

WALLACE HOUSE JOURNAL

Knight-Wallace Fellowships for Journalists
and the Livingston Awards

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The Bells, Whistles (and Rockets!) of Fellowship Life

BY SHARILYN HUFFORD '19

A hand-lettered sign in a neighborhood coffee shop greeted me with a bit of wisdom on my first morning in Ann Arbor: “Sometimes you just have to let go and see what happens.” If there ever was a time to let go, this was it. The academic year was about to start, and I had an ambitious study plan for the fellowship – creating high impact news products and best practices for workflow in product design. But I still hadn’t figured out how I would approach the challenge in the classroom.

I’d already combed through the 464 pages of the fall course catalog, searching for classes to teach me how other industries were using processes, systems and technology to transform their work. With so much to choose from, I wasn’t worried about filling a schedule. I knew I would find something that aligned with my study plan. After all I had a ‘short’ list of roughly 25 classes. (OK, I might have been trying too hard.)

The problem was my fear of not finding the right classes, of missing out on something or somehow not getting enough out of my precious time on campus. Could I follow the sign’s advice and just let go? It didn’t take long to find out.

Sharilyn Hufford '19 had the chance to play on the largest carillon in Central and South America on the class’ international news trip to São Paulo. Daigo Suzuki, a Brazilian classmate of Hufford’s, arranged a tour with the archdiocese of the 61-bell carillon inside the Catedral da Sé.

At our very first orientation meeting, I spotted a poster on the way to tour Burton Memorial Tower: “Bells on the brain? Take Carillon 150. Play the U-M bell towers!”

The University of Michigan has two carillons out of only 600 in the world, one in the middle of Central Campus in Burton Tower and one in the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Tower on North Campus. And heck yeah, I wanted to play them.

The other students – a mix of about 20 graduate and undergraduate students – weren’t just music majors. They were studying everything from engineering and public health to community action and social change. We all had some kind of music training or background before signing up for carillon.

All the years of piano lessons and band had set me up for this opportunity, but the carillon required learning new techniques, like coordinating hands and feet, and setting aside time to experiment with new sounds and strengthen new skills.



CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE

On Pruning Trees, and Editing Lives

BY LYNETTE CLEMETSON '10



“It’s nice to feel like a writer again after all these years!” Of all the exuberant statements I have heard Charles Eisendrath utter over the years, this one was the most joyful. After retiring as Director, chief architect, visionary and wizard of Wallace House after more than 30 years, Charles had finally finished that book many of us heard him talk about, and he was rightly giddy about its publication.

“Downstream From Here: A Big Life in a Small Place” is a series of love letters to his family and to the place Charles calls his “spirit home,” Overlook Farm, that homey, cherry pie slice of heaven that some 25 classes of Knight-Wallace Fellows have roamed around longingly on our cherished annual trip Up North. The book is masterfully built around love of place, but it is brimming with lessons from a wonderfully expansive life that stretched far from the idyllic farm.

For me, and I suspect the same will be true for many former Fellows, reading the book feels a bit like holding a compass. It is equal parts memoir and practical instrument to keep us on the

philosophical path that defines our approach at Wallace House. It is a reminder that what we are pursuing is ultimately more than a string of accomplishments and that it is both possible and quite admirable to build a notable career while nurturing a meaningful and fulfilling life.

In Charlesean fashion, some pronouncements are wildly direct, like his insight into fundraising: “Eternity sells.” But also true to form, there are plentiful quiet insights that will stay with you for hours, weeks and years. In certain moments I could hear him speaking directly to me: “You don’t enter the life of a cherry tree or a working journalist until circumstances make you a pruner/mentor. And you are only there to edit the life, never to create it.”

Beautiful, lyrical, practical observations are scattered like seeds throughout. One chapter opens “Optimists plant orchards. Ironists maintain them.” It is followed later by a paragraph that I may well pin to my wall. It begins, “Let’s talk about planting. There’s lots to do before anything that might produce money comes anywhere near your ground.” Indeed, there is.

This issue of the Wallace House Journal is filled with ample fruits grown from Charles’ deep plowing. We are spreading out in new directions – breaking up and remixing the soil, as must be done. As we continue the important business of editing lives, I am deeply thankful for a compass to hold.

Lynette Clemetson

Mary Ellen Doty Retires



Photo Credit: Philip Dattilo

Mary Ellen Doty joined the Wallace House team in 2003 with a proclivity for numbers and an ability to navigate complicated university policies. These skills have been instrumental in running the precision-like machine that is Wallace House. Her job responsibilities, however, encompassed a much wider

range of duties. She changed the furnace filters, returned deposit cans/bottles, controlled all critters, watered the lawn/flowers, oversaw all house maintenance projects/contractors, and the list goes on. Mary Ellen has always been the cherished “go to person.”

Her presence has impacted many who have passed through the doors of Wallace House including former Director Charles Eisendrath. “Mary Ellen’s office in a rear corner of Wallace House not only sheltered her from the ruckus of everyday office shenanigans, it also kept her out of sight. I teased that she was back there eating bon bons while the rest of us slaved. In fact, she was keeping meticulous records that on some memorable occasions enabled Wallace House to demonstrate not only compliance with UM’s complex accounting policies, but also accessible proof of doing so.”

When Lynette Clemetson became Wallace House Director in 2016, she relied heavily on Mary Ellen’s financial wizardry. “Mary Ellen

was invaluable to me when I came on board. She was able to pop the hood and show me how everything worked because she knew where all the money was,” said Clemetson. “The fact she is not afraid of bats made it physically possible for me to work in the office. And that’s a tough skill to post in a job description.”

While her methodical efficiency and tangible work will be missed, it’s the absence of the intangible that will be felt the most. Her genuine smile, eternal optimism and contagious pleasant demeanor are a big piece of the puzzle that makes Wallace House the welcoming place we strive for it to be. Mary Ellen said there are plenty of things she will miss as well.

“What I loved about working at Wallace House was meeting the interesting Fellows from all over the country and the world, feeling that we were part of the very important task of getting correct information out to readers and the camaraderie of the staff. I will miss being in my great treehouse office, being with my co-workers everyday and the excitement of each new class starting.”

Another benefit to having Mary Ellen at Wallace House has been her husband, Bill. He is an integral part of the program inviting Fellows to play music or teaching them to bake a pie. He attends events, seminars, dinners, and since his own retirement, has been the all around fix it guy at Wallace House.

When asked what she will do with her newfound freedom, Mary Ellen said, “My plans are to make it up as I go – probably spend more time [in the cottage] in South Haven and with my grandkids and be able to travel more spontaneously.”

2019-2020 KNIGHT-WALLACE FELLOWS



KNIGHT-WALLACE
Fellowships for Journalists

- 1 **Tommy Andres**
Senior Special Projects Producer, Marketplace, American Public Media
Los Angeles, Calif.
Study Plan: Utilizing transmedia production models to craft a single narrative storytelling experience across platforms

2 **Ana Avila**
Deputy Director, Newsweek en Español
Mexico City, Mexico
Study Plan: Measuring, tracking and documenting threats and dangers to Mexican journalists for safer newsroom practices

3 **Niala Boodhoo**
Host, "The 21st," Illinois Public Media
Champaign, Ill
Study Plan: Developing a sustainable, replicable business plan for local news podcasts

4 **Maria Byrne**
Senior Producer, BBC News
Brussels, Belgium
Study Plan: Expanding coverage of China's growing ambitions in the world
- 5 **Jacob Carah**
Independent Investigative Reporter and Producer, "Frontline," PBS, Flint Beat, Flintside, and The Detroit News
Flint, Mich.
Study Plan: Developing new visual design through data analysis, coding and documentary film

6 **Janet Cho**
Business Reporter, The Plain Dealer (Cleveland, Ohio) and others
Cleveland, Ohio
Study Plan: How words and images influence public perception about immigrants and U.S. immigration policy

7 **Chantel Jennings**
Senior Writer, The Athletic
Portland, Ore.
Study Plan: Forging editorial partnerships between local news organizations and college newsrooms

8 **Mauricio Meireles**
Reporter and Columnist, Folha de São Paulo
São Paulo, Brazil
Study Plan: Digital approaches to covering arts and culture
- 9 **Tracie Mauriello**
Washington Bureau Chief, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Study Plan: Experimentation with points of view and narration techniques in literary journalism

10 **Marielba Núñez**
Writer, Editor and Regional Coordinator, Crónica Uno
Caracas, Venezuela
Study Plan: New narrative strategies to report on the changing identities of migrants

11 **Karen Rouse**
Reporter, WNYC News, New York Public Radio
New York City, N.Y.
Study Plan: Improving strategies for newsrooms to recruit and develop journalists from underrepresented groups for long term success and leadership

12 **Jet Schouten**
Reporter, ICIJ and AVROTROS Public Broadcasting TV
Amsterdam, Netherlands
Study Plan: Deepening the understanding of truth and news in constructive journalism

13 **Kwang Young Shin**
Head of Criminal Justice Team, Dong-A Ilbo
Seoul, South Korea
Study Plan: Using digital storytelling to maximize the reach of Korea's legacy media
- 14 **Patrick Symmes**
Contributing Editor, Harper's Magazine, Outside and others
Portland, Ore.
Study Plan: A comparative study of authoritarianism and its influence on the press

15 **Eileen Traux**
Author and Reporter, The New York Times Edición Español and others
Sun Valley, Calif.
Study Plan: Developing global connections, shared networks and resources for journalists covering migration

16 **Elodie Vialle**
Head of Journalism and Technology Desk, Reporters Without Borders
Paris, France
Study Plan: Building tools and training to counter online harassment and threats against female journalists

17 **Elliott Woods**
Writer and Photographer, Texas Monthly, The Guardian and others
Livingston, Mont.
Study Plan: Covering ongoing wars in an age of media contraction and declining military service rates

2019 LIVINGSTON AWARD WINNERS



LOCAL REPORTING

Lindsey Smith, Kate Wells

Michigan Radio and NPR

In January 2018, the world watched as a united, courageous army of more than 150 survivors testified at the sentencing hearing of Larry Nassar, the U.S.A. Gymnastics doctor who sexually abused girls and young women for more than 20 years. Then media attention moved on. Yet the story was not over for Michigan Radio reporters Kate Wells, 30, and Lindsey Smith, 33. The team produced the podcast series “Believed,” offering a multifaceted account of Nassar’s belated arrest and an intimate look at how women – a detective, a prosecutor and survivors – brought down the serial sex offender.

“Big stories wind up told in broad strokes. Instead of amplifying their power, that sometimes makes them less accessible as human drama. Lindsey Smith and Kate Wells decided to go the other way, which is why their pieces on Larry Nassar grabbed me by the throat. They illuminate, not the judicial process, but the people: the uber-mom who won’t back down from a fight, the father who never suspected and whose torment suffuses his voice, the investigators and, of course, the survivors. These reporters use the small details of a big story to give it a human scale.”

Anna Quindlen, Livingston Award national judge



NATIONAL REPORTING

Chris Outcalt

The Atavist Magazine

On April 21, 2005, a 64-year-old prison gang leader, Manuel Torrez, was pummeled to death in a caged exercise yard by two fellow inmates. The murder occurred in broad daylight, under the gaze of multiple video cameras, at the highest security prison in the United States. Yet it took more than 10 years for prosecutors to secure the murder convictions. The riveting narrative by Chris Outcalt, 33, “Murder at the Alcatraz of the Rockies” for The Atavist Magazine tells the story of the rookie FBI agent who sought to crack this case and exposes the inner workings of the Mexican Mafia, known as La Eme, a homegrown criminal prison organization.

“The best journalism doesn’t always cover the best-known stories. Chris Outcalt’s extraordinary reporting introduces readers to sides of American life few people will ever see: life within the country’s most secure prison, an infamous gang’s rules of violence and honor, and the decade-long investigation and trial of a killing that is nothing like the open-and-shut case it first appears to be. Outcalt’s writing grips the reader’s attention from the first sentence to the last and doesn’t waste a word. It reminds us at every turn of the humanity of our most dangerous felons, the complexity of their motives, and the difficulty of ascertaining truth and doing justice.”

Bret Stephens, Livingston Award national judge





INTERNATIONAL REPORTING

Davey Alba

BuzzFeed News

The recent series of triumphant, demagogic political campaigns worldwide has drawn attention to a new phenomenon: how easy it is to manipulate public opinion and spread fake news in the age of social media. The BuzzFeed News investigation by Davey Alba, 30, of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte’s Facebook-fueled rise to power shows the Orwellian depths such campaigns can reach – and their deadly consequences.

“Davey Alba’s reporting brings home the immense power of digital platforms. We see how Facebook created the ultimate walled garden in the Philippines by subsidizing the internet, thus making Facebook synonymous not just with getting online but as the primary source of news. By relying on algorithms rather than humans to police news and content, Facebook ignored how fake news went viral and was used by a corrupt government to punish opponents, sometimes with death. Rather than hire editors to police false news, Facebook engineers hubristically believed their algorithms would do the job, thus saving money. This is what they’ve done around the world, with sometimes bloody consequences.”

Ken Auletta, Livingston Award national judge



THE RICHARD M. CLURMAN AWARD

The Late

Rob Hiaasen

Assistant editor and columnist, Capital Gazette, Annapolis, MD

An excerpt of a tribute written by Rachael Pacella, Capital Gazette reporter

I only had a little more than a year with Rob Hiaasen, and I hate to say it but the quality of my writing wasn’t at the top of my mind when I first met him. When I arrived at The Capital I had pretty much lost my way as a person, let alone as a writer. I was just trying to get from one day to the next.

One evening I got a flat tire and Rob offered to drive me home. After a long talk, I left Rob’s car knowing I had a boss who cared about me and who wanted me to be happy above all else. Above getting the story first. At a time when I was having trouble keeping up with the assignments I was given at work, Rob was patient and kind in every moment. Rob cared about people. Rob cared about me.

Everyone felt like they were Rob’s favorite. He encouraged me to be kind to myself and to take a break when I needed one. He was a relentless advocate for vacations and thoughtful walks. I have had many tough editors. Rob was powerful, but he was also gentle. When editing, he made my stories stronger, shorter and clearer. He shared a list of “dead” words to trim from copy. I still have the email. It says “please read, enjoy and exterminate the following dead words and phrases.”

When I ask myself what really matters in the story, I think of Rob. The answer is people, pretty much always. When I ask myself what really matters in life, I think of Rob. The answer is the people you love, pretty much always.

On June 28, 2018, Rob Hiaasen and colleagues Gerald Fischman, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith, and Wendi Winters were killed in a mass shooting in the offices of the Capital Gazette.

The Clurman Award honors superb on-the-job mentors who improve journalism by exemplifying excellence in nurturing, critiquing and inspiring young journalists.

Revisiting Brazil’s Largest Environmental Disaster

STORY AND PHOTOS BY DAIGO OLIVA '19



Two iron ore tailings dams, both located in southeastern Brazil, approximately 78 miles apart and owned by the same mining company, Vale, suffered the same cataclysmic fate and collapsed within three years of each other.

When news of the tragedy of the Brumadinho dam broke in January 2019, Fellows had a pretty good sense of the level of devastation. Just a month earlier on our international news trip to Brazil, we saw first-hand the

devastating aftermath on an entire village when the dam in Mariana, Minas Gerais, suffered a catastrophic failure in 2015 that claimed 19 lives.

The recent Brumadinho dam disaster was similar in that alert procedures also failed. In Mariana, the company responsible for the collapse of the dam was forced by the Brazilian Public Defender to find ways to repair damages. A foundation, Renova [Renew], was created to help compensate families affected by the tragedy.

The company's responsibility was not limited to monetary compensation. It worked to re-establish water conditions, address the problem of animals grazing in a toxic environment and restore damaged religious sculptures. Minas Gerais is a state with a highly religious population and repairing the sacred pieces was seen as a form of penance.

Even though the families could also seek reparation with the Justice department, many of them know that the process is slow – particularly in Brazil – and accepted whatever the company offered.



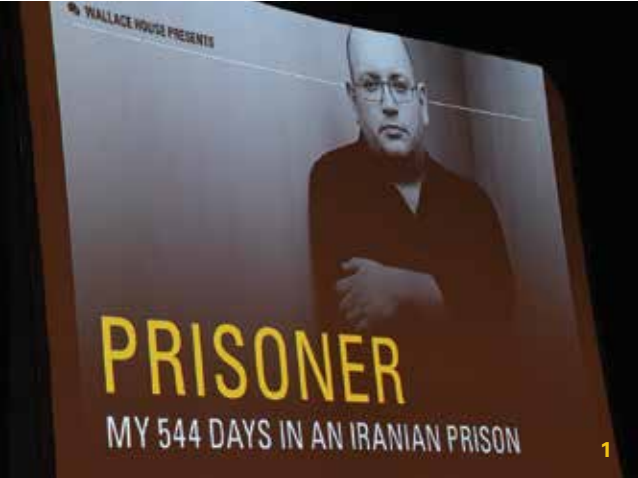


In terms of human casualties, Brumadinho was worse with 237 lives lost. Environmentally, Mariana released much greater quantities of toxins into the landscape. Trudging through the mud in Mariana with our Fellowship class, there was no ignoring the obliteration of buildings with roof-high watermarks on the walls, abandoned objects, dry mud and broken frames with old photos.

In one of the shells of a structure we encountered, a series of children's drawings still hung from the walls. Had it been a school?

As journalists, we use numbers, photos, and videos to convey what happened, but walking through Mariana and seeing and smelling the fallout of the worst environmental tragedy in Brazilian history, we wondered how such a monumental disaster could happen. To think how it could happen a second time to the Brumadinho dam, in such a short period of time, is simply unimaginable.





Prisoner: My 544 Days in an Iranian Prison

- 1
- Washington Post journalist and author Jason Rezaian captivated the audience as he described his arrest and incarceration in Iran and the impassioned campaign for his release.
- 2
- Rezaian was interviewed onstage by Bill McCarren, Executive Director of the National Press Club, the organization that worked to keep Rezaian’s plight in the public eye.
- 3
- At the end of the event McCarren presented Knight-Wallace Fellow and U.S. asylum seeker Emilio Gutiérrez Soto with an honorary membership to the National Press Club. The Press Club has been instrumental in advocating for Gutiérrez’s case, and McCarren noted that it was the first honorary membership presented to a non-U.S. citizen.



The Threat to Global Press Freedom: Censorship, Imprisonment and Murder

- 4
- The Eisendrath Symposium honors Charles R. Eisendrath, pictured with current Wallace House director Lynette Clemetson, and his lifelong commitment to international journalism.
- 5
- Two members of the 2019 Knight-Wallace Fellows class, Itai Anghel of Israeli TV and Jawad Sukhanyar of The New York Times, were joined by Vanessa Gezari ’12 of The Intercept to discuss the increasingly hostile and deadly environment facing journalists around the world. The conversation was led by Leonard Niehoff, First Amendment and media law scholar at the University of Michigan Law School and focused on what reporters and their organizations can do to safeguard journalists under threat and foster press freedom.



THE LIVINGSTON LECTURES



U.S. Military and Counter-Terrorism in Africa: Is Anybody Watching?

- 6 The U.S. military’s presence and role in Africa was the topic of discussion for this Livingston Lecture series event. Christina Goldbaum, 2018 Livingston Award winner for international reporting, was joined by the Atlantic Council’s Bronwyn Bruton and the Ford School’s John Ciorciari to discuss the U.S. military’s presence in Somalia and the implications for Somali civilians and global security.
- 7 Goldbaum’s award-winning reporting from Somalia exposed a U.S. military raid alleged to have resulted in the deaths of 10 Somali civilians. Goldbaum and Bruton shared their expertise regarding the Somali military, opposing religious factions, rampant government corruption and how the U.S. presence is perceived.



The Weinstein Effect: Breaking the Stories That Spurred a Movement

- 8 Journalists Ronan Farrow and Ken Auletta of The New Yorker drew a packed house at Rackham Auditorium to discuss the reporting scoops that helped launch the #MeToo Movement.
- Farrow, who received a 2018 Livingston Award for exposing decades of abuse by Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, credits Auletta with helping him get the story published. In 2002, Auletta published a profile detailing many of the producer’s misdeeds, but could not get women alleging sexual misconduct to go on the record. The two reporters discussed their thoughts on all that changed to make the story explode in 2017.
- 9 Farrow’s reporting inspired many other journalists to pursue difficult stories on sexual harassment and abuse, including Michigan Daily reporters Sammy Sussman and Nisa Khan, who broke significant #MeToo stories involving students and faculty at U-M. Wallace House Director Lynette Clemetson invited Khan and Sussman to introduce Auletta and Farrow at the event. The student journalists received extended applause from the audience.

Welcome to Korea, My Home

BY SEUNGJIN CHOI '19

On our second day in South Korea we toured Camp Humphreys, the newly constructed U.S. Army Garrison, 40 miles south of Seoul. The massive military encampment covers more than 3,000 acres and is very American, dotted with Subway sandwich shops and suburban looking homes.

To balance out the day, I arranged for a very Korean dinner at a restaurant specializing in tofu. The restaurant had more tofu dishes than most Americans could imagine. The experience, simple for the average Korean, was exciting and a little overwhelming for our group. From the moment the first dish came out, I fielded many questions: “SJ, can you explain how you eat this food?” “What sauce should I use?” “Can I ask for a fork?” With a little explanation, everyone enjoyed the tofu delicacies, and I had a chance to enjoy my fellow Fellows discovering something new.

For three weeks before the trip, I was communicating with former Korean Fellows seeking advice on planning the itinerary. I was worried about making the right plans and choosing the right places to visit. There were disagreements, as I explained, “I don’t want to show my Fellows the negative aspects of Korea.” But one of the former Fellows corrected me. “They are all journalists. They can see everything, even the things we may want to hide.” He was right. It was not just a trip; it was a journalism trip. I needed to present Korean society as it is, not as I wished it to be.

Our trip coincided with a historical moment as President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jung-Un were meeting in Vietnam. The outcome would have significant political, economic and social implications for South Korea. In addition, the final day of our visit marked the 100th anniversary of the March 1st Movement, a national holiday commemorating Korea’s fight for independence from Japan. It was important to help my fellow journalists understand the political tension still playing out in Northeast Asia.

Certainly we should explore Korea’s economic rise, but we should also discuss corporate corruption and the negative impact of the Chaebol, the Korean term for powerful family-run conglomerates like Samsung, Hyundai and LG. While it would be fun to explore K-Pop and the growing influence of the Korean entertainment industry, it was important to discuss issues like gender discrimination, Korea’s #MeToo Movement, and teen depression and suicide.

How could we accomplish it all in five days? In the end, we struck a balance. We saw the film “Mal-Mo-E” about efforts to save the Korean language during the Japanese occupation. We learned the complex, centuries old geopolitics of East Asia from Dr. Hahm Chaibong, president of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies. We examined the conflict between North and South Korea during a visit to the Joint Forces Naval Command complex. And we were reminded of the familiar struggle to support independent



Seungjin Choi (front row, third from left) was proud to be a tour guide for his fellow Fellows. The class is pictured at Bulguksa Temple in Gyeongju, South Korea, an ancient relic of the Silla Dynasty and a Unesco World Heritage site.

journalism from two start-up media outlets, one of which has since announced its closure.

We also had fun. We peered down at the city from a dizzying observation deck near the top of the 123rd floor of the Lotte World Tower and stood with a crowd of screaming teenagers to watch a live taping of a popular K-Pop TV show. We ate live octopus at Noryangjin Fish Market and relaxed at a Korean spa. We learned how to brew Makgeolli, traditional Korean rice wine, which will be ready to drink just in time for a visit from the class of 2020.

It was not just a trip; it was a journalism trip. I needed to present Korean society as it is, not as I wished it to be.

As the Fellows learned new things, I discovered new things while looking at my country through their experiences. I never paid attention to how tofu dishes are cooked because it is so familiar to me. Looking at Korean society while traveling with the Fellows, I realized stark generational differences between Koreans that I had never considered deeply before. I learned to look at Korea more objectively and this will certainly impact my work.

Traveling my country with the Knight-Wallace Fellows was an unforgettable experience. I still have many things that I am eager to show, and I hope that the program will return for years to come.

See you in Korea!

ALUMNI UPDATE



Chris Baxter '16

Named Editor-in-Chief of Spotlight PA, a statewide investigative newsroom launched by the Philadelphia Inquirer, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and Lancaster Media Group.



Maryn McKenna '99

Joined the faculty at Emory University as Senior Fellow in Health Narrative and Media in the Center for the Study of Human Health.



Anna Clark '17

Received the 2019 Sidney Hillman Prize in book journalism for “The Poisoned City: Flint’s Water Crisis and the American Urban Tragedy.”



Marcelo Moreira '18

Named Regional News Director at Globo TV overseeing a team of 150 journalists covering 167 cities in the state of Minas Gerais, Brazil.



Jennifer Guerra '18

As Executive Producer of “Believed,” detailing the Larry Nassar case, the podcast earned a Peabody Award, Scripps Howard Award, Award for Excellence in Coverage of Youth Sports and the reporters won the Livingston Award.



Robin Pomeroy '09

Named Digital Editor at World Economic Forum in Geneva, on secondment from Reuters.



Markian Hawryluk '13

Joined Kaiser Health News as Health Reporter in the new Colorado bureau.



Rachel Rohr '19

Named Director of Training and Service at Report for America, an initiative of The GroundTruth Project.



Mike Kessler '17

Named Senior Editor of Investigations and Projects at KPCC/LAist (L.A.’s NPR affiliate and digital partner).



James Wright '17

Named Senior Editor for the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project based in the headquarters in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Kim Kozlowski '09

Named a 2019 Education Writers Association Reporting Fellow to examine the Detroit Promise Path, a program offering support to Detroit college students.



Bernice Yeung '16

Awarded the 2019 PEN/Galbraith Award for Nonfiction for “In a Day’s Work: The Fight to End Sexual Violence Against America’s Most Vulnerable Workers!” The book was also a 2019 Pulitzer Prize finalist.



Jim MacMillan '07

Named a residential Fellow at the Reynolds Journalism Institute at the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

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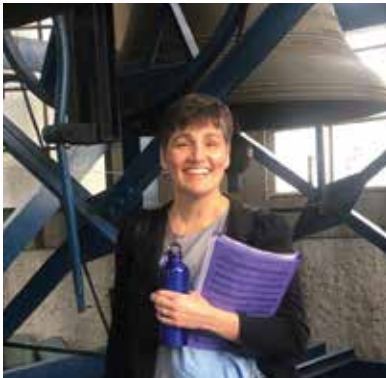
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SHARILYN HUFFORD '19 CONTINUED

Once I started spending time in the carillon practice rooms, I realized I had forgotten what it was like to learn something new – to have a beginner’s mind. It was fun. It was humbling and frustrating at times. It was also unexpectedly restorative.

Taking that first leap into the carillon class gave me the courage to try several other seemingly risky classes. I joined a team of mechanical engineering and design science students in a class in



Sharilyn Hufford '19 was able to figure out many ways to “let go” during her time as a Knight-Wallace Fellow.

which we had to take a physical product from idea to prototype to verification through a series of analytical design processes. It was a crash course in engineering analysis and creativity and also design, psychology, marketing and economics. I learned quantitative methods for idea generation and selection, evaluating designs and anticipating failure modes in designs.

In the process of applying those models to my team’s project, I gained new frameworks for thinking about how to create stories and news products.

I took a course where I learned about electronic health records systems and public health records, and the issues surrounding deployment and development of health technology. I have a new

appreciation for the planning that goes into software rollouts, launches and upgrades having heard from professionals who manage technology that provides critical care for human beings.

By the time winter semester started, I was ready for more challenges. Someone recommended a course that was an introduction to rocket science. That’s right, rocket science!

Rocket Science might seem like an unusual choice for a journalist, but its language permeates the way our technology –oriented culture describes product development and innovation work: moonshots, launches, missions. And it encapsulated everything that I aimed for as a Fellow – to stretch and reach for new discoveries. To understand more fully why journalism is the work I had devoted my career to, to embrace others who are on the same mission and lift them up, too.

Oh, yeah, and to have a little fun.

The time in practice rooms, in classes, and with other Fellows and my family helped me start letting go of old patterns and routines. Learning a new instrument – or new technology – or taking on a new role requires practicing, stretching into a new repertoire and strengthening new skills.

Now that our time together in Michigan has ended, I think I’ve found the secret equation to the fellowship. It isn’t really about any one class or the specifics of the study plan. It’s about escaping the atmospheric distortion of the day-to-day journalism grind so you can see in different ways and explore new possibilities with a little less gravity. I’m excited to keep exploring – to let go and see what happens.

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