



Knight-Wallace Launches Alumni Locator

BY RON FRENCH '03

Wuhu? I stared blankly when the word was uttered in an interview. Was Wuhu a person, a place, or was the person I was interviewing just excited?

It was the summer of 2004, and I was trying to tell the story of the changing American economy by chronicling the movement of an auto supply factory from one nation to another. A company had moved most of its production of wire harnesses – an ungainly mass of wires that connect electrical parts in your car – from Michigan to Mexico, then chased even cheaper labor costs to Honduras. Now, it was considering buying a factory in China, in a place – I finally realized – called Wuhu.

I was going to the auto supplier's factories in Michigan, Mexico and Honduras – trips on which my intrepid photographer partner at The Detroit News, Max Ortiz, could help translate.

But Wuhu, China? How would I find a translator and guide to help me talk to factory workers in an industrial town in Anhui Province? My Knight-Wallace Fellowship had ended just a year earlier. I called Birgit Rieck, now associate director, and asked if there might be a former Fellow who could help.



She sent me contact information for two people: James Miles '95, the China editor for The Economist, and Matthias Schepp '05, then Asia bureau chief for the German magazine Der Stern, who had just been chosen to be a Fellow in the upcoming class. From my own class, I reached out to Andrew Finkel '03, an Istanbul-based journalist who queried his own network of international correspondents on my behalf.

Within a week, I knew the best Western-style hotel in Wuhu, which trains to take and not take between that city and Shanghai, and had an agreement with an English professor at a local college to be our guide and translator for five days.

That kind of Fellow-to-Fellow networking just became a lot easier.

This fall, Wallace House is launching the Alumni Locator, providing quick access to Fellows by location and areas of expertise. Picture it as a digital dinner party at Wallace House, with nearly 750 renowned journalists from more than 40 countries just waiting for you to come up, offer a glass of wine and ask for help.

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FROM THE HEAD FELLOW

BY LYNETTE CLEMETSON '10

Back in early July, I got an email from a friend and former Fellow, Diane Fancher, letting me know that she was coming to Ann Arbor this fall with a group of her classmates to mark their 35th anniversary.



It was just a simple email, a quick heads up to see if I had time to get together with them while they were in town. But I found myself thinking about that email all summer. It had been 35 years and this bunch was still coming back to Ann Arbor to celebrate the bonds they made through the Fellowship.

Our Wallace House reunions actually started informally with this group. When their Fellowship ended in May 1982, none of the 12-member class was ready to go (sound familiar?), so they arranged to come back in the fall for a football weekend.

Then director, Graham Hovey, and his wife Mary Jean held a reception for them in the clubhouse of his condo complex and invited the 1983 class to join them. In addition to the football game, the returning Fellows visited favorite haunts including the original Borders Bookstore on the corner of State and Liberty streets and their favorite watering hole, the bar at The Earle.

This merry band of hangers-on returned annually for several years, reconnecting with one another and offering help to newly arrived Fellows. In the late 1980s, director Charles Eisendrath expanded the September gatherings into full-scale, multi-class reunions. He added the Graham Hovey Lecture, an event honoring his predecessor featuring a timely talk by a returning Fellow, as the centerpiece.

Making connections is at the heart of what we do. Whether it happens at an alumni reception, like the one we had this past October in Washington, D.C., where we welcomed journalists from every decade in the program's history, or at a Livingston Awards luncheon, where illustrious former winners cheer wide-eyed new honorees. In this edition of the Wallace House Journal we'll be celebrating those connections and the ways in which we're working to maintain them and make them stronger.

Ron French '03 writes our cover essay about the practical importance of our network and our launch of an Alumni Locator that will make finding one another easier. If you saw our September e-newsletter, you know that we've added a Beta version of the locator function to our website, with information from

recent classes. Over the next several months we'll be contacting you to update your information so we can populate it fully.

In each Journal, we publish an Alumni Update to highlight career moves within our distinguished extended family. In this issue we add a new feature, Alumni Spotlight, in which a former Fellow writes about someone from another class. To kick it off, Adam Allington '12 of Bloomberg BNA met for drinks in D.C. with Tracy Jan '15 to talk to her about her recent move from The Boston Globe to The Washington Post.

Also in this issue, we share two glimpses into our recent visit to Washington, D.C., a trip bursting with connections to people thinking about the future of journalism. We offer highlights from last summer's Livingston Awards luncheon, where we honored the incredible work of three young journalists and celebrated the legacy of our departed friend Gwen Ifill. And we have excerpts from a Q & A with Alec MacGillis '11, who returned to Ann Arbor in September as the speaker for our 32nd annual Graham Hovey Lecture. The ProPublica reporter talks about how his year in Michigan changed his view of the country and his work.

Making connections is at the heart of what we do.

While in Washington, we attended the Online News Association conference and we had a booth in the exhibition hall to promote our programs. Attracted by the bold block M on our table cover, an accomplished journalist with family ties to the university made a beeline for our table. "I've heard good things," he said, picking up a brochure, "I've always wondered what you've got going on there." The glimmer in his eye as we discussed the Fellowship reminded me of the spirit of connection I felt after hearing about Fancher's class reunion – those former Fellows reminiscing about their past, this prospective Fellow imagining his future. That continuum leaves me brimming with a sense of possibility.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

BY ADAM ALLINGTON '12

Adam Allington '12 of Bloomberg BNA met with Tracy Jan '15 about her post Fellowship career and her new beat covering the intersection of race and the economy.

Sitting in a hotel room watching propaganda videos from a racist hate group isn't the way most people would spend a week in Boca Raton, Florida. But back in October 2016 issues like race, class and religion were front-and-center in a presidential campaign grinding toward its improbable conclusion.

At the time, Tracy Jan covered national politics for The Boston Globe's Washington, D.C. bureau, a beat she'd had since 2011.

For this particular assignment, Jan spent a week in Florida writing about the growing Islamophobia that had taken root there – part of the Globe's "America on Edge" series.

She was in her element, in a journalistic sense – even though it meant that Jan, who is Chinese American, spent her time attending hate group meetings and lunching with conspiracy theorists – all of whom were white Donald Trump supporters.

"It was cool to be able to peek into a world that was so foreign to me and write about how this hostility, fear and anger was being exploited by Trump," Jan said over drinks this fall in downtown Washington, D.C.

As a 2015 Knight-Wallace Fellow, she studied "Morality and Money in Medicine." In addition to covering politics, Jan was also The Globe's national health care reporter, a role she had hoped to more fully inhabit after the 2016 campaign.

She spent her year in Michigan sitting in on confidential hospital meetings about patient care, learning about reproductive justice, medical ethics and public health. She also wrote a screenplay about Dr. Tim Johnson, chair of the U-M Health System's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and his pivotal role in the national debate over an abortion procedure called "partial birth abortion" by its opponents.

But she said she came away from her Fellowship year with much more than a string of story ideas, subject matter expertise and sources.

"In a larger sense, the Fellowship helped me realize that one's 'work' doesn't have to be your life," she said. "But as journalists, we tend to make it so. So we might as well be writing about the things we care deeply about."

Having written about health issues for several years, she felt ready for change. When The Washington Post came calling about potential opportunities, Jan jumped at the chance to create a new beat covering the intersection of race and the economy. She saw the job as a pivotal platform from which to dive more deeply into the divisions that defined the 2016 campaign and widening racial and economic inequalities.

"I felt like I had been preparing for a job like this my entire life," she said.

Her new beat is broad, and Jan has the freedom to choose her priorities – whether it's a quick piece highlighting the persistent



Tracy Jan provided Fellows a behind-the-scenes tour of The Washington Post on their recent trip to Washington, D.C.

Photo Credit: Birgit Rieck

wealth gap between black and white Americans or a front page story about how Facebook disproportionately censors black activists.

When The Washington Post came calling about potential opportunities, Jan jumped at the chance to create a new beat covering the intersection of race and the economy.

"I like that it's not a general 'race' reporting job but one grounded in the financial team, which helps me bring a bit more focus and structure to this hugely important and oftentimes unwieldy topic," she said. "The motto here is 'A1 or viral.'"

That means juggling front page or Sunday enterprise and breaking news with chattier web-only pieces to inject The Post into the national conversation about race.

Since the beat is new, Jan said she's focusing on making sure that it becomes seen as an essential part of The Post's coverage – "so eyeballs are always a consideration, as well as impact."

Closing in on her first year on the job, Jan said she still has much to learn. She doesn't see herself as a business wonk. Instead, she is focusing the sensibilities she developed covering politics and health in a new direction.

"The things I learned covering lobbying, power and influence as a political reporter should also be front and center on this beat," she said, "because at the heart, it's about inequality – who has and wants more, and who is left behind."

Dr. Gil Omenn and Martha Darling Pledge \$500,000 to Livingston Awards Endowment

BY EMILY RICHMOND '11

For University of Michigan professor Dr. Gil Omenn and his wife Martha Darling, there's never been a more important time to support in-depth, nuanced reporting. They have pledged \$500,000 to the Livingston Awards, a prestigious annual prize recognizing outstanding local, national and international reporting by journalists under the age of 35.

"Being home to the Livingston Awards would be a crown jewel for any number of higher education institutions but to have it alongside the Knight-Wallace program at Michigan is even better," said Darling. "It's very much in keeping with the university's mission of developing inquiring minds open to new information."

Mollie Parnis Livingston created the awards in 1981 in memory of her son, Robert, publisher of *More*, a journalism review. The Omenn-Darling gift will go toward an endowment to secure the program's future. They join the Indian Trail Charitable Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Christiane Amanpour, and the University of Michigan among the program's major supporters.

"We are deeply grateful for generous gifts such as this that affirm the mission of journalism in our society," said Wallace House Director Lynette Clemetson. "It's also incredibly meaningful that Gil and Martha actively support Wallace House programs by attending our events, joining us at the house for receptions and seminars, and assist in making connections for our Fellows throughout the campus. They help us build bridges to the community, and that is so important right now."

"We are deeply grateful for generous gifts such as this that affirm the mission of journalism in our society," said Wallace House Director Lynette Clemetson.

Omenn served as executive vice president for medical affairs and as chief executive officer of the University of Michigan Health System from 1997 to 2002. He was dean of the School of Public Health, and professor of medicine and environmental health at the University of Washington, Seattle, from 1982 to 1997. Omenn was also associate director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Office of Management and Budget in the Carter administration.

A noted conservationist and member of the National Wildlife Federation's President's Leadership Council, Darling is retired from a senior management position at Boeing. She has consulted on education policy for the National Academy of Sciences, and chaired the boards of the Institute for Women's Policy Research



Gil Omenn and Martha Darling came out to support the Livingston Awards not only financially but to give credence to the important role and responsibilities of young journalists. As he addressed the audience at the luncheon, Omenn said they were proud to be part of the move to advance the campaign for the awards program and added, "We encourage all of you to participate in sustaining this endowment."

Photo Credit: Lina Jang

and the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation. Darling is also a member of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars.

Over the years, both Omenn and Darling have enjoyed visits to Wallace House – an invitation first extended by former director Charles Eisendrath, who retired in 2016. The chance to hear from guest speakers and meet with current fellows is always invigorating, Darling said.

"I've asked myself, 'Why can't I do this every week?'" she added, with a laugh.

In that vein, she and Omenn are both looking forward to a continuation of The Livingston Lectures, public events featuring Livingston winners, which Clemetson launched last year.

Both Omenn and Darling have other connections to journalism. Omenn serves on the board of directors of the Center for Public Integrity, a nonprofit investigative news organization based in Washington, D.C. The organization's first Pulitzer Prize in 2014 went to a 28-year-old reporter examining the systemic disenfranchisement of Appalachian coal miners with black lung disease – two-time Livingston Awards finalist Chris Hamby.

And Darling is a relative of Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling, who won two Pulitzer Prizes for political cartooning – in 1923 and 1942, and founded the National Wildlife Federation. He likely would have felt right at home at Wallace House, Darling said, and been pleased with the Livingston Awards' approach to recognizing and bolstering young journalists.

Livingston Awards Luncheon Highlights

Livingston judges, winners and supporters turned out on June 6th to celebrate the work of young journalists at the 36th annual Livingston Awards luncheon in New York City.



Maria Elena Salinas, Livingston Award national judge and Univision anchor, presented the Livingston Award to Claire Galofaro for the three part series, "Surviving Appalachia" that earned Galofaro the top prize in the local reporting category.



University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel was on hand to personally congratulate Livingston Award winners Ben Taub, Brooke Jarvis and Claire Galofaro.



Roberto Ifill asked for a show of hands from those who were mentored by his sister, Gwen Ifill, as he accepted the Richard M. Clurman award on her behalf. Among those responding to the request were Kara Swisher, co-founder and executive editor of Recode, host and Livingston Award national judge (left); Raney Aronson-Rath, executive producer, "Frontline," PBS and Livingston Award regional judge (right); and Jonathan Alter, author, journalist and television commentator (in the background).



Michele Norris (left), former Livingston winner and judge, and Lynette Clemetson, director of Wallace House, shared a heartfelt moment as the Richard M. Clurman Award was presented posthumously to Gwen Ifill and accepted on her behalf by her brother, Roberto Ifill. Both Norris and Clemetson were among those whose hands went up when asked who had been mentored by his sister.

Help us foster excellence in journalism

The Livingston Awards and the Knight-Wallace Fellowships for Journalists have an unwavering commitment to supporting the vital work of journalists. As we strengthen and expand our offerings, contributions from those who have experienced firsthand the career-changing benefits of our programs is a powerful testament to our mission. As you plan your end-of-year giving, consider making a gift to Wallace House. You can give to any of our programs online at wallacehouse.umich.edu/donate. Or you can mail your gift in the envelope enclosed in this issue of the Journal. Help us support the future of journalism.

Thank you for your support.

Lynette Clemetson, Director

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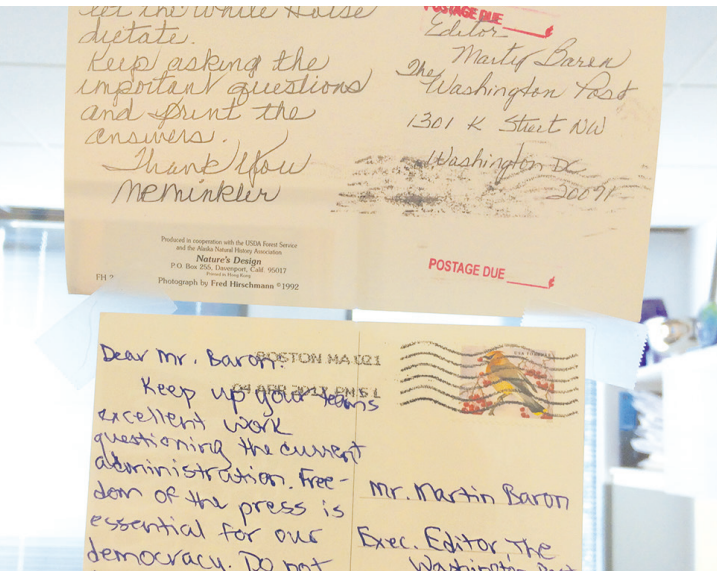
Reflections from Washington

A Clear Mission, a Touch of Envy

BY CHITRANGADA CHOUDHURY '18

On a warm October afternoon, as Marty Baron, the venerated editor of The Washington Post, spoke with our fellowship class, I felt admiration – and envy.

Baron outlined how his legacy newsroom was embracing technological changes and had garnered over a million digital-only subscribers earlier this year. The paper’s willingness to adapt, he stressed, was underpinned by its foundational mission of striving for the truth.



Letters from grateful readers addressed to The Washington Post executive editor, Marty Baron, hang on his office walls. Baron, pictured opposite with Lynette Clemetson, was generous with his time and gave a seminar for the Fellows during their visit to the newspaper.

Photo Credit: Chitrangada Choudhury

Over the past year, The Post has published an impressive stream of stories investigating President Donald Trump’s election campaign, his family members, his business interests and his administration. Earlier that afternoon, as we toured the Post’s newsroom, the outer glass walls of Baron’s office, plastered with grateful letters from readers, captivated me. One note read, “Dear Mr Baron, [...] Without the hard work of your reporters, our situation today would be so much more dire.” Another said, “Keep asking the important questions. And print the answers.”

Later, as Baron spoke to us, I wondered if in my home country of India, an editor like him could survive the political and economic powers that stifle journalism’s core function – “ask the important questions, print the answers.”

Like President Trump, India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi loathes the press. Unlike Trump, Modi chooses complete disengagement. He has not held a single press conference since taking office in May 2014. A senior minister in his cabinet coined the term “presstitutes” for journalists asking inconvenient questions. Most legacy newsrooms in India are fearful and self-censor. In September, the exit of the editor-in-chief of The Hindustan Times, my former newspaper and a leading national daily, was preceded by a meeting between Modi and the paper’s proprietor. The editor lasted in the job for little over a year. Among the paper’s projects, which reportedly upset the government, was “Hate Tracker” – a digital database documenting India’s rising hate crimes, including the lynching of religious minorities.

Newsrooms – mostly small, alternative media, and nascent, digital outlets – that are putting up a fight are especially under threat. On October 5, while we were in D.C., Gauri Lankesh, a Bangalore-based editor of a small newspaper, was posthumously given the Anna Politkovskaya Award, established in memory of the slain Russian journalist to honor a female human rights defender. In September, assailants had fatally shot Lankesh outside her home as she returned from work.

The day our trip ended, The Wire, a fledgling, resource-strapped website in India, reported how the turnover of a firm headed by Jay Amit Shah, the son of the President of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), had increased 16,000 times over since the BJP took power in 2014. The BJP and Shah did not challenge a single fact in the story. Instead, they have filed a criminal defamation suit of 100 Indian Rupees (over \$15 million) against The Wire’s editors and the reporter.

I did not need dispatches from home to remind me of the powerful forces against which Indian journalists persevere. On our trip’s penultimate day, I wandered through the floors of the Newseum, lingering at the Journalists Memorial – a tribute to over 2,000 journalists killed in the line of duty. Its centerpiece was a towering panel with hundreds of photographs of slain reporters. The collage of faces from around the world was heartbreaking, yet deeply inspiring.

In the memorial’s section titled “Stories of the Fallen – 2016”, the profiles included Karun Misra. The exhibit recorded that Misra, the 32-year-old bureau chief of a Hindi daily in north India, “had received death threats and refused bribes, designed to deter him from reporting on illegal mining” before being gunned down last February.

I recalled a quote displayed prominently at The Washington Post newsroom: “There is only one good reason to enter journalism. When we do our job, we can make a difference.” The fellowship trip was a powerful reminder of why we must persist.



No Simple Answers

BY AZI PAYBARAH '18

Walking down the street on my way to the Online News Association's annual conference at the Marriott Wardman Park hotel in Washington, D.C., a recognizable man with short gray hair and neon shorts ran past me. He looked like John Podesta.

If it was Podesta, it made sense that he would be running away from wherever reporters were gathering. As manager of Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign, Podesta led the post-election hand wringing about Russians stealing his emails, media fascination with the email saga and the need for a more intelligent way to report on politics. Broadly, I agreed with him. That's why, after 14 years covering politics in New York City, with a popular newsletter under my belt and enough appearances on cable news shows to justify carrying a blazer and tie in my backpack, I decided to apply for a Knight-Wallace Fellowship.

I was so steeped in daily political coverage that when I heard my class of Fellows was coming to D.C., it seemed incomprehensible that we would do anything other than talk about the 2016 presidential election the entire time. I was surprised when the conversations unfolded differently.

Our group met with Marty Baron, executive editor of The Washington Post, and top editors at NPR and The Atlantic. All were adapting a digital-dominant approach to news and figuring out how to deliver more content to their core constituencies and paying customers. I wondered about the unseen costs of this faster, customer-focused approach.

I hoped to get answers at the conference. When ONA started in 1999, it was like a support group. Digital reporters were interlopers in the newsroom, afterthoughts sitting at the kids' table, far away from the adults. Today, across the street from the conference hotel, an old Washington Post newspaper box sat empty, spray-painted black and locked. The conference, by contrast, was crammed with over 3,000 digitally-focused attendees. Surely this would be the place to offer direction on the issues nagging at me. How should we use the internet to better cover politics? How are smart reporters using Facebook and Twitter? Can I make a podcast about politics as popular as a cat video?

There was plenty on offer about the latest digital trends. Left hanging, though, remained the thorniest questions raised by the 2016 presidential election. For instance, can reporters clustered on

the East Coast reliably cover Red State America? This topic was front and center in ONA's first session, led by CNN's Brian Stelter: "Trust, Truth and Questions for the Media." Panelist Nikole Hannah-Jones, a staff writer for The New York Times Magazine, said the public is losing trust in the media because newsrooms aren't diverse enough. Cenk Uygur, co-founder and host of The Young Turks, said it was less about race and more about poverty, an issue "corporate media" and well-paid reporters are not good at covering.

Both of those seemed correct, and yet, incomplete. I found myself nodding along when public radio reporter Asma Khalid said the primary problem was a dearth of reporters in the majority of American communities. She noted a disturbing trend during the presidential race. Reporters – often from the East or West Coasts – tracked down voters – often in the middle of the country – grabbed their quotes, then left. Practically nobody stuck around, let alone made return trips. Khalid did. "I never thought I'd see you again," one voter told her. The anecdote reminded me of the "left-behind" places ProPublica reporter Alec MacGillis spoke about weeks earlier at the annual Graham Hovey Lecture back in Ann Arbor.

On the final day of the conference, I entered the main ballroom minutes before the start of a session called "When Satire is the Most Effective Political Coverage." I sat down next to a man conspicuously older than most at the convention. It was Jeff Jarvis, director of the Tow-Knight Center for Entrepreneurial Journalism and a professor at the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. We talked about the fact that the American Society of News Editors was slated to hold their annual meeting in the same hotel a week later. The ASNE conference, Jarvis speculated, would be much smaller. He was drawing a direct correlation between conference size and industry potency.

Jarvis looked out at the amorphous ONA crowd in the ballroom – many still ambling to their seats with tote bags full of CNN water bottles and Facebook notebooks – and said, "They don't realize they won."

I left Washington and ONA with more questions than answers. That's similar to how I started my career at the Queens Tribune, often returning from press conferences with pages full of quotes and a head full of questions. Now in Ann Arbor, that confusion feels comforting. The questions wouldn't be worth studying if the answers were easy.

Q&A with Alec MacGillis: Going Back for the Left Behind

BY LYNETTE CLEMETSON '10



Alec MacGillis '11 drove home his point that the recent election brought to the forefront the problems with the prosperity gap and the missed stories across America.

Alec MacGillis, political reporter for ProPublica, returned to Wallace House in September to give the 32nd Graham Hovey Lecture. More than 200 people gathered in the back garden to hear his talk titled, "Piercing the Bubble: Politics, Media and America's Prosperity Gap." MacGillis took time out during his visit to chat with Wallace House Director Lynette Clemetson about the importance of getting out of Washington and how the Fellowship influenced the current direction of his work.

Clemetson: There is a troubling disconnect between the public and the journalism industry. You believe that has as much to do with geography as ideology. What does that mean?

MacGillis: The election exposed huge gaps in this country. There are places that are doing very well, winner-take-all cities where success draws more success and the rich get richer. Places like the [San Francisco] Bay Area, Seattle, New York, Washington and Boston. And then there are the "left behind places."

At some point, analyzing why Trump won becomes an endless Twitter war. But I really believe that the election was a wake-up call for us to be spending more time reporting on and thinking about these left behind places. Not just the white, working class bastions in

the middle of the country that have become fodder for many of these easily mocked stories. But also places like Baltimore, mid-sized cities with declining suburbs. These places are struggling, largely outside the view of the media, which is increasingly clustered in the winner-take-all cities.

Clemetson: What do you see as the most serious implications of this media clustering?

MacGillis: We've lost thousands of reporters around the country, while the number of reporters in Washington has doubled. Nearly three quarters of all internet publishing jobs are along the Acela corridor from D.C. to Boston or on the West Coast. This is really unhelpful for several reasons. One is that we're missing stories, whether it's the Trump phenomenon or the Flint water scandal. And because people don't have the media around them where they live, they are far less likely to see "Jane Johnson, The Reporter" at the Town Hall or the courthouse or the school board meeting. The media becomes this foreign thing that is easily scorned or hated. And without local media you end up going elsewhere for news like that ever-reliable source known as Facebook.

Clemetson: Do you have to push when you pitch stories that are outside of Washington?

MacGillis: Initially it was a little tricky because I was brought in as the Washington guy for Pro Publica. I am a political reporter, and the expectation was that I'd be doing a lot in Washington. But as I have been doing more stories around the country and these stories have hit a nerve, they've been deemed productive enough that I'm now encouraged to get out there. I'm grateful for that, because I find it incredibly invigorating and deeply satisfying, even though it's also often very depressing.

Clemetson: What's a recent observation that you could not have gleaned from Washington?

MacGillis: I was talking with some retired coal miners in Fairmont, West Virginia about the ways in which coal companies have and are mistreating their employees. Toward the end, we started talking about the work. These guys were both in their 60s, and they talked about how their bodies have suffered a lot of wear and tear.

But then they both started talking about how much they missed the work and just how much - as backbreaking as it was - how much pride and enjoyment they had taken from it. They talked about the camaraderie they felt with their teams underground, a kind of military-type camaraderie of being together and looking out for each other in a dangerous place, and about the meaning they took from having a strong identity and purpose.

Listening to them, I came to think that a lot of what we're seeing in these places is, in part, about a loss of meaning and purpose in people's lives; the kind of purpose that comes from knowing what you are doing every day, and knowing that what you do serves some purpose for the country.



Clemetson: How did your time as a Knight-Wallace Fellow shape the work you're doing now?

MacGillis: There's no question that coming to Michigan propelled me to think more about "in between" America. I had done some reporting in Michigan and Ohio in prior years for The Washington Post and The Baltimore Sun, but I had never lived or spent any real time in the Midwest. Ann Arbor is a mini bubble, with many of the same bubble characteristics as the coasts. But we did a fair amount of traveling around the state. It really did open my eyes.

And the Fellowship itself just changed everything for me, simply because of the time I had. I had been on daily deadlines and was frustrated at not being able to have a more self-directed agenda in my reporting and writing. Being here with time to think about the country and journalism in a bigger way made me want to figure out a way to make my job more like that.

On the one hand, that sounds ridiculous. No, your job cannot be like a fellowship where you get to read a lot of books and take classes and talk about interesting stuff with interesting people all the time. That sounds ludicrous. But I realized I actually wanted to move in that direction. For me that meant moving to magazine writing, where you are able to be more expansive, pull more things together and go deeper. I was able, ultimately, to make my job more like my Fellowship.

The discussion continued during a reception in the Wallace House garden where the speaker again had a captive audience including Ted Mellnik '11 (right, background) who traveled from Washington, D.C. to hear his KWF classmate deliver the Hovey Lecture.



Wallace House Director Lynette Clemetson presented the inscribed Hovey bowl to speaker Alec MacGillis following the lecture.

WALLACE HOUSE PRESENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/16/18
2-3:30 PM
Rackham
Amphitheatre

"Who Gets to Define American Values?"

Lydia Polgreen, editor-in-chief
of HuffPost and 2009 Livingston
Award winner
MLK SYMPOSIUM

2/20/18
4-5:30 PM
Lydia
Mendelssohn
Theatre

"Free Speech and the Necessity of Discomfort"

Bret Stephens, columnist for The New
York Times and Livingston Awards judge
WALLACE HOUSE JOURNALISM EVENT

1/31/18
4-5:30 PM
Gerald R. Ford
School of
Public Policy,
Annenberg
Auditorium

"Beyond the Wall: The Human Toll of Border Crossings"

Brooke Jarvis, 2017 Livingston Award
winner
THE LIVINGSTON LECTURES

3/20/18
3-4:30 PM
Rackham
Amphitheatre

"China's Soft Power"

The Eisendrath Symposium on
International News
WALLACE HOUSE JOURNALISM EVENT

2/15/18
4-5:30 PM
Rackham
Auditorium

"Speak Freely: Debating the First Amendment in a Changing America"

Participate in a live event with NPR's daily
news program, "1A with Joshua Johnson"
WALLACE HOUSE JOURNALISM EVENT

PAST EVENTS

10/26/17
2:30-4 PM
Lydia
Mendelssohn
Theatre

"Trump, Twitter and Fake News: How Journalists Can Build Credibility by Opening Up Their Work"

David Fahrenthold, The Washington Post
WALLACE HOUSE JOURNALISM EVENT

9/14/17
5:30-7 PM
Wallace House

"Piercing the Bubble: Politics, Media and America's Prosperity Gap"

Alec MacGillis '11, political reporter for
ProPublica
32ND GRAHAM HOVEY LECTURE

Call for Applications, Entries and Nominations

DEADLINE FOR U.S. APPLICANTS: FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Knight-Wallace Fellowship applications, Livingston Award entries and nominations for the Richard M. Clurman mentoring award are now open.

KNIGHT-WALLACE FELLOWSHIPS

APPLY

Applications for the Class of 2018-19 are available now:
wallacehouse.umich.edu/knight-wallace/how-to-apply/

LIVINGSTON AWARDS

ENTER

Entry forms to submit work published in 2017 are
available now: wallacehouse.umich.edu/livingston-awards/entry/

RICHARD M. CLURMAN AWARD

NOMINATE

Nominate an exceptional on-the-job mentor,
complete form on: wallacehouse.umich.edu/livingston-awards/clurman-award

ALUMNI UPDATE



Jamaal Abdul-Alim '08
Awarded Best Tournament Report, State/Local Online; Best Historical Article Online and Best Feature Article Online from the Chess Journalists of America.



Vindu Goel '06
Named the first Mumbai, India based Technology Correspondent by The New York Times.



Adam Allington '12
Named International Environmental Reporter at Bloomberg News BNA.



Todd Leopold '11
Named Content Development Manager at Lutron Electronics in Pennsylvania.



Molly Ball '10
Named National Political Correspondent at TIME's Washington, D.C., Bureau. She is also a political analyst for CNN.



Rochelle Riley '08
Awarded the Ida B. Wells Award, National Association of Black Journalists; and the Pulliam Editorial Fellowship, Society of Professional Journalists; named host of The Rochelle Riley Show on Detroit 910AM.



Franklyn Cater '10
Named Director of Collaborative News Strategy, supporting NPR and member stations across all of NPR's news activities.



Mosi Secret '16
Named an Eric & Wendy Schmidt Fellow as part of New America's 2018 Class of National Fellows.



Steve Edwards '08
Named Vice President and Chief Content Officer for public radio station WBEZ in Chicago by Public Media.



Amy Toensing '18
Exhibited National Geographic project on Widowhood in the 2018 Visa Pour L'Image – International Festival of Photojournalism in Perpignan, France.

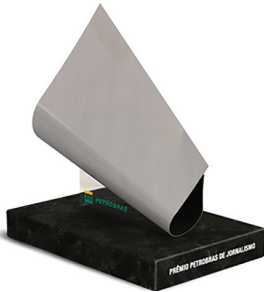
Collaborative Effort Earns Fellows Top Award

Fellows Mariana Versolato '18, Marcelo Leite '12 and Claudia Collucci '10 were part of the seven-member team that earned the top prize in the Science/Technology category at Prêmio Petrobras de Jornalismo, one of Brazil's main journalism awards.

The winning piece, "All About the Mosquito," written for Folha de São Paulo, was an in depth feature on the impact

of the zika epidemic and its relation to microcephaly and two other arboviruses, dengue and chikungunya.

Leite conceived and edited the project and also travelled to the Zika forest in Uganda to trace the origins of the virus. Collucci wrote about the struggles mothers of babies born with zika face. Versolato was also an editor of the project.





ALUMNI LOCATOR CONTINUED

Fellows will be able to search for one another by state and country, as well as 20 areas of expertise.

Heading to India? Reach out to Divya Arya '15, Women Affairs journalist with BBC News.

Looking to include the Flint water crisis in a story about government screw-ups? Put in a call to Anna Clark '17, a Detroit-based freelance journalist who's writing a book on the subject.

Heading to Miami to cover a hurricane? Teresa Frontado '16, digital director at WLRN Public Media in Miami might know someone with an extra couch.

Knight-Wallace applicants often like to reach out to alumni to ask questions about the Fellowship – the Alumni Locator is an attempt to make that easier. When Fellows switch beats or move to a new city, alumni can help with the transition.

Rieck has been dreaming of launching an Alumni Locator for a decade. She swears it's not because she's tired of fielding panicked calls from former Fellows like myself. Instead, those calls made her realize the incredible resources that exist among the Knight-Wallace family, resources that are too often left untapped.

Once the locator database is populated with alumni from all 43 classes, Fellows will receive passwords for the Alumni Locator. The password will allow them to access features not available to the public. They can update their own profiles and reach out to Fellows for professional questions or to socialize.

"If someone is visiting London, they may want to reach out and ask where there is a good pub or see if a Fellow wants to get together for lunch," Rieck said. "This is such a big part of the fellowship – it's more than business, it's real fellowship. Many professional projects were realized after Fellows just got together to talk about their ideas and dreams while away from the newsroom."

The Alumni Locator is currently undergoing a "soft launch," with alumni of recent classes in the database. Rieck said she hopes to have the database close to complete by the end of 2017.

With luck, Fellows will have as much success with the Alumni Locator as I had reaching out to alumni in 2004. The series of stories I wrote for The Detroit News won several national awards and was turned into a book, "Driven Abroad."

Woo hoo!

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