2018 Inaugural Class

Induction ceremony
April 7, 2018
INTRODUCTION

From Pulitzer Prize winners to trailblazing faculty, 14 individuals and two couples are being inducted into the inaugural University of Arizona School of Journalism Hall of Fame for their significant achievements and service to journalism and society.

The Department of Journalism – as it was first known – officially began operations in January 1951.

“These champions of journalism have made the program what it is today, and they deserve to be honored for their incredible contributions,” said David Cuillier, school director. “We are all better off because of their hard work and dedication.”

NOMINATION PROCESS

The inaugural inductees were among dozens nominated by alums, family, friends, faculty or staff, and those not chosen will be considered for future classes. Nominees may include alumni (whether they graduated or not) and former employees of the School of Journalism, living or deceased.

A Hall of Fame Committee screens the nominations, and the school’s Journalism Advisory Council provides its recommendations for final consideration by a faculty vote.

To submit a nomination for 2019, email a 350-word letter to Mike Chesnick at mchesnick1@email.arizona.edu or mail to UA School of Journalism/PO Box 210158B/Tucson, AZ 85721-0158.

HALL OF FAME CEREMONY

UA’s Center for Creative Photography auditorium

12:15 p.m. Introduction by emcees Sarah Kezele (‘11) and John D’Anna (‘83) and slideshow of inductees.

12:30-2 p.m. Speeches by inductees or family members.

2:30 p.m. Unveiling of school’s Hall of Fame plaque and tour of Marshall Building third floor; 845 N. Park Ave. (just northwest of University Boulevard)

INAUGURAL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

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UA School of Journalism alumni – including Don Carson before he died – wrote most of the bios. Read more about the inductees at www.journalism.arizona.edu/hall18.
After being named the UA outstanding journalism graduate in 1981, Gilbert Bailon became a leader in the newsroom and in national journalism organizations.

Editor of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch since 2012, he was awarded the Benjamin C. Bradlee Editor of the Year Award in 2014 by the National Press Foundation for overseeing coverage of the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and the tumultuous aftermath.

“If ever a newspaper and its editor faced a real-time stress test it was the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and editor Gilbert Bailon,” the press foundation judges said.

The Bradlee award “is made in recognition of imagination, professional skill, ethics and an ability to motivate staff,” the foundation said. It is named for the late editor of The Washington Post.

The Post-Dispatch also won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for breaking news photography for its coverage in Ferguson.

“This recognizes everyone in the newsroom,” Bailon said of the Pulitzer.

Bailon got his start as editor of the Arizona Daily Wildcat — later inducted into its inaugural Hall of Fame — and became a reporter at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Los Angeles Daily News, San Diego Union and Kansas City Star.

In 1986, he went to the Dallas Morning News, holding reporting and editing positions before being named vice president and executive editor in 1998. In 2003, he founded Al Dia, a Spanish-language daily, at the Morning News and became its publisher before moving to St. Louis in 2007 as editorial page editor.

He is a past president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, and was inducted into its Hall of Fame in 2013. He was president of the American Society of News Editors in 2007-08 and also served a chair of its diversity, media convergence and readership committees. He is a former board member of Unity Journalists of Color and of the Maynard Institute. Hispanic Business magazine twice named him one of the Top 100 most influential Hispanics.

— Bobbie Jo Buel, ’79
Donald W. Carson

Donald W. Carson, a distinguished 1954 graduate who died Feb. 1 at age 85, returned to the UA Journalism Department to become one of its most revered professors.

Carson was an outstanding newsman in his own right. He reported for the Arizona Daily Star and the Associated Press in Phoenix and Washington, D.C., then returned to the Star as associate editor, and later worked summers on copy desks around the country. He coached newspapers on their news reporting, evaluated non-fiction works for the UA Press, and co-authored a biography of Rep. Morris K. Udall with retired Professor Jim Johnson.

But Carson’s biggest impact came upon joining the journalism faculty in 1966. For the next 30 years until his retirement, he instilled in several generations of aspiring journalists the traits that mark the best of journalism: integrity, curiosity, persistence and fairness.

He started the Community News Service in 1973, letting students cover statewide stories for small news outlets, a practice that continues today as Arizona Sonora News. He chaired the department from 1978 to 1985, helped stave off its elimination due to cost-cutting, won among other honors the Western Newspaper Foundation’s first Outstanding Journalism Educator Award, was three times a Fulbright Scholar in Ecuador and lectured in seven other countries.

Perhaps his signature actions, at a time when newsrooms were still all too white, were the founding of a diversity workshop for high school students and the Maynard Institute’s acclaimed Editing Program for Minority Journalists. In 1993, the National Association of Hispanic Journalists honored him for “unprecedented contributions to the newspaper industry in the area of diversity.”

Carson had a special knack for helping students find their potential, then served as a sounding board in their careers. They are his truest legacy. “Quite simply,” wrote the late Charles Waters, a 1969 grad who became a top editor, “Don Carson changed my life.”

– Richard Gilman, ’72
Nancy J. Cleeland

Nancy Cleeland, the lead reporter-writer on the 2004 Pulitzer Prize-winning series “The Walmart Effect,” wrote with insight and authority on immigration, labor and trade over three decades at the Los Angeles Times and San Diego Union-Tribune.

Her journalism career took her around the world, including a three-year stint as a bureau chief in Mexico City and several years covering the U.S.-Mexico border from Tijuana. She reported from Vietnam, Cuba, Nicaragua, Haiti, Bolivia, Kenya and the former Soviet Union. Some of her most rewarding stories were closer to home, from the immigrant communities of Southern California, where she chronicled the exploitation of workers, their precarious living situations, and their struggle to maintain ties to their hometowns.

After graduation from the UA School of Journalism in 1977, she began her career as a summer reporter for the Associated Press in Tucson before going to the Blade-Tribune in Oceanside, California and the San Diego Union as an outdoor writer. After a year off to travel across South America, she returned to the Union to cover international stories as well. She accompanied a group of veterans returning to Vietnam to unite with children they had fathered and left behind. Her stories earned a top prize from the Asian American Journalists Association in 1998.

In 1990, the San Diego Union-Tribune chose Cleeland to direct its bureau in Mexico City. She then joined the Los Angeles Times to cover immigration before moving to the labor beat.

Cleeland initiated the idea for a series on how Walmart’s drive for lower retail prices had impacted international labor practices. Her byline appeared on five series stories. It earned the George Polk Award and the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in national reporting.

In 2006, she took a Times’ buyout to work as a writer, editor and media relations professional on labor issues. She is now deputy director of communications at OSHA at the Department of Labor.

“I wouldn’t have been a journalist without Don Carson. ... He brought working journalists into our classroom so we would know the real deal. Among them was Don Bolles, who was killed by a car bomb a few months later.”

Nancy Cleeland
1977 graduate

Photo courtesy of Pulitzer.org

Nancy Cleeland accepts the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in national reporting on behalf of her L.A. Times’ team that worked on “The Walmart Effect.”

– Don Carson, ’54
Richard H. Gilman

richard Gilman’s career in journalism is an inspiration for students who aspire to make their mark in the field. He earned a B.A. degree in government and journalism from the UA in 1972 and an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1983. Gilman served in a number of positions at The New York Times Co. before being named publisher of The Boston Globe in 1999.

The Globe won three Pulitzer Prizes during his tenure, including for Public Service in 2003 for the paper’s investigation into sexual abuse by Roman Catholic priests – later portrayed in the Oscar-winning film “Spotlight.”

Gilman began his career as a journalist with the Arizona Daily Star in Tucson in 1970, going to college during the day and covering the police beat at night between 4 p.m. and 1 a.m.

“Being busy was probably a good thing,” Gilman said. “I had to focus on the work that needed to be done.”

Building on national writing awards he won as a student, he became a reporter and assistant managing editor at the Star.

“Richard’s success was driven by his intelligence, hustle, hard work and assertiveness,” said Michael Chihak, a 1971 grad and former Arizona Public Media news director and Tucson Citizen pub-

“The film (‘Spotlight’) showed the value of good journalism to millions of people. ... It also encouraged and caused victims to come forward, and I hope it is a huge warning to those in authority.”

Richard Gilman congratulates then-Boston Globe Editor Marty Baron after the paper won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service.

lisher. “And he always had a seriousness of purpose about things.”

The two competed against each other on the Tucson dailies, but they also were colleagues on the Arizona Daily Wildcat, which named Gilman to its inaugural Hall of Fame in 2001 and Chihak in 2003.

When Gilman retired in 2006 as publisher of The Globe, his bosses recognized his illustrious career by endowing a $25,000 scholarship in his name at the UA School of Journalism.

Gilman – now a local literacy volunteer – remembers how tough it can be for students to juggle classwork, jobs and internships. So to ease that burden, he and his wife, Wendy, added another $40,000 to the scholarship endowment and gave more after that in helping establish the Richard Gilman Scholarship.

— Lori Harwood, UA College of SBS
Florence G. Graves

Whether as an investigative reporter, editor or educator, Florence George Graves has been a ground-breaker. The 1976 master's grad showed an affinity for investigative journalism as a student, producing an in-depth article for the first issue of the school's El Independiente in 1976 on funding controversies surrounding a South Tucson alcoholism reception center.

By 1980, she had become the founding editor of Common Cause Magazine, a Washington, D.C.-based publication focusing on investigative reporting. During its first 10 years the magazine produced stories that led to congressional investigations and changes in federal policies in areas such as business, health and military affairs.

Graves won an Investigative Reporters and Editors award for showing flaws in the government approval process for NutraSweet, and her staffers won several more awards. The publication won the National Magazine Award for General Excellence, which has been called “the Pulitzer Prize for magazines,” in 1987.

After leaving the magazine, Graves did freelance investigative reporting. In the early 1990s, she went to The Washington Post with allegations about Sen. Robert Packwood’s sexual misconduct, and the stories she produced with Charles E. Shepherd led to a Senate Ethics Committee recommendation for expulsion and Packwood’s resignation. She also investigated for the Post how senators discouraged testimony of Angela Wright, who could have helped corroborate Anita Hill’s allegations against Clarence Thomas; revealed Pentagon contractors’ misuse of funds in Common Cause; and exposed Clinton accuser Kathleen Willey’s lack of credibility in The Nation.

In 2004, Graves founded The Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism, the nation’s first such program to be based at a university (Brandeis), which enables students to work as paid researchers for institute investigations and those of independent journalists. The result has been in-depth reports about social justice and human rights issues.

Florence Graves was featured in a 1995 issue of Common Cause after investigating Sen. Robert Packwood’s sexual misconduct allegations.

“Without oversight, human beings too often behave badly. When the facts are pursued with ruthless thoroughness, watchdog journalism helps keep American institutions accountable to all.”

Florence Graves
1976 M.A. grad

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Savannah Guthrie started her journalism career like most UA students, learning how to write hard news in 205, how to cover local government in RPA, and how to do enterprise stories for The Tombstone Epitaph.

“I learned fairness, accuracy, speed, precision, thoughtfulness — all those kinds of values that I hold dear as a journalist and are important and more threatened than ever,” Guthrie said.

Now, the 1993 graduate conducts interviews with presidents, lawmakers and celebrities as co-anchor for NBC’s “Today” show. She received the 2017 Matrix Award as one of the nation’s top women in communications.

Guthrie started her career in Columbia, Missouri, and as a KVOA 4 anchor in Tucson, where she grew up, before earning a Georgetown law degree while working at an NBC affiliate in Washington.

She became an attorney but “couldn’t shake” journalism. Court TV made her a legal analyst before NBC News called, and she covered the White House before moving to “Today” in 2011. Guthrie did interviews with President Obama, but said covering President Trump is different.

“Every White House tends to have an adversarial relationship with the press and that’s part of what would be expect-
Hugh & Jan Harelson

Hugh and Jan Harelson’s involvement with the UA School of Journalism has impacted thousands of students and the faculty and staff who work with them.

When the department was targeted for closure in 1994, Hugh, a 1952 alumnus, became co-chair of the Save Journalism Committee, which led the campaign to keep the department open. When the committee became the Journalism Advisory Council, he remained a leader. He was news editor of the Arizona Republic, news director at KTAR-TV in Phoenix and director of UA relations and information services, before being named publisher of Arizona Highways in 1982, where he worked until retiring in 1992.

Before his death from cancer in 1998, at age 67, he asked his spouse to help the department with instructional technology. Jan raised the money to construct a cutting-edge computer laboratory, the Hugh Harelson Reporting Lab, and started an endowment to support it.

The interactive lab opened in Spring 2000, and was the incubator for a new curriculum to help students confront the 21st Century challenges presented by the revolution in communication technology. More than 3,000 students have taken classes in the lab – including the Harelsons’ granddaughter, Sara, a UA journalism major. It was renamed the Hugh and Jan Harelson Reporting Lab after Jan, 78, died in 2015 following complications from heart surgery.

Jan, who had a long career in education, also established the annual Harelson Award for Teaching Excellence to honor faculty. She became a member and chair of the school’s Advisory Council and focused on fundraising to support instruction when state budget cuts were eroding programs. Son Matt Harelson and his spouse, Julie, started a second endowment to help with operating costs.

“The journalism school and its mission were very important to our parents.”

Scott Harelson
Son of Hugh and Jan

The Harelsons’ legacy of philanthropy and leadership continues through sons Matt (left) and Scott, an Advisory Council member, and their families.

Photo courtesy of Harelson family

Harelsons’ granddaughter, Sara, a UA journalism major. It was renamed the Hugh and Jan Harelson Reporting Lab after Jan, 78, died in 2015 following complications from heart surgery.

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“The journalism school and its mission were very important to both of our parents,” son Scott Harelson said. “They believed strongly in maintaining its ability to continue producing quality journalists as it had done for them so many years before.”

– Mike Chesnick, ’84
Jane R. Kay

Jane Kay pioneered deeply reported environmental journalism long before it was a thing.

Her landmark 1985 series for the Arizona Daily Star exposing TCE pollution in Tucson groundwater from Hughes Aircraft Co. still resonates today. A yearlong investigation found thousands of residents had for decades been drinking contaminated water from city wells. Kay, a Star reporter from 1979 to 1986, tracked cancers and other illnesses among hundreds of residents and turned over files to state health authorities who had ignored the problem.

Since then, she has extended her reach to the entire global ecosystem. Her dispatches from the Arctic on shrinking ice and endangered polar bears were among the first to sound a vital alarm. In the Amazon, she looked at the human causes behind crippling forest loss.

At the San Francisco Examiner, her Bay In Peril series brought vital protections to one of America’s most beloved bodies of water. At the San Francisco Chronicle, she produced story after story on crucial subjects, with a particular focus on California, Arizona and Mexico. When the Chronicle retrenched, she carried on independently, writing in Scientific American, National Geographic and others. She was a mainstay at the award-winning Environmental

“The lesson here is that a journalism major with a liberal arts background can research and write complicated science stories.”

Jane Kay
1961 graduate

For a 1982 story on health effects from uranium waste, Jane Kay stood at a Navajo tribal meeting to explain why she needed to interview sick people.

Health News. She is rock-solid reporter, fearless, relentless, honest, and respected even by corporate executives she nailed to the wall.

As an educator, Jane taught feature writing at UA and later she taught at UC-Berkeley, where she devised and directed the Environmental Journalism Program. She appears regularly on panels and in programs that train young reporters to mine data, penetrate corporate secrecy and then draw conclusions.

Her long list of achievements and honors includes the Sigma Delta Chi Public Service Award, Scripps Howard Foundation’s Edward J. Msseeman Award and the National Press Club’s Robert L. Kozik Environmental Award. In 2007, she won the Society of Environmental Journalists’ prize for best beat reporting.

— Mort Rosenblum (Jane Kay’s brother)
Douglas D. Martin

Professor Douglas D. Martin never stayed retired and never stopped following his passions: newsroom journalism, education and recording the history of the Southwest.

A native of Benton Harbor in Michigan, he started his journalism career as a typesetter at age 15. He worked at newspapers in Michigan, Arkansas and Indiana, followed by a career at the Detroit Free Press. He won two Pulitzer Prizes at the Free Press: In 1932, he shared the award for reporting; in 1945, he was managing editor when the Free Press won for Public Service.

As managing editor of the Free Press in 1945, Martin decided to retire and move to Tucson for his health. Soon he caught the attention of the University of Arizona, which hired him to develop and start the UA Journalism Department in 1951.

“No person made greater contributions to the University of Arizona and to the State of Arizona than Douglas D. Martin,” former UA President Richard A. Harvill said after Martin, 78, died in 1963.

Martin initiated the school’s John Peter and Anna Catherine Zenger Freedom of the Press Award, which has been given to the nation’s top journalists who fight for press freedom and the people’s right to know since 1954. Past winners include Walter Cronkite and Katharine Graham.

“Barely tall enough to peer over his notes and lectern, he drilled us relentlessly on the basics of newspaper reporting. ‘Damn it, write short sentences,’ he would say.”

Hugh Harelson on Doug Martin (above), who was department head, 1951-56

Doug Martin called Old Main “a rugged beacon among the cacti,” in his book about the first 70 years of UA, “The Lamp in the Desert.”

Before his second retirement — from the UA in 1956 — Martin’s third career as an author and historian was already well-established. His three major books were broadly acclaimed: “Yuma Crossing,” “Tombstone’s Epitaph,” and “The Lamp in the Desert.” Each is a treasure, written with the skills of a historian and the economy of words of a journalist.

I had the good fortune to take an honors course from him in his third-floor office of the original UA Library Building, where he arranged for two desks to face each other, as in a newsroom.

“Thank heaven, Doug came out West, brought all that experience with him and shared it with a bunch of idealistic students,” said the late Hugh Harelson, a 1954 graduate and student of Martin’s.

— Edith Auslander, ’61
Sherman R. Miller 3rd

Sherman R. Miller 3rd’s impact, influence and contribution to the UA School of Journalism cannot be overstated. He came to the program in 1959, bringing with him years of news experience: reporter and editor at the Detroit Free Press in the city where he was born; rewrite man at The Associated Press; executive positions at the Philadelphia Inquirer and Chicago Sun; bureau chief at the New York Journal-American – and finally as a copy editor at The New York Times, where he also excerpted and edited, for newspaper use, parts of two books written by former President Truman.


Under Professor Miller, the Journalism Department first became accredited in 1964. He led the Arizona Daily Wildcat – then part of the department – from publishing three days a week to four days a week and finally to five days a week, making it the fifth largest daily in Arizona.

His talents and abilities did not go unrecognized. In 1964, the UA’s senior men’s honorary named him the outstanding male faculty member. In 1966, Esquire magazine named him one of the 33 “super-profs” in the country.

For the 1967-68 academic year, he was awarded a Fulbright lectureship at the University of Ankara in Turkey, but he contracted a sudden infection in January 1968 and died two weeks later – to the shock and disbelief of the students who loved him. He was 57.

Miller clearly thought that being a journalist was the best possible job in the world. His exuberant love of and enthusiasm for the profession quickly inspired his students, who could hardly wait to graduate and begin work as journalists. His goal for his students, however, was not to simply get a job; it was to “get it right” and inform the public. He was an ardent believer in watchdog journalism. He had no tolerance for inaccuracy. He started the school’s “Auto E” rule, still upheld today. A brilliantly written story with one misspelled name would get a failing grade – no exceptions.

“All the world is divided into two people – newspaper people and other people.”


Sherman R. Miller 3rd
Professor, 1959-67; Department head, 1961-67

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— Nann Durando, ’66
Lynne Olson

Lynne Olson, a New York Times bestselling author of seven books of history, has been praised by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as “our era’s foremost chronicler of World War II politics and diplomacy.”

But Olson first made her mark as a journalist after graduating magna cum laude from UA in 1969.

In 1971, she went to work for the Associated Press in Salt Lake City, and in 1972, transferred to the AP’s San Francisco bureau, where she specialized in feature writing. Later that same year, Olson was named to AP’s top feature writing team in New York, which focused on developing and writing stories about the country’s rapidly changing social mores.

In 1973, she was asked by the AP to become the wire service’s first woman correspondent in Moscow, and she moved to the AP’s foreign desk to prepare for the assignment. She was based in Moscow from 1974 to 1976, once again concentrating on feature stories but also covering such news events as the Apollo-Soyuz space mission and President Nixon’s visit to the Soviet Union.

In 1976, Olson was reassigned to Washington, where she covered Jimmy Carter’s presidential campaign. She left the AP to join the Washington bureau of the Baltimore Sun, covering politics and the White House.

Her books deal mostly with Britain’s crucial role in World War II. Her latest, “Last Hope Island: Britain, Occupied Europe, and the Brotherhood That Helped Turn the Tide of War,” was published by Random House in April 2017. Olson’s previous two books, “Those Angry Days: Roosevelt, Lindbergh, and America’s Fight Over World War II, 1939-1941” and “Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour,” were bestsellers.

Born in Hawaii, Olson lives in Washington, D.C., with her husband, Stanley Cloud, with whom she co-authored “The Murrow Boys” and another book. She has appeared on “The Daily Show,” NPR’s “All Things Considered” and “Morning Edition,” and other shows.

“I rely heavily on the human angle in writing history, which comes from my training as a journalist and a feature writer.”

Lynne Olson 1969 graduate

Many of Lynne Olson’s non-fiction books deal with Britain’s crucial role in World War II. Her website is www.lynneolson.com.

Photos courtesy of CSPAN and Amazon.com
Mort L. Rosenblum

Mort Rosenblum’s work as a foreign correspondent, author and teacher exemplifies the highest of professional achievements in journalism.

The 1965 graduate is a quintessential journalist: smart, bold, talented, the one to ferret out facts, confront fabrication and quickly write a story that sings so loud readers cannot ignore it. His knowledge is deep and far-reaching based on borders he’s crossed, history he’s read, and world leaders and people in the street he’s interviewed.

In 1967, he accepted his first assignment as a foreign correspondent for the Associated Press. Over four decades in the AP, he covered 200 countries, including as bureau chief in the Congo, Nigeria, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Buenos Aires and Paris. He took the position of editor of the International Herald Tribune for two years, then returned as AP Special Correspondent in 1981.

His stories marked world trauma: Slaughter under Mobutu, famine in Ethiopia, refugees displaced by encroaching desert in the Sahel, Gulf War chaos from an unembedded reporter, and the Silk Road into Afghanistan not knowing if he’d be the next journalist pulled off a jeep and shot. He interviewed Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb politician and convicted war criminal, six weeks before the Bosnian war started.

Amid mayhem, he’s written a dozen books, and co-founded the print magazine, “Dispatches.”

“In the mid-’60s, I left Tucson to spend a lifetime poking around the world,” Mort Rosenblum says. “I covered war and mayhem in grim places, hung out with Antarctic penguins ... ate fancy foie gras in socialist France.”


He’s still at it, traveling and researching stories and books, and passing on to UA journalism students the craft, the ethics and the calling.

—I’m privileged to return each year to teach the basics I learned at UA – along with things we once didn’t worry much about, such as how to come back alive with the story.”

— Mort Rosenblum
1965 graduate, professor

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— Jane Kay (Rosenblum’s sister)
With outstanding vision and leadership, Jacqueline Sharkey transformed a mostly practical journalism program into one that not only excels in academic research but also thrives with cutting-edge student programs.

During fiscally tight times, when few campus units could expand, Sharkey grew student enrollment and doubled the size of the faculty as it became the School of Journalism in 2008. The graduate program was resurrected, and important emphases on global and science journalism were established.

The first woman to serve as director in the program’s 60-plus-year history, she oversaw the design and construction of new space in the Marshall Building, which enabled the department to move from the biohazard-filled Franklin Building in fall 2004. She built donations to provide for modern technology and computer labs well into the future, and solved fiscal problems with undergraduate fees.

“Through what can only be described as administrative door-to-door combat, Professor Sharkey gained precious ground for the program,” said Michael Chihak (’71) when she retired in 2011.

The 1972 grad was known for her excellence in teaching before becoming director. She created El Independiente in 1976, ahead of its time nationally for covering underserved, minority communities. The bilingual newspaper, which is now a magazine, focused on presenting in-depth public-affairs and investigative reporting on political, economic and social issues affecting South Tucson.

She stressed journalism ethics in the curriculum, recognized nationally when few schools were teaching the subject, and won the Freedom Forum National Journalism Teacher of the Year award.

Sharkey also was a top journalist. She reported on Latin American insurgencies, including leading coverage of the Iran-Contra scandal that contributed to congressional investigations. She worked as a Washington Post copy editor, wrote a book on the Pentagon’s press restrictions and won awards from the Investigative Reporters and Editors, Overseas Press Club and Society of Professional Journalists.

“Professor Sharkey’s encouragement meant everything to me,” said Guthrie (’93), co-anchor of NBC’s “Today” show.

1972 graduate; School director, 2000-11

“For years, El Independiente was the nation’s only bilingual publication produced by students on a regular basis. staffers went on to work for major news organizations.”

Jacqueline Sharkey

 Jacqueline E. Sharkey
Donald N. and Lou Edith “Luda” Soldwedel worked for more than 20 years to enable UA Journalism to provide the best education possible, then left a gift to continue their legacy. “Their financial help provided amazing opportunities for students and faculty, particularly during the state’s recent lean budgetary years,” said David Cuillier, school director.

After Luda, 90, died in 2016, the couple’s lifetime gifts converted to a $233,000 endowment to benefit the School of Journalism in perpetuity. That gift follows the more than $300,000 that Luda gave to the program after Don died in 2008 at 83. They also established the Soldwedel Family Professorship.

Don was the founder of what today is Western News & Info, which owns the Daily Courier in Prescott and other Arizona newspapers. He had been hiring UA journalism graduates for more than two decades when he learned of the university’s decision in 1994 to recommend that the department be closed. For two years, with Luda’s support, he helped lead the Save Journalism Committee.

After the UA rescinded the closure order, Don founded the school’s Journalism Advisory Council in 1996, served as chair and shaped its fundraising role. He played a pivotal role during construction of the department’s new facilities in the Marshall Building in the early 2000s, convincing university officials to install 100 data ports in computer labs despite the costs.

Donald met Luda in Pekin, Illinois, while working on her father’s newspaper. The two attended UA, where in 1946 Donald received a business degree and Luda earned a Spanish degree.

“Don and Luda Soldwedel, featured in a jewelry ad in 1946, were ‘visionaries committed to fostering a cutting-edge education for the next generation of journalists,” said Jacqueline Sharkey, former director.

Their children, Joe Soldwedel and Ann Buxie, continue to support UA journalism. Joe is president and CEO of Western News & Info. Ann, a poet, founded a storytelling center in Malibu, California.

“I learned a lot from my parents about the momentum of generosity and the importance of friendships,” Buxie said. “It was just wonderful to grow up with that.”

— Mike Chesnick, ’84

“Don and Luda set an example for all of us about the power of thoughtful giving.”

Jacqueline Sharkey
Former school director
Frank O. Sotomayor

Journalism bit Frank Sotomayor at an early age, and the Tucson native raised in Barrio Hollywood has been pursuing excellence and diversity in the news business ever since.

He began working for the Tucson High newspaper and the Arizona Daily Star when he was a teen. He received a journalism degree in 1966 from the UA, where he was editor of the Arizona Daily Wildcat and named outstanding UA male graduate.

Early in his career, he was a reporter and copy editor at the Star; the Philadelphia Inquirer and Pacific Stars and Stripes newspapers. In the 1970s, he started at the Los Angeles Times as a foreign news writer and worked as a editor there for 35 years, including 18 years as an assistant metro editor.

He was co-editor and a writer on the series “Latinos in Southern California,” which won the 1984 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service. He and series co-editor George Ramos proposed the 27-story package, which was written, photographed and edited by 17 Mexican American journalists.

“Our goal was to dispel the stereotypical portrayal of Latinos all too common during that era,” Sotomayor said.


Sotomayor, who later earned a master’s degree in communication from Stanford, edited other award-winning stories for the L.A. Times. He’s a former associate director for the Institute for Justice and Journalism at USC Annenberg and a Nieman fellow.

He played a key role in saving the UA journalism program from elimination in 1994 and now chairs its Advisory Council. An early advocate for news media diversity, he’s helping the school recruit diverse faculty and co-founded the Robert C. Maynard Institute for Journalism Education and CCNMA: Latino Journalists of California.

He received the 1998 UA Centennial Achievement Award and was named to NAHJ and Arizona Daily Wildcat Hall of Fames in 2002.

“For an informed public to function correctly, we need the voices of all people reflected in news coverage. Journalists from all types of cultures and backgrounds can help span those divides.”

Frank Sotomayor
1966 graduate

Frank Sotomayor and his Mexican-American colleagues had to convince the L.A. Times to enter their Pulitzer-winning 1983 series on Latinos.

Frank O. Sotomayor
Bill Walsh

Bill Walsh was a man of style — so dedicated to his craft that when he wasn’t editing copy for The Washington Post, he was writing three witty books about copy editing, posting to his renowned website, The Slot, or tweeting about grammar.

Walsh, a 1984 graduate, died of cancer in 2017 in Washington, D.C. He was 55.

His books “noted evolutions and devolutions of language, the indispensability of hyphens and his hostility toward semicolons. ... By many accounts, Mr. Walsh stood at the zenith of his profession,” the Post wrote in its obit.

“Copy editors are the unsung heroes of my profession, the folks who ensure that our work is as pristine and accurate as possible,” said Emilio Garcia-Ruiz, Post managing editor. “With Bill, we lost one of the giants in the field.”

The American Copy Editors Society (ACES) awarded Walsh one of its highest honors, the Glamann Award, for contributions to the field of editing in 2017 and named a scholarship after him.

Walsh helped edit several Pulitzer Prize-winning projects, including a series on NSA surveillance that won for public service in 2014. He served as the copy chief for the Post’s national desk from 2003-2008 and chief of the night copy desk after that. He joined the Post in 1997 as a copy editor and designer, then became business copy chief.


At UA, Walsh won the Mark Finley Gold Pen Award for best beginning news writer and the William Hattich Award for Professionalism. He worked as a copy editor for the Arizona Daily Wildcat, which inducted him into its Hall of Fame in 2006.

Walsh began at The Phoenix Gazette on the night police beat. He joined the copy desk and became assistant news editor for design before leaving in 1989 for The Washington Times, rising to copy chief.

“In a way, all literate people are copy editors, whether they are writers rewriting their own work or simply avid readers noticing a typo on a cereal box.”

Bill Walsh

1984 graduate

Bill Walsh, giving a talk at a Washington, D.C., bookstore, died in 2017. He was married to Jacqueline Dupree for 17 years.

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– Mike Chesnick, ’84
IN APPRECIATION

The School of Journalism thanks all of you for purchasing tickets and sponsoring students for today’s event, as well as making generous donations in honor of our Hall of Fame inductees.

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Our journalism general funds support student travel, reporting projects and scholarships. To give in honor of an inductee, or to donate to a specific journalism fund established for an inductee, go to journalism.arizona.edu/hall18-gifts. The funds include:

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- Harelson Operating Endowment and Harelson Reporting Lab
- Don and Luda Soldwedel Endowment for Journalism
- Merigay Finnerty Sotomayor Memorial Scholarship

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Event co-organizers: Bobbie Jo Buel and Mike Chesnick
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