

WALLACE HOUSE JOURNAL

Knight-Wallace Fellowships for Journalists
and the Livingston Awards

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The world's gone mad! At least there's Wallace House... and a royal baby!

BY CATHERINE MACKIE '19

Meghan Markle is due to give birth in the Spring of 2019. Hallelujah! I'm guessing I'm not alone in hoping the Queen's eighth great-grandchild arrives in the world on March 29th. Ideally at around 11pm (GMT) because that's the time the UK is scheduled to leave the European Union. If there's one thing that's guaranteed to give a brief respite to hours and hours of hand-wringing, tediously repetitive arguments and media naval gazing, it's a royal baby.

I had hoped that coming to Ann Arbor would free me from the daily reports of EU "crisis talks" post-Brexit, and to some extent it has. The day to day news obsessions from home have given way to the joy of entering Wallace House and grasping with both hands the luxury of time – to think, question and learn. My fellowship study plan is focussed on social class and how we can reconnect with audiences outside of elite bubbles. The shock of Brexit wasn't as much of a shock to some journalists like me who don't work in London.

But I'm not quite free of it – I'd forgotten about social media which has followed me here. On Facebook timelines everywhere, 'friends'

are still demanding a second referendum, while the Twitteratti, from both sides of the argument are still shouting a lot and putting their thoughts in capital letters to show HOW RIGHT THEY ARE. And if you don't agree with me, THEN YOU'RE AN IDIOT.

Which brings me to Donald Trump. No, stop it! I'm not calling the U.S. president an idiot. You're taking me out of context!

All I'm saying is that in coming to the U.S. for a year, I've moved from a Brexit-obsessed media to a Trump-obsessed media. I'm not arguing that what happens with Brexit and Trump aren't vitally important. Brexit is a key moment in British modern political history. Donald Trump is the President of the United States. But I wonder what we've learned from these major movements?

After the Brexit referendum, journalists lined up to say we should have listened more to the public. After all, more than 17 million people voted to leave the EU and the questioning was endless. What had gone wrong? Social media commentators professed to offer some answers and Brexit shaming was unrelenting. If you voted Leave you must be a) racist b) stupid, or c) both. You couldn't possibly be someone who was just



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FROM THE HEAD FELLOW

BY LYNETTE CLEMETSON '10



As of the end of October, the Committee to Protect Journalists had confirmed 43 journalists killed this year as a result of their work. Reporters Without Borders estimates the total to be above 50 and says that more journalists were killed in the first nine months of 2018 than in all of 2017.

Some of the deaths have been in combat zones, but press safety experts say there is an alarming increase in journalists being murdered merely for doing their jobs. The grim tally includes Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi, brutally murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, four writers and one sales assistant ambushed at the Capital Gazette in Annapolis, Maryland, and Mario Leonel Gómez Sánchez, a local reporter in Chiapas, Mexico gunned down in front of his home following a death threat on Facebook. These brazen murders have ticked upward amid an atmosphere of heightened public antipathy toward journalists and have shaken even democratic countries that have been historically less prone to violent attacks on the press.

Wallace House has a distinguished history of supporting journalists through difficult times. The Fellowship has been a safe haven to reporters physically and psychologically battered from covering combat and genocide, from seeing friends and colleagues killed, and from persistent threats of harm.

This year we welcomed Mexican journalist and U.S. asylum seeker Emilio Gutiérrez Soto to the fellowship following his release in late July from an ICE detention facility in El Paso, Texas, where he had been held for nearly eight months. His captivity was one chapter in a 10-year saga with the American immigration system. He applied for asylum in 2008 following death threats related to his reporting on military corruption. Since then, targeted murders in his home country have escalated. Mexico is now the deadliest country in the Western Hemisphere for journalists.

In some ways Emilio's introduction to the fellowship was strikingly different than that of most Fellows – I interviewed him last April not in the warmth of Wallace House or via Skype, but in a detention facility, at a cold, steel table monitored by ICE guards through two-way glass. But in the most important ways, his presence is not at all unusual. Providing a respite to journalists in need of a new start, providing a community of peers, intellectual bounty, emotional safety, and a fiercely supportive atmosphere in which to imagine new possibilities is what we do.

In this case, we're extending that enveloping support beyond our walls to join ranks with a coalition of journalism organizations in a public fight for press freedom. As journalists, we are certainly not activists. But we can – and must – advocate for the freedom and safety of journalists around the world. And sometimes that requires a very tangible expression of our values.

To draw attention to Emilio's plight, the Knight-Wallace Fellowships signed onto two amicus briefs in the case last March. We announced his invitation to the Fellowship at a live-streamed conference at the National Press Club on May 3, which is World Press Freedom Day. And in October, I accompanied Emilio back to El Paso to offer testimony at what may be the final hearing in his case.



Emilio Gutiérrez Soto

Our engaging the system on his behalf has allowed Emilio to exhale and enjoy fellowship life - taking classes in the history of immigration policy and Civil Rights, improving his English, learning Afro-Cuban drumming, and adding warmth to Wallace House with his guitar playing and an abundance of home-cooked Mexican food.

Outside our cocoon, the world is still spinning wildly, careening in a way that leaves us itching to jump in as journalists, and anxious about the fomenting hostility toward our work and our rights. Alongside Emilio and our American

journalists, we have Fellows from Sweden, Brazil, Britain, Israel, Afghanistan, Uganda and Korea. Together we watched the U.S. midterms unfold while still trying to make sense of the political upheaval in Brazil and the nationalist waves rippling across Europe.

In some moments it feels dizzyingly abstract. In others it feels sharply focused and painfully urgent. A judge is scheduled to rule in Emilio's case in early January. We do not know if he will still be here with us at the end of the academic year.

A former Fellow recently posted a picture on social media of her daughter, a high school journalist, wearing a T-shirt that filled me with hope. In simple block letters it read: AMERICA NEEDS JOURNALISTS. It certainly does. And so does the world. I ordered a few of the shirts, and Emilio took one with him to his hearing in El Paso. If you are interested in one, too, let me know. Wallace House can use an infusion of new swag.

Lynette Clemetson

A Fellowship of Her Own

After more than 18 years of helping to create life-changing fellowship experiences for other people, it is high time that our Wallace House Associate Director, Birgit Rieck, gets to experience a fellowship of her own. Birgit has been accepted into the inaugural class of the Media Transformation Challenge, a one-year executive leadership program at Harvard’s Kennedy School, designed to help news leaders find creative, sustainable solutions to challenges facing the industry.

For the next year, Birgit will spend one week each quarter in Cambridge with a cohort of news executives working on a focused initiative to help Wallace House move in new directions. The timing for this unique development opportunity is ideal. Wallace House is in an exciting period of growth. Allowing Birgit the space to step away from the busy daily churn of the Knight-Wallace Fellowships to develop new ideas will benefit us for years to come.

Birgit’s focus during her fellowship year will be examining ways for Wallace House to provide targeted support to journalism initiatives in the Midwest.



After many years of greasing the wheels of the Knight-Wallace Fellowship, Birgit Rieck is preparing to embark on a Fellowship of her own. She is pictured in Moscow while traveling with the Class of 2010.
Photo by Carlos Sacchetto '10

In the quarterly training sessions, Birgit will join her fellowship cohort for coaching and group problem solving, designed to help news leaders drive long-lasting change within their organizations. In the weeks between the group sessions she will spend time researching her study plan, working with her executive coach, and developing her project with the leadership team back at Wallace House.

Please join us in congratulating Birgit and cheering her on as she works to bring the same kind of energy and new ideas back to Wallace House that we send our own Fellows away with each year.

And don’t worry... we’ll make sure she wears plenty of Wallace House and University of Michigan gear while she’s walking around the campus of that other university. **#GoBlue!**

Call for Applications, Entries and Nominations

DEADLINE FOR U.S. APPLICANTS: FEBRUARY 1, 2019

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 2019-20 are available now: wallacehouse.umich.edu/knight-wallace/how-to-apply/
LIVINGSTON AWARDS	ENTER Entry forms to submit work published in 2018 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

Livingston Awards Luncheon Highlights

Livingston judges, winners and supporters turned out on June 6th to celebrate the best local, national and international reporting by journalists under the age of 35 at the 37th annual Livingston Awards luncheon in New York City.



The excitement about the next generation of journalism leaders fills the room at the Yale Club in New York City. The dazzling gathering of VIPs adds an air of gravitas to the annual event.



Despite the seriousness of his reporting, Ronan Farrow took to the podium with a smile on his face to accept a national reporting award. The series, “Investigation of Harvey Weinstein,” written for The New Yorker, prompted a criminal investigation into allegations of sexual assault against Weinstein. Farrow’s reporting helped trigger the #MeToo movement.



John F. Harris, editor-in-chief and co-founder of Politico and Livingston Award national judge, had the distinct pleasure of presenting Christine Goldbaum the Excellence in International Reporting Award for her three part series featured in the Daily Beast.



The 2018 Livingston Award winners were honored during the 37th Annual Awards Luncheon at the Yale Club in New York City. The young journalists being recognized include (left to right) Ronan Farrow, The New Yorker; Emily Steel, The New York Times; Riham Feshir and Tracy Mumford, Minnesota Public Radio News; Christina Goldbaum, The Daily Beast; Meg Martin, Minnesota Public Radio News; and Michael S. Schmidt, The New York Times.



Walt Mossberg was presented the Richard M. Clurman Award by Kara Swisher. The two have a long friendship and co-founded AllThingsDigital, the D and Code Conferences, and Recode. The prize is awarded to a seasoned news professional who has engaged younger reporters by serving as a mentor to nurture, critique and provide inspiration. The prize is named for the late Richard M. Clurman, former chief of correspondents for Time-Life News Service and architect of the Livingston Awards. Swisher is also a Livingston Award national judge.



Dean Baquet, executive editor of The New York Times, shared a table and a few laughs with Emily Steel, after he presented her and her colleague, Michael. S. Schmidt, with the award for national reporting. Baquet is a Livingston Awards judge and recused himself from voting in the national reporting category.



Among the VIPs who came out to support the young reporters and the mission of the Livingston Awards for Young Journalists were Jennifer Preston and Paul Cheung of the Knight Foundation, a key sponsor of the awards. The two chatted with Livingston regional judge Stephen Henderson.

Photo Credit: Lina Jang



Riham Feshir spoke on behalf of colleagues Tracy Mumford (left) and Meg Martin. The Minnesota Pubic Radio team received the Excellence in Local Reporting Award for “74 Seconds,” a 22-episode podcast on the shooting death of Philando Castile by police officer Jeronimo Yanez that prompted national outrage.

Q&A with Bernice Yeung: Unheard Voices of the #MeToo Movement

BY LYNETTE CLEMETSON '10



Award winning journalist and 2016 Knight-Wallace Fellow, Bernice Yeung, returned to Wallace House to continue the ongoing conversation concerning sexual violence in the midst of the #MeToo Movement.

Bernice Yeung arrived as a Knight-Wallace Fellow in 2015, following an intense period of collaborative reporting that produced two award-winning investigations, "Rape in the Fields" and "Rape on the Night Shift". Since the Fellowship, she has published a book, "In a Day's Work: The Fight to End Sexual Violence Against America's Most Vulnerable Workers." Bernice returned to Wallace House in September to give the 33rd annual Graham Hovey Lecture, and she talked to Director Lynette Clemetson about her reporting in the context of the #MeToo Movement.

Clemetson: You first started writing about sexual abuse of low-wage workers in 2012. How do you view the cultural change in our recognition of and conversation around the issue?

Yeung: There has been a complete transformation of the public dialogue. When we started in 2012, the campus sexual assault conversation was ongoing and robust. Simultaneously, the military sexual assault investigations were happening. There was a slow drumbeat of looking at sexual violence in different corners of society. But now, post-#MeToo, it is part of the daily headlines. The conversation is almost inescapable. There is a completely different resonance now.

Clemetson: And yet, much of the current conversation is around prominent figures. Do you think that the people you focused on are being represented enough?

Yeung: There is a part of the movement that is about understanding the prevalence of sexual violence. And then there is a fascination with the comeuppance aspect of the story, an interest in famous people and the fall of power. I think more attention ought to be paid to those who are less powerful in terms of their professional and financial positions.

I recently reported a story where I talked to women truck drivers, public health workers, government workers, and hospital techs. They were excited to see the way #MeToo has opened up a space to have these conversations. But a lot of them wonder whether that opening has reached them yet. They were impressed by the famous women who had come forward, amazed and grateful that they had spoken up, but they also really wondered why, when they themselves had spoken up they weren't heard in the same way.

Clemetson: What drew you to this particular corner of the issue?

Yeung: There was an element of it that I was inclined to be curious about because of my own family's immigrant background in the United States. I had done some stories on domestic violence and immigrant women and had seen the holes and gaps in policy and law when it comes to assisting immigrant women, and how seeking any kind of recourse or help was so formidable for those women.



University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel and Regent Kathy White listened to what Bernice Yeung had to say.

Clemetson: How did approaching the issue for a book lead you to new insights?

Yeung: We tend to think of sexual harassment as a problem between two individuals, as a behavioral problem by a bad apple. The book helped me look at policies, how companies operate, how industries function and how they create environments that make certain workers more vulnerable. So much of our labor law enforcement is predicated on the worker making a complaint. And when you have a population who are low wage, immigrant, perhaps with tenuous immigration status, living on the edge of poverty, expecting them to come forward is not realistic. We don't have a realistic way for them to engage with the resources that would enable them to put an end to labor abuses.

Clemetson: There seems to be a greater appetite and more space now across platforms for journalism that explores issues systemically.

Yeung: Yes. I am lucky to be a journalist in this moment where there is space for investigative journalism about systemic issues. I have always been interested in melding sociological strategies with journalism. My study plan was looking at how social science research strategies could be applied to journalism. I think there is something about what sociology provides, a systems-based orientation, plus an attempt to quantify, along with qualitative human interviews, that makes sociology a kindred spirit to journalism.

Clemetson: How did the Fellowship inform how you approached the book?

Yeung: I don't think I would be the same journalist I am now if I had not done the Fellowship. I don't think my book would exist. The mental and emotional space that the Fellowship provided made it possible to do this book. I was coming off several years of looking at this issue when I arrived, and the mental fatigue was real. It was really important to give myself some time to stop, regroup and fortify myself so I could jump back into it.

And there were so many resources at the university that I drew from. For instance, Catherine MacKinnon in the University of Michigan Law School, is THE person, THE scholar, who defined what sexual harassment is. Having the opportunity to learn from her and others like her left me astonished. What I was able to bring to the book in terms of a contextual and systemic look, that was possible because of the time I had at the university.



Clemetson: As this issue has exploded, it has also caused turmoil in many news organizations.

Yeung: I have been so heartened and impressed by the incredible reporting that has been done by the dogged and sensitive journalists working on this issue, the amount of vetting and checking, and deep research and reporting. I don't know if the general public appreciates how serious and rigorous the reporters have been on these stories. And then you have journalists who are raising this issue, even as they are having to report on their own organizations and call into question the authority of their own employers. I just have so much respect for the work that is being done, and I appreciate those who are doing the work.

Clemetson: Do you feel that we are truly in a moment of change, a substantive shift?

Yeung: I see parallels to the Anita Hill/Clarence Thomas moment. I am sure we'll look back on #MeToo and see it as a watershed moment and a shift in the cultural consciousness. But I think the question is, now what? There is work being done around prevention and solutions, and those are harder stories to cover. As reporters, we want things to be concrete and evidence-based, something we can measure. The slow culture change that seems critical to shifting the way we deal with sexual harassment is harder to document. But I think that is where we need to be paying more attention now.

Clemetson: So you intend to keep going?

Yeung: As much as I can, yes. I intend to. I am in that space now where I want to know that it is all going to lead to something, some tangible example of change. I am definitely watching and tracking. It is important to tell those stories about how change can happen, how reform can happen.

Bernice Yeung was presented with the plaque that hangs in the foyer of Wallace House and bears the names of her 32 predecessors who also returned to Ann Arbor to give the Hovey Lecture. Wallace House Director Lynette Clemetson also awarded Yeung with her own personally inscribed Hovey bowl.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Wallace House proudly introduces a newly formed Executive Board. The 14-member advisory body will provide strategic support and guidance in developing new initiatives for the Knight-Wallace Fellowships, the Livingston Awards and the Wallace House Presents event series.

This cross-section of acclaimed journalists and accomplished University of Michigan faculty - all change-agents in their own work - will play an active role in leading Wallace House through a period of growth and expanded vision. Their expertise in both transforming long-standing institutions and creating vibrant, new organizations will push Wallace House to think creatively and ambitiously about cultivating financial support from individual and institutional donors, supporting the careers of journalists and upholding the role of a free press.

Join Wallace House in welcoming our Executive Board members:

Daniel Alarcón
Author, co-founder and executive producer, Radio Ambulante



Kainaz Amaria
Visuals editor, Vox, specialist in graphics, interactives, photography, data and design

Michael S. Barr
Dean, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan



Liz Barry
Special counsel to the president, University of Michigan

Alex Blumberg
CEO and co-founder, Gimlet Media



Ferhat Boratav
Lecturer, Bilgi University, Istanbul

Jim Burnstein
Screenwriter, professor and director of screenwriting program, University of Michigan



Tabbye Chavous
Director, National Center for Institutional Diversity and professor of education and psychology, University of Michigan

Anne Curzan
Professor of English and associate dean for Humanities, University of Michigan



Louise Kiernan
Editor-in-chief, ProPublica Illinois

Margaret Low
President, AtlanticLIVE, and vice president, The Atlantic



Kevin Merida
Editor-in-chief, The Undeclared, vice president, ESPN

Paul Resnick
Professor and associate dean for research, School of Information, University of Michigan



Ann Silvio
Correspondent, "60 Minutes Overtime" and managing editor, 60 Minutes online

Wallace House Mourns Friend Otavio Frias Filho

BY MARCELO LEITE '12

Otavio Frias Filho, publisher of Folha de São Paulo and dear friend of the Knight-Wallace Fellowship program, was driven by curiosity, always ready to learn something new about the world. He would ask questions, and then fix his gaze upon you, eager to get enlightening replies.

He was often disappointed, particularly with what he read in his own newspaper. In spite of his impatience with the lack of clarity and quality in Brazilian journalism, he spent 34 years in the job of de facto publisher, a title he inherited after the death of his father, Octavio Frias de Oliveira in 2007.

Otavio was a prolific playwright. His first work, a neoclassic play titled “Tutankaton,” has never been produced for the stage – in public readings, audiences did not warm to its battles between monotheism and polytheism in Ancient Egypt. More successful was “Rancor,” about the clash between two literary critics and the troubles authors have with their mentors.

If theater was Otavio’s love, from age 17, journalism was his day job. In his late 20s, he acquiesced to his father’s request to lead the paper – a tall order for a young man who had studied law.

Otavio had plans for Folha that would require major changes in the way reporters and editors approached their work. An admirer of American journalism values, he aspired to eliminate the ideological biases, lack of factual reporting and poor style that plagued his newspaper’s pages.

In 1984, he introduced a “Newsroom Handbook,” which imposed stringent rules and procedures on the staff. It was built around pluralism, non-partisanship, and criticism. Many in the newsroom rejected the new directive. Some ended up leaving Folha. Otavio did not bow to the pressure.

The paper’s circulation soared, and Folha gained recognition as the main outlet for thoughtful debate after 21 years of military dictatorship.

Otavio recruited young, educated and talented writers. He appointed an ombudsman in 1989 and also a staff development editor who set up a program for journalists to seek continuing education. That is how the paper’s relationship with the Knight-Wallace Fellowship began.

Columnist Hélio Schwartsman was the paper’s first Knight-Wallace Fellow. He went to Ann Arbor in 2008 and returned to the newsroom championing the program. Otavio decided Folha would send a journalist or two to Michigan each year.

Otavio once asked me what was it about the Knight-Wallace Fellowship program that made people so much better at their jobs when they returned. I was at a loss to convey to him everything I had experienced in the Knight-Wallace Class of 2011-12. My project involved studying economics, which I did. But I also learned so many new things –at the age of 54 – like the potential of radio and video for storytelling, that I could never have imagined.

Otavio’s curiosity led him to come see the program for himself in the fall semester of 2012. He was only in Ann Arbor for two



Otavio Frias Filho was never a Fellow but his staunch belief in the value of the program touched many Fellows’ lives, both by those he welcomed in Brazil and those he sent to the U.S.

Photo Credit: Wallace House Archive

days, but he left very pleased with what he saw. Sabine Righetti, the newspaper’s Fellow that year, took him to see Diego Rivera’s murals at the Detroit Institute of Art and the Ford Museum – two highlights I had recommended, knowing of his interest in American history.

“Folha sends staff members all over the world to study and I’m sure they learn valuable things,” he explained to Charles Eisendrath, director of the Fellowship back then. “But only the ones we send to Ann Arbor come back on fire.”

Otavio once asked me what was it about the Knight-Wallace Fellowship program that made people so much better at their jobs when they returned.

Otavio introduced himself to the Fellowship group as a playwright and talked extensively about his plays. He was interrupted by Charles Eisendrath, who asked if he was going to say anything about being the publisher of Brazil’s main newspaper.

He finally did, and went on to discuss the importance of journalists finding time to think deeply. That is what theater did for him, I suspect, and he wanted journalists to find that in their craft, too.

Otavio Frias Filho died on August 21, 2018 of pancreatic cancer. He was 61. It was far too early for such a generous, restless soul and true friend – of Wallace House, of good journalism, of us all. His principles live on.

WALLACE HOUSE PRESENTS

Community Engagement: “Crisis at the Border: Shifting Policy in a Country of Immigrants”

Wallace House Presents fosters civil conversation and debate on campus. In October, students and community joined journalists María Elena Salinas, Ginger Thompson, Aaron Nelson '19 and policy expert Ann Lin for a timely and critical discussion of U.S. border policy. The conversations continue next semester with events examining sexual assault and abuse of power, U.S. military policy in Africa and global press freedom.



Photo Credit: Phil Detillo

- 1 Immigration policies and the ideological complexities driving the debate were the hot issues discussed at the most recent Wallace House Presents event. Livingston Awards national judge María Elena Salinas (left) led the conversation with Ann Lin, Ford School policy expert, and reporters Ginger Thompson, of ProPublica and Aaron Nelson '19, who have both covered the U.S.–Mexico border.
- 2 As the Rio Grande Valley Bureau Chief for the San Antonio Express-News, current Knight-Wallace Fellow Aaron Nelson offered insight and shared heartfelt personal stories from his time covering the U.S.–Mexican border. As a Fellow, he is studying the effect of militarization on communities along the U.S.–Mexican border.
- 3 Jose Javier Lujano, Master of Public Policy candidate at the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, was among the many adoring fans of María Elena Salinas in the audience. He introduced event moderator Salinas who is host of the newsmagazine show, “The Real Story with María Elena Salinas” and the most recognized Hispanic female journalist in the U.S. He said both he and his mother were big fans and he wouldn’t be able to face his mother if he didn’t get a picture with the media icon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/22/19

Lydia
Mendelssohn
Theatre

Save the date!
Martin Luther King Symposium Event
Details, TBA
MLK SYMPOSIUM

3/19/19

6-7:30 PM
Rackham
Auditorium

**"The Weinstein Effect: Breaking the
Stories that Spurred the #MeToo
Movement"**
Ronan Farrow and Ken Auletta
THE LIVINGSTON LECTURES

1/30/19

4:30-6 PM

Gerald R. Ford
School of
Public Policy,
Annenberg
Auditorium

**"U.S. Military and Counter-Terrorism
in Africa: Is Anybody Watching?"**
Christina Goldbaum, 2018 Livingston
Award Winner
THE LIVINGSTON LECTURES

3/26/19

3-4:30 PM
Rackham
Amphitheatre

"The Threat to Global Press Freedom"
The Eisendrath Symposium on
International News with Leonard Niehoff,
U-M
WALLACE HOUSE JOURNALISM EVENT

Wallace House is energized.

At a time when a free press is under attack and our democracy threatened, we are expanding our reach and ambitions. By providing more support for the journalists who participate in our programs, strengthening local journalism in the Midwest, and interacting more with communities - on campus, in our region, and around the country - we are bolstering the vital role of a free press in a democratic society.

And to reach our potential, we need you.

New ambitions require new resources. Building financial security for the Livingston Awards, creating an increasing public presence through Wallace House Presents and helping to foster growth over the next few years requires a commitment from those who believe in our mission.

As you plan your end-of-year giving, please consider making a gift to Wallace House at wallacehouse.umich.edu/donate or mail your gift in the enclosed envelope. No gift is too small or too large. Surprise us!

Support a free press. Uphold democracy.
And play a role in our expanding vision.

DONATE

Are We Resilient Enough?

BY FREDRIK LAURIN '19

Jair Bolsonaro, Brazil's thuggish, newly elected president declares his wish for the end of Folha de São Paulo, Brazil's largest newspaper, within days of his election.

Populist Dansk Folkeparti in Denmark slashes 20 percent of the staff at Danish Radio, employer to half of the country's 3,500 news reporters.

Jimmie Åkesson, leader of the "Sweden Democrats," the far right party that gained a record 17 percent in the last election, states in an interview by Public Service Radio P3: "If I were the boss here, I'd close the place down right away, it's all leftist liberal gibberish." ("Hade jag varit chef här hade jag lagt ner P3 direkt. Jag tycker det är vänsterliberal smörja.")

An aggressive property magnate is president of one of the superpowers. A kleptocrat leads another and a self-imposed dictator for life, the third.

Ten out of 13 British regions voted to leave the European Union, an organization that, despite its shortcomings, has provided stability and peace in Europe.

In 2015, when Chancellor Merkel asked 80 million affluent Germans to accept one million refugees from the war in Syria, the political scene exploded and the far right surged. Now she has declared her exit from politics at the end of her current term. In 1946, the parents of the same German voters welcomed over 10 million refugees from Nazi-occupied parts of Europe into a devastated country.

Watching what's unfolding feels a bit like seeing the Roman Empire collapse. I wonder: Are we resilient enough? Will our societies and our profession as journalists stand the tests of these times?

Social media bubbles have taken over much of the debate. Robert D. Bowers posted on GAB, a lesser-known Facebook look-alike, "I can't sit by and watch my people get slaughtered. Screw your optics, I'm going in." Then he uncocked one of his ten legally obtained guns, a semi-automatic AR15, and ended the lives of eleven fellow humans in a synagogue in Pittsburgh. "*My people get slaughtered?*" Who are his people exactly?

Trump blamed "The Fake News Media, the true Enemy of the People" for the shooting and suggested priests should be armed. *Arm priests?*

Hate speech is nothing new, but haters are better connected than ever before. Facebook and others in control of the new communication platforms don't know how to react. Instead, their algorithms censored posts like the historic and game-changing 1972 photo of the naked and napalm stricken nine-year-old Phan Thi Kim Phuc in Vietnam.

The Economist warned Brazil of the "Pinochet Temptation" – mixing authoritarian politics with liberal economics. But Bolsonaro reportedly orchestrated his political campaign on WhatsApp (owned by Facebook) and created his own news channel, bypassing the news media that reported on him. It worked.

Watching what's unfolding feels a bit like seeing the Roman Empire collapse. I wonder: Are we resilient enough? Will our societies and our profession as journalists stand the test of these times?

Fortunately, the facts are still out there; they are still reported and they still matter. People are not stupid; they are afraid, under-informed and living in bubbles. But bubbles can burst when people have facts to inform their opinions.

Well-paid Google boss Andy Rubin, hailed as the "father of Android" and exposed as a misogynist, was quietly let go and given 90 million dollars in severance pay. When The New York Times recently #metoo-ed him, thousands of Google-employees staged a walkout and CEO Sundar Pichai had to publicly apologize.

Affirmative action, preferential treatment of underprivileged groups, is one solution to America's most prominent problem. Privileged students at Harvard and even at the University of Michigan, a public institution, sued to end diversification in ever-



important higher education. The Wall Street Journal now reports how African American students are being positioned against Hispanics and Asians in lawsuits on affirmative action.

Ann Arbor may no longer have a newspaper but fortunately, the Detroit Free Press is still around to investigate another group of privileged alumni: those who are on the Board of the Investment Advisory Committee at the University of Michigan. They not only make generous donations – with a tax break – but also recommend the University to invest in their own funds with a two percent handling charge and a 20 percent take away on the profits.

On July 17, 2014, Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was shot down over eastern Ukraine. It took four years for the official investigation to confirm the cause: a Russian-made BUK missile. In the meantime, Russia blamed Ukraine and denied involvement. But already in 2015, Correctiv, a German nonprofit journalism newsroom, proved the Russian propaganda wrong when they reported that the 53rd Russian Air Defense Brigade fired the BUK and murdered 298 people.

Facts matter. Reporting matters. Journalism matters.

Two years into the Trump administration, the American midterm elections exposed a nation more divided than ever, with an even fiercer battle over truth and consequence on the horizon in the 2020 presidential election. All evidence suggests that we have to brace for a decade or more where facts and the media will

But a record 113 million Americans haven’t given up on democracy and showed up to cast their ballots in the midterms.

continue to be questioned. But a record 113 million Americans haven’t given up on democracy and showed up to cast their ballots in the midterms. Maybe they will now get to see their president’s tax returns and can draw their own conclusions. They need the facts. Informed people make informed decisions.

Fredrik Lauren is Special Projects Editor for Current Affairs, SVT (Swedish Television). As a 2019 Knight-Wallace Fellow, his study plan is exploring and developing tools to protect news content from digital manipulation.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: WAYNE DREHS

BY ROB WILDEBOER '15

Rob Wildeboer '15, WBEZ Chicago Public Media, met Wayne Drehs '10 of ESPN at the softball field to talk about being a coach, a dad and life after major surgery.

Sweat drips off the nose of Wayne Drehs '10, just 15 minutes into softball practice. His red t-shirt is soaked through across his shoulders and the top of his chest. It's an intense practice for Drehs (rhymes with graze) though he's not actually a player. He's the coach of his 11-year-old daughter's team. "Practice does not end until sweat gets to the whole front of my shirt," he says.

Drehs, 41, is throwing underhand fastballs to the girls as they hold a thin stick and practice bunting. He stands 20 feet away and he hurls a tiny ball at the strike zone. "So when you do it in a game, it's a lot easier with the big ball and the big bat," he says.

"Let the pitcher supply the power," he instructs. "Eyes behind the bat. There you go."

Every few minutes Drehs shouts out to another coach for a time check. He has a one hour and 50-minute practice planned out on paper in 10-minute increments. He's a tad intense.

At the top of the schedule is the speech he gave to the girls: "I love being the underdog. I love people looking at the H next to our name and thinking we have no chance to beat them."

Drehs coaches the Naperville Diamonds. It's the B-team. After a successful year playing on the A-team, his daughter got cut. Drehs wanted her to be able to keep playing so he started the B-team. They won the state championship last year and got third in nationals. He tries to casually mention they beat the team that cut Ava, but he can't help himself and he starts chuckling.

Drehs is a sports reporter for ESPN. His Fellowship trips to Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires and Moscow, opened his eyes to global possibilities for his work. Since the Fellowship he's traveled extensively putting together stories for ESPN in places including Egypt, New Zealand and Russia. In the past few years he's landed some very big gets like Michael Phelps and Lindsey Vonn.

But his travels during the fellowship and year away from deadlines also made him intensely value the small world of his home life which he shares with his wife Shana, Ava, and his younger daughter, Zoe. In 2016, Drehs found out he had an aneurysm on his aorta that required open-heart surgery. The doctors wanted to operate as soon as possible. Drehs negotiated to hold off until the first Monday after the World Series. The Chicago Cubs beat the Cleveland Indians for a myth-shattering win, and Drehs went into a six-hour surgery on November 7 that saved his life. He says life post-surgery is not any different, with the exception of his artificial aorta. That, and the fact that the experience reinforced the priorities he's chosen for how he spends his time.

He loves being at practice, but the car rides are the most important. On the way to softball practice he and Ava talked about the live shooter drill she participated in school that day, both what happened and their feelings about it, the sadness and her sense of excitement that she was chosen as one of the strong kids to help move bookshelves in front of the door.



Wayne Drehs and his daughter, Ava, enjoy their time together both on the softball field and talking in the car while travelling to the softball field. Photo Credit: Rob Wildeboer

The doctors wanted to operate as soon as possible. Drehs negotiated to hold off until the first Monday after the World Series.

"Those car rides are always a moment where she opens up and talks about things that otherwise she might not always talk about," he says.

Drehs' fall is jam-packed with big stories and important trips. San Francisco. New York. Phoenix. Manilla. And in between, a softball tournament in small-town Peoria, Illinois. As exciting as the big scoops and bylines are, he craves getting back to coach his girl's games.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Wayne was quite open about his medical issues and shared his journey via social media. We are happy to report two of his recent posts:

Oct. 3, 2018: 2018 cardiologist update: Heart looks "awesome. You don't need to see me for two years."

Nov. 7, 2018: Happy Surgiversary to me! Two years ago today, the red line that saved my life. And the now constant reminder of what could have been. Forever thankful to Dr. Svensson and his All-Star team at the Cleveland Clinic. And to Shana Wingert Drehs and all of you for all your support. Off to the gym this morning to celebrate.

ALUMNI UPDATE



Markian Hawryluk '13
Won first-place awards from the Society of Professional Journalists in the Northwest Excellence in Journalism contest in the Comprehensive Coverage and Health & Science Reporting categories.



Vince Patton '04
Named President of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon in Portland where he will lead the all-volunteer operation of the largest genealogy library in the Pacific Northwest.



Suzette Hackney '13
Earned a 2018 Salute to Excellence Award from The National Association of Black Journalists in the Newspaper Commentary under 150,000 category for columns in The Indianapolis Star.



Laurent Richard '17
Founder of Forbidden Stories, the platform behind the Daphne Project, received the European Journalist of the Year award by PRIX EUROPA.



Baris Kuyucu '07
Named media and communications director of the Turkish Basketball Federation.



Megha Satyanarayana '14
Named a Senior Editor at C&EN (Chemical & Engineering News), working from Texas on the magazine's science and technology team.



Amy Maestas '17
Named Executive Editor of Durango Herald in Durango, Colorado.



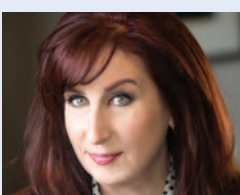
Eric Strauss '15
Named the Managing Editor of ABC News' Medical Unit where he will manage editorial and production of medical reporting for ABC News on air, on the radio and online.



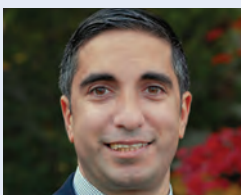
Helen Maynard '15
Named to the assignment desk at WEWS - News5 in Cleveland.



Bernice Yeung '16
Joined ProPublica as a business reporter covering labor-related issues.



Maryn McKenna '99
Recipient of the 2018 Science in Society Journalism Awards, sponsored by the National Association of Science Writers, in the Book category for "Big Chicken" published by National Geographic.



Azi Paybarah '18
Joined The New York Times as a reporter, writing the New York Today newsletter.



Lois Parshley '18
Received a Mirror Award in the Best Profile category for "Editor in Exile" written for Pacific Standard.



Jamie Butters '06
Named chief content officer for Automotive News where he will oversee reporting, print and online coverage of the automotive industry.

Photo Credit: Billy Howard



CATHERINE MACKIE '19 CONTINUED

concerned about sovereignty and democracy, could you?
In the land of social media and parts of the mainstream media,
the answer seemed to be no.

On countless timelines, Facebook 'friends' desperate to prove
their liberal credentials were 'unfriending' anyone who voted to
quit the EU. The irony seemed lost on them. "I can't understand
it. Why doesn't everyone think like me?" – said one well-off,
university-educated person who popped up on my timeline. I
wanted to shout, "Because you haven't got a clue."

At the BBC and other mainstream media outlets, reporters were
dispatched to find 'real people' who voted for Britain to leave
the EU. For a while they did leave their newsrooms and talk to
people they'd never spoken to before, albeit in a rather patronizing
way. But not much has come of it. Both sides are entrenched;
Brexit voting 'Nazis' on one side, 'woolly-liberal' know-nothing
"re-moaners" on the other. Whoever shouts the loudest on any
given day gets the headline. What's interesting for me coming to
the U.S., is that amidst all the shouting – and all the CAPITAL
LETTERS tweeted out of the Oval Office (and metaphorical ones
screaming from newspapers and TV sets), the news about Brexit
is barely above a whisper.

Instead, Trump is all pervasive. There is no news anymore without
The Donald. And that's part of the problem. I was at a rally in
Detroit in October where former U.S. President, Barack Obama,
told the crowd that a big portion of the media amplifies problems
by repeating the same stories over and over again. He has a point.

A few weeks after I arrived in the U.S. the headlines were
dominated by the shocking events at a Pittsburgh synagogue

where 11 people were shot dead. There was a man on CNN,
a relative of two victims, who made this appeal: "To honor these
people, just go out and do something good." My experience of
living in the U.S. for two months is that people (at least the ones
I have met) are overwhelmingly 'good.' It's the same in the U.K.
Away from the toxicity of public debate and social media, people
on the whole rub alongside each other without much conflict. My
experience of 30 years in journalism is that the vast majority of
reporters I know are committed to finding out, and telling the
truth. I wish we all – politicians, journalists, "regular people" –
could remember that and behave accordingly.

Until then, I'll continue to pinch myself that I've been given such
a wonderful opportunity as a Knight-Wallace fellow. I'm even
learning to draw.

And, of course, there's Meghan and Harry as a welcome
distraction.

*Catherine Mackie is the digital video team leader in the West
Midlands, England for BBC News Online. As a 2019 Knight-Wallace
Fellow, she is studying the impact of class on news consumption
and reconnecting with audiences.*

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