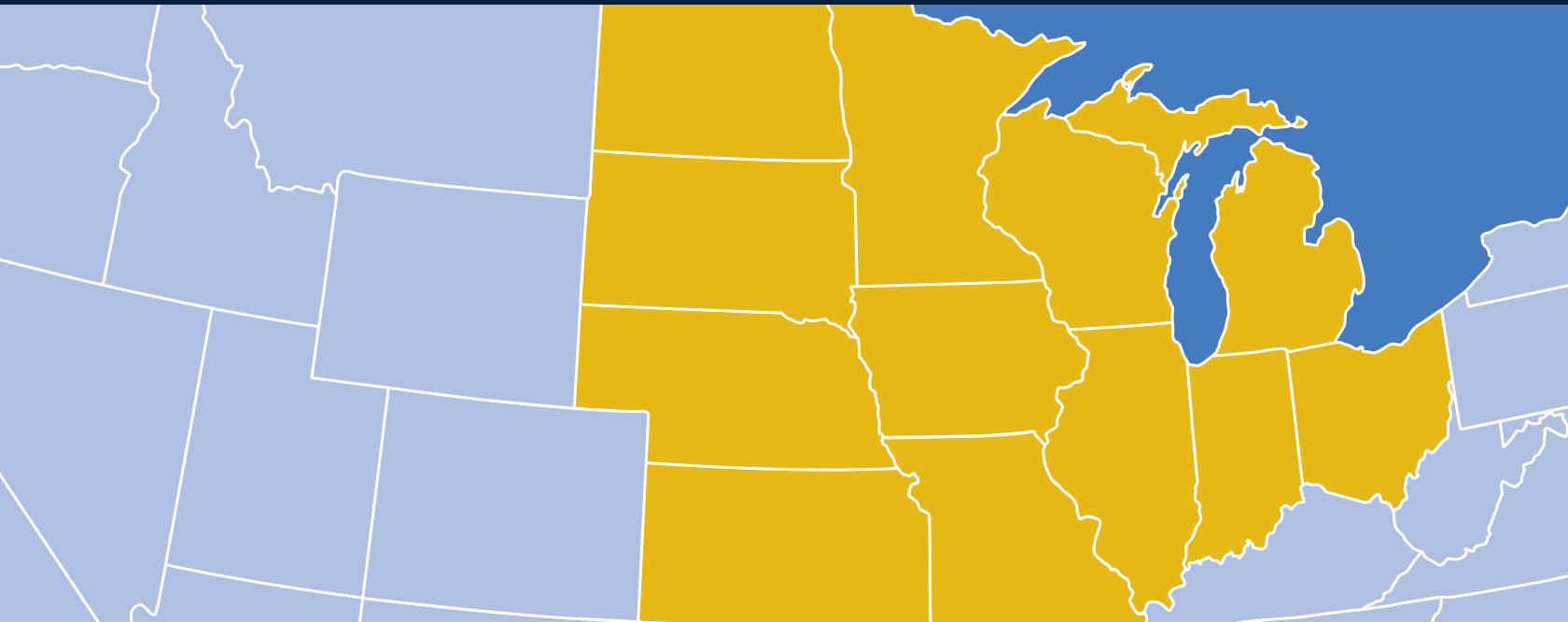


WALLACE HOUSE JOURNAL

Knight-Wallace Fellowships for Journalists
and the Livingston Awards

Fall 2019

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Introducing the Knight-Wallace Midwest News Fellowship

BY LYNETTE CLEMETSON

By now, most journalists can rattle off the grim statistics. Since 2004, nearly 1800 newspapers have closed across the country, from metro dailies to rural weeklies, according to a 2018 report by the Center for Innovation and Sustainability in Local Media at UNC Chapel Hill. A broad mix of digitally-focused journalism ventures have popped up to fill the void. Some have provided promising models for rethinking how we create, publish and distribute news and engage the public. But the vast majority of new journalism projects and jobs – and the institutions supporting them – are tightly concentrated on the East and West Coasts, leaving news deserts across the middle of the country.

Midwest News Fellowship

Wallace House is taking a step toward addressing this disparity with a new offering within the Knight-Wallace Fellowships for Journalists. **The Knight-Wallace Midwest News Fellowship** offers dedicated support to founders, editors and senior staff of journalism organizations in the Midwest. **The Midwest News Fellowship**, launched with support from Ann Arbor entrepreneurs and philanthropists Dug and Linh Song,

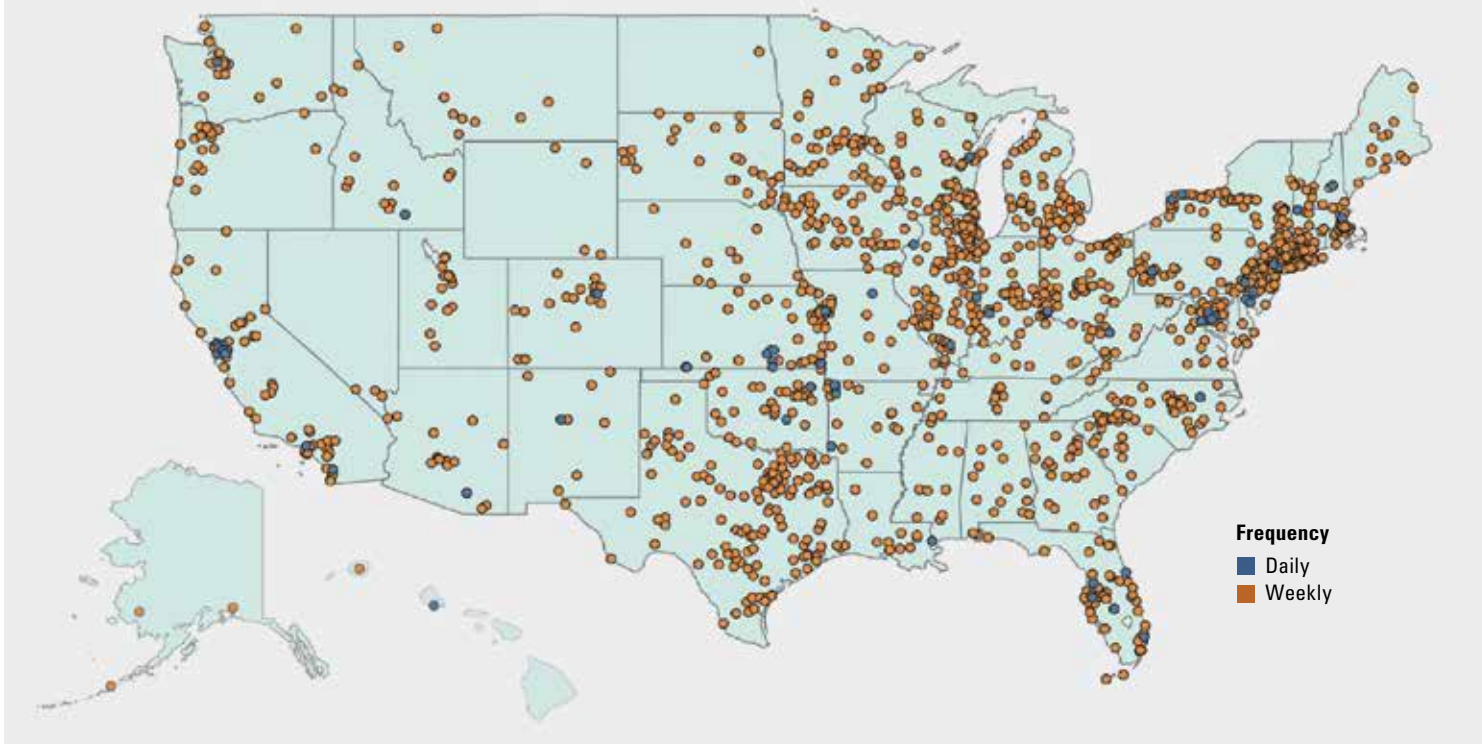
has all of the features of a traditional Knight-Wallace Fellowship, with added support specific to the needs of news organizations trying to restore or deepen coverage in the Midwest and build sustainable business models.

In partnership with entrepreneurship programs at the University of Michigan Law School and Ross School of Business, the Midwest News Fellowship is focused on the goals and challenges of new journalism ventures. Midwest News Fellows will remain connected to their organizations while in the program and will receive up to six months of mentorship post-fellowship to implement what they have learned. Applicants must be based in and working on journalism ventures in the Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Our goal is to select two Midwest News Fellows to join the 2020-21 Knight-Wallace Fellowship class. As with our existing Knight-Wallace Fellowships, the deadline to apply is February 1.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Where Newspapers Have Closed or Merged: 2008–2014



Since 2004, one fifth of all U.S. newspapers have been closed or merged.

Source: UNC's Center for Innovation and Sustainability in Local Media

We're interested in a wide range of ventures: local, state and regional; general news and topic-driven; those with a focus on institutional accountability and those with a focus on elevating community voices; text, visual, audio, and data-driven. We trust that our applicants know their audiences.

"In 2009, Ann Arbor became the first American city to lose its only daily newspaper. We can see, all around us, the social costs of expanding news deserts across the country," said Dug Song, co-founder of Duo Security and Wallace House Executive Board member. "It is fitting and meaningful to have this support for new Midwest journalism efforts coming out of Ann Arbor through the Knight-Wallace Fellowships."

Local News Disappearing

The disappearance of local news is detrimental everywhere. But between the coasts the consequences have been severe. For communities around the coastal media hubs – D.C., New York, Los Angeles and the Bay Area – there remain major news companies and a broad range of new media ventures to fill some of the void left by closures. Across the Midwest, it has more often been the case that communities have been left with little or nothing to replace what has disappeared. A map and searchable database accompanying the UNC study paints a picture of the Midwest heavy with closures, mergers and "ghost" publications that are barely surviving. The resulting information gap has fostered regional isolation and resentment with costly social and political implications.

Changing that map requires dedicated training, mentorship and financial support. Throughout the Midwest, creative ventures have emerged. But they often have a hard time attracting the attention, funding and buzz of projects on the coasts. Wallace House and the

University of Michigan are distinctly positioned to lead the way in tackling these challenges. Together we can provide journalism innovators access to resources and experts to create sustainable solutions for the region.

"Entrepreneurs are the people who fill gaps in markets. Where media audiences are underserved, there are opportunities for new organizations to spring into existence," said Stewart Thornhill, executive director of the Zell Lurie Institute for Entrepreneurial Studies at the University of Michigan. "Our partnership with Wallace House brings entrepreneurship and journalism together to find ways to fill gaps in news and information."

"If fellowships are going to remain relevant to the needs of the industry, they have to operate more like start-ups."

- Louise Kiernan, editor-in-chief of ProPublica Illinois

Midwest News Fellows

Like all Knight-Wallace Fellows, Midwest News Fellows will take classes, attend weekly Wallace House seminars and participate in fellowship travel. They will explore guest lectures and cultural events, cook fellowship dinners and be encouraged to experiment with their time and talents. Our program places a high priority on the "fellowship" aspect of the fellowship and inspiration through serendipity. Our Midwest News Fellows will be full participants in the program.

The most significant departure from our traditional model is that the Midwest News Fellows will remain connected to their organizations during the program. They will work closely with faculty consultants on real time development of their core business or project.

Working during the fellowship might sound like heresy to some alumni. But new challenges require new approaches. Since becoming director of Wallace House, I've been struck by the frustration of editorial leaders I've tried to recruit. They've had the vision and moxie to get something new off the ground, or to try to transform their organizations, and they've tested their ideas enough to have a strong sense of what they need and what they could do with a fellowship. But they cannot apply because our no-work requirement means their venture could collapse while they are trying to learn how to sustain it. That doesn't make sense.

"If fellowships are going to remain relevant to the needs of the industry, they have to operate more like start-ups," said Louise Kiernan, editor-in-chief of ProPublica Illinois and a member of the Wallace House Executive Board. "These fellowships are so valuable, but they have to be willing to try new models, to test and learn and tweak and move on."

Selection Committee

Kiernan will be among a small group of journalists and leaders helping to shape and evaluate this new fellowship. Joining her will be Thornhill of the Zell Lurie Institute; Peggy Lowe, former Knight-Wallace Fellow and investigative reporter for KCUR public media in Kansas City, Missouri; Sarah Alvarez, founder and director of Outlier Media in Detroit, Michigan; and Matt Thompson, editor-in-chief of Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting, co-founder of Spark Camp and a roster of new journalism ventures, and a proud Minnesotan. Between the six of us we know a thing or two about the Midwest, fellowships, and building new projects.

A Focus on Innovation

We have a sense of who we think can gain the most from this fellowship. We're focused on founders and senior leaders of news organizations and projects launched within the last five years. That's our starting point. We'll assess the applicant pool and respond as needed. And the first recipients of the new fellowship will help us evaluate the structure and make it stronger.



Sarah Alvarez



Lynette Clemetson



Louise Kiernan



Peggy Love



Matt Thompson



Stewart Thornhill

The most significant departure from our traditional model is that the Midwest News Fellows will remain connected to their organizations during the program.

One thing we know for sure is the transformative possibility of a Knight-Wallace Fellowship and the strength of our fellowship network. Two Fellows is a modest start, a pebble in an ocean (or Great Lake, as it were). But imagine what starts to take shape after a few years – a network of Midwestern journalists, connected to one another, with a shared commitment to revitalizing journalism in the middle of the country and the experience, tools, and institutional support to try to make it happen. Can we turn things around? Can we disrupt the disruption of the past 15 years? We don't know. But take another look at that news desert map. It is clear that we have to try.

Lynette Clemetson is the Charles R. Eisendrath Director of Wallace House. She was a 2010 Knight-Wallace Fellow. For questions about the Midwest News Fellowship contact her at MidwestFellowship@umich.edu.

**ILLINOIS/INDIANA/IOWA/KANSAS
MICHIGAN/MINNESOTA/MISSOURI
NEBRASKA/NORTH DAKOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA/OHIO/WISCONSIN**

Livingston Awards Luncheon Highlights

The Livingston Awards for Young Journalists honors outstanding achievement by professionals under the age of 35. The winners recognized as the best young talent in local, national and international reporting for work published in 2018 were honored at the 38th annual Livingston Awards Luncheon in New York City on June 4, 2019.



A lighter moment at the luncheon, Livingston Award judges, along with University of Michigan President Mark Shlissel, gathered for a photo-op with winners (front row, left to right) Chris Outcalt, Kate Wells, Lindsey Smith, Davey Alba and Maria Hiaasen, who accepted the Richard M. Clurman Award presented posthumously to her husband.



Among the list of VIPs who came out to show their support for the winners, and for the program, were Dr. Gil Omenn, Director of the University of Michigan Center for Computational Medicine and Bioinformatics (who along with his wife Martha Darling is a financial supporter of the awards program); LaSharah Bunting, Director of Journalism at Knight Foundation; and Anne Curzan, Dean, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts at the University of Michigan and member of the Wallace House Executive Board.



As fellow journalists, Harry Smith of NBC News and his wife, Andrea Joyce of NBC Sports and a University of Michigan alum, were in attendance to celebrate the work of the young reporters.



The journalists honored at the 38th Annual Livingston Awards luncheon include (left to right) Chris Outcalt, national reporting winner, "Murder at the Alcatraz of the Rockies," a narrative for The Atavist Magazine; Kate Wells and Lindsey Smith, local reporting winners for "Believed," a podcast series produced for Michigan Radio and NPR; and Davey Alba, international reporting winner for her BuzzFeed News investigation, "How Duterte Used Facebook to Fuel the Philippine Drug War."



Maria Hiasen accepted the Richard M. Clurman Award on behalf of her late husband, Rob Hiasen. The award honors on-the-job-mentors who improve journalism by exemplifying excellence in nurturing, critiquing and inspiring young journalists. Maria's address, as well as the testimonials shared in the video tribute, brought the audience to tears, to smiles and to its feet, leaving no doubt as to why Hiasen was so deserving of the award. Wallace House Director Lynette Clemetson (pictured bottom left) invited mentees and reporters from the Capital Gazette to join her in honoring Hiasen. He, along with four of his colleagues, were killed in a mass shooting in the offices of the Capital Gazette in June, 2018.

Q&A with McKenzie Funk: The Business and Inequity of Climate Change

BY LYNETTE CLEMETSON '10



McKenzie Funk's seven-year old son, Wilson, carefully inspected the Hovey Bowl presented by Wallace House Director Lynette Clemetson.

McKenzie Funk came to the Knight-Wallace Fellowship in the fall of 2011 to study the paradigm of endless economic growth and to unpack years of reporting on how governments and corporations were profiting from global warming. His 2014 book on the subject, "Windfall," won a PEN Literary Award and was named a best book of the year by several publications. He returned to Wallace House in September to give the 34th annual Graham Hovey Lecture, and he sat down with Lynette Clemetson before the event to discuss writing on and living with the topic of climate change.

Clemetson: Discussions of climate change are most often presented through science or politics, or the clash between the two. What made you want to explore it through financial gain?

Funk: I wasn't a climate change person. I grew up being interested in environmental issues because of my parents and where I grew up in Oregon. But precisely for the reasons you describe – that it's a political fight or a scientific question – as a narrative writer, I had shied away from it.

Clemetson: And what changed that?

Funk: It was 2006, and I was living in New York trying to get my freelance career going. I got an email from the Environmental News Network, a short one or two line item about something called a sovereignty operation up in northern Canada, a group of Canadian Rangers there to defend the Northwest Passage. And I thought, "that's really weird." They mentioned a climate connection, and it just sounded very different from everything else I'd heard about people reacting to climate change. I called the PR people at the Canadian Forces to ask if I could go along on the next one. They were overjoyed because this was basically aimed at the United States. They wanted the world to know that the Canadian military was up there staking a claim to the melting North.

Clemetson: And what made you want to follow the thread and keep reporting?

Funk: In the background of all of this, "An Inconvenient Truth" had just come out. There was an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report coming up the next year. There was the prospect of climate legislation coming up in the Senate. It was all sort of bubbling.

My story from the Canadian Forces expedition was published in Harpers in August 2007. Around the same time, the Russian government sent two mini subs down to the bottom of the ocean at the North Pole and planted a Russian flag, and suddenly people were saying, "Wait a minute, what's going on?"

Clemetson: You approach the global crisis through three broad themes – melt, drought, deluge. And your themes are starkly organized around geography.

Funk: Yes, the north versus the global south, high latitudes versus middle latitudes. It's obvious if you pull back and think about it. The northern countries are the ones that have been wealthiest. We not only have enough in our war chest, as it were, to survive some of these impacts, but we can, in some cases, benefit. And of course, we're the biggest historic emitters of the carbon that's causing this problem. That remains true even as we outsource our industrial production to China. We are the end users of much of that carbon.

Clemetson: In the weeks leading up to your talk, this topic seemed to be ever present. President Trump was angling to buy Greenland. The Bahamas was devastated by a hurricane. Do you see this issue everywhere now?

Funk: Once you see it, it's everywhere. We just moved to Oregon, to a town called Ashland, which is at the very bottom of the state, near the border of California, not so far from Paradise, California. The town is famous for its Shakespeare Festival, which brings in tourists. The economy is basically built on how nice the town is.

When we arrived, it had the worst air quality in the entire country because it was ringed with wildfires. It's something that's happened consistently summer after summer for the last several years. This part of southern Oregon is just burning, and the smoke permeates everything. My wife Jenny had to stay to attend school but the kids and I, we dumped our bags, our boxes and left immediately, because we were wearing smoke masks out on the street. It was like this apocalyptic new reality.

Clemetson: And how did you feel about leaving?

Funk: I was very aware that we had the privilege to be able to pack up, get in our car and drive somewhere. There were many families in the region that couldn't get away and were just suffering through the smoke. Businesses were collapsing. It was actually the first time that it became real for my life. I started to think strategically about moving north, back to Seattle, back to a place where, if you look at the impacts, it will be safer.

Clemetson: Your book paints a picture in which the people who can afford to win will win. And people who can't will lose.

Funk: Yeah. The gaps between rich and poor, between dark and light, between black, brown and white are set to grow unless we're really careful about this. It's a justice story essentially. The hope is that if we can more collectively recognize the systemic issues, the more we will take steps to adapt more fairly. A lot



of the justice questions have to do with how we adapt and who we adapt for. We've done so little in terms of making cities more resilient and in terms of thinking about how we're going to prepare for the storms or heatwaves or fires. There is still a lot of room to make our responses more equitable.

Clemetson: Some people come to the fellowship to pursue something new. You were already deeply involved in this reporting and in writing a book when you arrived. So how did you approach your time?

Funk: There was a Great Lakes Water Wars class that was outstanding, and Andy Hoffman's class in the Business School on how corporations were confronting climate change. A lot of the section in the book about Shell Oil was informed by that class. But I also spent a lot of time in the fellowship on seemingly unproductive things. Jenny was pregnant. We spent time hiking in the Bird Hills Nature Area, canoeing on the Huron River. And I spent a lot of time chasing my dog.

Clemetson: Chasing your dog?

Funk: We lived in the house that Matt Power had lived in when he was a Fellow. It was donut shaped, with a central staircase. It was perfect for running in circles. And I would just chase the dog around and around, for a really long time, every day. It was great. It was one of the most important things, just having time to think. To think about what I had gathered and to put it all together.

The intensity McKenzie Funk feels about helping people to understand how governments and corporations are profiting from global warming was palpable during his impassioned Hovey Lecture.

Fellows Collaboration Leads to Coach's Arrest

BY TRAVIS HOLLAND

It was a story that needed to be told, a story of young lives wrecked by alleged sexual abuse by a respected coach and mentor. And yet it was a story that may have never been told, were it not for the collaboration of former Knight-Wallace Fellows Mike Kessler '17 and Greg Amante '16, who, along with investigative journalist Mark Fainaru-Wada, broke the news for ESPN's "Outside the Lines" about Conrad Mainwaring, a 67-year-old track coach and former Olympian now accused of molesting 41 boys over the course of 44 years.

Mike was a Fellow when he first learned about the allegations against Mainwaring. It was the fall of 2016, and he was just settling in to life at Wallace House. One day he got a phone call from an acquaintance named Andrew Zenoff, who had a story he wanted to share about his late brother, Victor. In the 1970s, beginning at the age of 12, Victor had attended a boys' sports camp for several summers at Camp Greylock in Massachusetts, where Conrad Mainwaring was a much-admired counselor. Friendly, easygoing and a natural athlete, Victor's young life had abruptly veered off-course after his time at Greylock, spiraling downward into drugs and self-destructive behavior that left his family struggling for answers. Then, just weeks before his death in a hiking accident at the age of 18, Victor revealed to his mother that he'd been sexually abused by Conrad Mainwaring. Now, decades later, Andrew Zenoff wanted the world to know what Mainwaring had done.

The problem was, Mike was unable to pursue the story. One of the conditions of the Fellowship is to agree to put aside professional work for the duration of the program. Mike remembers feeling frustrated with this, but he noted that he needed this time for himself. "The point is to step away from your primary life and not be consumed by your usual work." Still, knowing how important Zenoff's story was, Mike passed it along to another journalist.

Back working freelance in Los Angeles in 2018, Mike discovered that the story he had passed along had floundered. Determined to not let it slip away again, he tracked down half a dozen accusers willing to go on the record with their own accounts of sexual abuse by Mainwaring. He then approached former Knight-Wallace Fellow and ESPN producer Greg Amante '16 with a proposal to write a magazine piece for ESPN. Mike and Greg had met in Ann Arbor in 2016. A recent graduate of the Fellowship at the time, Greg and his partner Debra had reached out to Mike and his wife when they arrived at Wallace House, and the two couples had become friends. As Mike recalls, "Greg and I got to talking about how fun it would be to work on something together." Now, two years later, that day had come.

With Greg's backing as a producer, and with the support of editors Mike Drago and Chris Buckle, along with ESPN Vice President and KWF board member Kevin Merida (who presented a seminar at Wallace House during Mike's Fellowship year), Mike teamed

Call for Applications, Entries and Nominations

DEADLINE FOR U.S. APPLICANTS: FEBRUARY 1, 2020

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 2020-21 are available now:
wallacehouse.umich.edu/knight-wallace/how-to-apply/

MIDWEST NEWS FELLOWSHIP

APPLY Applications for the Class of 2020-21 are available now:
wallacehouse.umich.edu/knight-wallace/how-to-apply/

LIVINGSTON AWARDS

ENTER Entry forms to submit work published in 2019 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



Mike Kessler '17 and Mark Fainaru-Wada (foreground) appeared on ESPN's "Outside the Lines" to discuss the Conrad Mainwaring story with host Ryan Smith.

Photo Credit: Michael Drago of ESPN

up with investigative journalist Mark Fainaru-Wada. What had begun as a possible twelve-week magazine piece quickly grew into an investigation that would stretch over a year. The challenges were immense. For the four decades Mainwaring was alleged to have carried on his abuse of young boys, he'd led a life of secrecy, moving from one prestigious university to another as a track coach and counselor, keeping his past and his whereabouts hidden. Working together, Mike, Greg and Mark gathered hundreds of

hours of interviews from dozens of people, in an investigation that spanned two continents. In the end, 41 survivors of sexual abuse ranging in ages from 22 to 59 came forward. On June 19, 2019, Conrad Mainwaring was arrested in Los Angeles for felony sexual battery. Less than two months later, on August 1, "Outside the Lines" released the story that Mike, Greg and Mark, with the support of their colleagues at ESPN, had worked so hard to produce.

Looking back on their efforts, Greg says: "I believe each of us enjoyed the feeling that we were not just doing something for ourselves, but also something

positive for the Knight-Wallace Fellowship program, perhaps laying the blueprint for future collaborations between Fellows." As for Mike, he sees their collaboration as a game-changer. "If I hadn't met Greg, I wouldn't have had the support of ESPN on such a massive scale." He goes on to credit the Knight-Wallace Fellowship and his time at Wallace House. "Not to sound corny, but KWF gave me a chance to think about my career in a more holistic way, to let my mind wander and see what happens. That can also be very unnerving – that not-knowing – but I think it was a huge service to my personal and career growth."

UPHOLD DEMOCRACY. SUPPORT JOURNALISTS.

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 revitalize journalism in the middle of the country requires a commitment from those who believe in our mission.

Giving Blue Day is December 3. As you plan your end of year giving, please consider making an individual gift to Wallace House or participating in your company's matching gift fund and doubling your donation to our programs. Gifts to Wallace House can be made at wallacehouse.umich.edu/donate or mailed 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

WALLACE HOUSE PRESENTS



WALLACE HOUSE PRESENTS

HELD HOSTAGE

Ensuring the Safe Return of Americans Held Captive Abroad

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Annenberg Auditorium
735 S. State Street, Ann Arbor

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 7
4-5:30 PM**

In 2014, American journalist James W. Foley was publicly executed by ISIS. Join **Diane Foley** and **Margaux Ewen** of the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation and **Joel Simon** of the Committee to Protect Journalists for a discussion on negotiating with foreign actors, growing threats to Americans abroad and the safety measures they should undertake.

Free and open to the public.
More information at wallacehouse.umich.edu/events

WALLACE HOUSE
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Co-sponsored by the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

The Wallace House Presents event series kicked off in early October with a discussion on how to better understand U.S. hostage policies and the challenges of bringing fellow Americans who have been taken captive back home.

“Held Hostage: Ensuring the Safe Return of Americans Held Captive Abroad,” included a panel discussion with Diane Foley (pictured center), mother of murdered journalist James Foley and founder of the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation; Joel Simon, executive director of the Committee to Protect Journalists and Margaux Ewen, executive director of the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation. The conversation focused on the growing threat to journalists, humanitarian aid workers and business people working abroad and negotiating or not based on U.S. policy, for their safe return.

Through these Wallace House Presents public events and those scheduled beginning in January 2020, Wallace House is working to highlight the vital role of journalism to document, interpret, analyze and investigate the forces shaping society.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1/28/20
6-7:30 PM
Rackham
Auditorium

“The 1619 Project: Examining the Legacy of Slavery and the Building of a Nation”
Nikole Hannah-Jones, reporter, The New York Times, discusses her groundbreaking work on “The 1619 Project”
MLK SYMPOSIUM

3/18/20
6:30-8 PM
Hill
Auditorium

“What Does Big Tech Owe Us?”
Kara Swisher, co-founder and executive editor of Recode, interviews former Facebook executive Alex Stamos
WALLACE HOUSE PRESENTS

1/29/20
4-5:30 PM
Ford School
Annenberg
Auditorium

“Duterte’s Facebook-Fueled Rise to Powe: Manipulating Public Opinion to Capture an Election”
Davey Alba, reporter, The New York Times and 2019 Livingston Award winner
THE LIVINGSTON LECTURES

3/24/20
3-4:30 PM
Rackham
Amphitheatre

“International Trolling Networks and the Hidden Threats to Female Journalists”
Elodie Vialle, Reporters Without Borders and 2020 Knight-Wallace Fellow and Rana Ayyub, author and investigative journalist
THE EISENDRATH SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Finding the Right Words

BY TRAVIS HOLLAND

The right words matter. Just ask Associate Press sports writer and 2015 Fellow, Larry Lage, and 2020 Fellow, Janet Cho. An independent business journalist whose work has appeared in the Cleveland Plain Dealer and other publications, Janet is currently studying how words and images influence public perception about immigrants and U.S. immigration policy. But it was her interest in learning American Sign Language (ASL) in order to help her 12-year-old son communicate with a Deaf friend that brought her and Larry together.

As the son of Deaf parents and uncle to two Deaf nephews, Larry has made it his mission to advocate for Deaf culture. In 2015, he personally spearheaded a proposal to have the national anthem signed by a Deaf interpreter at all University of Michigan home football games. A year later, a pregame public service announcement in ASL was also added. In the years since his Fellowship, Larry has gotten both the National Hockey League and the National Basketball Association to adopt similar policies at some of their games. So when Janet reached out to him at the recommendation of Wallace House Director Lynette Clemetson, Larry immediately agreed to help.

Janet, who is studying American Sign Language under LSA Lecturer Paula Berwanger, said Larry helped her connect her coursework to the larger Deaf community. He encouraged her to



Larry Lage '15 and Janet Cho '20 sign KWF together on the front porch of Wallace House.

reach out to the University of Michigan American Sign Language Club, and has been able to give Janet useful feedback on her developing signing skills. As for Larry, he's been impressed by Janet's interest and passion for sign language and Deaf culture. "It's a fascinating part of our world that most people know nothing about," Larry said.

Now, thanks in part to her collaboration with Larry, Janet looks forward to the day when she can help her son find just the right words to connect with his friend.

KNIGHT-WALLACE ALUMNI REUNION 2020

SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2020

SAVE THE DATE

An invitation to our Knight-Wallace alumni family

Preparations are underway at Wallace House for a Labor Day fellowship reunion. Mark September 4 through September 6 on your 2020 calendars for a weekend of journalism engagement and events, dinner and music, and a backyard barbecue brunch.

Watch for an email to register

Next Spring, all Knight-Wallace alumni will receive an email invitation with registration and payment links, hotel room block information, childcare offerings and the weekend schedule to help with your planning.

Reunion webpage coming soon

We'll also setup a reunion page on our website with this information and more. If your email address has changed, please let us know. We want to be sure to reach every Fellow.

A gathering of 47 fellowship classes

As we schedule the weekend, we'll set aside time for alumni to visit favorite Ann Arbor spots and arrange individual class meet-ups. We hope to see Fellows from what will then be 47 fellowship classes.



WALLACE HOUSE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Knight-Wallace Fellowships for Journalists
and the Livingston Awards

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ALUMNI UPDATE



Michelle Bloom '19

Named Editor, Off-Platform Visuals
at POLITICO



Marcelo Mendonça '92

Named Partner at Agência FR, a Public
Relations Agency based in Brazil.



Joanne C. Gerstner '13

Appointed by Michigan Governor Gretchen
Whitmer to the country's first state-level
Task Force for Women in Sports.



Sarah Robbins '12

Named Director, Member Partnership
for National Public Radio. She is based
in Washington, D.C.



Alfred Hermida '05

Received a \$2.5 million Social Sciences
and Humanities Research Council
Partnership Grant for the Global Journalism
Innovation Lab, a six-year project.



Lisa Lednicer '03

Joined the faculty at the University of
Maryland as an adjunct professor, teaching
editing and reporting.

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The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/affirmative
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Michigan is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons
and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin,
age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender
expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status in
employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions.
Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the Senior Director
for Institutional Equity, and Title IX/Section 504/ADA Coordinator,
Office for Institutional Equity, 2072 Administrative Services Building,
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