

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COLLEGE OF SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES



School of Journalism

Hall of Fame

2022
Induction
Ceremony

April 9, 2022
Center for Creative Photography



INTRODUCTION

For their significant achievements and service to journalism and society, 13 individuals and one family are being inducted today into the 2022 class of the University of Arizona School of Journalism Hall of Fame. The inaugural class of 16 was inducted in 2018.

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

“These groundbreaking journalists, accomplished broadcasters and foundational faculty members made their mark in community journalism and on the national stage,” said Prof. Michael McKisson, interim school director. “Please join me in honoring them.”

NOMINATION PROCESS

The inductees were among dozens nominated by alums, family, faculty/staff and the school’s Journalism Advisory Council. The council’s Hall of Fame committee screened the candidates and selected the finalists. The full council voted on the list and provided its recommendations for final consideration by a faculty vote.

Nominees, living or deceased, may include UA Journalism alums (whether they graduated or not), those who took journalism classes, journalism professors/staff and supporters of the school.

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

HALL OF FAME CEREMONY

Center for Creative Photography auditorium

12-1:30 p.m.

Introduction by emcee Mariana Dale ('14).

Acceptance speeches by inductees or family/friends

2 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)

2022

HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES

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Read more at journalism.arizona.edu/hall-fame

Inaugural 2018 class: Gilbert H. Bailon, Donald W. Carson, Nancy J. Cleeland, Richard H. Gilman, Florence G. Graves, Savannah C. Guthrie, Hugh and Jan Harelson, Jane R. Kay, Douglas D. Martin, Sherman R. Miller 3rd, Lynne Olson, Mort L. Rosenblum, Jacqueline E. Sharkey, Don and Luda Soldwedel, Frank O. Sotoymayor, Bill Walsh

Edith S. Auslander

No matter where her professional pursuits took her, Edith “Edie” Sayre Auslander somehow always ended up back at the University of Arizona.

Her career led her through newsrooms, classrooms and board-rooms. But along the way there were several stops on campus as a student, teacher, fund raiser and vice president.



“I have been blessed with the opportunity to work in the areas that are important to me and that I am passionate about.”

Edith S. Auslander
B.A. 1961, M.A. 1975

“I have been blessed with the opportunity to work in the areas that are important to me and that I am passionate about,” Auslander said.

Her father, William Sayre, was the first self-identified Mexican-American fireman/engineer to work for the Southern Pacific Railroad. Auslander, who received two journalism degrees from the UA, a bachelor’s in 1961 and a master’s in 1975, continued the family tradition by becoming the first self-identified Hispanic woman to be appointed to the Arizona Board of Regents and the first self-identified Hispanic woman to be named a UA vice president.

Her career began at the Arizona Catholic Lifetime, where she was managing editor for 16 years. She spent 1973 to 1981 at the Arizona Daily Star, where she

was a features writer, a general assignment and education reporter, a copy editor and an editor. It was a time when women, and especially Hispanic women, were not routinely found in the newsroom.

She began working at the UA in 1977 as a member of the jour-



Native Tucsonan Edith Auslander, with her granddaughter Marisa Pagel, is a member of the UA Women's Plaza of Honor.

nalism department's faculty and as co-director of the Editing Program for Minority Journalists, which received national acclaim.

Auslander was one of 15 founders of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, was named Tucson's Woman of the Year in 1986 and received an honorary doctorate of law from the UA in 1997.

She also served as Tucson Newspapers' vice president of human resources for 16 years, initiated a system-wide study on the status of women as president of the Board of Regents and helped raise money for low-income Arizona high school students to attend the university as a consultant to Arizona Assurance at the UA Foundation. "Edie has a dynamic of including everyone with a multicultural approach," said Joel D. Valdez, former city manager and UA vice president.

Auslander was inducted into the Daily Wildcat Hall of Fame in 2001 – 40 years after being named the first winner of the Donald Still Award given annually for outstanding contributions to the Wildcat.

– Rebecca Ruiz Hudman, University of Arizona information specialist

H. Darr Beiser

After excelling at the Tucson Citizen, photojournalist H. Darr Beiser helped create the prototype for USA Today in 1982 and watched his career take off.

For the next 33 years, he distinguished himself in both news and



“Photography has been my life since I was 16.”

H. Darr Beiser
1976 graduate

sports photography at USA Today. Beiser covered the 9-11 attack on the Pentagon, Hurricane Katrina, the Columbia space shuttle accident, and the shootings at Columbine and Virginia Tech. He also photographed hundreds of international sporting events, the Summer and Winter Olympics, Super Bowls, World Series and Final Four tournaments.

“I helped shape the newspaper’s visual style,” Beiser said. “I photographed Presidents, Popes and everyday people. For the last eight years, I shot and edited video, expanding my story-telling abilities.”

Beiser regularly covered Capitol Hill and the White House, photographing five U.S. presidents. He was a member of the White House News Photographers Association and won many awards from that organization. His work was also recognized by the Football and Baseball Halls of Fame, and he won many Gannett company-wide awards for outstanding work.

“Darr is one of the most gifted photojournalists in the country,” said Denny Gainer, a former USA Today photo editor who worked with Beiser. “His sports photography captured iconic moments, like Dan Jansen’s shocking fall in the 1988 Olympics and Mark McGwire’s 70th home run in 1998.”



Photos courtesy of H. Darr Beiser
H. Darr Beiser covered five presidents, including Ronald Reagan, as a USA Today photographer. At left is his 2013 portrait of late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

“And his portraits of famous people showed off his signature style of lighting. Creative and professional describe him best.”

Beiser has long ties to Tucson, where he started his photo career at Salpointe Catholic High. Throughout his college years he was a photographer for the Arizona Daily Wildcat and was photo editor in 1976. He is a member of the Wildcat Hall of Fame along with his wife, Margo Warren. He worked for the Casa Grande Dispatch after graduation and was hired a year later by the Tucson Citizen.

“Photography has been my life since I was 16,” said Beiser, who explored “new horizons” after retiring from USA Today in 2015.

He’s now a freelance photographer and videographer in the Washington, D.C., area. He taught photography at American University and at the University of Maryland. He also likes to photograph nature, people and places for his website/blog and social media.

Bobbie Jo Buel

By the time Bobbie Jo Buel stepped down as editor of the Arizona Daily Star in 2016, she had left her mark on the coverage of every major news event in Tucson for more



“We get the news by talking to people. If we do it right, readers come to know us not just as journalists but as fellow citizens who care about one another and our community.”

Bobbie Jo Buel
1979 graduate

than three decades.

Buel guided the newsroom’s coverage of the January 8, 2011, mass shooting, which killed six Tucsonans and wounded then-Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. Under Buel’s leadership, the Star produced multiple in-depth projects that told the stories of immigrants and life along the border. She never let her staff forget that excellent, powerful journalism includes facts and figures, but at its root it must be about people.

“Bobbie Jo made sure we served the public by shedding light on a region that is often boiled down to a sound bite,” said Hipolito Corella, a Star senior editor and member of the J-school’s Journalism Advisory Council. “She took a strong stand for journalism and the public’s right to know, especially when the stories were difficult.”

Buel was hired as a reporter in 1990 and became managing editor in 1991, executive editor in 2003 and editor in 2010. She served as interim publisher for a time in 2013.

“We get the news by talking to people,” she said. “If we do it right, readers come to know us not just as journalists but as fellow



Photo courtesy of Arizona Daily Star

Bobbie Jo Buel was front and center at the Daily Star for many years.

citizens who care about one another and our community.”

After retiring, Buel took on a five-year project of compiling profiles of all 1,177 sailors and Marines killed aboard the USS Arizona during the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. She scoured newspaper archives and public records, collected snapshots and personal letters and tracked down relatives of the men.

“I have library cards now from the New York Public Library, the L.A. Public Library, the North Dakota State archive,” she said. “I mean I’ve been to the state archives in Oklahoma, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, New York state, California, Kansas. It’s 20 something states we’ve been to.”

The research project began as a companion piece for the USS Arizona Mall Memorial, which Buel’s husband, David Carter, designed at the UA. The profiles are at the memorial’s Facebook page.

Lynn M. DeBruin

John D’Anna worked with Lynn DeBruin at the Arizona Daily Wildcat and at the Mesa Tribune, where she was a tough-as-nails court reporter covering an array of high-profile cases.



“Lynn was a tenacious journalist who made us all strive to be better, especially as she fought (cancer) with such courage and strength.”

Lou Ferrara
AP managing editor,
about Lynn DeBruin
(1984 graduate)

“But as good as Lynn was at breaking stories on grisly crime trials, her first love was sports,” said D’Anna, now a senior news director for the Santa Rosa (California) Press Democrat.

So when the opportunity arose in Mesa, DeBruin became the first woman to cover the Arizona Cardinals, this at a time when there were few female National Football League beat writers.

The 1984 UA Journalism graduate moved on to cover the Denver Broncos for the Rocky Mountain News, and after that paper folded she worked for The Associated Press in Salt Lake City, covering the Utah Jazz along with college athletics and winter sports.

DeBruin reported on the surprise resignation of Utah Jazz coach Jerry Sloan in 2011 after 1,127 wins. She was the lead reporter for the AP when Brigham Young University made its run to the Sweet 16 behind rising star Jimmer Fredette.

Her career included coverage of the World Series, golf’s majors and six Super Bowls, including with the Broncos for John Elway’s final Super Bowl win.



Photos courtesy of Linda Luther-Veno

Lynn DeBruin, born in Pennsylvania, started as a sports reporter for the Arizona Daily Wildcat. She loved the outdoors and golf.

DeBruin, 51, died in 2013 after battling breast cancer. After she was first diagnosed in the mid-2000's, she continued to work and to be a mentor for young women covering pro sports teams.

“Lynn truly was an exceptional journalist, a tough competitor in the Broncos’ locker room and the press box and on the golf course,” former Denver Post columnist Woody Paige said.

Her sister, Linda Luther-Veno, said DeBruin was an avid sports-woman who loved the outdoors, travel and photography. It was not unusual for her to ski in the morning and then play golf in the afternoon. And she was a fierce rec-league softball player.

“Lynn made her mark as a pioneer in sports journalism, and she used her talent, her skills and her position to help pave the way for others,” said D’Anna, a UA Journalism Advisory Council member.

Carmen M. Duarte

A respected and beloved member of Tucson’s news media, Carmen Duarte has worked as a reporter for the Arizona Daily Star for 41 years.



“As journalists, we record moments in time that add up to years, decades and centuries. It is important to record a diverse, inclusive history – a history that shows the total picture.”

Carmen Duarte
1980 graduate

She received her bachelor’s degree in Journalism from the University of Arizona in 1980 and minored in Political Science after transferring from Pima Community College.

After joining the Daily Star in 1981, she reported on everything from crime to immigration and helped launch La Estrella, the newspaper’s weekly Spanish-language publication. She’s received numerous awards, including the 2011 American Journalism Historian Association’s Local Media History Award.

Duarte is author of “Mama’s Santos: An Arizona Life.” The memoir about her family is mostly told through the eyes of her mother, Leonarda “Nala” Bejarano Duarte, who died in 2007 after laboring in cotton fields much of her 90 years in Arizona and New Mexico.

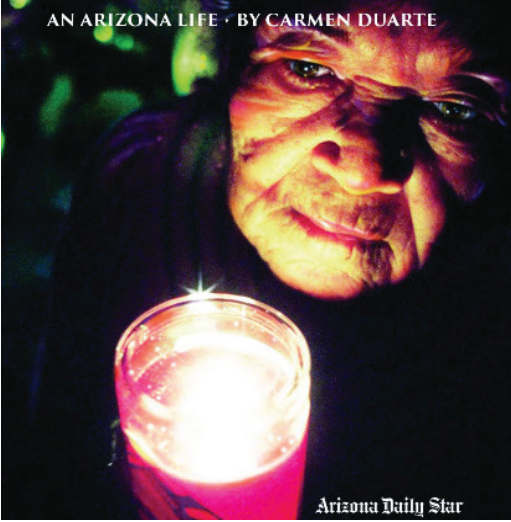
The memoir originally ran as a 36-part Star series in 2000 and was later made available as a book and e-book. The series received state, national and international

attention and won 11 awards for Duarte, who was named 2001 Woman of the Year by the Hispanic Professional Action Committee.

“We received more than 2,000 letters about the series,” said

MAMA'S SANTOS

AN ARIZONA LIFE · BY CARMEN DUARTE



Photos courtesy of the Arizona Daily Star

Carmen Duarte's book; with her mother in 1996; and on a reporting trip.

Bobbie Jo Buel, former Star editor, “and what surprised me most were the readers who said Leonarda Bejarano Duarte’s story and her family’s deep roots in Mexico was the story of their immigrant grandparents from Russia or Poland or Ireland. It’s thrilling when journalism makes such a personal connection with readers.”

Duarte currently covers diversity and inclusion and the aging population for the Star, with a primary focus on Tucson’s Hispanic communities, culture, issues, businesses and people.

“I’ve been fortunate to have worked on projects about immigration, border issues and to tell the history of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans in the Southwest based mostly on my mother’s life.”

Prof. Donald W. Carson, an inaugural School of Journalism Hall of Famer who died in 2018, called Duarte one of his favorite students.

“She earned the highest respect of both faculty and students because of the quality of her work, the strength of her character and her willingness to work long hours,” Carson wrote.

David W. Fitzsimmons

Although David Fitzsimmons majored in art at the University of Arizona — “what a slacker,” he joked — he gravitated to journalism after drawing editorial cartoons for the Arizona Daily Wildcat and taking J-school classes in the old Franklin Building.



“Although I majored in art, — what a slacker! — it was the Daily Wildcat, the Pretentious Idea and the Tombstone Epitaph that made me.”

David Fitzsimmons

1977 Fine Arts grad who also took J-classes

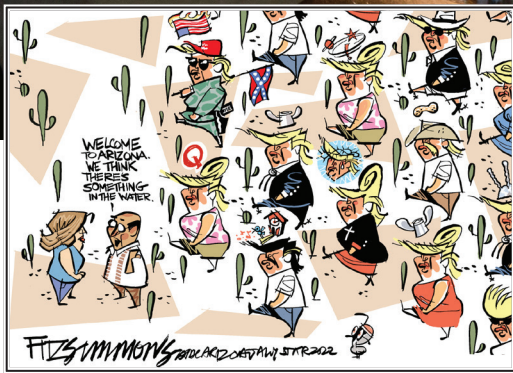
“From that point on all I wanted was the sublime pride and joy of working with the smart, inquisitive, eccentric, highly ethical, curious, informed, civic-minded critical thinkers one finds in newsrooms,” Fitzsimmons said.

He went on to become an internationally syndicated editorial cartoonist, a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1988 and a weekly columnist for the Arizona Daily Star, where he’s worked since 1986.

“Fitz” worked at The Virginian Pilot-Ledger Star and The Daily Press of Newport News before he came to Tucson. His cartoons are syndicated to more than 700 clients worldwide.

“I’ve been meeting cartooning deadlines since I was 13,” he said, “on the staff of the The Tumbleweed, the Naylor Middle School yearbook. At Rincon High School, I drew for the Rincon Echo, then for the underground paper, the Frumious Bandersnatch, then the Arizona Daily Wildcat with side trips to The Pretentious Idea and the Tombstone Epitaph.”

Fitzsimmons is active in the community and frequently helps



Arizona Daily Star
David Fitzsimmons was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 1988. His cartoon “Trumpizona” ran Feb. 11, 2022, in the Daily Star.

raise money for local charities through speaking engagements. A frequent visitor to area schools, he estimates he’s done tens of thousands of caricatures.

“This kid from Craycroft and 27th never imagined doodling in the back of the class would take him to International Cartooning forums or to the White House,” he said, “let alone to Paris, as a guest of France, or that his cartoons, drawn with felt tip markers on cheap typing paper, would be displayed at the Museum of Tolerance in Mexico City or would hang in a show at the Norman Rockwell Museum.”

Fitzsimmons recently reduced his role at the Star, to one cartoon a week and one column a week “After a lifetime of drawing cartoons, I have fallen in love with writing,” he said.

Patty Weiss Gelenberg

One of the most widely watched local newscasters of her day, Patty Weiss Gelenberg graduated cum laude from the University of Arizona with a degree in journalism in just three years and began her television career at KOLD-TV.



“I kept looking for a major, until I discovered Journalism. ... I was in heaven!”

Patty Weiss Gelenberg
1971 graduate

Later, the 1971 grad would be among just a few UA alums to help save the UA Journalism Department when the administration wanted to eliminate it in the 1990s. After her first job in Tucson, she moved to San Diego to work in a bigger market. However, after a couple of years, in 1975 she was offered a position back in Tucson at KVOA-TV and became the first woman to anchor an evening newscast at a commercial television station in Arizona. She was the station’s main news anchor until her retirement in 2005.

Gelenberg transferred to the UA after one semester at Wisconsin. She changed her major from Biology to Anthropology to Economics to Political Science.

“I kept looking for a major until I discovered Journalism, which required study in a wide range of academic areas, allowing me to keep my fingers in all the pies,” she said. “What an outstanding slate of teachers with wide areas of expertise in journalism. I was in heaven.”

Gelenberg ran for Congress in 2006 against Gabrielle Giffords, then worked for Western Progress, a nonpartisan think tank, as communications director. In 2007 she moved to Wisconsin with her husband, Dr. Alan Gelenberg. They now live in the Seattle area.



...so you'll be the first to know **EYEWITNESS NEWS**



Patty Weiss Gelenberg made history at KVOA-TV as an anchor. She started at KOLD-TV (below, left) after graduating from the UA.

She has received numerous honors in journalism, including the prestigious Silver Circle award from the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' Rocky Mountain Southwest Chapter for 25 years of outstanding service in the same television market.

She also has volunteered on many of the university's advisory boards, including those for the UA's J-school, the College of Behavioral Sciences, the UA Department of Psychology, the Institute for Children, Youth and Families, and UA Presents. She has also been involved with many civic and charitable organizations, serving on the Boards of the Tucson Botanical Society, Green Fields County Day School and Community Foundation for Southern Arizona.

"Patty came to my school on Career Day years ago at Roadrunner Elementary," Jill Fisher Vengelen of Tucson said. "She was a great anchor and I miss seeing her on KVOA."

Dan Hicks

As a fourth-grader at Tucson’s former Brown Elementary, Dan Hicks entertained teachers and students with his spot-on voice of sportscaster Howard Cosell.

In high school, he would sit up in the Hi Corbett Field stands at



“My job as a play-by-play announcer is to make you care about the people you’re watching.”

Dan Hicks
1984 graduate

Tucson Toros baseball games and practice his play-by-play with a tape recorder. And in college, he got his first announcing gig as the UA women’s basketball public address announcer for \$25 a game.

“It just goes to show you, that you can make anything happen if you practice at it and love sports,” Hicks told UA J-school students in early November.

The 1984 University of Arizona journalism graduate made a lot happen after college. He worked at Tucson radio stations and as a weekend sports anchor on KVOA-TV, then landed a sports anchor job at CNN in Atlanta before starting a stellar career at NBC Sports in 1992.

Hicks has served as the network’s lead PGA Tour and Ryder Cup golf announcer since 2000. He also has worked every Olympics since Barcelona in 1992, cover-

ing swimming in the Summer Games and alpine skiing in the Winter Games after starting out with speed skating.

After starring as a three-sport athlete at Sabino High School, Hicks worked his way up the media ladder at the Arizona Daily Wildcat his junior year. He also wrote for the Tombstone Epitaph and was a high school football stringer for the Tucson Citizen.



Michael Wade/Icon Sportswire

Tiger Woods got emotional during an interview with Dan Hicks following the final round of the 2018 Tour Championship, his first victory since 2013

“My job as play-by-play announcer is to make you care about the people you are watching,” he said. “It’s a real fundamental piece of journalism – and I still fall back on my journalism degree big time – because we’re basically telling stories about people.”

Hicks also has called Notre Dame football, NFL and NBA games, and tennis. He’s married to ESPN sports anchor Hannah Storm and lives in Greenwich, Connecticut, with their three daughters.

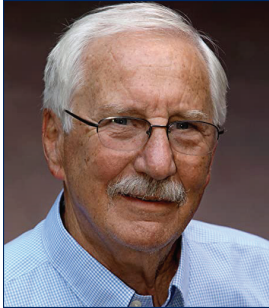
He’s been part of 14 Olympic broadcasts and 22 U.S. Open golf tournaments – including 2008 at Torrey Pines in San Diego, when Tiger Woods outdueled Rocco Mediate for the win.

When Woods holed a dramatic putt to force a playoff, Hicks delivered the memorable line – “Expect anything different?” – then stopped talking as the crowd roared.

“The worst thing we can do is trample all over history,” Hicks said.

James W. Johnson

For three decades, Professor Emeritus James W. Johnson taught students how to cover courts, city and county government and school districts. His Reporting Public Affairs class was tough, but it helped many land jobs after graduation.



“The journalism department was saved with the long and hard work of the alumni and faculty.”

James W. Johnson

1961 graduate, Professor Emeritus, on overcoming the UA’s threat to close the program in the ’90s

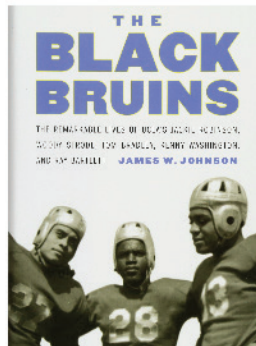
Myth” (2014). His eighth book, “The Black Bruins” (2018), about Jackie Robinson and four fellow UCLA athletes, “engagingly captures the lives, struggles, and triumphs of five men whose greatness transcended American sports,” Kirkus Reviews said.

“You poured so much encouragement, wisdom, time and care into training us as your students,” Derrith Lambka (’82) wrote on Facebook. “What a difference you personally made in my life.”

Johnson, a 1961 UA journalism alum, taught many other courses and received a national teaching award in 1983. He worked at the Oakland Tribune after graduation and later at the Philadelphia Inquirer, Oregonian, Providence Journal, Arizona Republic and Arizona Daily Star.

“After 17 years at the Oakland Tribune, I wanted a career in teaching journalism, and I knew the school I wanted to teach at was my alma mater,” he said.

An accomplished author, Johnson co-wrote “One Step From the White House: The Rise and Fall of Senator William F. Knowland” (1998) and “Mo: The Life and Times of Morris K. Udall” (2001) and “De Grazia: The Man and the



Photos courtesy of Arizona Daily Star, Amazon.com

Prof. Emeritus James W. Johnson (clockwise) with wife, Marilyn; Frank Sotomayor and the late Don Carson; college photo; and his latest book.

Johnson, an Arizona Daily Wildcat Hall of Famer, got his start at the Wildcat as sports editor along with fellow 1961 grad Joe Cole. Johnson also was sports editor of the Casa Grande Dispatch, when about 10 journalism students took over the then-weekly.

“Students drove back and forth during the semester to write features and news, and to shoot photos,” Johnson said. “Toward the semester’s end, the students stayed overnight in local families’ homes while putting out the latest news.”

As a professor, Johnson was proud to be part of the Editing Program for Minority Journalists, the Zenger Award, Tombstone Epitaph, Community News Service and the department’s fight against university closure in the mid-1990s. “The department was saved with the long and hard work of the alumni and faculty,” he said.

The Kramer family

On a hot June day in 1963, Ruth and Donovan Kramer Sr. of Illinois drove their Mercury station wagon, packed with four kids and a dog, into a small Arizona town.

Time to embark on a new adventure, buying and running the weekly Casa Grande Dispatch. During the next 59 years, the family would expand the Dispatch to a six-day daily, add five weekly newspapers, specialty publications and a digital marketing consulting division, while also buying newspapers in Show Low and Payson.



“(We’ve) always been interested in journalism education.”

Ruth Kramer

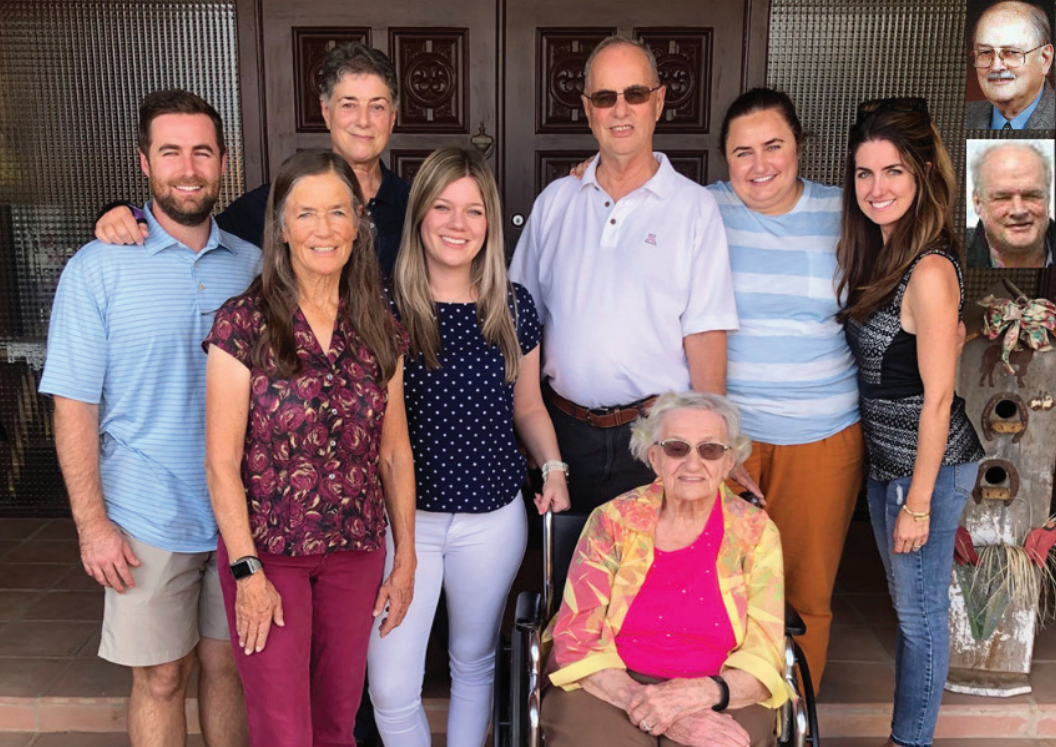
with Donovan Sr., who died in 2009

Donovan Sr. died in 2009. Ruth, now in her 90s, serves as president of Casa Grande Valley Newspapers Inc.

“Community journalism is still strong,” said her son,

Donovan Kramer Jr., who is managing editor and co-publisher with his sister, fellow UA J-school grad Kara Cooper. “We focus on local because it’s something people can’t get elsewhere.”

The other siblings are Diana Kramer, who attended UA in agriculture communication, and Eric Kramer, who worked for the AP after earning a degree from Kansas. Donovan Jr. and his wife Joanne, a UA grad, have three children who went to UA: Brian Kramer, the company’s digital director who oversees the White Mountain Independent and Payson Roundup, Katherine Bloom and Meaghan Kramer. All the family’s children and grandchildren worked for the company growing up, including Cooper’s daughter, Zoe, now creative marketing director.



From left: Brian Kramer, Kara Cooper, Diana Kramer, Zoe Cooper, Donovan Kramer Jr., Ruth Kramer, Meghan Kramer and Katherine Bloom. Inset, from top: the late Donovan Kramer Sr. and Eric Kramer.

The family helps other UA students learn the journalism craft, thanks to the Ruth A. and Donovan M. Kramer Sr. Scholarship. Ruth provided the funds to create the \$40,000 endowment, which will forever generate \$1,600 a year for students. “We’ve always been interested in journalism education,” Ruth said.

Donovan Kramer Sr., who died at 84, was inducted into the Arizona Newspaper Hall of Fame in 1998. He grew up as the son of a newspaper owner and studied journalism at Illinois, graduating in 1948 and becoming an editor in Fairbury and Forrest, Illinois.

“Our dad would be touched to know we were inducted into the (UA) Hall of Fame,” Kara said. “To think a 38-year-old journalism entrepreneur could have a dream in rural Illinois to move to a small Arizona town to buy a paper ... it truly has been an amazing journey.”

Nicholas C. Proffitt

Newsweek foreign correspondent Nicholas C. Proffitt showed courage and commitment to his journalistic duty throughout his extraordinary career at a time when the magazine was one of Americans' prime news sources.



“Sherman Miller, Don Carson and Phil Mangelsdorf made the biggest impact on my career.”

Nicholas Proffitt

1968 graduate, about his former UA Journalism professors

Nothing exemplified those characteristics better than Proffitt's determination to keep reporting from South Vietnam even as North Vietnamese soldiers entered Saigon.

“We could see thick columns of smoke rising from around the field and hear incoming Communist shells and small-arms fire,” Proffitt wrote about his exit aboard a helicopter in the final U.S. evacuation from Saigon.

As a UA Journalism student and a Daily Wildcat reporter, “Nick was head and shoulders the most talented person in the newsroom, and he went on to distinction during his career as reporter and author,” said Frank Sotomayor, 1965-66 Wildcat editor. Proffitt won the department's Alex Parker Reporter Award and the Sherman R. Miller Award.

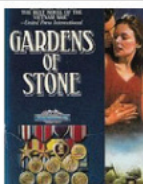
The 1968 grad worked as Wildcat city editor, KOLD-TV reporter and Washington Post reporter, where an editor called him the best-trained intern the paper ever had.

After graduation, Proffitt worked for the AP and Newsweek in Los Angeles, reporting on the Charles Manson-led murders and Black Panthers. In one of his first Newsweek assignments as Viet-



GARDENS OF STONE

Promotional card from Tri-Star Pictures



Nicholas Proffitt (left) in Army honor guard and (right) reporting in Vietnam. His first novel became a 1987 Francis Ford Coppola film with James Caan.

nam correspondent and bureau chief, he reported on the invasion of Laos in 1971 and North Vietnam's 1972 Easter offensive. As bureau chief in Beirut, Proffitt covered the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, the assassination of King Faisal and the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

He returned to Vietnam for the final phase of the U.S. involvement and later headed to London and Houston, both as bureau chief. From Nairobi in 1978-1981, his coverage area included all of sub-Saharan Africa except South Africa. He reported on the Rhodesian war, the fall of Idi Amin in Uganda and the Iranian hostage crisis from Teheran.

Later, based on his experience as an Army honor guard at Arlington Cemetery, he wrote the novels "Gardens of Stone," which Director Francis Ford Coppola turned into a film, "The Embassy House" and "Edge of Eden." Proffitt, who married 1967 UA Journalism graduate Martie (Hudson) Proffitt, died in 2006 at age 63.

George W. Ridge Jr.

As a two-time director and professor, George W. Ridge Jr. helped establish many of the cornerstone programs at the University of Arizona School of Journalism.

The versatile Ridge, who died at 86 in 2019, was a reporter at The Arizona Republic before being drafted into the Army. He spent seven years in Germany editing the Stars and Stripes military newspaper, where he covered construction of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet invasion of Hungary.



“President Ford congratulated us on the Tombstone Epitaph in 1976. At the time, we were the only school publishing a community paper that far from campus.”

George W. Ridge Jr.
Two-time director

He returned to earn a law degree at UA while working as city editor at the Arizona Daily Star. He went on to become Arizona assistant attorney general before beginning his career as a UA journalism professor in 1968.

“George taught me journalism when that word was universally respected — a calling with ethics and tenets, not for hobbyists,” said Professor Mort Rosenblum, who worked for Ridge at the Star.

Ridge’s law and ethics class was his hallmark. “The best journalism class I ever took,” said Nicole Greason (’88).

As department head from 1972 to 1978 and 1985 to 1991, Ridge secured a deal to let students produce the Tombstone Epitaph and found funding for El Independiente and other publications.

“George had a deep understanding of the role of the press from his work as a journalist and an attorney,” said Professor Emerita Jacqueline Sharkey, former school director.

When Arizona Republic reporter Don Bolles died after a car



Gazette Staff Ph

Publisher Katharine Graham of the Washington Post poses at Sky Harbor with Zenger award plaque subsequently presented her at Arizona Newspapers Association luncheon today at Safari Hotel. George Ridge Jr. of Tucson, University of Arizona journalism department head, gave her the advance peek at the award, which is given by the UofA.



George Ridge gave Katharine Graham the 1973 Zenger Award for publishing the Pentagon Papers. He was a journalist and a press law attorney.

bombing in 1976, Ridge arranged for students and the school to be heavily involved in the ensuing media coverage. “Students rotated weekly investigative shifts in Phoenix, working side-by-side with professional journalists,” daughter Deborah Whitaker said. “The school’s Don Bolles Fellowship was a direct result of this effort.”

Ridge, named the 1978 Arizona Newspaper Association Teacher of the Year, taught courses at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara and organized an exchange program there. He also started a program to inform Latin American journalists about journalism in the U.S. through courses and internships at U.S. media outlets.

To keep his skills current, Ridge spent his summers working in The Denver Post sports department and as a copy editor at the International Herald Tribune. For several years, he wrote a weekly travel column and restaurant reviews for the Arizona Daily Star. He served as an expert witness on First Amendment issues and gave presentations at U.S. embassies overseas on press freedom.

Ernest R. Sotomayor

A national leader in media diversity and inclusion, Ernest R. Sotomayor capped a distinguished newspaper career and joined the Columbia University School of Journalism in New York, rising in 2012 to dean of student services.



“Be an agent of change in your newsroom. Those in academia, monitor your curriculum. Does it teach diversity?”

Ernest R. Sotomayor
1977 graduate, in NAHJ
Hall of Fame speech

Upon his retirement in 2020, Columbia Journalism Dean Steven Coll said: “His legacy includes the remarkable expansion of the largest career fair in journalism, invaluable stewardship of student life, effective advocacy for underrepresented minorities at the school and in our profession.” Additionally, as director of Latin American Initiatives, he ran training programs for investigative reporters throughout that region.

After being Wildcat sports editor and graduating from UA journalism in 1977, Sotomayor reported for the El Paso Herald Post. He moved to the Dallas Times Herald and was promoted to state editor and associate editor. He directed a year-long immigration-amnesty project that won the SDX-SPJ’s National Gold Medal for Public Service. Moving to Newsday as an editor, he was part of two Pulitzer Prize-winning teams – covering the 1991 NYC subway crash and the TWA flight 800 crash off Long Island in 1996. As newsday.com editor, he was an innovator in then-nascent digital media. After joining Columbia in 2005, he pushed for more faculty diversity and for effective recruitment of students of color.



Ernest Sotomayor, vice president of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, presided over the 2004 Unity event in Washington, D.C.

Deeply involved in the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, he helped increase diversity in American news media.

“Ernie was the triple threat – a distinguished journalist, an effective advocate and a dedicated mentor,” said Professor Emerita Nancy Sharkey, who managed recruiting for The New York Times while Sotomayor was at Columbia. “His influence on the profession is profound, resulting in more inclusive coverage by news organizations around the country.”

In the late '90s, he helped bridge all the organizations representing journalists of color and presided over the 2004 Unity: Journalists of Color Convention, which drew members from NABJ, AAJA, NAHA and NAHJ. Accepting his invitations to speak were President George W. Bush; Senator John Kerry, then the Democratic 2004 nominee, and Secretary of State Colin Powell. Sotomayor is also a member of the NAHJ and Daily Wildcat Halls of Fame.

Michele Stephenson

When Michele Stephenson retired as Time's director of photography, she left the magazine as the dominant photo newsweekly in the United States.



“They had a major role in guiding and teaching me the importance of pursuing the truth in print and in pictures.”

Michele Stephenson

1966 graduate, about her
UA Journalism professors

During her tenure from 1987 to 2006, the 1966 UA journalism grad led an award-winning staff that enjoyed success while competing against Newsweek and U.S. News & World Report.

“(Michele) is a legend in the photo-journalism world,” said Richard Stengel, Time editor-in-chief, in a memo to staff.

Stephenson’s stable of contributors grew to include photojournalists Anthony Suau, Thomas Dworzak and Kadir van Lohuizen, White House photographers Brooks Kraft and Christopher Morris, and war photographers Robert Nickelsberg, Yuri Kozyrev, and James Nachtwey, arguably the best conflict photographer of his generation.

She came to the UA as a sophomore transfer from the University of Colorado.

“I enrolled immediately in the journalism school with it’s three wonderful professors: Sherman Miller, Phil Mangelsdorf and Don Carson,” she said. “They had a major role in guiding and teaching me the importance of pursuing the truth in print and in pictures.”

Miller, a former N.Y. Times journalist, never let Stephenson stray from her goal of working in New York. “The day after graduation, I sold my car, got on a plane for New York, interviewed at Time



Michele Stephenson works with photojournalists at Time magazine.

the next week and started the next day,” she said. “I don’t think it happens like that anymore.”

At Time, she started as a traffic desk assistant in the photo department before being promoted to photo researcher/reporter in the Business and Nation sections and then assistant photo editor. She became the first picture editor of Us Magazine, started by The N.Y. Times Co. in 1977, and assistant managing editor of LOOK Magazine in 1978. She was named deputy picture editor at Time in 1979 and picture editor/director of photography in 1987.

Her editing projects included “A Day in the Life of” books on Italy, Ireland, America and China; “The Bigger Picture: Thirty Years of Portraits”; and “Hillary: The Photographs of Diana Walker.”

She was a team editor for the Eddie Adams Photography Workshop, and part of the Freedom Forum photojournalism seminars in 17 cities in Eastern Europe, Russia, China and the Far East. She also judged international and national photo competitions.

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.

HOW TO DONATE

Proceeds from today's event will go toward our Journalism Special Projects fund, which supports student travel, reporting projects and scholarships. To give in honor of an inductee, go to give.uafoundation.org/journalism or use this QR code.



You also can give to other School of Journalism funds in honor of an inductee at journalism.arizona.edu/donate, or consider estate gifts to guarantee a robust school for generations to come at journalism.arizona.edu/forever.

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