ69)**

Since I was a child, my dream had been to report from the nation's capital. I actually spent time as an 8-year-old watching the Watergate hearings on TV. I still remember the thrill as a Medill graduate student, poised before that beautiful Capitol building, recording my stand-up for a television report I would file for a Midwestern station. Medill fulfilled my dream, and for that I will be eternally grateful.

**Maria Vitale Gallagher (MSJ91)**

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 when they're going to plant the S.O.B.!" There was a rumor (I never did ascertain if it was based in fact) that President Johnson had McNeil thrown out of a White House news conference several years earlier.

**Mark N. Levine (MSJ73)**

My most memorable experience in Medill's Washington program required playing hooky.

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

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

A fellow student and I read that limited public seats were available at the trial, but we would have to line up in the morning in a courthouse hallway in hopes of making the cut for the afternoon session. When Ehrlichman returned from his lunch break, he chatted a bit with those of us in line and even autographed my courthouse ticket.

**Ann Silverberg (BSJ74, MSJ75)**

# CAPITAL IDEA: Celebrating 50 years of Medill's Washington program

BY LISA PARRO (MSJ02)

LISA (SMITH) PARRO (MSJ02) IS PUBLIC AFFAIRS MANAGER AT ADVOCATE HEALTH CARE IN DOWNERS GROVE, ILLINOIS, AND A FREELANCE WRITER BASED IN THE CHICAGO SUBURBS. SHE SPENT TWO QUARTERS IN MEDILL'S WASHINGTON PROGRAM REPORTING FOR MARKETWATCH.COM AND THE NOW-DEFUNCT THE NEWS OF MEXICO CITY.

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 broad-

caster for 20 years, retired as co-director in 2007 but remained teaching until 2010 when she became associate professor emerita, and Shearer continued on as director.

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

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

And there's no longer such a divide between broadcast and traditional print; students post to Twitter, write long-form narratives and produce multimedia packages with videos and charts.

“We keep evolving as the industry keeps evolving and we try to stay a step ahead,” said Shearer, who is also the William F. Thomas Professor at Medill and co-director of the Medill National Security Journalism Initiative. “We want to make sure the students are comfortable reporting across all these different platforms and excellent at one or two.”

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

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



## COVERING WASHINGTON'S MOVERS AND SHAKERS

HELENA ANDREWS-DYER (MSJ05)

With 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 freshman U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, once a single mother and welfare recipient and the first black woman elected to Congress from Wisconsin.

After graduating from Medill, Andrews-Dyer expected to return to New York City, where she had been working since earning her bachelor's degree from Columbia University. But "after being in the program

I kind of caught the D.C. bug," she said. She worked as a news assistant in the New York Times' Washington bureau for a year before joining startup Politico, the Washington-based online political magazine, covering "congressional style," which Andrews-Dyer calls "the ultimate oxymoron." She left to write "Bitch is the New Black," a memoir published by Harper Collins in 2010 that "Grey's Anatomy" creator Shonda Rhimes calls "an authentic fresh exploration of what it is to be young, black and single right now—from a voice both outrageously funny and heartbreakingly honest."

Her biggest takeaway from Medill's Washington program, Andrews-Dyer said,

was learning to hook readers with the lead of a story.

"It can't happen on every story necessarily but you have to grab people—especially in the new media landscape," Andrews-Dyer said. "That's definitely stuck with me throughout my career."

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



## FROM JOURNALIST TO POLITICAL STRATEGIST

AL FROM (BSJ65, MSJ66)

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

A native of South Bend, Indiana, From had spent several summers reporting at the South Bend Tribune and brought the newspaper on as a client of the Medill News Service in Washington. He had planned to return to journalism upon graduation from Medill in 1966 but instead stayed in Washington, joining fellow Medill alumnus and Pulitzer Prize winner Edgar May in President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty group. It was led by Robert Sargent "Sarge" Shriver, Jr., director of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

"It was the dream job for anybody who

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

From continued working on Capitol Hill, working as the staff director of the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations, serving as deputy adviser to President Jimmy Carter, and becoming executive director of the House Democratic Caucus, among other positions. Those leadership positions helped From establish the Democratic Leadership Council with governors, senators, and house members. The New York Times Magazine called the DLC one of the two "most influential think tanks in

history." The DLC championed national service, an expanded Earned Income Tax Credit, welfare reform, charter schools, community policing and expanded trade and other ideas that became the core of the Democratic Party's agenda. From led the organization from 1985 to 2009; it was folded into the Clinton Foundation in 2011. He's now principal of The From Company, LLC, a consultancy.

A documentary based on From's 2013 book, "The New Democrats and the Return to Power," is under consideration for the 2016 Sundance Film Festival. The book includes a forward by President Bill Clinton, who credits "a great deal" of his election to the DLC and From in particular.

"It would be hard to think of a single American citizen who, as a private citizen, has had a more positive impact on the progress of American life in the last 25 years than Al From," President Clinton said in a 2000 speech recounted in the book. ♦



## COVERING THE STORIES THAT MATTER TO HIM

TODD JOHNSON (BSJ08, MSJ09)

As a Medill student in the Washington program, Todd Johnson (BSJ08, MSJ09) covered education and made the beat his own by pursuing stories about education in 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 typical 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, minuscule part of that," Johnson said. "I think we sort of moved the needle a little bit, along with NBC, in making that happen."

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

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

## WASHINGTON PROGRAM A SPRINGBOARD TO INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM

FRANCES KUO (MSJ00)

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

"We were expected to generate story ideas, shoot B-roll and interviews, and file our stories in time for our respective station's newscasts," Kuo said. "The entire time I felt like I was in a real newsroom and knew that this was similar to one I'd

hopefully find myself in in the professional world."

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

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

"I'm very proud to be able to return to the newsroom that was pivotal in my growth process and provide that same foundation for the next classes of talented journalists," Kuo said. ♦



## THIS JUST IN: A WASHINGTON LOVE STORY

JIM PARENTI (MSJ88) AND ALISA PARENTI (MSJ88)

Jim and Alisa Parenti (both MSJ88) discovered their love of journalism, politics—and one another—during Medill’s Washington program. The couple started dating during their winter quarter in Washington in 1988, and one of their first dates took place at The National Press Club.

At the time, both were students in Medill’s broadcast program, experiencing firsthand in Washington the deadline-driven world of TV news. Jim Parenti was covering then-Sen. Bob Dole’s presidential campaign for CBS affiliate WIBW in Topeka, Kansas, Dole’s hometown news station. Alisa Parenti covered the North Dakota congressional delegation for WDAY, the ABC affiliate in Fargo, North Dakota.

Married since 1989, the couple’s careers

have taken them to Chicago, Syracuse, New York and Washington. Alisa is a Washington-based news anchor for Bloomberg Radio; she also has taught journalism at Georgetown University’s graduate journalism program, earning the Outstanding Faculty Award in 2011. Jim has spent the majority of his career in communications and administrative positions in state and federal government—including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and a White House detail—and higher education; he is a senior associate dean and chief administrative officer for the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University.

In Washington, the couple reconnected with the program that brought them together. The Parentis have served

for more than a decade as volunteer coordinators of the Medill Mentors Program, hosting a reception in Medill News Service’s Washington newsroom each quarter to connect students with Washington-based Medill alumni. Many of these connections continue after the students become alumni seeking advice—and jobs—from their mentors.

“For us, these receptions call to mind our own days 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.” ♦



## USING DATA TO TELL STORIES, SOLVE BUSINESS PROBLEMS

CARLOS ROIG (MSJ06)

When Carlos Roig (MSJ06) was evaluating graduate journalism programs, Medill’s Washington program was one of the deciding factors that spurred him to apply. The California native was attracted to everything the nation’s capital has to offer—and he 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 straddled 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 content and making sure it gets in the right people’s hands.” ♦



## 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 and National Guardsmen in response to North Korea’s seizure of the USS Pueblo.

“Everybody at the press tables jumped up and bolted for the doors to get to the phones in the nearby press room to call in the bulletin to their bureaus or their home papers,” Ramshaw said. “It just captured the essence, in a way, of being a Washington correspondent. I wanted to do that, too.”

That’s when Ramshaw, in his own words, caught “Potomac fever.” He embraced the opportunity to return to Washington in

1973 to be the one-man bureau chief for the now-defunct Chicago Today. He had worked his way up at the afternoon newspaper to cover Illinois state politics after graduating from Medill. Chicago Today is also where he met his wife, Mary Leonard Ramshaw (MSJ71), and the two married in 1974.

Shortly thereafter, Chicago Today folded and Ramshaw returned to his roots in broadcast journalism. He worked behind the scenes at the syndication service Television News Incorporated and ABC News’ Washington bureau before landing in public television, where he spent the remainder of his full-time career in journalism. He produced news segments for “The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour,” (which later became known as “The Newshour

With Jim Lehrer”) on PBS, working on the program from 1983 to 2004.

The Ramshaws relocated to Pittsburgh 11 years ago when Mary started working as an editor at the Post-Gazette. Gregg Ramshaw entered “semi-retirement,” taking on freelance journalism and communications jobs and serving as an adjunct writing instructor for graduate students at Carnegie Mellon University. Now, he looks fondly upon his time in Medill’s Washington program, recalling the cheap beer and free appetizers available at the National Press Club.

“I owe a lot to Medill—my wife and my years in Washington,” Ramshaw said. ♦

## 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 as it is in her voice. She has followed then-U.S. Sen. Barack Obama to Africa and analyzed Rahm Emanuel’s transition from White House chief of staff to Chicago mayor, and she has covered topics both local and national.

Sweet’s career has 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 Illinoian. 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.

“I owe everything career-wise to Medill for getting me started in the business,” Sweet said. “My time in the Washington program was the first time I really was exposed on a daily basis to the government. As it happened, I continued to cover Illinois government and politics throughout my career.”

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

Known for asking tough questions, Sweet is also well-sourced. That combination results in scoops such as those

that led to the downfall of former Illinois Congressman Aaron Schock. Sweet appears regularly on CNN, Fox News and MSNBC and various Chicago radio shows. She is a fixture in Washington, attends the White House Correspondents Dinner, is the former president of the Washington Press Club Foundation and said she hopes she can continue doing what she’s doing for years to come.

“One thing that never gets old for me is just being able to get cleared in through the northwest White House gate,” Sweet said. “Another thing is being able just to roam the halls of the Capitol and be able to walk up to the briefing room 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 Pulitzer Prize for national reporting for his stories about President George W. Bush's warrantless wiretapping program. He got his first taste of Washington reporting as a correspondent for Edinburg (Texas) Daily Review during his fall 1977 quarter in Medill's Washington program.

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

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

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

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

Risen calls the Obama administration "the greatest enemy of press freedom that we have encountered in at least a generation" for its use of the Espionage Act to crack down on leakers and whistleblowers.

The Radio Television Digital News Association, the New England First Amendment Coalition and The Nation

Institute are among the journalism advocacy groups that have recognized Risen for his commitment to press freedom—a cross he never expected to bear.

"I never thought I would end up in this situation," Risen said. "I always was just a reporter for my whole career. I didn't think the government would come after me the way they have. So it was kind of forced on me." ♦

# WASHINGTON AFTER 9/11

BY LISA PARRO  
(MSJ02)

**MOST OF MY BAGS WERE ALREADY PACKED** for Medill's Washington program in 2001 when 9/11 happened. My worried mother urged me to call Ellen Shearer, the Washington program co-director, to ask if the program was going to be canceled; Shearer reassured me Medill was as committed as ever to training student journalists in this time of national crisis. My first lesson, it seemed, was to experience what conservative columnist Rod Dreher described at the time: "There are three kinds of people who run toward disaster, not away: cops, firemen and reporters." Off I went to the Beltway, where the hotels were eerily empty and the streets comparatively quiet. Snipers were positioned on the roof of the White House. The mood was somber.

As the nation mourned and searched for answers, my classmates and I wrote about national security, immigration and other hot-button issues for our Medill News Service clients. I covered Mexican President Vicente Fox's visit with President George W. Bush from the White House Rose Garden for



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

“  
**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; at Medill News Service's Washington office, the office manager wore rubber gloves to sort our mail.

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. ♦

## MEDILL REMEMBERS: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CECILIA VAISMAN

MEDILL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR CECILIA VAISMAN DIED SEPT. 27 AFTER A COURAGEOUS BATTLE WITH CANCER. SHE WAS 54.



“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 bilingual reporting and storytelling class, and the Buenos Aires journalism residency program. We will miss her dearly.”

Vaisman was an award-winning radio journalist, multimedia producer and a devoted teacher.

Her radio features and documentaries have been broadcast on “All Things Considered,” “Weekend Edition,” “This American Life,” “Living on Earth,” “Latino USA,” Radio

Bilingüe, Radio América in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Radio UNAM in Mexico City and many other public and community broadcasting outlets throughout the Americas.

Vaisman worked on staff at NPR in Washington, D.C. for several years. She reported extensively on a range of issues including the wars in Central America, AIDS in Brazil, the rights of women and girls in India, and environmental and indigenous issues in the Amazon.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and raised in northern New Jersey, Vaisman graduated from Barnard College with a degree in Latin American studies. With her husband and two children she lived in Havana for five years, where she taught journalism, shot still and video photography and volunteered teaching English.

After moving to Chicago, Vaisman taught courses in political science, and in Latino and gender studies at the University of Illinois Chicago, Northwestern University and the University of Notre Dame.

She was also a co-founder of Homelands Productions, and was serving as senior producer and president of the board when she died. Homelands Productions is an independent, nonprofit journalism cooperative based in Ithaca, New York. Its work brings the voices of ordinary people to tens of millions of listeners, viewers, readers, students and teachers around the world.

Since Homelands Productions’ founding in 1989, its contributors have reported from more than 60 countries, produced eight special series for public radio and won 22 national and international awards.

“Cecilia had an unusual gift for reaching across generational lines and helping students aim for more,” Medill Professor Doug Foster said. “They often came to her classes with reasonable but medium-sized ambitions and quickly got inspired, by her, to aim higher (and then deliver). Mischievous, funny and energetic, Cecilia reminded students and faculty alike of why we’d been drawn to journalism in the first place and inspired people to stop floating, as if we have all the time in the world.”

“Cecilia was an incredible teacher who treated her students more like colleagues,” Lindsey Kratochwill (BSJ12) said. “Her enthusiasm for workshopping our pieces in Audio Documentary class led to invaluable lessons. She didn’t let us accept that a story was good enough—even if that meant re-taking narration over and over again to get the tone just right. Cecilia gave us the opportunity to see what it was like to produce stories for a big station like WBEZ, and I’ve kept that class in mind when producing my own podcast.”

Vaisman is survived by husband Gary Marx and children Ana and Andres. ♦

**MARTHA TOOT WASSON (BSJ45)**, 91, of Canton, Ohio, died Jan. 5. Wasson grew up in Canton and graduated from Lehman High School. After earning a bachelor’s degree in journalism, Wasson worked in Chicago at the advertising agency Foote, Cone & Belding and ascended to account executive, one of the first-ever women to hold that position. She returned to her hometown and married Dr. Paul Wasson. In Canton, she served the community as president of the Junior League and a member of the Women’s Board of Aultman Hospital, Stark County Medical Society Auxiliary, Canton Garden Club and Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae Association. Wasson is survived by four children and 12 grandchildren.

**JOHN HOWARD CARSON (BSJ61, MSJ62)**, 76, of Lorain, Ohio, died Sept. 28. He started his career as an assistant sports editor of The News Palladium in Benton Harbor, Michigan. In 1966 Carson and his family moved to Bay Village, Ohio, where they spent the next 33 years. Carson served as sports copy and makeup editor of The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer for four years and as a part-time Plain Dealer sportswriter for another nine years. He joined the staff of a fledgling magazine, Industry Week, in 1970. During his 30 years at Industry Week, he held several titles, including associate managing editor, news editor and feature editor. Carson was honored by the Press Club of Cleveland in 1995 and 1996 for best headline in an Ohio professional magazine. He served as president of the Northwestern University Club of Greater Cleveland, the Berlin Heights High School Alumni Association, the Berlin Heights Kiwanis Club, Berlin Heights Historical Society and the Berlin Echoes retirees group. After more than 30 years in publishing, he retired to his hometown in 1999. Carson married Sue Lucas on June 23, 1962. Sue passed away in 2002. He then married Patricia (Ballash) Grant in 2003. Carson is survived by his wife, Patricia; his six children: Michael, Jeffrey, Rebecca, Donald, Kathy and Lucinda; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



**SIDMEL ESTES (BSJ76, MSJ77)**, 60, of Atlanta, died Oct. 6. A pioneer and journalism industry veteran, Estes’ contributions will never be forgotten. She made history as the

first woman to be elected president of the National Association of Black Journalists, serving as NABJ president from 1991 to 1993. Later in her career, she served as president and principal consultant for BreakThrough Inc., a media consulting and production company. For more than 27 years, she was a member of WAGA/Fox 5 Atlanta staff. There, she served as executive producer for the city’s top-rated morning program, “Good Day Atlanta.” Estes also was an adjunct professor in the journalism division of Emory University and Clark Atlanta University. Throughout her career in TV and journalism, she was recognized numerous times. Atlanta’s Mayor Andrew Young proclaimed November 18, 1988 Sidmel Estes-Sumptner Day after she was named Media Woman of the Year by the Atlanta Chapter of the National Association of Media Women. She was also featured in Ebony’s 100 Most Influential Black Americans in 1993 and in More Magazine’s book “50 Over 50.” Estes was honored with the Silver Circle Award from the Television Academy and has won several Emmy Awards. Additionally, as a result of her commitment to the community, Estes received numerous awards from civic, community and church organizations. She received Northwestern University’s Alumni Service Award after being elected as president of the Northwestern Black Alumni Association in 2004, and was later inducted as a charter member of the Medill’s Hall of Achievement. Estes is survived by her two sons, Joshua and Sidney.

**MARIA DE LOURDES LASO (BSJ84)**, known to most as Mari Lou, 53, of Orange County, California, died Sept. 28. After her graduating from Northwestern University, Laso worked copy-editing jobs at the Austin American-Statesman in Texas and the Orange County Register. It was at the Register that she met her future husband, Stephen Elders, who was also a copy editor. They married in September 1989. Laso joined the Los Angeles Times Orange County Edition as a copy editor in 1992. At both the Register and the Times she wrote a regular column reviewing children’s books, which helped fuel her passion to write young-adult novels and picture books. In 1999, she became managing editor of eToys’ children’s books department, which was the job she loved the most. She next followed her dream of writing children’s books, and became mentor to both aspiring and experienced writers. Laso taught a volunteer weekly writing class for senior citizens in Orange. In spring 2015, she realized her dream of becoming a published author when Scholastic Books bought her middle-grade novel “The Morning Come.” It will be released in spring 2017. Laso is survived by her husband, Stephen; mother, Maria; brother, Andy; nephew, Andres; sister-in-law, Rachel; and mother-in-law, Theresa.

**BARBARA S. SULLIVAN (BSJ57)**, 79, of Wheaton, Illinois, died June 25. Sullivan was a retired Chicago Tribune reporter who spent more than 20 years covering everything including arts and even zoning laws for the paper. Sullivan earned a Peter Lisagor Award for excellence in education reporting along the way. She was also an award-winning tennis and bridge player, a voracious reader and an inveterate traveler who spent time in Turkey, Greece, Italy, Nepal, Peru, Costa Rica, China, Mexico and France, often writing about her adventures for the Tribune. After she earned a degree in journalism from Northwestern, Sullivan went to work as a reporter for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. She also wrote for local newspapers in Contra Costa County, California, and Ridgewood, New Jersey before moving to Wheaton in

1974 and landing at the Tribune. Sullivan is survived by three daughters, Jennifer, Evelyn and Susan; and a grandson.

**HARRY SEBEL (MSJ53)**, 84, of Dallas, died July 12. Sebel attended the Chicago Lab School for Gifted Children and was one of the famous Quiz Kids. Sebel was a unique man—a romantic, and a feisty, individualistic and generous person, with a sharp mind and a quick wit. He loved Rotary Club, and pursued his hobby of breeding and exhibiting Scottish terriers for 45 years. Sebel is survived by his wife of 35 years, Priscilla; two children, Lauren and Lee; three stepchildren; and eight grandchildren.

**JAMIE HABERKORN (IMC90)**, 53, of Lake Forest, Illinois, died July 22. Most recently, Haberkorn served as director of learning and development for Swift Media Group, Inc. During the late-1990s and early-2000s, Haberkorn led several successful advertising campaigns for the Leo Burnett agency, supporting clients including Hallmark, The Beef Council, 7Up International and more. According to her former team members, “she was a passionate colleague and a great advocate for each and every account she touched.” Haberkorn also led a highly successful capital campaign for the Ronald McDonald House Charities, a cause she cared deeply about. She worked tirelessly to support many other RMHC-related programs, helping to develop and open a new RMHC facility. A RMHC memorial fund has been set up in her memory at <http://support.rmhcni.org/JamieHaberkorn>.

**WILLIAM SCHUTT (MSJ15)**, 25, of Lake Forest, Illinois, died Sept. 17. Schutt is survived by his parents, Stephen Schutt and Loretta Grennon, and sister, Mary.

“

When I dreamed of becoming a writer, my professors gave me feedback. When I expressed interest in documentaries, my peers lent me their tripods. When I became fascinated with code, the Knight Lab fostered a safe space for questions. When I sought to grow online audiences, my Journalism Residency at Time showed me the ropes. When I realized numbers could tell the most impactful stories, Medill alumni at The Texas Tribune expected excellence in data reporting. *When I go forward in my journalism career, I know I'll have the support of the Medill community, no matter how my pursuits in media evolve.*

”



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



## MEDILL ALUMNUS DICK STOLLEY INDUCTED INTO JOURNALISM HALL OF FAME

BY **BETH MOELLERS**

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

BETH MOELLERS IS A FREQUENT CONTRIBUTOR TO MEDILL MAGAZINE AND THE MEDILL MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS AND ALUMNI RELATIONS PROGRAMS. SHE LIVES IN BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA.

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 González 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 (MSJ51)**, 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 2011. His wife, former Washington Post staff writer Molly Sinclair McCartney recently completed the book and it was published by St. Martin's Press in October. The book describes James McCartney's experience as a teenage soldier on the front lines 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 three 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. During his reporting years, McCartney filed stories from more than 30 countries. He wrote extensively on Vietnam and other aspects of the Cold War as well as the ongoing crises in the Middle East. He became an expert on nuclear issues, covering more than 10 summit meetings between the U.S. and the Soviet Union involving presidents Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush. McCartney was present in 1972 in Moscow when President Nixon signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. McCartney was in Jerusalem in 1977 when Egyptian President Anwar Sadat made his celebrated visit, and he was in Reykjavik, Iceland, in 1986 when President Reagan met with Mikhail Gorbachev. And, he covered every presidential election from John F. Kennedy in 1960 to Bill Clinton in 1992.

1960s

**KATHLEEN MARSHALL NEUMEYER (BSJ66)** has retired from her role as

newspaper adviser to the Harvard-Westlake School in Los Angeles. After Neumeyer graduated from Medill, she worked as a reporter for the United Press International, a correspondent to The Economist magazine and a contributing editor to Los Angeles Magazine. Neumeyer started working at Westlake School as a substitute teacher in 1989. She joined the faculty as a full-time newspaper adviser in 1992, after the school merged with Harvard School for Boys. Under her advisement, the school's publication The Chronicle earned 13 Gold Crowns, five Pacemakers and is included in the High School Journalism Hall of Fame. Last summer, she returned to Northwestern to teach at the Cherub program for high school rising seniors, which she herself attended.

1970s

**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 within the U.S. space program. More recently, Harris' reports on the misuse of Medicaid money spurred congressional hearings and the resignation of the director of the Texas Dental Board. Harris has written for Texas Monthly, the Wall Street Journal and The Atlantic. Over the years, he won two Peabody Awards, four Edward R. Murrow Awards and six duPont-Columbia batons (the "Pulitzer of TV"). He also received three Gerald Loeb Awards for Business Reporting, the National Press Club Award for Consumer Reporting and an Aviation and Space Writers National Award.

**ELIZABETH HELLER ALLEN (BSJ75)** 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, Dell, Staples, Raytheon, Loral Corporation and Citicorp. Allen is a Medill Board of

Advisers member and a member of the Medill Hall of Achievement.

**PAMELA SAKOWICZ MENAKER (BSJ75, MSJ76)** was named 'Wildcat of the Week' on Oct. 12 by the Northwestern Alumni Association. Menaker, who is an adjunct lecturer at Medill and is communications partner at Clifford Law Offices in Chicago, also played a key role in organizing her 40th reunion and the 2015 Homecoming celebration.

1980s



**WILLIAM WEINBAUM (BSJ82, MSJ83)** received an award from the 2015 Military Reporters and Editors Journalism

Contest in the Domestic, Large Broadcast Category for ESPN's "Outside the Lines" episode, "Friend Who Fired." It tells the story of the Army Rangers involved in the friendly fire death of Pat Tillman, the former professional football player. Weinbaum, the producer of the piece, was honored along with reporters Mike Fish and John Barr in October in Washington, D.C.

**BARBARA GRAFF (MSA84)** recently released a new contemporary solo piano album, "Pergola: Purely Piano." The album's title track, "Pergola," was inspired by the namesake 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.

**STACI ADELMAN VINCENT (BSJ87, MSJ87)** of Orange Village, Ohio, is now a four-time winner of the Ohio School Public Relations Association's Best of the Best Award in photography. She has also received multiple awards of distinction for her writing. The Emmy-award winning television journalist currently works in the communications department for the Orange City School District, her alma mater. Vincent returned to the Cleveland area 15 years ago after

covering the Clinton Administration for Tribune Broadcasting stations around the country and the George H. W. Bush and Reagan administrations for Hearst Broadcasting's stations while based in Washington, D.C.

1990s

**JEFF GORMAN (MSJ92)** is now a public address announcer for 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 president of

marketing. Harris is a digital marketing executive, startup leader and Pulitzer Prize-nominated journalist with 15 years of experience breaking national and local news. She moved on from her position as a 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 SCHLAIKJER (BSJ07)** is now creative strategist at Huge, a digital agency in Washington, D.C. She is also co-founder of Media Rise, a global nonprofit volunteer-driven alliance that connects people and ideas to promote media for social good. Previously, Schlaikjer served as EMBARQ media relations and online engagement coordinator for World Resources Institute and as managing editor for TheCityFix.com.



**EMERALD MORROW (BSJ07, MSJ08)** took part in a gubernatorial bill signing ceremony that stemmed from a story

she broke and followed as a reporter in Lansing, Michigan. Michigan House Bill 4056 improves oversight of mobile home parks. It comes after unsanitary conditions and poor management forced the local county health department to push hundreds out of their homes in the middle of winter. Her reports on this story earned a regional Emmy and a first place award from the Michigan Association of Broadcasters. The Associated Press also has recognized her work. Morrow recently accepted a reporting position at WTSP-TV, the CBS affiliate in Florida's Tampa Bay area.

**STEVE SILVER (BSJ08)**, an associate in the Philadelphia office of McBreen & Kopko, testified in front of the South Carolina Senate Higher Education Subcommittee in April 2015. Silver spoke in support of a bill to create postgraduate trust funds for athletes who maintain good academic standing. He joined South Carolina state Sen. Marlon Kimpson and former NFL player Henry Taylor to advocate for monetary support of athletes in revenue generating sports, such as football, men's basketball and women's basketball. Silver's testimony focused on Title IX and existing NCAA bylaw compliance.

**ZACHARY SILKA (BSJ07)** was named senior director of communications for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Toledo, Ohio, in April 2015. In his role, Silka is responsible for the development and implementation of both external and internal marketing communications strategies for a diocese that covers 19 counties in Northwest Ohio, and includes 123 parishes and approximately 300,000 Catholics. Previously, Silka served as director of external relations and assistant director of communications and development for St. John's Jesuit High School and Academy, based in Toledo.

**CHRIS GENTILVISO (BSJ09)** is now a writer at Working America, the community affiliate of the AFL-CIO. Gentilviso is part of a six-person team that manages print and online communications and campaigns. The organization focuses on issues including jobs, health care, education and corporate accountability. Previously, he was politics editor at The Huffington Post.

**MATTHEW E. RADLER (BSJ09)** recently joined Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP's Labor and Employment Department and its Wage and Hour Matter practice in the firm's Detroit office. Previously, Radler worked at Bernabei & Wachtel PLLC in Washington, D.C. Radler holds a J.D., with honors, from George Washington University Law School and has been admitted to practice in Virginia and Washington, D.C. He is anticipating admission to the State Bar of Michigan in the coming months.

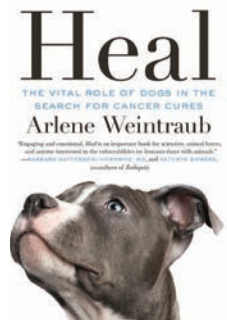
2010s



**LEE WHACK (MSJ11)** was recently named press secretary for the 2016 Democratic National Convention. Whack joins the

Convention team from the U.S. House of Representatives where he served as 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 Tilotta

Submit to: [medillnotes@northwestern.edu](mailto:medillnotes@northwestern.edu)



**“HEAL: THE VITAL ROLE OF DOGS IN THE SEARCH FOR CANCER CURES”**  
ARLENE WEINTRAUB (MSJ93)

Publication date: Oct. 15, 2015

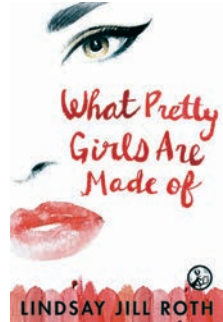
Drawn from extensive research and personal experience, Arlene Weintraub’s second book explores the intriguing collaboration between veterinarians and oncologists, as they work together to discover new treatments for cancers. The research focuses on the cancers that are similar in dogs and people, including lymphoma, osteosarcoma, breast cancer, melanoma and gastric cancer. Weintraub, who lost her sister to gastric cancer, describes the remarkable ability of dogs to sniff out early-stage cancer, as well as the efforts underway to translate that talent into diagnostic devices. Over the course of bringing these dogs and their human companions to life, she tells of her own journey from grief to healing, as she learns how man’s best friend could unlock the mysteries of cancer.



**“THE WARMING”**  
LORIN ROBINSON (BSJ65, MSJ66)

Publication date: Feb. 24, 2015

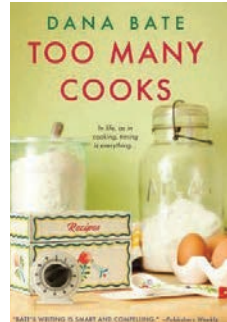
Author Lorin Robinson melds fact and fiction to explore the impact global warming has on people around the world, whether it’s through drought, famine, flooding, destructive weather or conflict. Robinson puts a human face on the growing crisis, and highlights many of the most-affected areas such as Bangladesh, Los Angeles, New York City, southwestern China and the United Arab Emirates. Readers can begin to imagine the impact of the predicted global warming beyond the statistics of science.



**“WHAT PRETTY GIRLS ARE MADE OF”**  
LINDSAY ROTH (BSJ03)

Publication date: Aug. 3, 2015

Envision Lauren Weisberger’s “The Devil Wears Prada” in a high-drama, estrogen-infused world of cosmetics, and you have Lindsay Roth’s new book, “What Pretty Girls Are Made Of.” In this hilarious, novel, Roth tells the story of Alison Kraft, who reaches a dead end in her acting career and becomes the assistant to the diva of the Sally Steele Cosmetics Studio. Surrounded by brilliant hues of glosses, blushes and eyeshadows, she discovers she is actually really good at her job. But, in the midst of juggling her love life, crazy family members and the grueling demands of a jealous, flaky boss, Alison starts to question her choices. How long before her pretty face cracks for good?



**“TOO MANY COOKS”**  
DANA BATE (MSJ05)

Publication date: Oct. 27, 2015

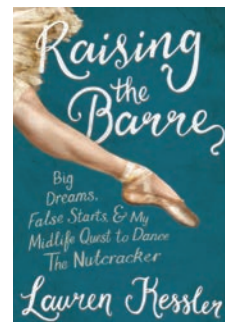
In this funny new novel by Dana Bate, a cookbook ghostwriter finds she has bitten off more than she can chew. After reading a letter from her late mother urging her to take more risks in life, Madigan is offered a job abroad and sees it as a sign. She moves to London with a new assignment for Natasha Spencer, a movie star, lifestyle guru and wife of a promising English politician. Natasha is selfish, temperamental and unwilling to let any regular food past her perfect lips. In-between testing dozens of kale burgers and perfecting chocolate mousse, she finds adventure, but her attraction to her boss’s neglected husband is veering out of control. She knows there is no foolproof recipe to a happy life, but will she know when she has gone too far to get what she wants?



**“ANDY & DON: THE MAKING OF A FRIENDSHIP AND A CLASSIC AMERICAN TV SHOW”**  
DANIEL DE VISÉ (MSJ90)

Publication date: Nov. 3, 2015

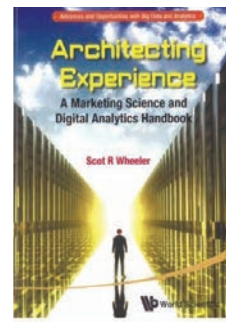
In this lively and revealing biography of celebrity icons Andy Griffith and Don Knotts, author and journalist Daniel de Visé celebrates the powerful, real-life friendship behind one of America’s most iconic television programs. What began as a journalistic exploration into the storied career of de Visé’s late brother-in-law, Don Knotts, the book features extensive un-published interviews with those closest to both men. De Visé’s first book, “I Forgot To Remember” (with Su Meck), began as a front-page article he wrote for the Washington Post, part of a 23-year career spent at the Post, the Miami Herald and three other newspapers.



**“RAISING THE BARRE: BIG DREAMS, FALSE STARTS AND MY MIDLIFE QUEST TO DANCE THE NUTCRACKER”**  
LAUREN KESSLER (BSJ71)

Publication date: Nov. 24, 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, itchyly restless 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 sweaty, 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.”



**“ARCHITECTING EXPERIENCE”**  
SCOT WHEELER (IMC ADJUNCT LECTURER)

Publication date: Jan. 30, 2016

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 a reality.



See more books written by alumni at [bit.ly/Medill-Keep-Reading](http://bit.ly/Medill-Keep-Reading)

# 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.



#GRRMatMedill

Northwestern | MEDILL

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

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

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

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

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

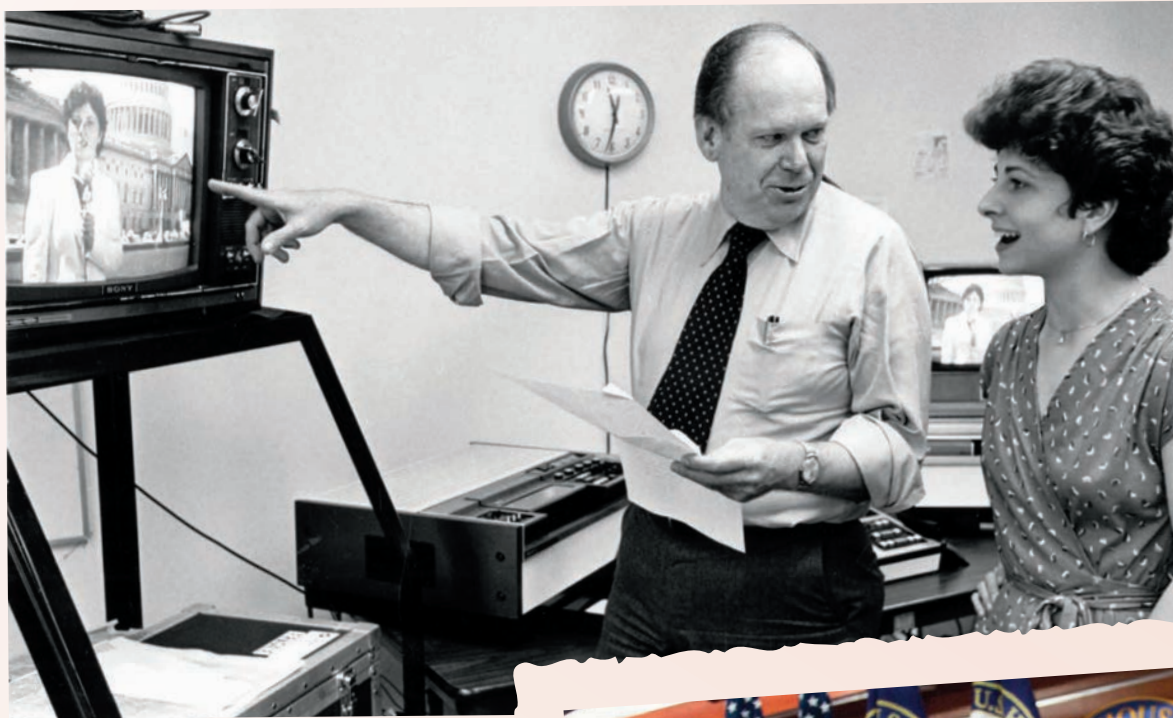
BOTTOM: Medill students with George R. R. Martin at a luncheon in his honor Nov. 4 at Scott Hall's Guild Lounge in Evanston. Photo credit: Jenna Braunstein Photography

# Northwestern University

1845 Sheridan Road  
Evanston, IL 60208-2101

[www.medill.northwestern.edu](http://www.medill.northwestern.edu)

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Northwestern University



**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.