

# Wallace House Journal

Knight-Wallace Fellows and The Livingston Awards for Young Journalists  
University of Michigan

Volume 24, No. 1

Spring 2015

## Fellow's dream to help the deaf no longer silenced

—By Larry Lage '15

**A**nn Arbor is a familiar place for me. It is where I grew up and it's the town I'm proud to say my family calls home.

An interview in the spring of 2014 for a Knight-Wallace Fellowship at Wallace House, however, took me to a nook of the city just east of the campus' edge and it changed my life. I walked into 620 Oxford Rd. unsure of what would be

asked of me, or what I would say or do, after responding to the "What's your dream?" query that I knew was coming.

As I sat at the short end of a long, rectangular table my plan to impress the nine-member selection committee surrounding me seemed to be working. I was using American Sign Language while I answered the first question and that was playing well. "When you do that, make sure you have napkins to hand out because they'll all be drooling," friend and former Knight-Wallace Fellow John U. Bacon advised while preparing me for this very moment. What I could not be prepared for was what happened next.

After discussing sign language, deaf culture and my experiences as a child of deaf parents, Charles Eisendrath lowered his head, peered at me and asked, "Have you ever thought about putting together your knowledge and passion of sign language, deaf culture and sports?" That question put the wheels in motion for a journey I didn't see coming like a linebacker making a blindside sack. "No," I said quietly, knowing my response did not impress any of the assembled panelists.

"Well, why not?" Eisendrath pressed.

"With the day-to-day grind of my job along with being a husband and dad, I haven't had time to think about it," I said, trying



Larry Lage mans the teleprompter while preparing to shoot the first pilot produced by Deaf Access Media.

G.E. Anderson

to defend a dormant dream.

"Maybe you should," he fired back.

"Maybe you should give me a spot in this Fellowship and I'll come up with something," I shot back with a disarming smile.

"Well played," University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel said with a nod when hearing a recollection of the aforementioned

exchange during his recent Wallace House visit with the Fellows.

"And someday," I told Schlissel matter-of-factly, "this will be a Michigan Difference commercial."

Back when I began the fellowship my plan was to write my first book. Scotty Bowman, Mike Babcock, Larry Brown, Jim Leyland, Tom Izzo, Lloyd Carr, Bob Bowman, John Beilein, Mark Dantonio and Carol Hutchins—some of the best coaches in a handful of sports—agreed to help me. Those interviews about leadership and communicating will have to wait. Since my first-semester individual mandatory meeting with Eisendrath, relentlessly pursuing a platform to make media accessible to my parents, my nephews and about one million people in the U.S. has become my mission. Attempting to make the most of an opportunity with infinite possibilities, a slew of experts in and around the University have set me up for success by graciously sharing tips and connecting me with other people, all of whom have been eager to help. Five students in Len Middleton's course that focuses on creating a business plan are helping me put my dream on paper. A 12-minute pilot program was filmed on campus and has

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# From the Head Fellow

—By Charles R. Eisendrath '75

## FELLOWSHIPS + PRIZES = NEW IDENTITY

Being quick with a logo, you already know the news, so here's the back story of why we switched the name of the Journal: Although I doubt the Knight-Wallace Fellowships would have survived the early days of endowment raising without borrowing staff help from the Livingston Awards, there was virtually no programmatic crossover between the programs until recently. What caused the large and growing synergy? Money, of course.

For the first time, the University is supplying funding for the Livingston Awards and also for the first time, the winners are coming to campus to meet with students, faculty and, of course, the Fellows. It is a happy new convergence and one that suggested a fresh look at the two programs as parts of an umbrella entity devoted to developing journalistic talent. We're calling—"branding" in University jargon—the overall enterprise Wallace House. Giving the Journal a broader scope and name to match seemed natural and appealing to us, as we hope it does to you.

Many of you saw Luke Mogelson's winning international Livingston entry in the *New York Times Magazine* last year. In addition to the derring-do of shipping out from the southern coast of Java with 57 asylum-seekers in a dubious, overloaded boat bound for Christmas Island, it recounted the kind of surprises that light up the best such narratives, beginning with the beguiling admission of having gotten the central premise wrong. Mogelson had sold the *Times* on documenting the human exodus of Afghans from America's war in their country but discovered that most of his shipmates A) weren't Afghan and B) weren't fleeing a war. Instead, they were Iranians fleeing a repressive theocracy. In Ann Arbor, he recounted the story to a crowd of 200 students and faculty at the

Ford School of Public Policy, again to *The Michigan Daily* staff, and in more shoptalk fashion, at Wallace House.

Ellen Gabler won the national reporting prize for a series in the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* that brought reform to a



Philip Daniels

health care issue everyone cares about. Within hours of birth, virtually every newborn in America is tested for an assortment of blood-borne problems because getting speedy results can be a life/death issue. Yet also across the country, those samples often are not read for days or even weeks. Since Gabler's series appeared, dozens of hospitals, alerted to a systemic problem, have made the easy fix. Wallace House has partnered with the University's hospital system and School of Public Health in a conference called "Newborn Screening: The Cost of Delays."

Livingston winners began appearing before audiences related to their reporting last year with support from the Knight Foundation. The additional campus visits were proposed by U-M's new president, a physician-scientist before he even arrived in Ann Arbor. He specifically asked that the appearances include *The Michigan Daily*

staff. Not unrelated: Mark Schlissel was a student journalist on the *Daily Princetonian*, where his son followed suit.



Although we all like to "make a difference," it isn't often that something makes the case all by itself. This one involves Gerard Ryle KWF '06. He arrived at Wallace House having won the Walkley award, Australia's Pulitzer, four—let's make that FOUR—times for investigative work for *The Age* and *The Sydney Morning Herald*. He returned to Australia and *The Canberra Times* and was on track to become top editor when—shazam!—I called to recruit him to Washington, D.C. to direct the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). I serve on the board of the Center for Public Integrity, which includes ICIJ, and the proposition was promising but iffy. He would coordinate work from scores of reporters in as many countries, paying only expenses. ICIJ's funding was shaky, too. Mission improbable, you say?

Ryle figured it out. In 2014, the names of 22,000 Chinese people banking illegally offshore appeared in international media, causing a major uproar. Then came "Luxembourg Leaks," which exposed 350 global companies' secret tax deals. Most recently, ICIJ exposed accusations of money laundering and tax evasion at finance colossus HBSC. A "60 Minutes" piece piggybacked on ICIJ's research and showed Ryle looking right at home in the Paris newsroom of *Le Monde*, an ICIJ partner.

Making a difference to people who make a difference in journalism and through it is what both Wallace House programs are all about. ▶

## WELCOME ABOARD KWF BOARD MEMBERS AND LIVINGSTON AWARD JUDGES



### FERHAT BORATAV

*Editor-in-Chief of the CNN Turk News Division*

In 2004, a colleague, Fatih Türkmenoğlu, finishing up his fellowship in Michigan, suggested to Charles the idea of a news tour to Turkey. "In true Wallace House spirit,"

Boratav claims, after two phone calls, the idea became reality and he has been organizing a "Fifty Shades of Turkey" tour ever since.



### JIM BURNSTEIN

*Screenwriter and Director of the Screenwriting Program at the University of Michigan*

He has welcomed Fellows into classes where they have proven to be great assets by sharing their wealth of story-telling experience and wisdom with undergraduate classmates. Burnstein has often stated that he runs the second coolest program at Michigan—with the Knight-Wallace Fellowship being the first.



### ANN CURZAN

*Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of English, holds faculty appointments in the Department of Linguistics and the School of Education and serves as the NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative at the University of Michigan*

Fellows have taken her graduate seminar and she has enjoyed coming to Wallace House to share a linguist's perspective on grammar and style rules.



### THOMAS ZURBUCHEN

*Senior Counselor for Entrepreneurial Education and Professor of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Sciences and Associate Dean for Entrepreneurial Programs, College of Engineering, University of Michigan*

His involvement with the Fellowship came about when a Fellow (now friend) showed up in the first class he ever taught. He has helped organize an engineering-focused program for the Fellows.

### National Judges



### SCOTT PELLEY

*Anchor & Managing Editor, The CBS Evening News/Correspondent, "60 Minutes"*

Under Pelley's leadership, CBS Evening News has been awarded an Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Journalism Award, an Emmy Award and a George Polk

Award. He served as the network's chief White House correspondent, reported from the scene of the collapsing World Trade Center towers and reported from wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.



### KARA SWISHER

*Co-CEO and Co-Owner of Revere Digital with Walt Mossberg*

The tech and media news company that publishes the Re/code site and puts on a series of conferences. She and Mossberg

were also the co-executive editors of the website, AllThingsD.com. She worked in the San Francisco bureau of *The Wall Street Journal*, WSJ.com, as a reporter at *The Washington Post* and as editor at the *City Paper* of Washington, D.C.

### Regional Judges



### CHRIS DAVIS

*Deputy Managing Editor for Investigations and Data, Tampa Bay Times*

He has been a reporter and editor in Florida for nearly 20 years. Most recently, he has led investigative projects that have earned a Livingston Award, two Pulitzer

Prizes, three Pulitzer finalists, the Selden Ring Award for Investigative Reporting and multiple IRE and ONA awards.



### EVAN SMITH

*Editor-in-Chief and CEO of the Texas Tribune*

The nonprofit, nonpartisan digital news organization covering Texas politics and public policy has won nine Edward R. Murrow Awards, two general excellence

awards from ONA and IRE's Gannett Award for Innovation in Watchdog Journalism. Before co-founding the Tribune, he spent 18 years at *Texas Monthly*.

## Author, speaker draws record-breaking crowd

SPORTS WRITER JOHN U. BACON '06 DELIVERED THE 29TH ANNUAL HOVEY LECTURE TO A STANDING ROOM ONLY CROWD IN THE WALLACE HOUSE GARDENS.

—By John U. Bacon '06

On January 25, 2014, I married the former Christie Breitner—the best day of my life. (No one can say I rushed the process.)

When Charles and Julia Eisendrath greeted us at our wedding reception, Charles leaned forward and whispered, “Don’t tell anyone yet, but you’re giving the Hovey Lecture this fall.”

“You’ve made my day!”



The lecture was the kick off event for the KWF reunion weekend. The days of planned festivities certainly drew a larger than usual audience but Bacon was the main draw for the lecture. As a hometown boy he is no stranger to those in the area or to those with connections to the university. Despite the dreary weather forecast of looming thunderstorms, people came to hear what John U. Bacon had to say when he addressed, “College Sports, Critically Covering Something You Love.”

life you only see at, well, your wedding reception, if you’re lucky.

After providing a brief background of my work, I got to the point: when you discover people you have admired for many years have engaged in activities that are very hard to admire—including sabotage—what do you do? If you’re a journalist, the decision is not easy, but it is simple: you tell the truth.

Yes, I admitted, doing so cost me some friends, some opportunities, and my press pass. But I was fortunate that I was writing about the University of Michigan, where the faculty and fans want to win, but win the right way.

The response to the books was overwhelmingly positive, but that’s not why you try to tell the truth. Before you hit “send,” you don’t weigh the potential pros and cons, because if you’re a journalist and you don’t do your best to tell the truth, you don’t have much else.

I closed by saying that we journalists are in the truth business, and this University was founded as a temple of truth. On the seal of the University of Michigan, on my diploma, and on the front of the Knight-Wallace podium, it says, “Artes, Scientia, Veritas.” Art, Science, Truth.

“Either we mean it, or we don’t,” I said. “We are journalists. And we are at the University of Michigan. We mean it.”

When I finished with, “Thank you,” I meant that, too. Getting the chance to share values I care deeply about, with people I appreciate immensely, is a gift I will never forget—and it made me feel even better about the University I love. ▶

Realizing that my day had already been quite well made, I quickly added, “Don’t tell anyone that, either.” Well, too late.

I’ve seen close to a dozen Hovey Lectures, and admired the range of talent Charles has recruited for the mission. Their speeches have been sharp, funny, and informative, usually delivered by a journalist who is on the cutting edge of our field. My articles and books, on the other hand, are all conventional non-fiction narratives.

But, as he often does, Charles saw what others had missed: “You’re doing one of the hardest things in journalism: Critically covering something you love.”

And what I have loved my entire life is the University of Michigan, and its football program. When I was growing up in Ann Arbor, we didn’t realize we had a choice.

On Friday, September 5, the Knight-Wallace staffers were their usual amazing selves, fitting three hundred people under a tent built for half that. The crowd included people from every phase of my life—friends, teachers, coaches, KWF classmates and the very professors to whom I dedicated my latest book, not to mention my parents, my wife and her family—the kind of cross-section of your



All photos by Phil Dattilo

## A year of fellowship and official visits

### Fellows find adventure amid turbulent times in Brazil

—By Kim Gamel '15

On the eve of the KWF '15 trip to Brazil, President Dilma Rousseff went on television to appeal for patience and support for fiscal austerity measures. Her appearance was widely met with jeers and some nasty names.

The fellows arrived in the economic and cultural center of São Paulo at a pivotal time for Brazil. The once-promising economy is on a downward spiral and anger is rising over a massive corruption scandal involving the state-run oil company Petrobras. We learned all about this and more in seminars and roundtables organized by Suzana Singer, editor at *Folha de São Paulo*, in between lavish meals and a dance lesson. Our hosts Sabine Righetti '13, Sylvia Colombo '14 and Silas Marti made sure everything went smoothly.

There were plenty of surprises along the way, starting on our first day when we

got a special viewing of an apartment in the landmark Copan building, a curvy structure in the heart of downtown that was designed by modernist architect Oscar Niemeyer. Reporter Fabricio Lobel recently rented the flat and opened his new home to us for a glimpse of the glorious view from his windows.

We then took a bus to the Liberdade neighborhood, home to the city’s vibrant Japanese community, for a sushi and tempura dinner. Coffee plantations lured Japanese workers to the area more than a century ago and Brazil now has the largest Japanese diaspora in the world.

We also met with some of the country’s top luminaries. Henrique Meirelles, a former Central Bank governor and current chairman of holding company J&F, gave us a rundown of the evolution of the economic problems that have caused inflation to spike and the Brazilian currency to plunge against the dollar. We discussed what’s driving the growing global demand for meat. Meirelles has some expertise in the subject; J&F controls JBS, the largest meat production company in the world. Then we returned to an auditorium at *Folha* for a candid discussion with Delton Dallagnol, a federal prosecutor who is leading the task force investigating the Petrobras scandal. He explained how



Samantha Henry, Tracy Jan and Steffanie Riess tagged along with fellow Fellow Eduardo Geraque as he checked on his desk at Folha de São Paulo. Geraque is spending the winter term in Ann Arbor.

the arrest of a single money launderer led to a probe that has reached into the president’s inner circle. I’d pick Bradley Cooper to play him in the movie.

### JIMI HENDRIX AND BLACK GOLD

A major highlight was a new addition to the Brazil program. We hopped on a plane for an hour-long ride to Belo Horizonte, the capital of the southeastern state of



Reporter Fabricio Lobel graciously invited the Fellows into his newly rented apartment in the famous Copan building.

All photos by Birgit Rieck



Otavio Frias Filho, publisher of Folha de São Paulo, took time out to meet with the Fellows.

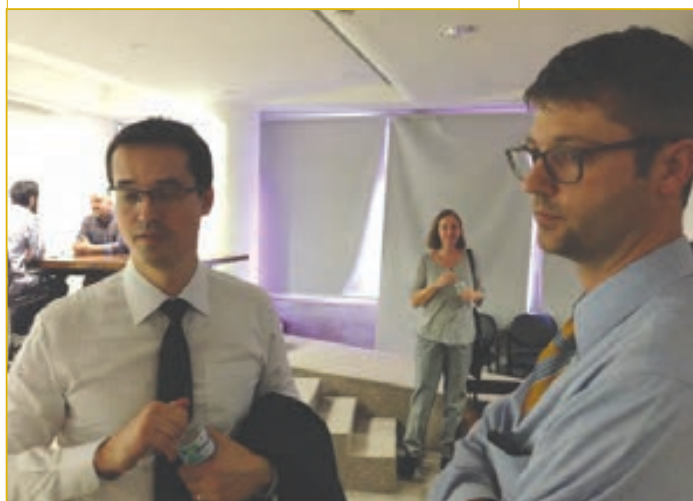
Minas Gerais. World Cup fans will remember this area for its Mineirao stadium, the site of Brazil’s devastating loss to Germany last year. The first order of business was of course dinner at the restaurant Xapuri, where we were treated to stewed chicken,



McKenzie Funk '12 made a surprise appearance at the Alumni Dinner in São Paulo.

farofa and other local delicacies capped by a buffet of delicious desserts.

The following day took us on a mountainous trip to the Inhotim open-air museum, a 5,000 acre complex filled with contemporary art installations and exotic



Deltan Dallagnol, the Chief Prosecutor leading the investigation of the Petrobras scandal currently plaguing the Brazilian government, conducted a frank discussion with Fellow Rob Wildeboer and the rest of the group.



Sabine Righetti '13 and Alencar Izidoro '12 served as personal tour guides for the group. The first stop was atop the roof of the Martinelli Building which was the first skyscraper built in São Paulo. Construction started in 1922, 12 floors completed in 1929 and all 30 floors finished in 1934.

gardens. The park is designed to encourage an interactive experience between visitors and the art. The best example of that was the Cosmococa pavilion where one room has a dimly lit swimming pool in which a few brave fellows took a dip while listening to the music of composer John Cage.

Another room plays Jimi Hendrix tunes while visitors lie in hammocks. We had lunch at a buffet, battling bees for dishes of salad, fish and pastries. Then the park's creator, mining magnate Bernardo Paz, met with us to discuss his vision saying, "This is not a museum. This is life."

Later, a bus took us on a 2 ½ hour ride to Ouro Preto (which means Black Gold in Portuguese), a 17th century colonial mining town. There Silas Marti, Folha's arts and design critic, gave us a tour of the church of St. Francis of Assisi designed by Antônio Francisco Lisboa, which is perched on a steep hilltop and features carved decorations and golden woodwork, paintings and statues. It also boasts an amazing view of the cobblestone-street lined city.

### MODERNISM AND SKATERS

For the weekend, it was back to São Paulo. We spent our next to last day with renowned architects Fernanda Barbara and Fabio Valentim who treated us to a personalized tour of the museums in the modernist

Ibirapuera Park, including the Afro-Brazil museum. Brazil was the last place in the Americas to abolish slavery, in 1888, and the exhibit includes rare photos.

A bonus was watching skaters defying gravity under a long concrete canopy that distinguishes the park. We also saw the Sesc Pompeia, a unique cultural and leisure center with two towers that act as a sports center and are linked by covered walkways. That night fellows enjoyed a forro dance lesson and a glimpse of local clubbing. After some awkward but fun moments on the dance floor, the group got more comfortable in an adjacent dining area where they were offered caipirinhas and beer.



Fellows take a break on this giant tree bench in Inhotim, an outdoor cultural center boasting over 450 pieces of artwork in addition to a botanical garden.

### A STUDY IN CONTRASTS

The last day summed everything up. We started with a tour of several poor neighborhoods on the outskirts of São Paulo. Our tour guides were bloggers who write for Folha's Mural blog with the mission of portraying more than poverty and violence. We saw crowded favelas occupying land literally across the street from barricaded wealthy housing units. Break dancers and graffiti artists showed Fellows how they give voice to youths. In a sharp contrast that must be felt daily by all Brazilians, we then gathered for lunch at a swanky steak house where waiters carved meat straight onto your plate until you turned up a red card signaling for them to stop. Finally we boarded the bus for the airport, on the same day that hundreds of thousands of Brazilians gathered in the downtown streets to protest the president and call for her impeachment. ▶

## 'Trying Different Things' in northern Michigan

### A KWF FALL WEEKEND UP NORTH



▲ Ruby Park and Langston Taylor enjoy the apples and the ride on the cart, but not necessarily in that order.



Here for the fall semester, Sergio Rangel and his family, Malu and children Luiza and Rodrigo had the unique opportunity to experience fall colors in northern Michigan.

Reaching the pedals is not a prerequisite to enjoying the tractor ride as Sami Aydin can attest. His passengers include Calvin Anderson, Charley Margolis, Betul Aydin and Mia Fagone. ▶



▲ The Fellows were treated to an outdoor seminar by Jack Lessenberry, political commentator for Michigan Radio and friend of the KWF program who also has an affinity for northern Michigan.



▲ Pressing apples to make fresh cider is a favorite pastime at the farm. Gerald Taylor's team of helpers include Rodrigo Rangel, Betul Aydin, Charley Margolis and Haley Margolis

Nothing beats wading in the waters of Lake Charlevoix after a day on the farm. ▶

▼ Former Mayor of Petoskey and local artist Kate Marshall addressed the Fellows in the common room of Elvyn Lea Lodge at Walloon Lake in Boyne City.



▲ Greg Anderson takes in the view from the cupola of Overlook Farms with a vintage telescope.



▲ Jason Margolis on guitar, along with his wife Amy, accompanied by Rob Wildeboer on the piano, entertain the crowd as Rodrigo Rangel looks on.



Fellows explore Canadian oil sands at the front lines



▲ Knight-Wallace Fellows fly in a propeller plane over the oil sands and mining projects of Fort McMurray in northern Alberta, Canada.



▲ Reclaimed land on the oil fields of Fort McMurray, where trees have been seeded and the buffaloes again roam.



▲ Fellows Joanne Will and Robert Wildeboer don protective gear to tour Cenovus Energy's Christina Lake facility.



▲ Fellows tour Cenovus Energy's Christina Lake facility, one of the company's two major oil sands projects in northern Alberta while modeling the Canadian designers' Spring 2016 resort collection.



Knight-Wallace Fellows on reclaimed land at the oil fields in Fort McMurray. ▶

All photos by Birgit Rieck

Navigating all things Turkish



Tracy Jan

▲ The picture of the ceremonial Changing of the Guards at the Ataturk Mausoleum, Ankara, is photo-bombed by KWF Director Charles Eisendrath.



Birgit Rieck

▲ Knight-Wallace Fellows are treated to a surprise and some belly dancing lessons at a Turkish rug shop in Istanbul.



Tracy Jan

▲ Abbie Swanson, Joanne Will, Kim Gamel, Birgit Rieck and Bridget Kelly listen to the tour guide at Süleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul.



Birgit Rieck

▲ Ali ihsan Aydin serves as translator at the Alevi Center Alibeykoy.



Birgit Rieck

◀ Fellows learn about the intricacies of weaving and traditional Turkish handicrafts at a rug shop in Istanbul.



Tracy Jan

▲ Yalcin Akdogan (far right), deputy of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) and member of the Turkish Parliament, meets with Knight-Wallace Fellows in Ankara.

# Coming Home: KWF Reunion Weekend

## SEPTEMBER 2015



▲ Marcia Pleadger '14, Helen Maynard '15 and Patricia Whitehorne '08 pose for a picture.



▲ Abbie Fentress Swanson '15 serves up barbeque to Shai Gal '13. She was recruited by KWF Director Charles Eisendrath to man the grill because her study project involves the environmental impact and growing global demand of meat. He refers to her as a "foodie."



▲ A surprise appearance by Charles Eisendrath was the closing act of the cabaret show. Many were impressed with his finger picking talents.



▲ Kemp Powers '03 shared his storytelling talents as part of the Knight Moves Cabaret produced by Paul Wilborn '99 with performances by KWF alums.



▲ It had only been five months since graduation but members of the class of 2014 were happy to reunite.



▲ Ron French '03, Lisa Lednicer '03 and Vince Patton '04 take a few moments to catch up and share a laugh at the Sunday afternoon barbeque in the backyard of Wallace House.



▲ Magician Alex Stone '14 wowed the audience with his card trickery as well as with his charismatic charm and personality.

Charles Fancher '82 spoke on behalf of the other six people representing his class at the reunion. ▶

▼ Part of the weekend activities included KWF Writes showcasing books written by fellows or partners/spouses of fellows. The books were available to purchase and if lucky enough, one was able to snag the author for an autographed copy.



▼ Rachel Dry '13 spent some of her time as a fellow honing her stand-up comedy skills appearing at local open mic nights in Ann Arbor. She graciously shared her talents during Saturday night's cabaret show.



▲ Festivities lasted all weekend long beginning with the Hovey Lecture on Friday, dinner dance on Saturday and family barbeque on Sunday. There were lots of hugs, laughs and of course, lots of selfies. Tristram Korten '13 holds the phone while Marcia Pleadger '14, Josh Neufeld '13 and Rosario '13S smile for the camera.



▲ Geoff Larcom '09 (famous for his unique dance moves) and his wife, Kristen, hit the dance floor and got down to the music of George Bedard and the Kingpins at Saturday night's dinner dance.



All photos by Phil D'Amico



▲ Representatives were selected from each table to speak and Peggy Lowe '09 doesn't pass up an opportunity to make a point.

All photos by Phil D'Amico

# LEARNING TO WEAR MANY MULTI-MEDIA HATS

—By Helen Maynard '15

What's the best way to get to know new people who share a common interest? Join a club. As we settled in for the first semester of our fellowship, we noticed a recurring theme in discussions at Wallace House:



Rob Wildeboer '15 and his wife, Christine, attempt to put into practice the skills acquired at the AV Club.

the growing need to be your own everything on assignments. We would have to become the videographer, photographer and audio technician on every story. The message came in loud and clear, over and over again: newsrooms are looking for more content to post on the website, on Facebook, on Twitter, and it's up to us to be efficient providers.

With these ideas in mind, we started the Knight-Wallace AV Club. Think beyond the high school version; there are no film projectors or running slide shows. This AV Club focused on digital world problems including improving camera and audio skills. Print, radio and television journalists joined the club. Most had basic knowledge of professional DV cams and audio setup but some were starting from scratch. My biggest concern stemmed from past experience. After I had completed my former company's training program, I went for months without needing to use the equipment and suddenly, I would need to haul out that box of gear, hoping my memory didn't fail me on deadline. However, the club's built-in mandate to practice to-

gether gave promise to committing these techniques to our long-term memory banks.

We quickly found that this fellowship organization needed a faculty advisor. New Knight-Wallace board member Jim Burnstein and Assistant Director, Birgit Rieck, found just the right fit in Screen Arts and Cultures instructor, Victor Fanucchi. He navigated around our busy class and seminar schedules to create a program tailored to our individual needs. Working out of both Wallace House and Michigan's Instructional Support Services Media Center, Victor

covered a different topic each week. Club members got the chance to focus on one area of learning: lighting, audio, composition or a complete overview of each topic. The same amount of time was spent on the science behind shutter speed selection as strengthening a person's comfort level handling the equipment.

Television producer Eric Strauss said, "Even as someone who has already had experience using video cameras, lights and microphones as a producer at ABC News, I found the KWF AV club very valuable. Victor was able to combine introductory and advanced elements in the same class. For me, the sessions proved to be refreshers and an opportunity to learn some advanced techniques."

I am left-handed by nature. Working with Victor, however, I realized I was faster and steadier working with my right hand. Beyond learning from Victor,

we learned from each other. Jason Margolis, correspondent with Public Radio International's program "The World," shared his audio knowledge. He offered tips for handling sound in spaces with less than ideal acoustics and how to get the best microphone position for interviews on the fly. Associated Press reporter Samantha Henry recounted her experiences as a multimedia journalist, reassuring us that with patience we, too, could successfully navigate this new way of covering stories from a multitude of different angles.

Even after completing the formal sessions, Club members are still in action. As fellow Larry Lage develops his project, a news platform for the deaf and hard of hearing, we are video documenting his progress and conducting on-camera interviews as part of his audience research.

Bottom line: the future favors multimedia journalists. As newsrooms rely more on social media to promote content and engage viewers, we can find more opportunities to extend coverage and raise our digital profiles by improving our abilities across all platforms. The Knight-Wallace AV Club brought us all a little closer to reaching that goal. ▶



Victor Fanucchi, writer, filmmaker and teacher at the University of Michigan, stepped up to serve as faculty advisor and lead the KWF AV Club. He has gone above and beyond to customize the program to meet the individual needs of the Fellows.

# An unlikely gift during 'the best year of our lives'

—By Eric M. Strauss '15

While I considered applying for a Knight-Wallace Fellowship, Charlie Gibson '74, told me, "It will be the best year of your life." I've known Charlie as an anchor at ABC News for most of my career, and he was never one for hyperbole, but he knows I've already had some good years.

In 2004, Charlie was the reporter on a story about Bridget Kelly, a young Texas schoolteacher who survived abduction, rape and multiple gunshots by a stranger and then became an advocate for survivors of sexual assault. I had recently asked my executive producer at ABC to work on more serious topics and was assigned to work with Charlie on Bridget's story. Our team was nominated for an Emmy.

Three years later, Bridget moved to New York City for graduate school in early childhood literacy. We started hanging out and dating and in 2012 we were married. That sure felt like a pretty good year.

Last summer, we were excited and anxious as we moved away from our family and friends in New York City to Ann Arbor. We enjoyed the classes, seminars, recreation, beauty and trips. But Bridget was pregnant and because of extensive internal scar tissue—a result of the attack—and Type 1 diabetes, her's was considered a high-risk pregnancy.

It was impossible to keep our news secret from a bunch of journalists and they all rose to the occasion. The KWF staff helped



Eric Strauss and his wife Bridget Kelly at home with baby Joshua and his new best friend and bodyguard, Grace Kelly.

us find the proper resources, the Fellows and spouses with children offered us plenty of helpful advice and the entire class of 2015 gave us support and encouragement.

There was a fun baby shower at Wallace House, Julia Eisendrath knitted us a baby blanket and Fellows and spouses told us to get our rest because soon we would never sleep again. And finally, on February 7th, 2015 at 3:35am, our precious Joshua Carl was born at the University of Michigan Hospital.

Despite the high-risk nature of Bridget's pregnancy, the top-notch Maternal Fetal Medicine Division at U-M helped deliver

a healthy baby. Little Joshua was instantly showered with gifts, visits and love from all his aunties and uncles in the KWF class of 2015.

Joshua is always going to have Ann Arbor on his birth certificate and about twenty surrogate family members in journalism and other interesting careers all over the world. Charlie Gibson was right. It's going to be tough for Bridget and me to have a better year than 2015.

Read about our wedding in the *New York Times* Vows Section: <http://nyti.ms/MOUczL>.

Read about Joshua's birth in the *Omaha-World Herald*: <http://bit.ly/JCSinOWH>. ▶



Baby Joshua Carl Strauss had a visit from his surrogate extended Ann Arbor family, Aunt Tracy Jan '15 and Uncle Gerald Taylor '15S.

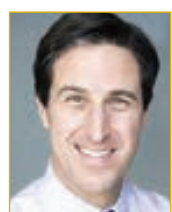
# Our Great Geniuses



**Jenny Baxter '14** is a former controller of news production and the director of London's W12 program, has accepted the position of chief operating officer for BBC England.



**Rachel Dry '13** is staff editor on the Op-Ed page/Sunday Review staff at *The New York Times*. She was previously deputy editor of *Outlook*, *The Washington Post*.



**Steve Edwards '08** was named deputy director for programming at the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics in January 2013 and is now executive director. He assumed his new role in March 2014 and is hoping to develop a visiting fellowship program.



**Einat Fishbain '03** co-founded an online magazine in Israel called *The Hottest Place in Hell*. The magazine covers social economic issues including labor, welfare, asylum seekers, housing and human rights. She was a writer for the newspaper *Yedioth Ahronoth*.



**Kyoko Gasha '92** made a documentary film about the Japanese earthquake and Tsunami, "311: In the Moment" that shows how the people of Japan attempt to recover from the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown that wiped out family members, towns and all that was once part of Tohoku. She also released the film, "Mother's Way, Daughter's

Choice" that explores how Japanese women struggle to reconcile their traditional upbringing with their desire to create independent lives.



**Joanne Gerstner '13** is Sports-Journalist-in-Residence at Michigan State University. She previously taught at Oakland University, University of Michigan and University of Detroit Mercy. She is a contributing writer to *The New York Times*.



**Donovan Hohn '13** is an Associate Professor at Wayne State University where he teaches creative writing in the English department of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He was a features editor at *GQ* and a contributing editor at *Harpers*.



**Sam Hudzik '13** is the news director for New England Public Radio in Massachusetts. He was formerly with WBEZ in Chicago.



**Louisa Lim '14** appeared on *The Colbert Report* in October to discuss the potential for a violent crackdown on the demonstrators in Hong Kong. Her book, "The People's Republic of Amnesia: Tiananmen Revisited" was listed on the Lionel Gelber 25th Anniversary Shortlist announced in January. She is the Marsh Visiting Professor at U-M.



**Alec MacGillis '06** is a Slate staff writer. Previously he was a senior editor at *The New Republic* magazine in Washington.



**Tim Marchman '12** has been promoted from deputy editor to editor-in-chief at Deadspin.



**Ron Parsons '08** led the *Los Angeles Times* to top honors at the ONA awards for general excellence among large news websites. He oversaw the project from start to finish to redesign the site so it displays with equal clarity across all platforms including smartphone, tablet or desktop.



**Dave Shaw '12S** is a senior editor for Marketplace, overseeing the program's bureau in Washington, D.C., as well as the Marketplace Health Desk based at WHYY in Philadelphia. He's a regular editor of Marketplace Tech and has filled in as Marketplace's managing editor. He joined the Marketplace team in 2013 from *The New York Times*.



**Sam Skolnik '08** is director of The American Independent Institute, an investigative journalism fund in Washington. He was previously a reporter with the *Las Vegas Sun*.



**Rainey Tisdale '06S** presented a local TEDx event, "What the Marathon Bombings Meant to Boston"

(TEDxBoston 2014). The talk was about curating an exhibit drawn from items left at the site of the Marathon bombings.



**Katie Zezima '12** is White House correspondent for *The Washington Post*, Post Politics and The Fix. She previously worked for The Associated Press in New Jersey.

## KICKSTARTER PROJECTS



**Kate Brooks '13** launched a kickstarter campaign to fund her documentary on the poaching of elephants and rhinos, "The Last Animals." Most of the story unfolds in Kenya where the slaughter of these animals has skyrocketed to keep up with market demand.



**Kathleen Galligan '09** has partnered with fellow journalist **Patricia Anstett** to raise money for their book on breast cancer and reconstruction surgery. While working on the project, Kathleen was diagnosed with breast cancer herself and went through treatment.



**Kim Kozlowski '09** is founder of the Detroit Little Free Libraries campaign. Her goal is for Detroit to have the most Little Free Libraries [in the world]. The ultimate goal is to have 313 libraries in the city (in honor of the 313 area code). The first 20 were installed in various locations in November.



**Kate Linebaugh Ortolani '08** launched a campaign to battle type 1 Diabetes. She trained and ran a half marathon to help those with the disease and especially her son, Enzo.

## KWF mourns friend David Carr



**D**avid Carr visited Wallace House as recently as January 9, 2015. His name alone was enough to draw new University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel to make his first visit to Wallace House.

For the past several years, Carr conducted seminars for the Fellows. The first invitation was extended by Charles Eisendrath who said, "I simply called and he said 'Love to.' Turned out there was an ulterior motive—his daughter was graduating from U-M that year." After that, he became not only a friend of the fellowship program but also a supporter of the Livingston Awards for Young Journalists.

"It was Carr's hard knocks and serious, serial mistakes as well as a blinding journalistic brightness that made him such an invaluable "exhibit A" to both groups that Wallace House focuses on," said Eisendrath.

David Carr died in the newsroom of *The New York Times* on February 12, 2015. He will be missed in the world of journalism and his absence will certainly be felt in the living room of Wallace House. ▶

## Nursing future KWF talent

**F**ellows have clearly been busy in both their professional and personal lives; a number of babies have recently joined the KWF family! Among the newest members is **Joshua Carl Strauss** (pictured) born in February. He is joined by:

**Aaron Theodore Kihara**, February 2015

**Robin Allington**, June 2014

**Dylan Laris**, August 2014

**Ethan Woo Funk**, August 2014

**Twins Veronica Collins Deitsch and**

**Connor Collins Deitsch**, August 2014

**Evelyn Rose Siegel**, September 2014

**Maxim Blake Van Sant**, September 2014

**Lucia Ortega**, November 2014

**Felix Vinicius Robbins Thompson**, March 2013

**Twins Alice and Emily Childs**, July 2013

**Emily Sylvie Almond Pope**, November 2013

**Asal Janan Pomeroy**, December 2013

**Hunt Van Benschoten**, December 2013





## Wallace House Journal

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Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2635

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Permit #144

—Dreams come true, continued from page 1

been reviewed by two focus groups of deaf people meeting at Wallace House.

A second pilot has been scheduled for April. Hopefully by this summer, a Deaf Access Media website and YouTube channel will feature a 30-minute weekly show that will give deaf and hard-of-hearing people news, business, politics, sports, entertainment and more in American Sign Language for the first time. The show will attempt to address the failure of closed captioning, which is in English, a second language for some deaf and hard of hearing people. In some cases, English is a distant second language. My plan is to expand to a daily show and repurpose radio and podcasts along with all forms of media for deaf audiences.

My project is as close to my heart as my rib cage and my fellow Fellows and

the Knight-Wallace Fellows are not far removed. Each person, including the staff, who has the good fortune to walk through the doors at 620 Oxford has provided me with encouragement. Some have chipped in with their expertise behind cameras and at keyboards.

When our year kicked off with the Hovey Lecture in the fall of 2014, Bacon implored the new class to come away from the fellowship with something tangible to show for the opportunity. I'm thankful that with a team the late, great Bo Schembechler would be proud of, I will do just that this spring. I also hope something else Bacon said isn't published for many decades. "Man, Lage," Bacon said, shaking his head from side to side when he heard about my project. "If you pull this off, it will be in the lead of your obituary." ▸



Ruth Anna Spooner, PhD candidate, English and Education at UM, is the on-air news anchor for the pilot and a recent seminar speaker at Wallace House.

Publisher: Charles R. Eisendrath '75

Editor: Patty Meyers

Production and Design:  
Kathleen Horn, Blue Skies Studio

Views expressed in the *Journal* are not necessarily those of the Fellowship Program or the University of Michigan.

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\*Includes gender identity and gender expression