

WALLACE HOUSE JOURNAL

Wallace House Center for Journalists

Home of the Knight-Wallace Fellowships and the Livingston Awards

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РОССИЯ.
БОМБИТ.
УКРАИНУ.

Fleeing Russia Former Fellow Finds Solace in Ann Arbor

BY ELENA MILASHINA '10



It was early January 2022. Wallace House Director Lynette Clemetson wrote to me to ask if I could convince the freshly minted Nobel Peace Prize

laureate, Dmitry Muratov, to come with me to Ann Arbor to give a lecture on press freedom.

“What an amazing idea,” I responded.

Muratov is my editor-in-chief, a mentor and friend under whom I have worked for a quarter century in one of the most respected newspapers in the world, Russia’s Novaya Gazeta.

When I dialed him to propose the Wallace House event, he didn’t answer at first. We were quarreling about my refusal to evacuate from Russia after the Chechen president, Ramzan Kadyrov, called me a “terrorist” and demanded that a criminal case be opened against me. Kadyrov’s assistant had publicly threatened to “cut off my head.”

Muratov eventually called me back. “Have you finally decided to listen to your editor and leave?” he asked.

“Only together with you, and only to Ann Arbor,” I joked.

Above, the February 25, 2022 front page of Russia’s independent newspaper Novaya Gazeta reads, “Russia. Bombs. Ukraine.” On March 28, 2022 the paper suspended operations in response to threats from Putin’s regime. On September 5, 2022, the newspaper’s license was revoked.

I spent the next hour telling him about my incredible year as a Knight-Wallace Fellow more than a decade earlier, about the University of Michigan where Russian poet and fellow Nobel laureate Joseph Brodsky once taught. I told him about hearing President Barack Obama give the 2010 commencement address, warning that the world and that professional journalism was in danger because of changing media habits – words people didn’t fully appreciate at the time. I told him about the beauty of Detroit, the catastrophic emptiness of some parts of the great American city and what it symbolized to me about civilization and history.

“I want to see it, too!” he said, greedy for such stories.

We began to make plans for a brief April visit. But Vladimir Putin had plans of his own. On February 24, the Russian army invaded Ukraine. Three months earlier, Muratov had warned about the danger of such a war in his Nobel speech in Oslo, a war Putin had been moving toward for years. Suddenly it was happening.

Novaya Gazeta responded to the invasion with a bold and shocking headline, “Russia. Bombs. Ukraine.”



CONTINUED ON BACK COVER

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Expanding the Vision of Wallace House

Take a look at the logo accompanying this story. Wallace House is now Wallace House Center for Journalists.

What's the point of those three extra words?

Sharper focus. Bolder ambition. Clarity of mission.

Part of it is simply about transparency and making it easier for people to quickly understand who we are and what we do. The other motivation is to reinforce the last of those three words – Journalists.

“As we approach the 50th anniversary of our fellowship program, we realize that we are being called to help journalists in more urgent ways.”

We are decidedly not the Wallace House Center for Journalism. Of course, we work in service of the future of journalism. But as significant amounts of money and talk have been directed toward saving journalism in the past decade, for many journalists, life has gotten harder. The demands are greater. The work is more dangerous. The pay is worse and less stable.

We believe that supporting journalism requires supporting individual journalists.

Our mission is to help accomplished, working journalists survive and thrive, to help them learn new skills, explore new ideas, pursue ambitious projects, and tackle community and industry challenges. To be better journalists. And to keep at it – even when the business makes it ridiculously hard.

Within that mission is a resolve to provide a safe haven for journalists facing threats in both the U.S. and abroad. We're not a humanitarian relief or social service organization. But in some cases, we are ideally poised to provide the structure, resources and networks needed to help a journalist escape peril. And when we can save one journalist, we save their journalism and their voice.

As we approach the 50th anniversary of our fellowship program, we realize that we are being called to help journalists in more urgent ways. A United Nations special report released this year on the decline in media freedom documented increasing threats to journalists the world over. Backsliding democracies, totalitarian regimes and coordinated disinformation have led to more journalists killed with impunity, more online harassment – especially of women journalists and journalists of color – and increased surveillance and targeted intimidation.

We were in the process of selecting our current Knight-Wallace Fellowship class when a non-profit organization in Washington D.C. contacted me to ask for ideas on how to help a young award-winning Kashmiri photojournalist, Masrat Zahra, who was facing bogus charges brought by the Indian government under an “anti-terrorism” law that could send her to prison for seven years.

At the time, we were working with The New York Times to bring our second Afghan journalist to Ann Arbor. And as you read in our cover story, we were also working to bring Russian journalist Elena Milashina for an extended residency. What an incredible opportunity it would be to have these brave, exiled journalists here at the same time, able to learn from and support one another while also bringing so much to the other journalists in our fellowship and the university community. The logistics in the cases were complicated. But we managed to prevail and get them here.

Introducing Masrat and Elena to each other outside the Wallace House kitchen was a brief interlude crackling with possibility. These two women are the sort who make autocrats shake with rage. One day we will be able to look back and understand that journalism and the world are safer because they met one August morning in Ann Arbor.

Wallace House Center for Journalists is not only concerned with international press freedom. Journalists here in the U.S. need us more than ever.

Across all forms of journalism, there's a hunger among audiences for more in-depth storytelling. Yet for freelance writers, magazines often offer half or less than half of what they paid five years ago for the kind of longform investigative and narrative journalism that takes months to produce.



WALLACE HOUSE CENTER FOR JOURNALISTS

A recent Livingston Award winner talked movingly from the stage as he accepted his award about needing to work as a bartender so he could afford to do journalism. The modest Livingston Award prize of \$10,000 was more than he was paid for the story that won that year's award for national reporting – a story that took him six months to produce.

Another Livingston winner who was a freelancer with no financial, legal or safety support, paid her own way to Somalia and lived in a leaky storage container in Mogadishu to break the investigative story that won her the award.

They are both in staff jobs now, in part because of the recognition and connections the Livingston Awards brought their way. But that doesn't make the precariousness of their reporting lives before the award okay.

I was at a journalism conference this summer having breakfast with two Knight-Wallace Fellows when their company announced that layoffs and buyouts were coming, "urgent choices" to keep the company strong. The company's CEO made \$7.74 million in 2021.

For many years the fellowship had a rule that journalists could not actively work during the fellowship. There were

reasons for that. But we have to be in tune with the realities of the business. Much of the work we have supported in the past few years – magazine pieces, podcasts, documentary films, immersive multimedia series – would not exist without the financial support of the Knight-Wallace Fellowships.

This year we are back on campus, Fellows are taking classes, and we have resumed seminars at Wallace House. And we enjoy blending the old ways with the new.

If you do a Google search, you may find that Wallace House is a historic home in Somerville, New Jersey that served as the headquarters for General George Washington in late 1778 and the first half of 1779 when the Continental Army was stationed at Middlebrook.

That's not us.

True, we have a beautiful, historic home. We are also at battle for democracy.

But we are not that Wallace House. We are Wallace House Center for Journalists.

– Lynette Clemetson '10

Mr. Yoon Goes (Back) to Washington

By Robert Yoon '18

Publisher's note: Associate Director Robert Yoon was named director of programming at Georgetown University's Institute of Politics and Public Service. Rob was the perfect partner to navigate the past two years, and we wish him well back in D.C.



A hundred years from now, Knight-Wallace Fellows will gather in the Wallace House piano room and point to a smiling, bespectacled figure frozen in time.

"Who's this guy," they'll ask, "and why is he in two consecutive class photos wearing exactly the same outfit?"

That guy is me, and for the last two years, I helped Lynette shepherd Wallace House through the uncharted terrain of a global health emergency. We faced challenges from the get-go: canceling a Fellows' trip to Korea in February 2020; designing

a virtual fellowship to suit the Covid era; developing pandemic protocols for a 115-year-old house.

But the challenges also begat opportunities. We reached scores of new applicants. We hosted virtual guests like Sanjay Gupta and Oscar-nominated Knight-Wallace alum Kemp Powers.

Along the way, I learned big, important lessons about planning, prioritizing, and being flexible, as well as smaller but equally important lessons like how to safely coax a bat out of your place of work.

Leaving Wallace House isn't easy. I'll be a life-long cheerleader for the program and its mission to support journalists. But I'm following the advice I've given to past Fellows: leave yourself open to opportunity. My only regret: not doing a Diana Ross-style quick-change in between our back-to-back photos with the classes of '21 and '22."

In-Person Fellowship Returns

After two years of hosting the program remotely, Wallace House welcomed Fellows from the Class of 2023 to Ann Arbor with an in-person orientation the last week of August. They visited libraries, various buildings, toured the campus and learned to navigate the bus system on a trip to North Campus.

Fellows got their feet wet wading through the fountain on Ingalls Mall. The reason for the “watery ritual” is steeped in the tradition that “as freshmen cross the fountain, they are walking toward the Graduate Library to represent their journey toward knowledge that begins freshman year. After graduation, students are supposed to cross the fountain again, this time in the opposite direction, walking toward the graduate school signifying their commitment to lifelong learning.” This class of Fellows, however, simply did it for the fun of it!



Fellows were impressed with the Law Quad, Hutchins Hall, Aikens Commons and the “Harry Potter-style” library.



Asad Timory tried his hand at rotating the 15-foot-wide by 15-foot-tall Cube “Endover” on the Regents Plaza during the tour of Central Campus.



Associate Director Robert Yoon led the tour and entertained the Fellows with university lore including the warning not to step on the “M” in the Diag. Legend has it, he explained, if you step on the M, you will fail your first Blue Book exam.

CALLING ALL KNIGHT-WALLACE ALUMNI

50TH REUNION

FALL 2023

Update your email address with us

If you haven't received any emails from us lately, go to the Contact page on our website and complete the contact information form for Knight-Wallace alumni. If you do get emails from us, you are all set.

Watch for an email invitation and date

Preparations are underway for a weekend of journalism engagement and events, dinner and music, and a backyard barbeque. We'll confirm the reunion dates after the 2023 football schedule is announced. We'll plan the reunion for when the Wolverines are away, to ensure hotel accommodations for 50 years of Knight-Wallace Fellows.

Reunion web page coming

In addition to the exact dates, information on registration, payment links, hotel room blocks and weekend schedule to help with planning will be included.

Come back for the 50th reunion and more

As we celebrate 50 years of fellowship classes and 50 years of memories, we'll block out time on the schedule for visiting favorite Ann Arbor spots and for individual classes to meet up on their own.

2022-2023 KNIGHT-WALLACE FELLOWS



- 1 **Atossa Araxia Abrahamian**
Independent Journalist
The New York Review of Books, The New York Times
[Brooklyn, New York](#)
Project: Secret Space: How Places Outside Nations Are Remaking Our World
- 2 **María Arce**
Multiplatform Director
El Vocero Newspaper
[San Juan, Puerto Rico](#)
Project: Strengthening the Emergency Coverage Plans of Small Newsrooms in the Face of Disaster
- 3 **Elaine Cromie**
Photo Journalist
The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, NPR, The Atlantic
[Hazel Park, Michigan](#)
Project: Shimanchu Digital Diaspora: Using Community-Driven Storytelling and Photography to Document Efforts to Save a Language from Extinction
- 4 **Mary Cuddehe**
Independent Journalist
Harper's Magazine, Columbia Journalism Review, "This American Life," The Atlantic
[Ann Arbor, Michigan](#)
Project: Exploring the Future of Medical Privacy in the Digital Age

- 5 **Orlando de Guzman**
Video Journalist/Filmmaker
The New York Times ITVS/Independent Lens, Vice News, Al Jazeera
[Ann Arbor, Michigan](#)
Project: Small Town Justice: Sheriffs, County Prosecutors and the Criminalization of the Poor in the Rural Midwest
- 6 **Makeda Easter**
Adjunct Journalism Instructor
University of Southern California
Independent Journalist
Los Angeles Times, KCET, Chemical and Engineering News
[Los Angeles, California](#)
Project: The Art Rebellion: Telling the Stories of Artist-Activists Creating Change in Underreported Communities
- 7 **Jarrad Henderson**
Independent Filmmaker/Visual Journalist/Educator
[Annandale, Virginia](#)
Project: Sync: Addressing Diversity in Visual Journalism Pipelines Through Mobile Training Solutions
- 8 **Lindsay Kalter**
Independent Journalist
The Washington Post, Business Insider, Boston Globe Magazine
[Ann Arbor, Michigan](#)
Project: A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing: Abuse and Corruption in the Troubled-Teen Industry

- 9 **Chris Marquette**
Congressional Ethics and Accountability Reporter
CQ Roll Call
[Washington, D.C.](#)
Project: Accountability in the U.S. Capitol Police
- 10 **Meg Martin**
Freelance Editor
[St. Paul, Minnesota](#)
Project: The Critical Middle: Supporting and Connecting Editors and Team Leaders to Reimagine Newsrooms
- 11 **KyeongRak Min**
Reporter, Media Strategy Department
Korea's Yonhap News Agency
[Gyeonggi-do, South Korea](#)
Project: Exploring the Social Roots of Suicide and Loneliness in Modern Korea
- 12 **Antoni Slodkowski**
Tokyo Correspondent
Financial Times
[Tokyo, Japan](#)
Project: Toward a Deeper Understanding: Refugee Stories Told in Their Own Words

- 13 **Alexandra Talty**
Multimedia Journalist
The New York Times, The Guardian, Outside Magazine, The Daily Beast
[Southampton, New York](#)
Project: Advancing Coastlines: Can Marine Food Production Pivot Fast Enough for Climate Change?
- 14 **Asadullah Timory**
Former Reporter
The New York Times
[Herat, Afghanistan](#)
Project: The Collapse of Press Freedoms in Afghanistan: What Awaits Displaced Afghan Journalists?
- 15 **Masrat Zahra**
Independent Photo Journalist
The Washington Post, Al Jazeera, TRT World, The New Humanitarian, The Caravan
[Kashmir, India](#)
Project: Political Persecution of Minorities in India

Remote Fellows Finally Make It to Ann Arbor

BY DAPHNE DURET '22

If I had to write a self-help book about the week I spent in Ann Arbor this spring with the Knight-Wallace classes of 2021 and 2022, I'd call it "Chicken Soup for the Journalist's Soul."

The two fellowship classes from the pandemic years called ourselves "The Virtuals" because few of us had ever met in person, although we'd all spent an academic year attending seminars and making online connections with other Fellows from our cohorts.

These had been challenging times for many of us as we navigated through the havoc the pandemic caused in our professional and personal lives. And spikes in Covid cases had forced us to cancel at least two previously planned in-person fellowship gatherings. So by the time we arrived at Wallace House in April, most of us felt overdue for the face-to-face experience Wallace House Director Lynette Clemetson and Associate Director Robert Yoon had been telling us about for months.

As much as I had anticipated the trip, I still wasn't prepared for the warm and loving atmosphere that awaited us. Lynette, Rob, Alexis, Patty, Jayson, Melissa, Lisa and everyone associated with Knight-Wallace showed us the highest hospitality the entire week, and for the first time I felt like more than one of 11 participants in a great and robust fellowship.

I looked at the group photos on the wall of the classes that came before mine. I saw the gifts that each of these groups left behind. And in those moments I realized that being part of the Knight-Wallace Fellowship wasn't a year-long program. The other Fellows and I had joined a group of journalists who'd had the privilege of spending hours together at Wallace House laughing, crying, learning, growing and recharging so they could go back out into the world as better journalists and human beings.

Although we had several great activities during our week together, our most profound moments came in the sessions where we sat in the living room at Wallace House and shared our experiences. During the fellowship many of us had relied upon one another for support and advice. But in person, the encouragement was infinitely more profound. It was, in short, the safest place I've ever had to share my experiences as a journalist.

I wasn't alone. Nichole Dobo, one of the Fellows from my cohort, told me she similarly felt the warmth of being among "people who are bringing their whole selves to work."

"Our backgrounds are our strengths, especially when we come from underrepresented communities," Nickie said. "We only got one week in person, but it felt like so much longer. I left feeling



No Michigan experience would be complete without a visit to the Big House. Fellows got a behind-the-scenes peek at the stadium locker rooms, the legendary tunnel, luxury suites and the 50-yard line.

empowered by the idea that things other people might see as a weakness are actually our superpowers."

After our graduation ceremony, instead of sitting in small groups at the tables arranged in the backyard, we pushed all the tables together because none of us wanted to be apart from the others. That night, the jokes, war stories and heartfelt moments we shared belonged to all of us.

"I left feeling empowered by the idea that things other people might see as a weakness are actually our superpowers."

Lester Feder from the class of 2021 remembered the dance party we had that evening after we pushed the chairs to the corners of the living room where we had shared so much in the days before.

"It was a moving reminder," he said, "of the humanity of the people who give so much of themselves to this work, which demands that we give so much of ourselves."



Jose Feroso '22 shared a dance with street artist David Zinn's Gene Kelly on the wall of the downtown library's underground parking garage. Ironically, most of Zinn's temporary chalk drawings disappear in the rain; while this "Singin' in the Rain" scene is his only permanent illustration.



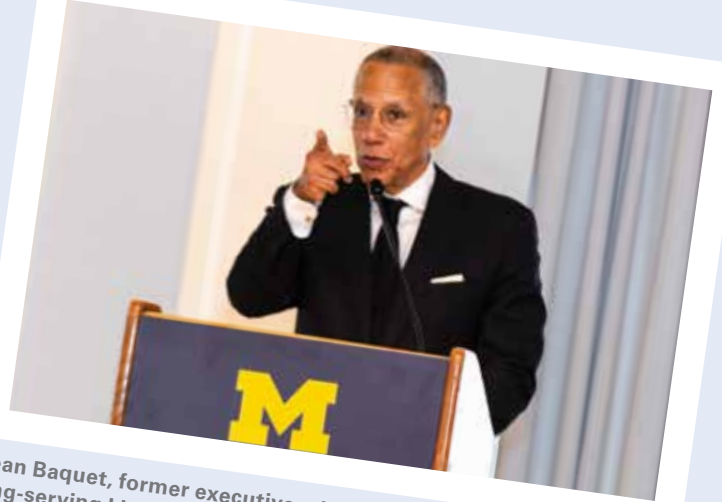
Nick St. Fleur organized a selfie with classmates from the Knight-Wallace Reporting Fellowship class of 2020-21 on the porch at Wallace House.

Livingston Awards Ceremony Highlights

After two years of virtual celebrations, we returned to our in-person ceremony in New York City to introduce and honor our 2022 Livingston Award winners.



Welcoming the 2022 winners into the Livingston family, national and regional judges, as well as supporters of the program, gather for a photo op.



Dean Baquet, former executive editor of The New York Times and long-serving Livingston Awards judge, hosted the festivities.



2022 Livingston Awards winners (left to right) Jose A. Del Real, winner in the national reporting category for "Truth, Trust and Conspiracy Theories in America," The Washington Post; Erika Lantz (second from left) and Elin Lantz Lesser (far right), sisters and co-winners in the international reporting category for the podcast series "The Turning: The Sisters Who Left," Rococo Punch and iHeartRadio; and Alex Stuckey, winner in the local reporting category for "In Crisis," the Houston Chronicle.



For more than four decades the Livingston Awards have identified the next generation of prominent journalists. Lynette Clemetson, director of Wallace House, asked previous winners to stand as a testament to the Livingston legacy. Past winners in attendance included Hannah Dreier, Ellen Gabler, John D. Sutter, Emily Steel and Matthieu Aikins.

UPHOLD DEMOCRACY. SUPPORT JOURNALISTS.

At a time when a free press is under attack and democracy is threatened around the world and at home, we are expanding our reach and ambitions.

By providing support for reporters under siege, supporting journalists with resources to deepen expertise or develop a journalism venture, we are bolstering the vital role of a free press in a democratic society. New ambitions require new resources.

As you plan your end-of-year giving, please consider making a gift to any of our programs at wallacehouse.umich.edu/donate. Support the future of journalism by supporting journalists.

Thank you for your support. – Lynette Clemetson, Director

DONATE

Q&A with Jayson Rose: Developing Connections

BY LYNETTE CLEMETSON '10

Jayson Rose joined Wallace House in January 2022 as our first development officer. His work is critical as we strengthen our programs and respond to new opportunities. He's set about introducing himself to all of our former Fellows going back to the program's founding in 1973. His exuberant outreach has been met with gratitude and great stories (we'd expect nothing less of our alums). Lynette Clemetson asked Rose to take a little break and answer a few questions.

Clemetson: You've had in-person visits, calls, and Zooms with dozens of former Fellows. What have you learned?

Rose: I've connected with over 50 alumni in recent months, from the U.S., Brazil and South Korea. I've learned how much the fellowship changed their lives, personally and professionally. Many have told me about how their time in Ann Arbor was a pivot point in their career, a time to regroup and refocus. I've also been learning how meaningful the relationships established have been and how many of our alums remain in contact with each other.

Clemetson: You've worked in university development for years. What's the most exciting opportunity in connecting the work of Wallace House to donors and the mission of the university?

Rose: There is a tremendous opportunity to work with our campus partners to bring more attention to our mission, the urgency of our work, and to expand our constituent base. We are uniquely positioned to help donors who care about democracy and freedom of the press make an impact. Many people don't know there's an entity on Michigan's campus that aligns with those ideals. I also believe we can help donors who want to create a legacy make a lasting impact by working with them to establish endowed gifts or planned gifts via their will or trust. Our goal is to give Wallace House the ability to have an impact on journalists' lives well into the future.

Clemetson: You grew up around journalists. Your father, Jim Rose, is a longtime anchor and sports journalist in Chicago. Did that influence your interest in Wallace House?

Rose: My father has been in broadcast journalism for 41 years at ABC in Chicago. I have vivid memories growing up of all the hard work he put into his craft and the long hours he spent covering such a passionate sports town. He was, and continues to be, so thoughtful in his work and that made me grow up with a deep appreciation for journalism. The industry is facing numerous challenges, and the work of Wallace House is incredibly



important to journalists who fight to tell the stories that aren't easy. I am honored to have the opportunity to play a role in the evolution of such an incredible organization.

Clemetson: What do you do for fun? And an essential Wallace House question, what do you like to cook?

Rose: I enjoy exercising, catching a sporting event, and going on adventures with my wife, Kim, and our three kids, Cora, Carter and Ella. I have been learning how to become Mr. Fix-it, taking on projects around the house. And I enjoy new music and finding a new album to relax to when I have downtime. My favorite thing to cook is anything grilled. I love to grill a nice cut of steak. I also make a good grilled salmon with sriracha and honey glaze. Delish!

Clemetson: What new music caught your attention this summer?

Rose: Recently I've been enjoying a Nigerian singer-songwriter named Tems. Her album, "For Broken Ears," was on repeat most of the summer for me.

Clemetson: You and I have something in common – we were both DJs in our younger years. I've been thinking about playlists for our 50th fellowship reunion in 2023. Any recommendations for a few hundred restless reporters who haven't seen one another in a while?

Rose: If we are talking about moving a few tables and getting people on the dance floor, I might suggest:

"September" by Earth, Wind & Fire

"Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey

"Uptown Funk" by Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars

"Despacito" by Luis Fonsi

"Yeah!" by Usher

My DJ skills aren't what they used to be, but you can't go wrong with these!

ALUMNI UPDATE



Adam Allington '12

Joined Politico as Senior Producer of the podcast "Playbook Deep Dive."



Anders Kelto '19

Won his second consecutive Edward R. Murrow Award for sports reporting for "The Afghan Women's Soccer Team's Incredible Escape From Kabul," an episode of "The Lead" podcast, which he co-hosts.



Regina H. Boone '18

Her work for the Richmond Free Press was the subject of the exhibition "(Re)framing Protest: design + hope" at The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design in Richmond this summer.



Kim Kozlowski '09

Awarded a Higher Education Media Fellowship from the Institute for Citizens and Scholars.



Mya Frazier '21

Won a National Press Foundation Award for her New York Times Magazine investigative feature, "When No Landlord Will Rent to You, Where Do You Go?"



Surya Mattu '22

Won an Edward R. Murrow Award for Investigative Reporting and a Salute to Excellence Award from the National Association of Black Journalists for his work on the project "Prediction: Bias" for The Markup.



Charles Gibson '74

Launched a new literary podcast, "The Book Case," for ABC Audio with his daughter, Kate Gibson.



John Pendency '18

Named assistant teaching professor of visual journalism at Penn State University. His new book, "Lost Storytellers: The Information Apocalypse in the Modern Newsroom" was released in September.



Evan Halper '12

Named energy and climate reporter at The Washington Post business desk.



Emily Richmond '11

Named a Spencer Education Journalism Fellow at Columbia Journalism School, where she will examine the school system run by the Department of Defense.



Tracy Jan '15

Named a deputy health and science editor at The Washington Post.



Eric Strauss '15

Named executive producer of the ABC News Medical Unit after leading the network's reporting on the Covid-19 pandemic.



Jawad Sukhanyar '19

Appointed the Howard R. Marsh Visiting Professor of Journalism at the University of Michigan for the 2022-23 academic year.



John Shields '18

Launched The Economist's Podcast Innovation Lab, dedicated to long-form narrative podcasts. Their first series, "The Prince," about the rise of China's Xi Jinping, premiered in September.



Tommy Andres '20

Maria Byrne '20

Elliott Woods '20

Won a National Edward R. Murrow Award for the podcast, "Third Squad: After Afghanistan," reported and narrated by Elliott and produced by Airloom Media, the company founded by Tommy and Maria.



Aisha Sultan '12

Won a Journalism Excellence Award in Video Storytelling from the Asian American Journalists Association for her documentary "33 and Counting."



Bernice Yeung '16

Named managing editor of the Investigative Reporting Program at Berkeley Journalism.



Katie Zezima '12

Named an editor on the climate desk at The Washington Post.

Call for Applications, Entries and Nominations

Knight-Wallace Fellowship applications, Livingston Award entries and nominations for the Richard M. Clurman mentoring award will be available in the fall.

KNIGHT-WALLACE FELLOWSHIPS

APPLY FOR THE CLASS OF 2023-2024

International applications due **December 1, 2022**. U.S. applications due **February 1, 2023**. wallacehouse.umich.edu/knight-wallace/how-to-apply/

LIVINGSTON AWARDS

ENTER WORK PUBLISHED IN 2022 Livingston entry forms due **February 1, 2023**. wallacehouse.umich.edu/livingston-awards/entry/

RICHARD M. CLURMAN AWARD

NOMINATE AN EXCEPTIONAL ON-THE-JOB MENTOR Complete the Clurman nomination form. wallacehouse.umich.edu/livingston-awards/clurman-award/



ELENA MILASHINA '10 continued from front cover

Months before the war started, Putin was working to shut down the independent press. After opposition politician Alexei Navalny's return to Russia and imprisonment, authorities closed down dozens of independent media outlets, primarily those engaged in investigative journalism. The government labeled hundreds of journalists as foreign agents, enemies of the state.

Russian journalists lived in anticipation of searches, arrests and criminal cases. I removed all paper and electronic archives from my house, hid old notebooks, laptops and voice recorders at my friends' places. I thought about how I would behave during a search to make sure that no sensitive information about my sources fell into the hands of Russian police and security agencies.

Yet even in an environment of active intimidation, I was not prepared for the war and its consequences.

The government quickly came after the few remaining news organizations. In the first days of March, the last independent TV news channel, Dozhd, and the oldest federal radio station, Ekho Moskvy, shut down.

Novaya Gazeta held on for 34 days, the last remaining independent news operation in the country. But on March 28 we, too, were forced to suspend operations. Putin's draconian laws imposing jail sentences of up to 15 years for journalists who reported anything the government deemed "fake news" – anyone who reported the truth of what was happening in Ukraine – made it impossible for news organizations to continue working.

Soon there was another message from Lynette. With the April event clearly impossible, she had a different proposition. "Why don't you come to Ann Arbor for a residency, Elena," she said. "You don't have to leave Russia forever. But here you will be safe, and you can figure out how to move forward."

Now I am back at the University of Michigan, a place I consider my alma mater! I am a visiting Fellow, sponsored by Wallace

House, at the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies. I will be giving guest lectures and engaging with faculty and students. And, most importantly, I will have a place to continue writing. When I arrived my suitcases were mostly full of papers, unfinished work, abruptly interrupted by war. I have much I still need to write.

I cannot accept that I cannot write about this atrocity under my own name, in my newspaper.

More than six months into Putin's attack on Ukraine, it seems the world is beginning to get used to war. I refuse to get used to it.

I cannot accept that my country is doing this.

I cannot accept that I cannot write about this atrocity under my own name, in my newspaper.

I cannot accept that my newspaper no longer exists.

Novaya Gazeta literally means "new newspaper." I remember when I went to work there 25 years ago after my first year at university. I traveled around the country introducing myself and my organization and people responded, "New Newspaper? So what is it called?"

Now people all over the world know Novaya Gazeta and its journalists, for our journalism and for the repeated attacks against us. Now Russia has made it impossible for us to exist. But we will find a way to continue.

I arrived in Ann Arbor in July, late at night. As I entered town, it was too dark to see any of the places I so fondly remembered. I had two large suitcases full of my work. I checked into my hotel, got settled into my room and began to catch up on news from the front. It was expectedly grim. It felt unacceptable to me that I had been forced to flee my country to figure out a way to report the truth about it.

But for the first time in a very, very long time, I felt completely safe.

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Views expressed in the Wallace House Journal are not necessarily those of Wallace House or the University of Michigan.

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Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor; Paul W. Brown, northern Michigan;
Sarah Hubbard, Okemos; Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms; Ron Weiser,
Ann Arbor; Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor

University of Michigan Nondiscrimination Policy Statement

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