

# WALLACE HOUSE JOURNAL

Knight-Wallace Fellowships for Journalists  
and the Livingston Awards

Spring 2018

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## Sidelined

How being unable to report allowed for a front row seat

BY MATT HIGGINS '18

Late on a Saturday night last September, an email arrived from Jason Stallman, sports editor at The New York Times: *Could I help with NFL reporting the following day?*

On Friday, President Donald Trump had inveighed against the NFL, targeting players who refused to stand during the national anthem in protest of social injustice and against police shootings of unarmed black men.

“Wouldn’t you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say: ‘Get that son of a bitch off the field right now,’” Trump said at a rally for Alabama Senate candidate Luther Strange. “Out. He’s fired. He’s fired!” Trump encouraged fans to leave the stadium if a player knelt during the anthem. The NFL’s weekly Sunday schedule was about to become a sideshow to a president’s attempt at regulating speech.

On social media, #TakeAKnee – a hashtag supporting quarterback Colin Kaepernick’s protest effort to draw attention to violent policing – pitted freedom of expression versus patriotism amid discussions about the place for politics in sports.

Three weeks earlier, my family and I moved from Buffalo, N.Y., to Ann Arbor to join the Knight-Wallace Fellowship Class of 2018.

**Some members of the Michigan football team chose to raise fists as a form of self-expression during the national anthem prior to the Penn State game last season.**

Terms of the fellowship prevented me from working, so as editors scrambled for coverage, I was sidelined. Any misgivings about not being able to cover a big, breaking story were soon allayed as #TakeAKnee came to the U-M campus, granting me a front-row seat to a continuing dispute over the first amendment.

With no pressure to produce hot takes on Trump, I had the time to explore how the movement and the resulting clampdown on expression from authorities was part of a continuum in which sports serve as a platform for human rights protests.

Days after Trump’s broadside, Dana Greene Jr., a first-year master’s student in U-M’s School of Public Health, took a knee in the center of the campus quad for 20 hours in solidarity with NFL players, and to support, he said, “every student on this campus that has ever felt that they didn’t belong here.”

Earlier in the month, name tags of black students in the West Quad dorm buildings had been defaced, one with a racist slur.



CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

**Who knows why I was reading Hannah Arendt, the German-born political philosopher, in the middle of the night. I was sleepless and restless, troubled by thoughts about cults of personality.**



My laptop was too close by, and so I reached for it and fell down a digital rabbit hole. In my fretting over politics, I stumbled upon Arendt and her clear-eyed assessment on the necessity of journalism.

In a mid-70s interview with the French writer Roger Errera excerpted in 1978 for the New York Review of Books, Arendt said:

*“The moment we no longer have a free press, anything can happen. What makes it possible for a totalitarian or any other dictatorship to rule is that people are not informed; how can you have an opinion if you are not informed? If everybody always lies to you, the consequence is not that you believe the lies, but rather that nobody believes anything any longer.”*

It’s not a strikingly original observation. Similar thoughts on the requisite role of a free press in an American context date back to the founders. But at 2 a.m. in the busy days of the fall term, the

crispness of the assessment from this woman who shaped much of our modern thought on “active citizenship” spoke to me. Her words pushed and inspired me throughout the academic year.

It is tempting to think of Wallace House as a passive resource. We are a journalism organization devoted not to creating news, but to supporting the careers of journalists who do. But our distance from the day to day of the news business actually allows us to play a more engaged role in encouraging informed and active citizenship.

For many, engagement has come to mean consuming more and reacting more. For Wallace House, engagement must mean resisting reactionary tendencies. It must mean interacting more, conversing more, moderating more, thinking more and listening more. Certainly journalists are not and should not be activists. But that doesn’t exempt us from being active citizens. And it doesn’t exempt Wallace House from stepping into the fray by using journalism to foster active civic engagement.

In this issue of the Wallace House Journal, you’ll see how that active stance took shape over the past academic year. In a time when it’s tempting to lie awake at night worrying that “nobody believes anything any longer,” we did our part to keep at least a few people believing in the power of journalism.

**Stand Up and Introduce Yourself**

BY KYNDALL FLOWERS



I’ve been working part-time at Wallace House for the past several months. At 19, I am on a gap year between high school in Ann Arbor and college at Howard University in Washington, D.C. A performance poet and writer, I am interested in both creative writing and journalism. In mid-October, while most of my friends were getting their feet wet as college freshmen,

I reached out to Lynette by email with my high school resume and a bold idea to fill my days and my active mind by somehow engaging with the work of Wallace House.

Hitting send on that email secured me a rare spot as a Knight-Wallace “Junior Fellow.” In exchange for working to update the Wallace House database, I got to stick around on seminar days and observe the journalists and speakers moving through the space. Like all of the Fellows, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, I’d think about different ways to introduce myself to the speaker, and then I’d stand up and tell those in the room who I was.

The introductions served as a sort of constant re-inventing. “Remember who you are,” The Lion King’s Mufasa echoed to me

from the heavens. “I don’t know who that is!” I’d yell back in my head to an empty sky. But every week, I got to try again. I’d be a poet one week, a freelancer the next, and after seeing my friends’ band play, I became someone interested in music scene politics. Some weeks I noted that I worked as a literary arts intern, others at a gallery downtown. And the introductions let me claim everything. I had autonomy over how I was seen for about ten seconds, twice a week. I could drop what felt weird and say what felt right and then try again, each time a little prouder than before.

This opportunity isn’t often offered to teen girls, and I’m thankful I got to experience it at Wallace House. It was nice to realize that many of the Fellows are also still practicing how to occupy all of the space they deserve. It’s nice to know that these urges to reinvent myself, to see what fits and and shed what doesn’t, and to keep repeating the process, isn’t a side-effect of some wild, angsty youth. We’re all just trying to get comfortable.

I started my gap year chest deep in an identity crisis. I’d planned on travelling, embarking on some great adventure that did not include Michigan. I started at Wallace House to prove to myself that I could have a life-changing gap year without some expensive program abroad. The Knight-Wallace Fellowship gave me exactly that. The next time someone asks me who I am, I will respond knowing I may have a different answer next week, and I’ll find steadiness in that perpetual reinvention.

# 2018-2019 KNIGHT-WALLACE FELLOWS



**KNIGHT-WALLACE**  
Fellowships for Journalists

- 1 **Itai Anghel**  
Correspondent and Documentary Filmmaker, Israeli TV, Channel 2  
**Tel Aviv, Israel**  
*Study Plan: Tribalism and the politics of fear in the Middle East following the Arab revolutions*
- 2 **Michelle Bloom**  
Senior Designer, Politico  
**Alexandria, Va.**  
*Study Plan: Visual storytelling through social media*
- 3 **Seungjin Choi**  
Reporter, Maeil Business Newspaper  
**Seoul, South Korea**  
*Study Plan: Reshaping strategies for digital news distribution*
- 4 **Arnessa Garrett**  
Assistant Business Editor, The Dallas Morning News  
**Dallas, Texas**  
*Study Plan: Rebuilding trust with local audiences through digital strategy and engagement*
- 5 **Sharilyn Hufford**  
Deputy Editor, Platforms, The New York Times  
**New York, N.Y.**  
*Study Plan: Creating high-impact news products and best practices for workflow*
- 6 **Anders Kelto**  
Creator and Senior Producer, "GameBreaker with Keith Olbermann," Audible  
**Ann Arbor, Mich.**  
*Study Plan: The connection between sports and social movements*
- 7 **Fredrik Laurin**  
Special Projects Editor for Current Affairs, SVT (Swedish Television)  
**Stockholm, Sweden**  
*Study Plan: Exploring and developing tools to protect news content from digital manipulation*
- 8 **Catherine Mackie**  
Digital Video Lead, BBC News Online  
**Birmingham, UK**  
*Study Plan: The impact of class on news consumption and reconnecting with audiences*
- 9 **Seema Mehta**  
Staff Writer, Los Angeles Times  
**Los Angeles, Calif.**  
*Study Plan: How automation will impact the economy and the 2020 presidential election*
- 10 **Aaron Nelsen**  
Rio Grande Valley Bureau Chief, San Antonio Express-News  
**Rio Grande Valley, Texas**  
*Study Plan: The effect of militarization on communities along the U.S.-Mexico border*
- 11 **Daigo Oliva**  
Deputy Photo Editor, Folha de São Paulo  
**São Paulo, Brazil**  
*Study Plan: New ways to publish image-driven narratives*
- 12 **Ben Penn**  
Labor and Employment Reporter, Bloomberg Law  
**Washington, D.C.**  
*Study Plan: The impermanent "future of work"*
- 13 **Rachel Rohr**  
Managing Editor and Managing Producer, The GroundTruth Project and GroundTruth podcast  
**Boston, Mass.**  
*Study Plan: New approaches to news and media literacy for teens and young adults*
- 14 **Stephen Ssenkaaba**  
Contributing Editor and Senior Features Writer, The New Vision Printing and Publishing Company  
**Kampala, Uganda**  
*Study Plan: Inclusive online news strategies for emerging news markets*
- 15 **Jawad Sukhanyar**  
Reporter, The New York Times  
**Kabul, Afghanistan**  
*Study Plan: Afghan women's issues in the global context*
- 16 **Luis Trelles**  
Producer, Radio Ambulante  
**San Juan, Puerto Rico**  
*Study Plan: The politics of reconstruction in U.S. territories devastated by natural disasters*
- 17 **Neda Ulaby**  
Arts and Culture Correspondent, National Public Radio  
**Washington, D.C.**  
*Study Plan: A cultural history of the veil in world religions*
- 18 **AJ Vicens**  
Staff Reporter, Mother Jones  
**Washington, D.C.**  
*Study Plan: How artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and data shape modern society*

# 2018 LIVINGSTON AWARD WINNERS



LOCAL REPORTING

## Riham Feshir, Meg Martin, Tracy Mumford

Minnesota Public Radio News



The podcast "74 Seconds," from Minnesota Public Radio, examines the July 2016 shooting death of Philando Castile by police officer Jeronimo Yanez. The entire incident, which started as a traffic stop in a suburb of St. Paul, unfolded in just 74 seconds. Over 22 episodes, the Minnesota Public Radio team deconstructed the killing and its aftermath within its local context and as a flashpoint for an evolving national dialogue around race, policing and the justice system. Through meticulous and balanced reporting, the series put a human face on both the victim and the officer who pulled the trigger.



Photo Credits: Jennifer Simonson,  
Caroline Lang, Evan Frost



NATIONAL REPORTING

## Ronan Farrow

The New Yorker

Photo Credit: Brigitte Lacombe

As one of the reporters who unleashed the #MeToo movement with the publishing of his New Yorker stories, Farrow accomplished something that other reporters, for decades, had failed to do. Through more than 140 interviews, and the persistence to find an editor to publish his work, he gathered the first on-the-record accounts of alleged assault and rape by Hollywood producer and powerbroker, Harvey Weinstein. Farrow's reporting drew legal threats and intimidation. His exposé of the sprawling system of spies Weinstein employed to keep stories silent hastened the mogul's downfall.



## Welcome to our new Livingston Awards judge

REGIONAL JUDGE

### Molly Ball

National Political Correspondent, Time

Molly Ball serves as national political correspondent for Time, covering the Trump administration and the national political climate across America. She is also a political analyst for CNN and frequent television and radio commentator. Prior to joining Time, Ball was a staff writer covering U.S. politics for The Atlantic. She has reported for Politico, the Las Vegas Review-Journal and the Las Vegas Sun as well as The New York Times and The Washington Post. Ball is the recipient of the Toner Prize for Excellence in Political Reporting, the Sandy Hume Memorial Award for Excellence in Political Journalism and the Lee Walczak Award for Political Analysis. A graduate of Yale University, she was a Knight-Wallace Journalism Fellow at the University of Michigan in 2009-2010.



The Livingston Awards for Young Journalists honors outstanding achievement by professionals under the age of 35. The winners featured have been recognized as the best young talent in local, national and international reporting for work published in 2017.

All winning stories and podcasts can be found at: [wallacehouse.umich.edu/livingston-awards/winners/](http://wallacehouse.umich.edu/livingston-awards/winners/)



#### NATIONAL REPORTING

## Emily Steel, Michael S. Schmidt

The New York Times



Photo Credit (top): Sharon Suh

Emily Steel and Michael Schmidt's reporting for The New York Times uncovering \$45 million in sexual harassment settlements involving Fox News' Bill O'Reilly ignited what would become a watershed movement. Their stories prompted media outlets everywhere to report on allegations of sexual misconduct against other powerful men and emboldened a progression of women to come forward and tell their own stories of sexual abuse. Publication of Steel and Schmidt's work, and all that followed, forced a worldwide conversation about gender, power and sexual harassment in the workplace.



#### INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

## Christina Goldbaum

The Daily Beast

While stories about conflicts in Africa have fallen off the radars of many American news outlets, Christina Goldbaum's on-the-ground reporting on growing U.S. military engagement and counter-terrorism efforts in the region has become essential reading. In her series for The Daily Beast, Goldbaum pieces together a military raid that is alleged to have resulted in the deaths of 10 Somali civilians, including at least one child.



#### THE RICHARD M. CLURMAN AWARD

## Walt Mossberg

Walt Mossberg was named this year's recipient of the Richard M. Clurman Award for his commitment to fostering the careers of young technology journalists. Mossberg, credited with pioneering the way major news organizations review and cover consumer-technology, wrote a personal technology column for the Wall Street Journal for 22 years. He co-founded the AllThingsD online publications and conferences with Livingston Awards Judge Kara Swisher, and the two grew the venture into Recode. Mossberg also served as executive editor of the Vox owned website, The Verge. In a video tribute at the luncheon, several prominent technology writers shared stories about Mossberg's influence on their careers. They also told stories about Mossberg's uncompromising product reviews and interviews with technology giants including Steve Jobs.



# Impressions of a Changing Korea

## Korea Without Frilly Clothes

BY CANDICE CHOI '18

Starting at video of the Samsung chairman allegedly with prostitutes, I knew this trip to Korea would differ from my past visits.

The hidden camera footage was published by Newstapa, an investigative group formed in 2012. The newsroom was one of the first stops for the Knight-Wallace Fellows and signaled I'd be seeing the country from new perspectives.

My last trip to Seoul was more than 20 years ago, when I was in high school. Upon arriving for childhood visits, my conservative grandparents would take my brother and me shopping for stuffy clothes and make us wear them to a formal restaurant. The ritual made me see new clothing and the entire country of Korea as suffocatingly superficial.

Yet after learning the Fellows were headed to Korea, I grew excited about returning with a reporter's mindset. I read up on modern Korean history and politics and began to see the country's vibrancy.

Among our stops were a museum of antique Korean furniture, the taping of a K-pop TV competition, and a U.S. military base. We also went to the Demilitarized Zone, where the leaders of North and South Korea held a historic meeting several weeks later. The same site that drew international attention and speculation about a long-awaited end to the Korean war felt jarringly like a tourist attraction during our visit, playing to visitors with cardboard cutouts of soldiers for photo ops while also reminding us of the peninsula's tragic past.

Back at the Newstapa office, our host was a young woman who left her job with the police force to become a reporter, inspired in part by the movie "Spotlight." She wore a modern black hanbok that gave her an authoritative presence as she explained libel laws that allow journalists to be criminally charged.

Newstapa nevertheless published video that appears to show the Samsung chairman with prostitutes. Adding to the intrigue, the tapes were apparently obtained for blackmailing purposes before ending up with Newstapa.

It was ethically messy, making the decision to publish all the more daring.

Newstapa's model of relying on reader donations is also provocative. The idea is to gain public support as an independent

news source in a society where conglomerates have huge power. The approach is a challenge to news outlets around the world.

Outside newsrooms, some of the best moments were unscheduled, such as people watching on the subway and wandering alone on the striking campus of Ewha University. Over a late night coffee, a friend who works as a TV sports analyst explained his quest to emulate the argumentative style of New York sports radio. I laughed imagining a Korean version of "Mike and the Mad Dog."

The highlight of the trip, though, was returning to my grandparents' apartment, which was largely unchanged from my childhood. My grandfather died of stomach cancer years ago and my grandmother has Alzheimer's disease, making it too late to ask about their pasts. But I dug out stacks of old photo albums I had never bothered looking at before.



**A highlight of the trip: revisiting my grandparents' place in Seoul and digging up old photos that I didn't find as interesting on previous trips.**

Photo submitted by Candice Choi

The black-and-white images showed them in unfamiliar contexts – smiling on a train, mingling at a garden party, wandering down a Seoul alley. I realized how little I knew about their lives, which spanned Japanese colonialism, the Korean War and the country's economic boon.

Growing up, I thought my grandparents were overly conservative and limited in their worldview, traits I chalked up to their Korean background. In the years since, I've come to see the immaturity of those judgments, a realization this trip helped underscore.



## Choreographed Peace Summit

BY ROBERT YOON '18

To be a journalist often is to be the skunk at a garden party. And I certainly felt my skunk-like tendencies kick into gear as I watched the beautifully choreographed Inter-Korean Summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in on live TV.

The optics were no doubt powerful and emotional: on a sunny morning in late April, Kim Jong-un strolled up to the Military Demarcation Line that has divided the Korean peninsula for the last 65 years, reached across, and shook hands with President Moon. Then he stepped over the low curb that marks the border, shook hands again, and then took President Moon by the hand and stepped back over the border together onto North Korean soil.

It was undoubtedly a significant moment. The two heads of state later would emerge from their talks with plans to formally end the Korean War and work toward denuclearization. When I stood at roughly that same spot about 50 days earlier gazing into North Korea with other Knight-Wallace Fellows, the situation was much more tense. For months the world seemed on the brink of all-out war, with leaders on both sides making increasingly bellicose public statements.

So the sight of the two Korean leaders holding hands offered a much needed glimmer of hope in what had become a hopeless situation. For me as a Korean American, the idea of peace between the two Koreas is particularly powerful as every Korean family's personal history is intertwined with painful reminders of those darkest days of the Korean War.

As I watched this historic event unfold on live TV, I knew this was a big deal. But the skunk in me couldn't help but stink up the room.

What will denuclearization look like? What about the Kim regime's blatant human rights abuses? What are Kim Jong-un's true motives? This is, after all, the same man who reportedly had two of his senior officials executed in 2016 using an anti-aircraft gun, a weapon normally reserved, as the name suggests, for aircraft.

Yes, journalists can be party poopers. It's why North Korea remains dead last on the annual World Press Freedom Index, which ranks nations according to the level of freedom available to journalists.

**The lines were clearly drawn between North and South Korea during our visit to the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) earlier this year. Much has changed since then but much remains to be seen.**

Photo Credit: Robert Yoon

South Korea, on the other hand, has come a long way in promoting a free press. During our fellowship tour of the country, we had a private screening of the 2017 film "A Taxi Driver," which depicted the 1980 Gwangju massacre, a horrific event in which South Korean soldiers and government-backed thugs murdered untold numbers of pro-Democracy demonstrators. The movie showed how news organizations were either silenced or complicit in spreading the government's misinformation.

Fast forward 38 years and that same country has now surpassed the United States on the World Press Freedom Index.

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**Our visit would take on added significance weeks later, when the leaders of North and South Korea would meet at the same site to discuss denuclearization and, perhaps, formally ending the Korean War.**

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While that's a positive sign for South Koreans (and a really troubling one for Americans), it also goes to illustrate an important point: the distance between freedom and tyranny is often very short. It took Kim Jong-un only a few minutes to stroll forward into a world of press freedom that April morning; it took his limousine only a few seconds to ferry him back.

Throughout our tour, we learned that the South made great strides in building and strengthening democratic institutions since the ceasefire almost a lifetime ago. That's good news. But the skunk in me thinks that the lesson for any democracy is that it's always easier to tear down than to build.

# WALLACE HOUSE PRESENTS



**1 “Trump, Twitter and Fake News: How Journalists Can Build Credibility by Opening Up Their Work”**

Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter, David Farenthold of The Washington Post, spoke to a campus audience of more than 500 about how he used social media to investigate Donald Trump’s charitable contribution claims. Farenthold broke the story of the 2005 “Access Hollywood” video in which Trump bragged about groping women. He has also won a George Polk award and several other national reporting awards.

**2 “Beyond the Wall: The Human Toll of Border Crossing”**

Brooke Jarvis, 2017 Livingston Award winner for national reporting (center), came to campus to join U-M’s Jason De León, anthropologist and MacArthur Fellow, to discuss personal tragedies behind the politics of the U.S.-Mexico border. The conversation was moderated by Ann Lin, Associate Professor of Public Policy in the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

**3 “China’s Soft Power”**

The Second Annual Eisendrath Symposium featured Louisa Lim ’14, Dayo Aiyetan (left) and Mark Magnier, both KWF ’18, with moderator Mary Gallagher (right), director of the Center for Chinese Studies U-M, to discuss Beijing’s reach into our social, cultural and consumer habits and whether worries over its influence are overblown.

**4 “Speak Freely: Debating the First Amendment in a Changing America”**

NPR’s “1A” with Joshua Johnson (far right) hosted a live taping of the program for a full house at Rackham Auditorium. Panelists included (left to right) Jesse Arm, U-M student and member of the American Enterprise Institute’s Michigan Executive Council; Angela Dillard, associate dean for undergraduate education, LSA; Faith Sparr, lecturer of communication studies and First Amendment expert; and Maximillian Alvarez, a U-M graduate student and co-founder of the Campus Anti-fascism Network. Part of a U-M series on Speech and Inclusion, the show aired nationally on NPR stations in March.

**5 “Free Speech and the Necessity of Discomfort”**

Bret Stephens, The New York Times Op-Ed Columnist and Livingston Awards national judge, presented a talk on the role of free speech and social and personal discomfort as a necessity in a functional democracy. Several student activists disagreed with Stephens’ premise resulting in robust and thought-provoking conversation. This was the second Wallace House event in the campus series on speech and inclusion.

**6 “Who Gets to Define American Values?”**

Lydia Polgreen, editor-in-chief of HuffPost and 2009 Livingston Award winner, prompted a lively discussion as part of the university’s annual MLK Symposium. After the event, she engaged students in conversation about the impact of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and having a voice, power and the opportunity to participate in a civil society.





Wallace House supports the work of journalists. We are defenders of free speech. At a time when that foundational right is being challenged and reexamined, it is all the more important to articulate its significance and we are working to do just that. Through public events aimed at highlighting the vital role of journalism to document, interpret, analyze and investigate the forces shaping society, we aim to close the gap between an increasingly indifferent public and the reporters taking stock of our times.

**- Lynette Clemetson, Director of Wallace House**

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: ROCHELLE RILEY

BY ANNA CLARK '17

In the fall of 2007, both Rochelle Riley '08 and her daughter set off for their first day of school: the younger one to Wayne State University in Detroit and Riley to the University of Michigan. It was the first time that Riley hadn't accompanied her daughter on the first day. Thanks to a Knight-Wallace fellowship, she was busy with her own.

Ann Arbor reminded Riley of Chapel Hill, where she attended the University of North Carolina. But for her second time around on a campus, she said, "I'm sure I was much more appreciative." The first lecture in a literature class about Dante "was so amazing, I applauded at the end."

Riley was then—and still is—a celebrated columnist for the Detroit Free Press, where her sharp, inquisitive writing focuses on race and politics, with a special interest in literacy. It's earned her a raft of recognition, including an Ida B. Wells Award and a Eugene C. Pulliam Fellowship from the Society of Professional Journalists; induction into the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame; and a lifetime achievement award from SPJ's Detroit chapter and this summer she will co-chair the National Association of Black Journalists conference in Detroit with ESPN's Jemele Hill.

But back then, during her Knight-Wallace year, Riley was reflecting on whether she wanted to continue the column at all. She developed it at the Louisville Courier-Journal, from which she was recruited to Detroit in 2000. (The North Carolina native has also worked at The Washington Post and The Dallas Morning News.)

Her column went on hiatus at an auspicious moment. Not only was the recession and the foreclosure crisis heating up, hitting Detroit particularly hard, but the walls were closing in on former mayor Kwame Kilpatrick. A corruption scandal eventually put the twice-elected Kilpatrick in federal prison with a 28-year sentence.

Meanwhile, Riley was absorbed in the KWF experience. She studied art history, film and photography, knowing that visuals would play a bigger role in journalism. She wrote screenplays and fiction. On a personal site, she blogged about the presidential campaigns of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, "just to keep my skills honed."

But by the second semester, her voice was so missed in Detroit that her editor was calling then Wallace House director Charles Eisendrath to plead for an exception to the 'no work' rule, 'Maybe just one column a week. We really need her.' Riley remembers Eisendrath approaching her and putting the choice bluntly: "Do you want to leave the program and write a column instead?"

She did not. Riley continued to explore, reflect and experiment. The trips to Argentina and Turkey gave her an itch for international travel that is still with her. She travels out of the



Rochelle Riley's book, "The Burden: African Americans and the Enduring Impact of Slavery," a collection of essays with contributions by Nikole Hannah-Jones, Leonard Pitts and others was released in February.

Photo submitted by Rochelle Riley

country once or twice a year now and is involved with the Global Press Institute.

On graduation day 2008, the Free Press could finally publish Riley's first column about the Kilpatrick scandal. The paper's coverage eventually won a Pulitzer Prize.

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**The fellowship "affirmed for me that I am doing exactly what I should be doing."**

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Riley returned to her column, but it was "on a whole a different level," she said. "I was hungry and incendiary and just very focused." The fellowship "affirmed for me that I am doing exactly what I should be doing."

She's kept up the seeking spirit, too. She published "The Burden: African Americans and the Enduring Impact of Slavery," a collection of essays with contributions by Nikole Hannah-Jones, Leonard Pitts and others. She advocates for newsroom diversity and she's working on a book about the effect of childhood trauma on learning. She developed a short story she wrote during her fellowship year into a novella.

And when various lifetime achievement awards come her way, "I'm so honored." But, she insists, "I'm not done yet."

# ALUMNI UPDATE



## **Greg Amante '16**

Won a National Emmy Award in the Outstanding Sports Journalism category for the "The Dictator's Team," a documentary produced by Amante in collaboration with Steve Fainaru.



## **Rachel Nixon (S) '05**

Named Executive Editor of Discourse Media in Vancouver, Canada. Will develop editorial strategy for the new membership-based digital outlet, The Discourse.



## **Alberto Arce Suarez '18**

Named the C.W. Snedden Chair of Journalism at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.



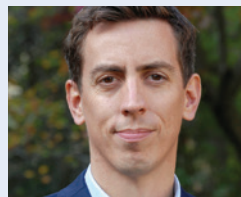
## **Will Potter '16**

Named Senior Academic Innovation Fellow in the Office of Academic Innovation at U-M. He also holds a new academic appointment in the Department of English.



## **Sonya Ayeurs '17**

Named Engagement Reporter/Coordinator at the Center for Collaborative Journalism at Mercer University in Macon, Ga.



## **Laurent Richard '17**

Awarded the "Grand Prix of Journalism 2018" for Forbidden Stories and the Freedom Voices Network Foundation, a collaboration of journalists who continue the work of journalists who are murdered, jailed or censored.



## **James Bruggers '99**

Joined the staff of InsideClimate News, where he reports on energy and environment issues. He is based in Louisville.



## **Dave Shaw (S) '12**

Named Executive Producer for Politico audio.



## **Eve Byron '99**

Reporter in northwest Montana for the Missoulian covering Glacier National Park, the legendary Flathead Lake, Kalispell, Whitefish and Polson.



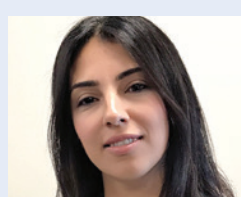
## **Delece Smith-Barrow '17**

Named senior editor for higher education at The Hechinger Report and an adjunct professor at Georgetown University.



## **Richard Deitsch '09**

Named media reporter for The Athletic. He will relocate to Toronto to co-host Sportsnet 590 The FAN's "Prime Time Sports with Bob McCown" and host a weekly sports media podcast.



## **Zeynep Ozyol '16**

Named Head of English Video News for Anadolu Agency in Turkey.



## **Steve McGookin '00**

To attend Queen's University in Belfast to pursue a PhD in the school of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics.

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## SIDELINED CONTINUED

A week after Greene's statement, our fellowship class traveled to Washington, D.C. for a journalism conference and to visit The Washington Post and National Public Radio. We toured the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture. Among its many moving exhibits on the African American struggle for equal rights, the museum features an expansive display, "Sports: Leveling the Playing Field."

Statues depict U.S. Olympic sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos raising their fists in an iconic black power salute during the national anthem at the 1968 Mexico City Games, where they won gold and bronze, respectively, in the 200 meters race. They acted to bring attention to racial inequality and discrimination in the U.S. and, as a result, both were expelled from the Games by the International Olympic Committee.

Back on campus, the Ford School of Public Policy hosted, "At the Intersection of Sports and Social Policy." The event, moderated by U-M Athletic Director Warde Manuel, featured Paul Tagliabue, former NFL commissioner and Jim Hackett, CEO of Ford Motor Company and an alumnus of the U-M football team.

They addressed the history of race, civil rights and advocacy in sports. In a rebuke of Trump, Tagliabue said he had tired of athletes being labeled as dumb jocks. "Now they're engaged in societal issues," he said, "and people say, 'Shut up!'"

In the meantime, I was enjoying a brilliant lecture, "Sports, Politics and Society" by Dr. Andrei Markovits that taught me to appreciate modern sport as an expression of larger sociopolitical forces.

Those forces, however, have been in opposition lately, whether on football fields or the U-M campus.

In February, Wallace House sponsored an episode of the NPR program, "1A" with Joshua Johnson before a live audience. The show, "Speak Freely: Debating the First Amendment in a Changing America," featured a panel of U-M students, administrators and faculty in a spirited debate about the climate for free speech on campus. The topic continues to be hotly contested as U-M administration weighs an unpopular request from white supremacist Richard Spencer to speak on campus.

The New York Times recently published a story about secret recordings of a summit from October with protesting NFL players, team owners and current commissioner Roger Goodell. The participants discussed player activism and negative fallout to the league from Trump's criticism.

One player who wasn't present at the meeting was Kaepernick. A free agent in 2017, no team signed him to a contract, a move widely seen as a consequence of his protest. His football career appears to be over, the result of taking a stand, or rather, a knee, and opening his mouth to discover First Amendment limits, when freedom of speech isn't free, but requires paying a high price.

This is a useful insight for any working journalist, but especially one about to be launched from a fellowship year back onto the sports beat, better informed and better prepared for continuing conflicts over freedom of speech. Because there will be more stories to cover. There was never any need to worry about missing out.

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