

Wallace House Center for Journalists

Home of the Knight-Wallace Fellowships and the Livingston Awards

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50 YEARS



Fifty Years On

BY CHARLES EISENDRATH '75



I'm writing this 36 hours after Julia and I left the final 50th Reunion event and six hours after the last Fellow departed from coffee at our house.

The coffee gathering was to help a trio of classmates come up with a plan to help their nascent news organization grow into something.

In purest serendipity, another Fellow from another class also dropped by on the way out of town and for an hour or so Julia joined as we spitballed ideas. There was no little levity, a bit of teasing, scattered errant memories and above all a perfect understanding of where each was coming from, where they might go, and how they might get help from KWF alumni, including me.

That last factor might be the most important takeaway from the beautifully organized reunion weekend.

KWF's 50th reconnected Julia and me with our own experience as Fellows 49 years ago. As Fellow after Fellow came up to us to share how the experience had challenged and changed them, we floated back to 1974-75. The National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships for Journalists program was in its second year under the founding directorship of Ben Yablonky.



Mike Wallace addresses Fellows in the Henry Simmons Frieze Building, former gathering place of the fellowship.

We arrived in Ann Arbor from Buenos Aires with children aged two and four and rented a small house in Burns Park. I was 33 and clueless about what to do next—what to be next.

The Fellowship provided clarity on both. The bombardment of new ideas from Fellows and faculty mysteriously raised something I hadn't digested in college: Aristotle's idea of "the great goal" of life: excellence in the art of living. I've tried to operationalize that aspiration ever since, translating it for successive classes of Fellows as "a dream to live by."

A reunion asks the preposterous of memory, and I've never been great with names. But over the weekend I realized that I keep track of Fellows by indelible details: A red squirrel impression somehow part of an admissions interview. A study plan about the history of false ideas. A personal presentation presented musically on a cello. A brief mention by either me or a Fellow was enough for either to finish the other's sentence because of a shared energy field.

Knight-Wallace Fellowships never end. The reunion had been over for a mere 36 hours and there I sat nurturing dreams, nearly 50 years after I arrived in search of my future.

The Graham Hovey Years

BY DIANE BROZEK FANCHER '82

Life as a journalist was a lot less complicated in 1981 when I arrived in Ann Arbor as a member of the Michigan Fellows Class of 1981-82, during Graham Hovey's tenure as director. It was at a time when the internet barely existed. Computers were rudimentary at best, and cell phones wouldn't be widely available for another couple years. No 24-hour news cycles. No social media to watch over or feed. No online *anything*.

For most of us, the sprint to capture the important events and issues of the day ended at deadline when keyboards fell silent and the massive presses a few floors below roared to life moments later, rumbling beneath our feet.

We came from news operations that, for the most part, were rich, powerful and fiercely independent—before online advertising and public access to news and information decimated the traditional newspaper business model and before corporate conglomerates and hedge funds began gobbling up newspapers and local broadcast media.

Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and operating from a two-room suite in the Frieze Building, which no longer exists, Graham led six classes of Fellows between 1980 and 1986, through one of the most meaningful years of our careers.



The "East Coast Fellows" from the Graham Hovey years at a reunion in 1998 at the weekend home of Diane and Charles Fancher in Pennsylvania. Graham and his wife, Mary Jean, are pictured center on the landing.



Diane Brozek and Charles Fancher met during their 1981-82 fellowship year and have been together for more than four decades.

Graham was a Renaissance man. A Fulbright scholar, a talented amateur French horn player, a lover of opera, and an award-winning journalist who made the transition from World War II correspondent to covering post-war Europe. He reported on diplomacy and international affairs and served on the editorial board of *The New York Times*. Graham was an exemplar of what the NEH sought to achieve by immersing the Fellows in the community of a great university, free of the pressures of daily journalism for a year.

And our editors agreed. They supported the NEH's notion that exposing mid-career journalists to all that a world-class university could offer would enhance their professional capacity.

So we eagerly pursued our own courses of study, venturing out to classes in medicine, law, foreign affairs, business and the arts, with the NEH reminding us to include a ration of humanities courses.

Graham reinforced this suggestion by bringing to our humanities seminars some of the school's most distinguished professors who were giants in their fields. One that I fondly remember is the late Diane Kirkpatrick, a world-renowned art expert. She became one of the friends of the fellowship who seemed both amused by and respectful of our group while inviting us to see the world's great art and its impact through her eyes.

Spending time with her and with other U-M faculty luminaries underscored the value of what our fellowship offered. And, opening ourselves to this discovery allowed us to reshape our own paths. That enrichment continued through our trips to Japan, Germany and Australia, where Graham arranged opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with leaders of those countries.

But Graham didn't let us forget that we were journalists, making sure our weekly journalism seminars included some of the major figures of our time. One of them was the flamboyant Gannett Chairman, Al Neuharth, who picked our brains about his idea to start a national newspaper. "Do you think it'll fly?" he asked. Regardless of our opinions—and we offered many—he launched USA Today two months after we left Ann Arbor.

Another larger-than-life editor who visited was Gene Roberts of The Philadelphia Inquirer, where the tradition of playing newsroom-wide pranks was legend. He totally enjoyed the belly dancer who dropped in to regale Graham for his birthday, but it was one of the few times we ever saw Graham speechless. I was hired by Gene after my fellowship year, though the topic of the dancer never came up.

Graham didn't let us forget that we were journalists, making sure our weekly journalism seminars included some of the major figures of our time.

My year at the Michigan program also had a deeply important impact on my life. I met my husband, Charles Fancher, during our fellowship year to the delight of Graham, his charming wife Mary Jean, and Margaret DeMuth, his extraordinary program assistant. In addition, several of the Fellows from our year have become close lifelong friends.

A special treat over the years has been meeting new Fellows, sometimes at the annual Graham Hovey Lecture, given by



Diane and Charles are now friendly with 2023 Fellows Alexandra Talty and Antoni Slodkowski, who also fell in love during their fellowship and are now engaged!

a former Fellow in Graham's honor. But meeting the 2022-23 class during a recent visit was especially gratifying, not only because it was so representative of what the program has become—so international and committed to the safety and welfare of journalists from troubled corners of the world—but also because this class featured something we hadn't seen for the four-plus decades since our time in the program—a serious romance. Alexandra Talty and Antoni Slodkowski, 2022-23 Fellows, whom we've had the great pleasure of getting to know, have announced their engagement, and we wish them at least the 44 happy years Charles and I have enjoyed together.



Chronicling 50 Years of Fellowship Memories



Dharmalingam (Ignasious Selliah) '04 and his daughter, Kavya Yoganathan.

What is KWF Stories?

We're creating an audio history of stories from our alumni. At our reunion weekend, fellows paired up in our mobile recording unit to share their most cherished moments from their fellowship year.

Have a story to contribute?

There's still an opportunity to share your unique experiences. Scan the QR code to learn how to record yourself and upload an audio file to become part of the KWF Stories collection. Join us in preserving our legacy!



Listen

You can listen to KWF Stories by scanning the QR code. We'll keep adding new stories each month.

The Eisendrath and Clemetson Years

BY YVONNE SIMONS '03



Charles Eisendrath became director of the fellowship program in 1986.

“What is your dream?” That’s how longtime director Charles Eisendrath started interviews. When I arrived in Ann Arbor for my interview in 2002 with 30 or so other finalists, the question conjured up delightful and spirited responses from many applicants and stumped others. Previous fellows had told me to expect that question from Charles. But I wondered, what does dreaming have to do with anything in my work?

The Cambridge English Dictionary sums it up in one definition as hope: “an event or condition that you hope for very much, although it is not likely to happen.”

At the time I started my fellowship, I could not yet see where my time at Michigan might lead me. I just knew I wanted a bigger spot for my journalism.

I was working in a medium-sized television market at WRAL-TV in Raleigh, North Carolina, a great station all around. But I was feeling frustrated. Many of us start our careers as generalists. We find what we’re good at and our employers hone in. Over time we get boxed in, and that thing that made us stand out starts to hem us in. We forget the wide-open optimism of our early careers and tunnel vision takes over.

I visited Charles in Ann Arbor on a trip home where he told me, “Dream bigger!”

I was the Education Fellow in 2002-03. But I also had music on my mind. In addition to my reporting career, I have always maintained a side gig as a professional classical musician. I have sung with the Virginia Symphony Chorus and the professional chamber group Virginia Pro Musica. I also spent time with the Raleigh Oratorio Society and the ROS Master Singers. During my time in the fellowship, I learned that my journalism and music were spiritually connected. When producing effective news stories, my music tended to be good, and vice-versa. When I came to the fellowship, I had been neglecting my music training and performance. And I had developed a puzzling case of stage fright and performance anxiety. So, beyond my formal study project, I wanted to spend time at the School of Music.

When I presented myself, the head of the program had never heard of the fellowship. She told me I could not take voice lessons. I produced my music résumé and she changed her tune. I was in! However, my assigned voice teacher made one requirement of me. I had to perform at the end of the winter semester. Publicly. Stage fright and all.

And I did. At Wallace House.

I chose to perform at Wallace House because other Fellows were my friends and not likely to pick apart the performance as music students and faculty are prone to do. I did invite my voice teacher from Michigan and my former Belleville High School choral music teacher to a program of classical art songs and a few pieces from the Great American Songbook.

I was terrified, but I got through it. Kind of like contemplating my next steps in reporting.

I wanted independence and in 2003, I was getting it. I had decided not to return to WRAL, and it hit me in February of my fellowship that I had no job waiting, even though I’d studied the intricacies of No Child Left Behind, news convergence, and educational gaming. What had I done? What was I going to do?

Charles Eisendrath chuckled when he told my fellowship group, “Yvonne has succeeded in being the fellow to panic the earliest during the fellowship year!” But part of the Eisendrath charm was to encourage us to move forward. Light would illuminate our paths when we were ready.

I did freelance work for a short period of time after the fellowship, followed by a Monday-through-Friday anchor job. At one time, I had thought that was my calling. It turned out to be a bit of a bore. So much for dreams! I visited Charles in Ann Arbor on a trip home where he told me, “Dream bigger!”

So, in 2005, I made a leap to journalism management. I am helping train the next generation of journalists in television and digital pathways, and there is much to do! One job led to the next, all across the country. I landed in Sacramento at the CBS network-owned station, where I thought I might stay. But darn if I didn’t start wanting something with a bit more challenge. I jumped to Portland, Oregon, where I lead a large staff and helped us turn a #3 station into a #1 station in the market. I am also on the ABC Affiliate Advisory Board, helping the network better serve its partner stations. It’s been 17 years of bigger dreams—and counting.

The fellowship doesn’t ask that dream question anymore, not explicitly anyway. But, the concept survives: Hope for something more, and trust in the journey that leads you toward it.



In typical Eisendrath fashion, Charles passes not a torch, but a hat, to his successor Lynette Clemetson in 2016.

BY AZI PAYBARAH '18

Not long after Lynette Clemetson was named director of the Knight-Wallace Fellowship in 2016, I sat at a long wooden table, facing her and members of the selection committee, trying to convince them I had a great idea for a fellowship.

The truth is all I had were questions. Since bluffing my way into my first reporting job at the Queens Tribune back in 2003, I'd been trying to figure out how to keep my head above water in the journalism world. Half the newsrooms on my résumé had collapsed or closed. But I stayed employed, jumping from job to job, in part by getting clicks and traffic with whatever was the new way to communicate: blogging, listicles, slide shows, newsletters, tweeting.

For a while, I carried a camcorder and tripod and uploaded entire press conferences onto a new website called YouTube.

But by the time I was sitting at that wooden table in Ann Arbor, none of it made sense anymore. The news cycle I had helped accelerate was too fast. Way too fast. Every time I started reporting on one story—figuring out what was true and what wasn't—I'd get distracted with a breaking news alert. And another. Colin Kaepernick was kneeling. Donald Trump was tweeting "covfefe." Somehow, doing what I had always done didn't seem like enough.

So, I applied to the fellowship and sat across from Lynette. The most memorable moment of my interview was when she asked me about my hobbies. I described my penchant for putting audio clips of news on top of musical beats. My favorite one: Excerpts of Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton's third debate, on top of Tupac's "Gangsta Party."

Everyone laughed and Lynette shared a part of her bio that I had missed; she had been a DJ at a hip-hop station. She seemed like a new kind of director.

I got selected and at the first big event of the year, the Hovey Lecture, featuring ProPublica's Alec MacGillis '10, Lynette welcomed all the guests warmly, then politely told them that there was something missing from the event: new people. Events like this one should be out there, at libraries, theaters, anywhere, really, where a diverse, possibly younger, crowd who had never heard of Wallace House and wasn't plugged into journalism would go. Perfect, I thought—I was moving toward Wallace House just as Lynette was moving Wallace House somewhere else.

But her timing couldn't have been better. The world was changing and journalists needed to be among the people, soaking it all in, and sharing what they do with people who perceived them as suspect. Wallace House brought Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter David Fahrenthold of The Washington Post for a public event on his coverage of Donald Trump's charitable giving. Before he spoke, Lynette arranged for me and another Fellow obsessed with politics to have lunch with him. In February, Wallace House brought then-NPR host Joshua Johnson to record a live episode of the show "1A." Shortly after, New York Times columnist Bret Stephens gave a talk titled "Free Speech and the Necessity of Discomfort." To prove his thesis, he stood on stage as an endless parade of undergrads pelted him with sharply worded statements, sometimes delivered in the form of a question.

This was not the Wallace House back garden. I was witnessing journalism and reporting, surrounded by the people it was affecting. It reminded me of my Queens Tribune days, with late nights at community board meetings and early-morning door-knocking with local candidates.

Thanks to Wallace House's interest in bringing more events to more people in more locations, I found myself getting around the only way I knew how: walking. And it did me good.

Since the fellowship, I've been tweeting less and absorbing more. Stories are driven more by accountability and less by clicks. It's been five years, one wedding, a pandemic, a newborn, and two jobs since I left Ann Arbor. And it's been exactly zero days since Lynette's words about being out and in touch with the world have left me.



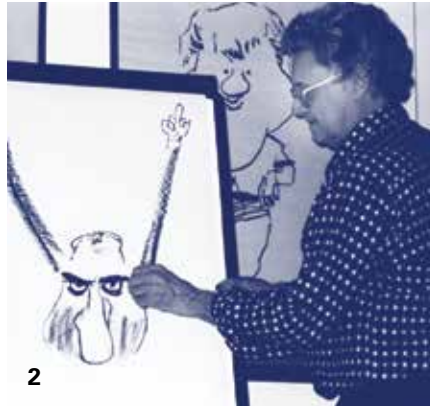
Charles Eisendrath introduced the first issue of The Journal of Michigan Fellows in the summer of 1990. The subsequent issues evolved into what is now the Wallace House Journal.

In the House

Fifty years of provocative and insightful speakers.
Do any of the VIPs below look familiar?



1



2



3



4



5



6



9



7



8



10

1 Gwen Ifill
2 Pat Olliphant

3 Gloria Steinem
4 Mike Wallace

5 Jelani Cobb
6 Bob Mankoff

7 Michael Moore
8 Calvin Trillin

9 Bob Woodward
10 Chris Wallace

Vintage Wallace House

From the Archives



Our first home: The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Fellowship for Journalists was founded by Ben Yablonky in 1973. Graham Hovey served as director from 1980–1986, and the program was housed in the Henry Simmons Frieze Building, formerly Ann Arbor High School.



Charles Eisendrath said he enlisted the help of “four incompetent Fellows and a case of beer” to pull a piano from the basement of a recording studio in Livonia with the winch mounted on the front of his farm truck. Once they got the piece of furniture into place in Wallace House, the four legs proceeded to fall through the floor.



Ford Fessenden '90 built the cabinet that still stands in the foyer at Wallace House. He said, “I built the cabinet to be a part of the move to Wallace House, and to thank the university, the fellowship and Charles for an amazing year. We put it on top of our Volvo in New York, and set out across country to bring it to Ann Arbor. Despite some scary moments on the Throgs Neck Bridge in a stiff wind, we made it without incident.”



Charles Eisendrath found a bargain when he bought the wingback chairs from the Campus Inn. There were 104 for sale and he purchased 52, “because buying in bulk brought the price down from \$9 to \$7 per chair.” He also made a deal for the drapes from Campus Inn to make new chair covers. “I was too cheap to buy new material.” For a time, the chairs were the only seating in Wallace House except for desk chairs. “I think the upholstery on some of them is still Campus Inn curtains,” he added.



The dedication of Wallace House attracted VIP guests including Richard Clurman of Time Magazine, Charlie Gibson of ABC News and Leslie Stahl and Andy Rooney of “60 Minutes.”

IN MEMORIAM

*In memory of our fellow Fellows
and friends of Wallace House*

Severino Arcones '87	Frances Glennon '75	Jin Kim '17	Randolph Smith '96
Bert Askwith	Sandra Gregg '86	Eldon Milton Knoche '75	Ellen Soeteber '87
Mike F. Baker '00	Jon Hall '89	Jack Lesar '82	Charles Stafford '82
Allegra Bennett '85	Eric Harrison '98	Richard Lutz '79	Soe Thein '77
Russell Carollo '90	Laurie Horn '81	Federico Monjeau '13	Anastasia Toufexis '95
John Costa '93	Joanne Kruse Imlay '84	Dennis Montgomery '77	Calvin Wasson '76
Margaret DeMuth	James Ingram '74	Jerry Morton '77	Elaine Widner '98
Kathie Durbin '88	James Jackson	Matthew Power '11	John Robert Williams '02
Jack Fischer '96	Dean Jensen '86	Carlos Prieto '02	John Edward Woodruff '74
Brian Flanigan '79	Doug Johnson '01	James Russell '74	Istvan Zalai '78
Jay Gallagher '80	Erica Johnston '09	Alvin Paul Sanoff '75	

Elaine Widner '98

1959–2023



James Kulstad and Elaine Widner sit on a bench in front of the Ann Arbor home they shared during their 1997-98 fellowship year.

My late wife, Elaine, was a pioneer at CNN, working her way into overseas assignments based in Rome as an editor/sound technician covering the first Gulf War, Somalia, the Rwandan genocide, the siege of Sarajevo, the brutal civil war in Chechnya and other crises. It had taken a toll on her, and she came away from all that with PTSD. The fellowship offered her a much-needed reprieve from the pain, a chance to heal, learn and place in context all that she had witnessed. So Elaine took classes exploring the impact of stress on human beings.

Being a proud spouse of a Fellow, I seized the opportunity to study subjects such as environmental economics and Etruscan art and archaeology. Even more importantly, we both enjoyed the chance to spend extended time with each other, uninterrupted by international crises. We embraced it all—the university, the seminars, the town—becoming lifelong friends with other accomplished journalists and their wonderful spouses.

We returned to our home in Italy in 1999, where a rejuvenated Elaine freelanced for several international news organizations as I renovated a medieval-era dwelling in a small Italian town. We traveled back and forth from Italy to Atlanta and to other points on the globe.

In 2017, Elaine was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and in the six years she had remaining, she perfected what she had come to Michigan to study—the art of survival and the craft of life.

– James Kulstad

Maria Tereza Gomes '00

Wallace House made it possible for me to take a class with the renowned business professor C.K. Prahalad, who passed away in 2010. In case you're not familiar with him, he was one of the most influential business thinkers at the turn of the century. It was incredibly challenging to secure a spot in his Corporate Strategy class, which took place on Saturday mornings for three months at the School of Business. I managed to get in because I was a Knight-Wallace Fellow.

Toward the end of the 20th century, Professor Prahalad warned my classmates and me about the emerging ESG issues (though, of course, not using that exact acronym for environmental, social and governance, as it was coined in 2004) that would only become prominent on corporate agendas a decade later. He was kind, humble, generous, and brilliant. He was a visionary thinker, ahead of his time, and he provided me with the tools I needed to become the editor-in-chief of a business magazine in Brazil just six months after my return from the United States.

Being in the thought-provoking environment of the University of Michigan and attending classes with one of the world's most renowned professors gave me the confidence I needed to embrace the challenges that would come later. And the Knight-Wallace Fellowship provided that for me.



From left, standing: Mike Baker (February 6, 1957–September 22, 2012), Maureen O'Hagan, Bob Young, Gomes' husband Geraldo and Gomes; from left, crouched: James Rupert, Dae-hee Nam and John Fountain.

Note: An unranked Illinois team led by quarterback Kurt Kittner upset #9 Michigan 35–29 despite 307 passing yards for Michigan quarterback Tom Brady.

Dwight Lewis '82

"You are a troublemaker."

Those words were in a letter I received after an article on the Confederate flag that I had written ran in The Nashville Tennessean newspaper in early June 1982. The University of Michigan helped make me a troublemaker and changed the trajectory of my professional journalism career.

"Just what are you trying to stir up about the Confederate flag in your article Sunday?" June Oakley of Nashville wrote in her handwritten letter. "Let me tell you a few things about history you do not seem to know..."

During my last month as a Michigan Fellow, in May 1982, I decided to interview a number of people about their views on the Confederate flag—among them, Guy Waldron, creator of the popular "Dukes of Hazzard" television series and Charlayne Hunter-Gault, who made history when she joined Hamilton Holmes in becoming the first Black person to enter the University of Georgia. It was a contentious topic at the time.

When I came to U-M at age 33, I was working as a general assignment reporter and specialized in writing about Tennessee's prison system. After returning to the newspaper, I began to edit and in 1994 started writing a column twice a week that ran on the op-ed page of The Nashville Tennessean. Oftentimes, I would write about the issue of race and reader complaints became more common. But I continued to build my voice and my platform. The issues I wrote about then remain unsolved today. And new Fellows are learning to take them on.

The University of Michigan's Journalism Fellowship program helped make me a troublemaker, and I don't regret it at all.



Dwight Lewis and his partner Valerie Robinson at The Big House as the reunion celebration gets underway.

Kat Stafford '22

I paced my bedroom floor and repeatedly refreshed the site page on my laptop in the middle of the night earlier this year. It was May 2023 and The Associated Press was preparing to publish my project, “From Birth to Death”—a yearlong examination of how a lifetime of health inequities impacted generations of Black Americans. We received immediate feedback. The families we featured said they felt seen and that their stories were told in a moving, yet humanizing manner. Journalists, professors, advocates and doctors from across the nation called it eye-opening. And it was all possible because of this incredible fellowship.

It’s hard to highlight one memory because I gained so much, including a lifetime of friendships with my fellow classmates. I was given the space to create journalism that wholly centered the experiences of Black Americans in a way that was impactful, truthful and even uplifting. I learned from first-rate educators and professionals. It gave me the confidence to take a leap of faith and step into a leadership role as the first-ever Global Race and Justice Editor for Reuters. It was truly a life-altering and career-changing experience—one for which I will forever be grateful.



Reporting Fellows in the classes of 2021 and 2022 gathered to tour the town of Ann Arbor and the campus. Among the stops along the way was a visit to the Bell Tower.

Deirdre Falvey '17

The large interlinked living rooms of Wallace House, over-stuffed with chairs and sofas, piano behind, Oxford Road out the front window—and a tray of sherry in dainty glasses on the table. Heck, I don’t even like sherry much, but it is forever associated for me with that moment of entering Wallace House. The slight tingle of excitement and expectation, glancing around at others, as a guest for our weekly seminar is about to arrive. Too varied to single out, each visitor stretched us in some direction, provoking reflection and learning, and humour, too. Workshops, fellows’ presentations, dinners, quiet reading, parties, incomprehensible

Marzio Mian '02

You walk into Wallace House and think they do it on purpose. Same creaking floor, same smells, same cozy, intimate atmosphere, newspapers always arranged there on the right. Only by flipping through them do you realize that time has really passed; the headlines are about other wars and the pages are reduced by two-thirds, the Sunday edition resembles that of any Monday in 2001/2002.

Then you go up a flight of stairs and meet the you you were, that picture framing an Italian magazine feature that tells the story of a group of 15 journalists reuniting in Tuscany with their families a year after sharing a humanly and professionally foundational experience like the 9/11 tragedy together in Ann Arbor. We are photographed overlooking the terrace of a villa, peering into the future. For one of us, the unforgettable Carlos Prieto, the hourglass would soon run out.

At Wallace House, they know how to practice nostalgia therapy, to make you come to terms with yourself and question who you have become since that defining year. My answer, elaborated over the weekend of the reunion, reveals that in a sense I never completely detached myself, as happens to us Italians who struggle to leave our native home. In fact, during these years the most important project I did was with Michael Oneal, Maurice Walsh and Brad Wernle, Fellows who became first fraternal friends and then extraordinary colleagues. Together we founded The Arctic Times Project, a nonprofit journalism company to report on the ground in the Arctic region on the consequences of climate change. I’ll say more: In Ann Arbor, during reunion days, we met to plan new trips and an ambitious development of our organization. Here then is the reassuring and at the same time dynamic spirit of Wallace House, making it seem like nothing changes so that everything can change.



Deirdre Falvey waiting for the start of a seminar in Wallace House.

American “football” (sorry). It was in that room, too, that we Fellows of 2017 gathered late one night, shocked to learn that our Jin Kim was suddenly seriously ill and was returning immediately to Seoul, and it did not look good. We would lose her before the start of the next academic year. But there, in the fellowship’s heart-chamber, after the sherry, I understood cumulatively that possibilities can be stretched.

We asked alumni to share recollections from their fellowship to highlight how the experience affected their journalism, careers, perspectives, connections and lives.

John Collier '75

My first recollection of what was then called the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships for Journalists was in the form of an application on the bulletin board on the fourth floor of the Detroit Free Press. Right next to the elevator doors.

As I read it, I was impressed at how great it sounded. This is a blast from heaven, I thought. Today, if someone asks me about the best years of my life, without flinching, I would say 1975, the year I finished my fellowship in Ann Arbor. That year I had lunch with the author of "Catch 22," Joseph Heller. There I was sitting across the lunch table from the creator of Milo Minderbinder, Major Major Major Major and Yossarian.



John Collier during his fellowship year.

Throughout my career as a photojournalist, I was emboldened by the effect the fellowship had on me. I had few reservations about what I thought I could accomplish. It was just a matter of, "go do it." And I did.

The most successful book of the 1970's, "Lauren Bacall, By Myself," had a portrait of Lauren Bacall by me on the cover.

I won numerous photo contests with nominations for both a Pulitzer and an Emmy. I was named Michigan Press Photographer of the Year several times. I had lunch with Alfred Hitchcock, breakfast with Natalie Wood (of course her husband Robert Wagner was there). I even had lunch with Colonel Sanders (I was the only one eating—he said his doctor told him not to eat that stuff). A photograph of mine hung in Aretha Franklin's living room in Bloomfield Hills. I will never forget meeting Sammy Davis Jr. He was also a photographer, so we talked about cameras.

I must say something about the personal connections I made with those I encountered connected to the fellowship. Graham Hovey would always sit next to me and talk shop. He would tell me about his son, a fellow photojournalist. He seemed to be doing his son's networking—"Did I know of any photographer openings?" I thought the world of him, such a fine gentleman. So, I will never miss a lecture named in his honor.

Hilary Appelman '99

The class of 1998-1999 had an unusually high percentage of female fellows (and a few beloved men), which—given the mid-career timing of the fellowship—perhaps explained the abundance of small children and babies we also had. When we arrived in August, there were a handful of children and one new baby; by the time we left in May, there were two new babies and a third on the way. As mother of the child who arrived in December (Charles graciously allowed the delivery as an excuse to miss seminar that day) I can't imagine a more nurturing and supportive place to begin my journey as a parent than among my family of fellows.

Getting to class and seminars with a newborn at home took some extra planning, but I wouldn't trade that year at Wallace House and the bonds I forged with my fellow Fellows for anything. In the years since, we've cheered each other on through new jobs and layoffs, weddings and divorces, Emmys and critically acclaimed books, and still more babies. Looking forward to another 25 years of milestones!



Fellows (left to right) Robyn Meredith with baby Christopher, Paul Wilborn and Cecilie Rohwedder.

Steve Friess '12

Miles and I had a legally meaningless (but emotionally gratifying!) wedding in 2007 in Las Vegas, where we met and lived, back before marriage equality was the law of the land. Yet by 2015, when the Supreme Court made its landmark same-sex marriage ruling, we were happy to have a reason to commit to one another again in the presence of many of our KWF fellows who got to know us as a couple. By then, we settled in Ann Arbor, so nothing felt more romantic or appropriate than the idea of an autumn wedding at the foot of the massive oak in the backyard of Wallace House, officiated by U.S. District Judge Judy Levy. A bonus thrill came years later, when we watched our 4-year-old son and 2-year-old daughter run about on the grounds where we wed at the 50th anniversary reunion brunch. It will always be hallowed ground to us, and we hope to them as well.



No more fitting place for a wedding than in the Wallace House gardens.

McKenzie Funk '12

One night in April 2012, well after dark, Fellow Adam Allington and I snuck into the backyard of Wallace House carrying two shovels, a young dogwood tree, and a placenta. My wife, Jenny, had given birth to our son barely a week before, and I was delirious with the sleeplessness of a new father, so I don't remember all the details of that night. Adam thinks we were wearing headlamps. I think we weren't: They would have given us away. Adam thinks the whole mission was his idea. I agree.

There are two ways to interpret the mission we'd assigned ourselves. A romantic would tell you that with our Knight-Wallace year recently over, Adam and I wanted to honor it. The fellowship had given us new life—literally, in my case. So maybe we wanted to give a little life back. What better than a well-nourished sapling, discreetly planted?

A cynic would tell you a different story: That Jenny, baby and I were about to make the long drive back home to Seattle, and that once underway we would have no way to refrigerate a placenta.

I don't want to get into the details of what Adam and I did or didn't do. All I can say is that when we walked back to our car, we were carrying only the two shovels. And I suggest that if ever you're in the backyard of Wallace House, again, and you see a patch of garden that looks particularly green, particularly grateful, you interpret that as you see fit.

Teresa Frontado '16

It's hard to pick just one memory of what was an unforgettable year. I have been going through my favorites and noticed they all have one thing in common: community. It's Salsa Night in Wallace House, when we emptied the living room and danced the night away. It's cooking a Thanksgiving turkey with our Dominican fellow and her family. It's hiding Easter eggs in the Wallace House garden. Or when our bus driver in São Paulo headed to the wrong airport, and we lost our flight back to the U.S. Somehow, being trapped for four hours in a bus stuck in the surreal Paulista traffic was made better by the company (and the caipirinhas) that we had together.

The best journalists are not lone wolves. They understand the power of collaboration and harness it to make their work better. One of the gifts of the Knight-Wallace Fellowship is learning how much better you can be as part of a collective and the certainty that everywhere you go, you are only a phone call away from a friendly voice to guide you (and your stories) to a safe port—or a good bar.



Members of the class of 2016 hang out at one of their favorite Ann Arbor spots.

Photos From a Fun-filled Weekend

Reunion weekend kicked off with a visit to The Big House followed by lightning talks with favorite Wallace House speakers, a reception and dinner in the Omenn Atrium, all culminating with brunch at Wallace House.



Timeline

1972



Ben Yablonky, U-M journalism professor and former Nieman fellow, establishes the NEH Fellowships for Journalists at the University of Michigan with funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

1973



Among the inaugural class of Fellows is Charles Gibson, who went on to become the anchor of ABC's "Good Morning America" and "World News Tonight." Fellows received an \$11,600 stipend.

1980



Graham Hovey succeeds Yablonky as director of the fellowship program. Hovey came to the fellowship after a long career covering world affairs including serving on The New York Times editorial board and working as its Washington bureau foreign policy reporter.

1981



Mollie Parnis Livingston establishes the Livingston Awards for Young Journalists to honor her son, Robert, who published the journalism review More. Charles Eisendrath is the program's founding director.



1984

1986

1986

1987

1992



National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships for Journalists is renamed Journalists in Residence.

Charles Eisendrath becomes director of the fellowship. A Time magazine correspondent in Washington, London, Paris and bureau chief in Buenos Aires, he was a Knight-Wallace Fellow in 1974 and joined the U-M faculty in 1975.

Charles Eisendrath creates the annual Graham Hovey lecture to recognize a Knight-Wallace alum whose career exemplifies the benefits of a journalism fellowship at U-M.

The program is renamed Michigan Journalism Fellows.

The fellowship and Livingston Awards move to a new home when Wallace House is purchased with a \$500,000 gift from Mike and Mary Wallace.

The TEAM



2000



The fellowship launches international travel to Argentina.

2002



A \$5 million challenge grant from the Knight Foundation, a \$1 million gift from Mike Wallace, and a new name: Knight-Wallace Fellows at Michigan.

2009



Knight-Wallace Director Charles Eisendrath realizes his goal of traveling to Moscow. The class of 2009 spent eight days in Moscow, including a visit with former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev.

2015



Our two major programs, the Knight-Wallace Fellowships and the Livingston Awards, are rebranded under Wallace House.

2016



Lynette Clemetson is named the Charles R. Eisendrath Director of Wallace House. A 2010 Fellow, she was a reporter for The New York Times and Newsweek, and Senior Director of Strategy and Content Initiatives at NPR.



2016



The Fellows travel to Seoul, Korea for the first time since expanding international news tours beyond North America in 2000.

2017



The Wallace House Presents event series is launched, bringing journalists whose work is at the forefront of national conversations to U-M and the public.

2020



Wallace House adapts our fellowship model to address the remote needs of Covid-19 with the Knight-Wallace Reporting Fellowships.

2022



A new name—Wallace House Center for Journalists—reflects our support for journalists' careers, press freedom issues and informed civic engagement.

2023



Wallace House recognizes 50 years of journalism fellowships at the University of Michigan and welcomes its 50th class of Fellows.

Patricia Whitehorne '08

Ten years ago, in March 2013, Charles, Julia and Birgit were among guests who came to London for a reunion of U.K. and European-based fellows. The itinerary included a tour of the newly expanded BBC newsroom, which for the first time housed the different platforms—radio, TV, online and the World Service—all in the same building; a reception in the august BBC Council Chamber where, in time-honoured fashion, fellows took turns to give an account of themselves; and various social events. Birgit had also brought with her several Michigan blue aprons with the proud words 'Wallace House Chef' emblazoned across the front in yellow (or is that maize?). The plan was to give one to each of the attendees as a memento, but unfortunately that slipped the programme. Rather than transport the aprons back across the Atlantic, Birgit gave them to me to distribute to past BBC fellows. I did my best but was still left with about a dozen or so.



Patricia Whitehorne, Julia Eisendrath, Charles Eisendrath and Charlie Partridge in the BBC Council Chamber in 2013.

Fast forward a decade... My suitcase was packed and ready by the front door days in advance, as I looked forward to the 50th anniversary reunion. But there was an irritating, nagging thought that something was missing. Then, in the nick of time, it came to me—the aprons!

You can imagine the surprise when I delivered them back to Wallace House, all neatly folded and still in the original carrier bag. A proud homecoming all around.



It may have taken ten years but the aprons finally found their way back from London to Wallace House in time for a Thursday night Fellows dinner. Chefs from the 2024 class sporting the aprons include Adrien Chan, Kwan Ling Mok and Victor Law.

Charles Wolfson '75

In the NEH program's early years, we met twice a week in an LSA lounge/office. Not exactly the comfy setting which Wallace House provides. Not even a fellow Fellow named Eisendrath saw that on the horizon. No traveling to exotic foreign locales, either. Unless a visit to GM in Detroit counts. Never mind. What a year: excellent faculty presentations, studying Chinese politics, law school seminars, art history and Watercolors 101.

Returning to CBS in D.C. meant covering politics but eventually led overseas to CBS Tel Aviv bureau chief and, returning to Washington, the diplomatic beat traveling the world with five secretaries of state.

Robert Yoon '18

As a Knight-Wallace Fellow, I approached the opportunity to take classes at U-M the same way Marcia Brady approached joining clubs her freshman year: sign up for every possible one.

Lynette and Birgit warned us not to take more than three classes per semester. Leave time to experience the fellowship, they said. Yeah, yeah, I signed up for seven. One by one, they got the axe like victims in an Agatha Christie novel.

The first to go was Media Production because I wanted the option to sleep past 9 a.m. a couple days a week. I loved my Python coding class but missed too many because of fellowship obligations. And I got kicked out of my Korean language class. Another story for another time.

Of course, Lynette and Birgit were right. I ended up with three great classes (Documentary Filmmaking, Korean History, and Elections & Campaigns) and remain friends with two of the instructors. The third won't return my emails.

Note: Azi Paybarah and classmate Robert Yoon teamed up over reunion weekend to record shared memories from their fellowship year as part of the "KWF Stories" project. More information on how to listen to their story as well others who contributed, and how you can share your own story, can be found on page 3.



Robert Yoon on his first day of school as a grown-up Fellow.

Livingston Awards: Investing in the Future of Journalism for 42 Years

In 1981, Mollie Parnis Livingston established the Livingston Awards to spotlight outstanding journalists under the age of 35 and honor her late son Robert, founder of the journalism review More. Her prizes celebrated talent early, nurturing a commitment to quality journalism—an ethos she shared with her son.

Parnis Livingston enlisted her friend and Time-Life News Services chief of correspondents, Richard M. Clurman, to help her start the program. Clurman brought in Charles Eisendrath to design and implement the prizes. Eisendrath directed the Livingston Awards for 35 years.

In addition to Clurman, founding members of the national judging board included David Brinkley, Charlotte Curtis, David Halberstam, Mike Wallace and Barbara Walters. Clurman recruited Ken Auletta to join the board the following year.

For more than four decades, the program has identified emerging journalistic talent, including renowned names such as Christiane Amanpour, David Remnick, Steve Coll, Michele Norris, Ira Glass, Mark Mazzetti and Lydia Polgreen. This year's 42nd annual Livingston Award ceremony in June continued the tradition, honoring Anna Wolfe (27, Mississippi Today), Caitlin Dickerson (33, The Atlantic), and Vasilisa Stepanenko (22, The Associated Press).

The June ceremony also celebrated Ken Auletta with a special tribute. As a Livingston national judge for 39 years, Auletta



Distinguished Livingston Award judges join the award ceremony in New York City to celebrate the 2023 winners. Seated left to right: Vasilisa Stepanenko, winner for international reporting; Anna Wolfe, winner for local reporting; Caitlin Dickerson, winner for national reporting; and Ken Auletta, special honoree.

recruited new judges, including Kara Swisher and Anna Quindlen, and conceptualized the Richard M. Clurman Award for mentoring—an homage to the Livingston Awards founding architect. Auletta's most profound legacy resonates in the lives and careers of the journalists he helped shape, vividly captured in the video tribute presented at the luncheon in his honor. View the video on our website at wallacehouse.umich.edu/livingston-awards/2023-special-tribute

More than an annual celebration, the awards are now a year-round program dedicated to training journalists and fostering civic engagement. Beyond receiving accolades, Livingston winners engage in training journalists at industry conferences and workshops. Additionally, they share their stories at speaking engagements arranged by the Livingston Awards, reaching audiences beyond the journalism community.



- 1 Ken Auletta accepts a special honor at the 2023 Livingston Awards for his enduring commitment to the program and the careers of young journalists.
- 2 Founder Mollie Parnis Livingston with the 1981 winners at the inaugural Livingston Awards ceremony held at the New York Public Library. Inaugural winners from left to right are Eric Scigliano for local reporting, Steven Erlanger for international reporting and H.G. (Buzz) Bissinger for national reporting. Fast forward 41 years, and each winner lists the Livingston Award in their current public profiles.

- 3 Mike Wallace presents Christiane Amanpour with the Livingston Award for international reporting in 1993. Amanpour became a Livingston judge in 1997 and served in the role through 2020. She remains a staunch supporter and devoted friend of the program.
- 4 Public engagement with Livingston winners includes Michael Schmidt and Christina Goldbaum at an IRE training session in June 2018.
- 5 Livingston judge Charlayne Hunter-Gault presents the 1990 Livingston Award for local reporting to Michele Norris, then a staff writer for The Washington Post.

WALLACE HOUSE PRESENTS

Expanding Our Vision to Bring Journalists and Community Together

A September tradition in Ann Arbor for more than three decades, the Graham Hovey Lecture, named in honor of the program’s second director, welcomes a distinguished Knight-Wallace alum to deliver a public lecture in the Wallace House gardens (see pages 22 & 23). Adding to this legacy, Wallace House introduced the Eisendrath Symposium, now a cherished event on our annual spring calendar honoring Charles Eisendrath and his commitment to international journalism.

In 2016, we broadened our ambitions with the launch of Wallace House Presents. This public event series brings leading journalists covering issues at the forefront of our national conversations to public spaces for open dialogues. These talks bring transparency to how journalists pursue their work, spark discussion, and foster debates on today’s most crucial issues.

To date, Wallace House Presents has hosted more than 40 events delving into issues ranging from immigration to free speech to race and democracy. Here, we highlight some of our distinguished speakers, their topics and the insights they’ve shared.



- 1 **An Evening with CNN Anchor Chris Wallace and Governor Gretchen Whitmer**
Whitmer asks Wallace: “How does an office holder build a mutual respect and rapport, but also take on journalism that they don’t think is accurate or fair?” She adds, “Asking for a friend?”
- 2 **“Speak Freely: Debating the First Amendment in a Changing America” with Joshua Johnson, host of NPR’s “1A”** Johnson: “You don’t get to pick your facts. Facts are facts.”
- 3 **Marty Baron and Stephen Henderson: “Collision of Power: Trump, Bezos and The Washington Post”** Baron: “You had this family that had owned it [The Washington Post] for 80 years, selling a newspaper that was legendary, that had helped bring down a previous president, Richard Nixon of course. It was sold to one of the richest people in the world. And then along comes, in the summer of 2015—surprise, surprise—here comes Donald Trump, a political candidate for president unlike we had ever seen before, and then a president unlike we had [ever] seen before.”



- 4 **María Elena Salinas: “Crisis at the Border: Shifting Policy in a Country of Immigrants” with Ann Lin, Ginger Thompson and Aaron Nelsen** Salinas: “I think this is a good time for us to make that distinction of immigration policy and make the comparison of immigration policy under President Bush, under President Obama and under President Trump.”
- 5 **Nikole Hannah-Jones: “The 1619 Project: Examining the Legacy of Slavery and the Building of a Nation” in conversation with Rochelle Riley** Hannah-Jones: “Let’s look at the data and stop treating Black people as a problem. In the 400th year, imagine the country we could be if we were the country that our ancestors thought and that our ancestors believed in before us.”



The 36th Graham Hovey Lecture: Freedom of Information and the Public's Right to Know

Q&A with Anna Clark of ProPublica

BY LYNETTE CLEMETSON '10

The annual Graham Hovey Lecture was started by Charles Eisendrath in 1987 in honor of his predecessor Graham Hovey, director of the fellowship program from 1980 to 1986, to recognize a Knight-Wallace journalist whose career exemplifies the benefits of a fellowship and whose ensuing work is at the forefront of our national conversations. This year we welcomed Anna Clark, a 2017 Knight-Wallace Fellow and currently a journalist with ProPublica living in Detroit. She is the author of "The Poisoned City: Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy," which won the Hillman Prize for Book Journalism and the Rachel Carson Environment Book Award, and was longlisted for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction. She is a nonfiction faculty member in Alma College's MFA Program in Creative Writing and was also a Fulbright fellow in creative writing in Kenya. Anna sat down with director Lynette Clemetson to discuss the dangers of a culture of secrecy and what it takes to push back.

Q: When I raised the idea of government transparency to you as a possible topic for your Hovey Lecture, I was concerned that you might think it was too wonky, but you were all in.

A: Freedom of information and public disclosure policies are part of our architecture for democracy and justice. I'm very passionate about it.

Q: Many people don't know that Michigan ranks low in some areas of transparency.

A: I love this state, but I am sorry to say that we are not on the strongest side of this issue. We're notable for being one of only two states in which the legislature and the governor's office are exempt from public records requests.



Tabbye Chavous, Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion, Chief Diversity Officer at the University of Michigan and member of the Wallace House Executive Advisory Board, welcomes guests to the Wallace House gardens.

Q: It comes up for debate regularly, but the law hasn't changed.

A: Well, interestingly, whatever party is not in power is really pro opening things up, and then once they are in power, they hesitate. (Laughs.) So yeah, people have been talking about this for years and years. And it has real stakes for the ability of reporters to do their jobs and for people to know what's going on in their communities.

Q: For large institutions that get a lot of requests, public universities included, it can be easy to think of FOIA as a nuisance. How do we change that?

A: It's true. Not every FOIA request is made in the name of democracy. There are frivolous requests, harassing ones, excessive ones, overly vague and broad ones that are a genuine burden to our public officials. Still, I think it is a virtue that you aren't required to give a reason to make a request. If you're an official who is doing the right thing, if you're educating people, serving this state, this nation, in important ways, that should be evident in the details of the released records. Not making them available, even when you're doing the right things, cultivates a kind of secrecy that breeds suspicion and distrust.

Q: There's been a lot written about how a lack of government transparency exacerbated the water disaster in Flint. You document the downfalls in your book, "The Poisoned City." You also recently wrote about a lack of transparency in a different part of the state—the ongoing wait for an external review of the 2021 mass shooting at Oxford High School. How do larger government transparency issues relate to the situation in Oxford?

A: The Oxford school shooting in November 2021 was a very different kind of crisis than Flint. What's similar is that the people in Oxford are starved for a clear, comprehensive telling of what happened, not just in the courts, which are prosecuting the shooter and his parents, but in the context of their school and the public school district that had a number of interactions with the shooter in the days and hours leading up to the shooting.

If you have a culture where the attitude is "just trust us" and you expect people to be okay with it, that trickles down to even the most locally elected, part-time, volunteer school board officials, who nonetheless are responsible for high-stakes decisions that could potentially cost people their lives. We're creating a norm that is actually dangerous where this culture of secrecy is something we're familiar with. That doesn't mean it needs to be our normal.



Anna Clark returned to Wallace House not only with her infectious smile, but to offer insight into the restrictive laws preventing access to public records.

Q: How did the fellowship prepare you to tackle this issue of government secrecy, starting with your book on Flint?

A: Well, I was a completely fried, burned out, single, full-time freelancer working all the time and feeling increasingly depleted. Without the fellowship, I don't know how I would have emotionally been able to sustain the work of reporting and writing the book, let alone the emotional toll. Having fun with people, sleeping more, not worrying about my bills all the time, it was so restorative. And that was essential to help me go forward to finish this book and bring it into the world.

Q: What did you gain from the university?

A: It was a powerful opportunity to come at the book with resources and tools I just never had before. I took classes in the law school on water policy and environmental justice. I took an

Wallace House director Lynette Clemetson presents Anna Clark with the inscribed Hovey Bowl and her name added to the Hovey Lecture plaque.



urban planning class on metropolitan structures. Visiting cities in Brazil and South Korea gave me a new perspective to think about how cities in the U.S. are made and unmade. Not having any institutional affiliation or much money when I came to the fellowship, I never had access to archives like that. Suddenly, I got this university email address and all the resources of the campus libraries, including the library at the U-M's Flint campus, became available.

Q: And yet, you didn't come into the fellowship with a concrete plan for what you were going to do. That makes a lot of people nervous. What advice would you give to current or future fellows who worry about having everything mapped out?

A: Some of it is just trusting yourself. Like, if you have a Tuesday, and you don't have any classes at all, you can trust that things will show up on that day that you will learn and grow from, including just empty space, which might be the thing you need most of all.

Q: That can be a hard case to make when people's careers feel so perilous and the industry is under so much pressure.

A: The toll this work takes—even in the best of times, let alone in these times of scarcity and threat—is so excruciating. If people are going to do this work for years and decades, well, people are not machines. We're not machines. You need to replenish yourself. We need journalists who are whole people, who have the internal and external resources to sustain themselves for the long run. This program is so rare for truly investing in journalists, not just in what they produce. That's an investment in journalism for the long term, not just the news cycle.

Welcome to the Program!

The class of 2024 Fellows started the semester by “getting their feet wet” touring the university campus and the city of Ann Arbor during orientation week.



Tamanna Rahman gives a spin to the 2,400-pound “Endover” on the Regents Plaza. Installed in 1968, this eight-foot square cube rotates on its axis with just a gentle push.



Efrat Peres Lachter takes a dip in the Cooley Memorial Fountain on Ingalls Mall.



Fellows enjoyed attractions across campus including a stop at the Burton Memorial Tower hosted by carillonist Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra.

Call for Applications, Entries and Nominations

Knight-Wallace Fellowship applications, Livingston Award entries and nominations for the Richard M. Clurman mentoring award are now open.

KNIGHT-WALLACE FELLOWSHIPS

APPLY FOR THE CLASS OF 2024-2025

U.S. applications due **February 1, 2024.**

wallacehouse.umich.edu/knight-wallace/how-to-apply

LIVINGSTON AWARDS

ENTER WORK PUBLISHED IN 2023 Livingston entry forms due **February 1, 2024.**

wallacehouse.umich.edu/livingston-awards/enter

RICHARD M. CLURMAN AWARD

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

Reward in Paying It Forward

BY DIRECTOR LYNETTE CLEMETSON '10



Just weeks before our 50th anniversary reunion, Wallace House was jolted by a surprise bit of good news.

2019 alum Emilio Gutiérrez-Soto, a Mexican journalist whose life had been upended in a 15-year quest for U.S. asylum, won his legal fight with the Board of Immigration

Appeals. It was a case in which Wallace House was heavily involved, in partnership with the National Press Club and the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. And it was a rare and exhilarating win in a world that has become increasingly dangerous for journalists.

But as we work to extend support to journalists facing threats around the world, the truth is, there are more setbacks than victories. Within the same month, Masrat Zahra, a 2023 Fellow from Kashmir who is fleeing persecution under draconian national security laws, had her passport rescinded by the Indian

government. Elena Milashina, a 2010 Fellow from Russia who was still recovering from a brutal beating in July by government thugs in Chechnya, watched as her editor, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dmitry Muratov, was declared a foreign agent, putting the future of their news organization, Novaya Gazeta, in further jeopardy. The Afghan journalists who we had helped resettle following the Taliban takeover of their country remained on humanitarian parole, with many questions about their long-term status still unanswered.

Our ability to offer support to journalists in crisis is directly and concretely aided by your generous gifts. A donation of just \$100 per year from every alumni would enable us to offer one additional fellowship each year for a journalist at risk. Alumni giving bolsters more major gifts. Organizations and individual donors weighing significant support for our work regularly ask, “Do your alumni give?” The answer should be simply and unequivocally, yes. As we celebrate five decades of rich history, consider paying it forward to support our work long into the future.

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 who participate in our programs, strengthening local journalism 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.

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

We need you to help us expand our vision and reach our potential.

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.

To discuss a gift, contact Jayson Rose, Senior Development Officer, at rosejay@umich.edu or 734 998-7666.

DONATE



ALUMNI UPDATE



Molly Ball '10

Named senior political correspondent at The Wall Street Journal.



Elaine Cromie '23

Named photo editor for Chalkbeat newsroom including Votebeat.



Arnessa Garrett '19

Named managing editor/editorial page editor of The Advocate in Louisiana.



Jaeah Lee '22

Winner of both the Excellence in Investigative Reporting Award from the Asian American Journalists Association and the Dori J. Maynard Justice Award from the News Leaders Association for "This Rap Song Helped Sentence a 17-Year-Old to Prison for Life," published by Type Investigations/The New York Times.



Seema Mehta '19

Taught a journalism capstone class as an adjunct professor at Loyola Marymount University.



Marzio G. Mian '02

First-prize recipient of the True Story Award presented in Bern, Switzerland, for his work "Hazard to the Northeast."



Josh Neufeld '13

Winner of the 2023 Graphic Medicine International Collective Award for Outstanding Health-Related Comic Project (Short-Form) for "Vaccinated at the Ball," co-published by The Journalist's Resource and the Chicago Sun-Times.



Kat Stafford '22

Winner of the National Press Club Journalism Institute's 2023 Neil and Susan Sheehan Award for Investigative Journalism. She is the global race and justice editor with Reuters.



Robert Yoon '18

Accepted a position at The Associated Press as an elections and democracy reporter focusing on analyzing election data and explaining the electoral process.

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