Thanks, Frank!
From your Journalism Advisory Council colleagues

April 2, 2021
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 an 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 Fame in 2002.

– Mike Chesnick, ’84

“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 receives the 1966 Outstanding Male Graduate Award at UA.
Frank, Virginia Escalante and José Galvez helped the L.A. Times win a Pulitzer Prize in 1984.
Frank and Prof. Donald W. Carson teach at UA’s Editing Program for Minority Journalists.
Frank joins one of his mentors, Donald W. Carson, and alum Stanley Throssell at the J-school in 2015.
Frank and alum Alan Davis help out at the 2017 Donald W. Carson Journalism Diversity Workshop for Arizona High School Students.
Frank meets students at the 2018 Donald W. Carson Journalism Diversity Workshop.
Frank talks to Prof. Emeritus Jim Johnson at a 2016 Journalism on Screen event.
Frank chats with 2017 Sotomayor scholarship winner Danyelle Khmara and her son.
As Latino journalists in 1982 and 1983, we were frustrated that other people in the media were telling our ethnic group’s story and distorting who we were. This is the story of how we took action to erase stereotypical coverage and to offer an accurate portrayal of the multi-dimensional Latino community of Southern California.
Frank asks New York Times Editor Dean Baquet a question at the 2017 Zenger Award dinner.
Frank tells a story at the memorial lunch for Prof. Donald W. Carson, who died in 2018.
Frank gives his acceptance speech at the inaugural UA School of Journalism Hall of Fame in 2018.
Frank O. Sotomayor
1966 graduate

“Frank guided my career as a young journalist finding my way at The Los Angeles Times. The man has been a bold and fearless voice for the unheard. He helped me to never forget that our stories are worthy and just as important as anyone else’s — and to never let anyone question me about why I wanted to write about my people.”

Erin Haynes,
Associated Press national writer for race and ethnicity
Frank and Barbara talk to Prof. Nancy Sharkey at the 2019 Just Desserts ceremony.
Frank joins Tom Arviso and Bobbie Jo Buel at 2019 event, “Preserving Voices of Diverse Communities.”
Frank listens to Ganado High School’s Kristen Bia at the 2019 diversity workshop as other students and parents watch.
Frank and Barbara meet Christiane Amanpour and Mort Rosenblum at the 2019 Zenger Award lunch.
Frank returns to his roots as an Arizona Daily Star sports stringer, interviewing UA high jumper Justice Summerset in 2019.