



PHILIP MERRILL
COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM

2021-22

YEAR IN
REVIEW



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DEAN'S MESSAGE

The 10 years that have passed since I assumed the deanship at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism seemed to go by in the blink of an eye. The opportunity to educate hundreds of new journalists, as well as participate in the leadership of a world-class public research university, has been the privilege of a lifetime.

I was a newcomer to higher education administration. After careers as a journalist, trial lawyer and nonprofit executive, academia was a bit disorienting. Compared to a newsroom, everything seemed to move slowly.

But over time, I came to compare my job as dean to that of an orchestra conductor. A conductor's job is to choose outstanding musicians, guide them to do their best work, practice long hours with them and take joy in their success. The resulting symphony is rewarding to everyone.

Merrill College students continue to dazzle under the direction of our talented faculty. Detailed in this report are their accomplishments, including the numerous reporting and journalism innovation awards they have won over the past year. Among those are national professional honors competing against such major news organizations as The New York Times, The Washington Post and USA Today.

The growth in Merrill's program and national profile over the past decade has been made obvious over the past year as more than a dozen faculty and staff members worked on our 250-page reaccreditation "self-study" report. In the coming months, a team of outside reviewers from the Accrediting Council for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication will evaluate Merrill College on eight standards. They will review our curriculum, faculty and student success, facilities, resources, student services, fundraising efforts, faculty contributions to the journalism profession, internal curriculum assessment efforts and our commitment to diversity.

Working on the report gave the team a sense of pride as we collected data documenting our progress. Seeing how Merrill College has evolved and grown has been remarkable. So we are getting ready to celebrate and invite you to join us.

Merrill College is celebrating its 50th year as a college and 75th as a major during the 2022-23 academic year. We are planning commemorative events, including a 50th anniversary celebration when we will induct our newest Hall of Fame class. Please be on the lookout for our announcements.

In the meantime, John S. and James L. Knight Hall is humming with excited students starting a new school year. May we all stay happy and healthy as we look toward Merrill College's next 50 years.

Lucy Dalglish
Dean



HOWARD CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

SCRIPPS HOWARD EXTENDS HOWARD CENTER FOR THREE YEARS

The Scripps Howard Foundation, the philanthropic arm of The E.W. Scripps Company, in 2022 extended its support for the Howard Centers for Investigative Journalism at the University of Maryland and Arizona State University for another three years.

Each university will receive \$3 million from the Scripps Howard Foundation to continue teaching graduate and undergraduate students the skills needed to become top investigative journalists.

The new agreement is part of the Scripps Howard Foundation's commitment to developing the next generation of journalists through programs that bridge the classroom and the newsroom.

Established in 2018, the Howard Centers honor the legacy of **Roy W. Howard**, former chairman of the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain and a pioneering news reporter.

"These two programs are now the gold standard for preparing future investigative journalists through hands-on learning from some of the top investigative journalists in the country," said **Mike Canan**, director of journalism strategies for the Scripps Howard Foundation.

Since the program launched, student journalists at the UMD Howard Center have produced numerous investigations, such as "Printing Hate," an unprecedented exploration of the racist pasts of white-owned newspapers. The student journalists' work has been recognized with nearly a dozen national journalism awards.

Investigations by students at the Howard Center at UMD have been cited by a congressional committee on climate change and by the HBO news show, "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver."

"The renewed funding for the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism will allow our students, faculty and staff to expand upon their extraordinary work over the past three years," UMD Philip Merrill College of Journalism Dean **Lucy Dalglish** said.



**HOWARD
CENTER**
FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM
SCRIPPS HOWARD FOUNDATION

HOWARD CENTER

The mission of the Howard Center is to teach the next generation of investigative journalists through hands-on investigative projects. Student journalists have teamed with Merrill College's faculty and staff members to win some of the nation's top investigative journalism awards for packages that focused on such topics as climate change, homelessness and how companies prey on the poor.

The Howard Center is generously funded by \$3 million from the Scripps Howard Foundation. It honors **Roy W. Howard**, one of the newspaper world's pioneers.



**PHILIP MERRILL
COLLEGE of JOURNALISM**

HOWARD CENTER PUBLISHES 'PRINTING HATE' PROJECT ON HISTORIC ROLE OF NEWSPAPERS IN FUELING RACIAL HATE, VIOLENCE

The University of Maryland's Howard Center for Investigative Journalism in 2021 and 2022 published the collaborative project, "Printing Hate," a thorough exploration of the racist pasts of newspapers.

From the end of Reconstruction to 1940, newspapers were the most powerful news medium in America. Those run by white supremacist publishers and editors printed headlines and stories that fueled racial hate, inciting massacres and lynchings of Black citizens.

Inspired by Merrill Associate Professor **DeNeen Brown's** reporting on the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, the students came together to document the racial violence incited by white-owned newspapers during the Jim Crow era.

"This is a timely reckoning," said Howard Center Director **Kathy Best**. "Who better to hold newspapers to account for their racist coverage in the past than the journalists of tomorrow?"

To make "Printing Hate" possible, the Howard Center recruited 60 journalism students from UMD's Philip Merrill College of Journalism, Hampton University, Howard University, Morehouse College, Morgan State University, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University and the University of Arkansas.

Students examined newspapers published between 1865 and 1965, using computational journalism methods to extract information using large-scale text analysis from digital archives containing more than 5,000 newspapers.

Once they identified particularly egregious coverage, they dug deeply into census records and other historical manuscripts to identify and locate descendants, interviewed historians and contemporary experts on lynching, and talked to current and former newspaper editors about what responsibility, if any, modern papers have for addressing their pasts.

That resulted in more than 40 student-generated stories, as well as a short documentary, static and motion graphics, photos and audio. A database published in December 2021 significantly expanded the scope of the project. It includes historic examples from nearly 70 additional newspapers that featured racist local coverage of lynchings. All of the papers in the database are still published today in some form.



The stories were published by Merrill College's Capital News Service and Word in Black, a collaboration of the nation's leading Black news publishers.

"These talented students worked together to hold newspapers to account for their past racist coverage of lynchings and massacres," Best said. "They created a lasting legacy that will assure no one can forget or deny. I could not be prouder of their work."

The project was supported by the Park Foundation.

The Howard Center won several major journalism awards for the project. For the third straight year, the center won the Society of Professional Journalists Sigma Delta Chi Award for Collaborative Journalism.

It also won the News Leaders Association's Punch Sulzberger Innovator of the Year Award, an Investigative Reporters & Editors medal and the 2021 IRE Award in the Student - Large category for "Printing Hate." It is believed to be the first student project to win an IRE medal. The SPJ and NLA honors are professional awards.



Flag announcing another lynching. "A MAN WAS LYNCHED YESTERDAY," is flown from the window of the NAACP headquarters on 69 Fifth Ave. in New York City in 1936. (Everett Collection/Shutterstock)

HOWARD CENTER PUBLISHES ‘MEGA BILLIONS: THE GREAT LOTTERY WEALTH TRANSFER,’ FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND INVESTIGATION INTO STATE LOTTERIES

In the popular imagination, the lottery is a harmless amusement in which people spend a few dollars on a Powerball ticket when the jackpot gets big.

Data journalists and reporters from the Howard Center and from Boston University found this is not the reality. During summer 2022, the Howard Center published its findings — a five-story package called “Mega Billions: The great lottery wealth transfer.”

Increasingly powered by multinational corporations, state lotteries have become the engine of a multibillion-dollar wealth transfer that relies on spending by less-educated and less-wealthy Black and Hispanic Americans.

The project took an in-depth look at the lotteries in 45 states and Washington, D.C. Students traveled to Michigan, Kentucky, Texas, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Virginia, the District of Columbia and other states to do on-the-ground reporting.

“Because they’ve been around so long, most people take state lotteries for granted,” Howard Center Director **Kathy Best** said. “But our students’ reporting showed why we should pay attention to this growing, multibillion-dollar, state-sanctioned gambling industry.”

Students from Merrill College conducted a first-of-its-kind analysis of mobile-phone location data to prove that the majority of customers at lottery retailers come from nearby neighborhoods and, using census data, that those neighborhoods are disproportionately home to Black, Hispanic and lower-income people.

They also examined marketing and advertising documents, state spending records, legislative history, federal financial disclosures and education funding formulas to follow the money from the sale of a scratch-off ticket to show who was really benefiting from that spending.



An eye-catching advertisement on the doors of a Raceway convenience store in Cayce, South Carolina, on March 23, 2022. The store is one of the highest-selling lottery retailers in the Columbia region and advertises that it sold a \$35 million winning ticket. The area’s population is largely Black and Hispanic. (Lauren Mowry/Howard Center for Investigative Journalism)

“For this project, students spent the better part of a year obtaining public records from every state with a lottery and, using aggregated mobile location data, gave us new insight into lottery retailer customers,” said **Sean Mussenden**, data editor for the Howard Center.

In addition to Howard Center fellows, students in courses and capstones taught by Merrill faculty members Mussenden, Best, **Deborah Nelson**, **Constance Mitchell Ford**, **Rob Wells**, **Alexander Pyles** and **Adam Marton** all worked on “Mega Billions.” The project was published by Merrill College’s Capital News Service and distributed nationally by The Associated Press.

FOUR HOWARD CENTER STUDENTS NAMED ROY W. HOWARD FELLOWS DURING 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Scripps Howard Foundation continued its commitment to emerging investigative journalists through its 2021–22 classes of Roy W. Howard fellows.

Four investigative journalists from the UMD Howard Center were selected to participate in the yearlong fellowship. They work closely with reporters and editorial leaders in their assigned newsrooms.

In December 2021, Howard fellows **Nick McMillan** and **Allison Mollenkamp** were selected to spend yearlong fellowships at NPR. In summer 2022, **Jenna Cohen** and **Vanessa Sánchez** were selected as Roy W. Howard fellows.



Allison Mollenkamp



Nick McMillan



Jenna Cohen



Vanessa Sánchez

Cohen, the first undergraduate student to qualify for a Roy W. Howard fellowship, joined PBS NewsHour. Sánchez’s yearlong fellowship is at Searchlight New Mexico.

The fellowship program was established in 2020 in honor of **Roy W. Howard**, legendary journalist and news executive of The E. W. Scripps Company. It is open exclusively to journalists who have studied at the Howard Centers for Investigative Journalism at the University of Maryland and Arizona State University.

THE SHIRLEY POVICH CENTER FOR SPORTS JOURNALISM



Students and faculty who worked on the Povich Center-Howard Center investigative collaboration, “Unlevel Playing Fields.”

UMD POVICH CENTER, HOWARD CENTER PUBLISH INVESTIGATION ON TITLE IX AND HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS APPROACHING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF LANDMARK LEGISLATION

The Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism and the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism in April 2022 published “Unlevel Playing Fields,” an in-depth investigation into Title IX and high school sports ahead of the landmark legislation’s 50th anniversary.

Title IX, which passed in 1972, is a federal law that prohibits sex-based discrimination at any school that receives funding from the federal government, including in sports programs.

While Title IX has led to a significant increase in girls playing scholastic sports, it has fallen short of achieving equity for high school girls in areas such as facilities, equipment, scheduling and publicity, the four-month, student-led investigation found.

“Our hope is that the Title IX investigation will change the conversation about gender equity in high school sports,” Povich Center Director **Mark Hyman** said. “There haven’t been many – or any – reporting projects on the subject that have gone as deep. Many Merrill College colleagues contributed to the effort. Mostly, this investigation reflects the outstanding work of our students.”

Students from Hyman’s Title IX and Gender Equity capstone, Abell Professor **Sandy Banisky**’s Urban Affairs Reporting course and the Howard Center came together to produce a package that includes 12 text stories, several video pieces, and a national poll of high school parents and their student-athletes to measure awareness of Title IX.

“Unlevel Playing Fields” was published by Merrill College’s Capital News Service. It was done in collaboration with PBS NewsHour, which aired its Title IX segment the day the project was published. PBS NewsHour, The Associated Press, Just Women’s Sports and Word In Black all published parts of the project.

The Povich and Howard centers shared their findings with a workshop for high school journalists to help educate about Title IX, how to recognize violations and how to report those inequities to affect change.

The project won The Drake Group’s 2022 Student Journalism Prize for Investigative Reporting on Intercollegiate Athletics. The award recognizes the print, video or multimedia work of a graduate or undergraduate college

journalism student for exceptional and substantive investigative reporting on intercollegiate athletics.

The project was also cited in the Women’s Sports Foundation report, “50 Years of Title IX: We’re Not Done Yet,” and several media outlets including The New York Times and The 19th.

Student reporters found:

- Title IX and high school athletics aren’t aggressively monitored by state or federal government officials. It’s mostly up to the 3.4 million girls playing high school sports in the U.S. and their parents to report violations.
- Most parents, students and even school officials aren’t well-informed about the law.
- Title IX enforcement protocols are slow-moving. Girls who report Title IX violations often graduate from their high school teams before they see results.

THE SHIRLEY POVICH CENTER FOR SPORTS JOURNALISM

The Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism prepares students to be innovators and leaders in all facets of sports media. The center’s unique, experiential curriculum and public programs elevate and amplify discussion of race, gender, politics and the world — just as Shirley Povich did each morning in The Washington Post.



PHILIP MERRILL
COLLEGE OF JOURNALISM



POVICH CENTER, CDCE, WASHINGTON POST POLL EXPLORES PERSPECTIVES ON TRANSGENDER WOMEN IN SPORTS, TITLE IX, NIL, SPORTS BETTING

The latest poll conducted by The Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism, The Washington Post and the UMD Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement revealed that most Americans oppose allowing transgender female athletes to play sports against other girls and women at all levels.

That is despite the poll revealing that significantly more Americans view greater societal acceptance of transgender people as good for society than those who see it as bad.

The poll is the latest in the partnership between the Povich Center, The Post and the UMD College of Behavioral and Social Sciences' CDCE, which are teaming to conduct as many as two sports and politics polls per year.

Results from the latest poll were published by The Post and by Merrill College's Capital News Service.

"People increasingly have an awareness of the issue and are empathetic toward the journey that transgender people are on, but the notion that they are competing against athletes that are born a particular sex are lagging behind that," Povich Center Director **Mark Hyman** told The Washington Post.

The poll, which was conducted online May 4-17 using a random national sample of 1,503 adults, found that 55% said transgender women should not be allowed to compete against other girls at the high school level, 58% said they should not be able to compete against other women at the college level and 58% said they should not be able to compete against other women at the pro level. A smaller 49% opposed allowing transgender girls to participate in youth sports, while 33% supported this.

The poll also explored Title IX, the landmark gender-equity legislation that passed 50 years ago. The poll found that while most Americans are unfamiliar with Title IX, there is "broad support" for its mandate.

The poll also found that paying college athletes for name, image and likeness hasn't hurt fans' enjoyment of sports. It also found that support for sports betting is growing.

To serve its mission, the Povich Center uses the poll to support its students in a variety of ways. It provides troves of proprietary data for student reporting projects, students help choose poll subjects, and the center hosts panels and discussions based on the poll results.

MORE ON THE POVICH CENTER

16TH ANNUAL POVICH SYMPOSIUM REMEMBERS CURT FLOOD, EXAMINES HOW FREE AGENCY CHANGED BASEBALL

On Nov. 16, 2021, the Povich Center's 16th Annual Povich Symposium centered on groundbreaking former baseball player **Curt Flood** approaching the 50th anniversary of Flood v. Kuhn. The landmark Supreme Court case eventually opened the door to free agency in professional sports. The event was held virtually.

It consisted of two conversations — "then" and "now" panels.

The "then" panel explored why Flood's fight for free agency was not embraced by players and media at the time. The panel featured **Curt Flood Jr.**, Curt Flood's son; **Tim McCarver**, broadcaster of 16 World Series and teammate of Curt Flood; **Claire Smith**, Hall of Fame baseball journalist; **Brad Snyder**, Georgetown University professor of law and

author of "A Well-Paid Slave: Curt Flood's Fight for Free Agency in Professional Sports"; and **David Cone**, a five-time All-Star pitcher and five-time World Series champion. Merrill College Professor of the Practice **Kevin Blackstone**, a Washington Post sports columnist, moderated the discussion.

The "now" panel considered the state of free agency today and in the future. It featured Blackstone; **Scott Boras**, leading sports agent; **Christina Kahrl**, San Francisco Chronicle sports editor; **Tim Kurkjian** '78, ESPN baseball analyst; and **Jon Miller**, Hall of Famer and San Francisco Giants broadcaster. **Ken Rosenthal**, Fox Sports reporter and The Athletic senior baseball writer, moderated the panel.

POVICH CENTER PARTNERS WITH SPORTS BUSINESS JOURNAL TO SEND STUDENT JACOB RICHMAN TO COVER SUPER BOWL LVI

The Povich Center partnered with Sports Business Journal to send one student to Los Angeles to cover Super Bowl LVI in February 2022.

The Povich Center considered applications from more than a dozen students and selected senior journalism major **Jacob Richman** '22. Richman, who came to Merrill from Dallas, was a co-sports editor for The Diamondback, the independent student-run newspaper that covers the university.

Richman was embedded with Sports Business Journal and produced content for the publication's website and print edition leading up to the Super Bowl. He covered the game for Merrill College's Capital News Service.

John Ourand '89, the Sports Business Journal's media reporter and a Povich Center advisory board member, was instrumental in establishing this opportunity.

"When **Mark [Hyman]** approached SBJ with this idea, everyone from Publisher and Executive Editor **Abe Madkour** to Managing Editor **David Albright** jumped at the chance to work with such a well-respected journalism school," Ourand said.



Merrill student Jacob Richman covering Super Bowl LVI week for Sports Business Journal.



Povich Center students toured HBO Sports with Nick Dolin (center) in New York in March. From left to right: Michael Charles, Sam Oshtry, Reese Levin, Enzo Alvarenga, Amelia Jarecke and Hannah Davidson.



High school students attending the Shirley Povich Sports Journalism Summer Camp take turns anchoring a news update in Capital News Service's Studio A.



POVICH CENTER BOOK CLUB FEATURES 'I CAME AS A SHADOW'

Each year, the Povich Center hosts a virtual book club with area high school students. The book club highlights and promotes discussion of sports, race, gender and history. The Povich Center provides a copy of the book to each participating student, and asks the teachers and classes participating in the book club to incorporate the selected reading into their curriculum.

At the start of each spring, the center hosts a virtual discussion on the book with the students, teachers, author and other key figures.

The 2021 book club selection was "I Came As a Shadow," the autobiography of **John Thompson**, the legendary Georgetown University basketball coach, written with **Jesse Washington** of ESPN's The Undeclared.

Thanks to a generous donation from The Undeclared (now Andscape), the Povich Center was able to provide 485 books to high school students in Prince George's County, Baltimore City and Washington, D.C.

On Feb 24, more than 400 students participated in a virtual Q&A with Washington, Coach Thompson's son, **John Thompson III**, and Merrill College professor **Kevin Blackistone**.



CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

THIRTEEN MERRILL STUDENTS HONORED AS CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE WINS 15 MDDC AWARDS

Merrill College’s Capital News Service won 15 awards and had 13 individual students recognized in the 2022 Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association contest.

CNS, staffed by Merrill College students and led by faculty members, competed against professional news organizations in the annual contest. All work was entered in Division O, for online-only news organizations.

CNS won seven first prizes, including for Website of General Excellence and General Social Media Reporting, as well as two Best of Show awards. The Howard Center for Investigative Journalism’s “Printing Hate” project, done in collaboration with and published by

CNS, won MDDC’s Courage in Journalism Award.

Students **Kelly Livingston** ’21 and **Madison Peek** ’23 each won four awards while **Thomas Hindle** ’21 won two.

Livingston and Peek were honored four times for “Two narratives: How a 1919 massacre tore Elaine, Ark., apart” from the “Printing Hate” project. It won Best of Show and first prize in the Best Use of Interactive Media category, and Best of Show and first prize in the News-driven Multimedia Storytelling category.

Hindle won first prize in the State Government category for “Maryland bills would support high school students with children.” He won second



Kelly Livingston



Madison Peek

prize in the Sports Feature Story category for “Maryland is at the forefront of youth cricket in the U.S.”

MDDC recognized “Printing Hate” with the Courage in Journalism Award for its database and coverage of white-owned newspapers’ racist past.

Additionally, Merrill College alum **Christine Condon** ’20 was named MDDC Editorial Rookie of the Year for 2021. Condon is a breaking news and environment reporter for The Baltimore Sun.

Complete list of the MDDC Awards won by CNS at merrill.umd.edu.

KNIGHT CHAIR DANA PRIEST’S CAPSTONE PUBLISHES ‘IMPRISONED FOR JOURNALISM: WAR AND RISING AUTHORITARIANISM CRUSH CITIZENS’ ACCESS TO CRITICAL INFORMATION’

Students in Merrill College’s Reporting on Journalists Imprisoned Overseas capstone, taught by Knight Chair **Dana Priest**, published the project “Imprisoned for Journalism: War and Rising Authoritarianism Crush Citizens Access to Critical Information” in summer 2022.

To create the eight-story package, each student investigated one or two journalists imprisoned around the world for their work.

Students were able to find and speak with journalists and their colleagues in Russia, Ukraine, Egypt, Ethiopia, Hong

Kong and a Kurdish territory in Turkey, as well as journalists in exile from all those places, and in the United States and Europe. The project includes a story on how Russia’s war on Ukraine affects journalists in the region.

“This project is an example of how journalists can report on events around the world without leaving College Park,” Priest said. “This series highlights the courage of reporters around the world to keep their citizenry informed and the power of student journalists to tell their stories despite great odds.”



Katerina Andreeva, an imprisoned Belarusian journalist for Belsat TV, was recently charged with treason and now faces up to 15 additional years in prison. (Courtesy of Igor Ilyash)

Priest said the students discovered that the outlook for independent reporters in all these countries has only gotten worse since Priest previously taught the class four years earlier. Besides the war, the environment for candid discussion of events and criticism of government policies is riskier for individuals in Egypt, Ethiopia and Hong Kong.

Students also discovered that even journalists living in exile in western democracies do not feel safe to comment on the record and that some live in fear that their former countries will do them harm abroad.

MERRILL COLLEGE, UMD STUDENT JOURNALISTS WIN 11 SPJ MARK OF EXCELLENCE REGIONAL AWARDS

The University of Maryland and Merrill College were well-represented when the Society of Professional Journalists honored the best collegiate journalism in Region 2 with its 2021 Mark of Excellence Awards.

UMD students won 11 awards and added 21 finalists across 18 categories, spanning print/online, visual, audio and broadcast media, including for projects published or broadcast by Capital News Service, CNS TV, ViewFinder, the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism and The Diamondback.

Kimi Fleming '22 won three awards, with her ViewFinder feature, "A horse from heaven," winning in the Broadcast/Online Feature Videography and Television Feature Reporting categories. The project also took ninth place in the Hearst Multimedia Narrative Storytelling Competition.

Fleming also shared the Broadcast/Online News Videography award with **Amelia Jarecke** '22 for The Diamondback's "I need people to care": The voices of UMD's vigil for victims of anti-Asian hate."

Clara Longo de Freitas '22 won two awards, in the Feature Writing (Large) and Best Use of Multimedia categories. She won the feature award for her CNS story, "Adoption and foster care during the COVID-19 pandemic." She shared the multimedia award with **Nick McMillan** '21, **Jenna Cohen** '22 and **Madison Peek** '23 for the Howard Center's "White-owned newspapers fueled the 1919 Elaine massacre," which was part of the "Printing Hate" project.



Kimi Fleming



Clara Longo de Freitas



A Lindy's worker carries crabs and corn onto a loading dock in the company's Woolford, Maryland, location. The Chesapeake Bay company hires local and migrant workers to process live crabs, crab meat and oysters. (Carmen Molina Acosta/University of Maryland)

The Howard Center and CNS staff also won the In-Depth Reporting (Large) award for "U.S. deems migrant seafood workers 'essential' but limits their COVID-19 protections," which was part of the "Essential and Exposed" project. It was also a finalist for the national MOE award in the same category. The project as a whole was a finalist for an Online News Association Student Journalism Award.

Three other students earned multiple honors: **Dominick Waldman** '21 (one win, two finalists), **Annabelle Janssens** '21 (one win, one finalist) and **Katie Maher** '22 (one win, one finalist).

James Hartner '21 and **Taneen Momeni** '22 collaborated to win the Data Visualization award for CNS' "Initiatives take on the challenge of cleaning the Baltimore Harbor, but problems run deep." The project was also a national finalist.

Additionally, The Diamondback's "Offbeat" was a national finalist in the Podcast category and CNS' ViewFinder was a national finalist for Best All-Around Television News Magazine.

SPJ's Region 2 comprises Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia.

Complete list of UMD honorees in Region 2 at merrill.umd.edu.



Brittany Gaddy '21, a journalist in the Capital News Service Washington, D.C., Bureau, photographs President Joe Biden at a news conference.



ABOUT CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Capital News Service is the nonprofit, student-powered news organization run by Merrill College. CNS has offices and news teams in Baltimore, Annapolis, Washington and College Park. Each bureau and news team is directed by a professional journalist and educator. Students are treated as members of a working, professional newsroom.

CNS 2021-22 HIGHLIGHTS

- >> The CNS Washington, D.C., Bureau covered President **Joe Biden** in person in Maryland; the nomination and confirmation of the first Black woman, **Ketanji Brown Jackson**, to the Supreme Court; the landmark Supreme Court *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case on abortion, including the leak before the decision was announced; and Marylanders' reaction to the war in Ukraine.
- >> The Annapolis Bureau provided written and video coverage of cannabis legislation winding its way through the General Assembly; early and incisive reporting on paid family medical leave; Maryland becoming the first state to pass a gas tax holiday; and passage of climate change legislation. On gubernatorial campaign coverage, the bureau reported on candidates' finances, including explaining a potential conflict of interest for one candidate.
- >> The CNS Broadcast Bureau had a 100% placement for all students looking to enter the broadcast industry. CNS Managing Director **Marty Kaiser** said reporters with CNS broadcast experience continue to be considered in much bigger markets than in the past, not because of more openings in the industry but because of the strength of their reporting abilities. On the CNS newscasts, there was more creativity thanks to work that improved the technology in Studio B.
- >> The CNS Digital Bureau worked with the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism to complete production of the "Printing Hate" series and prepare for the lottery project that was published in summer 2022. The bureau also produced a series on how COVID affects school enrollment, including stories on shifting enrollment trends in primary education, home schooling and higher education. Other highlights included a story about wind turbine development off Maryland's coast and a visual story to help Marylanders understand the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new COVID-19 community-level tracking system.
- >> The CNS Audience Engagement Bureau practiced audience-focused journalism by seeking out and listening to diverse online communities, translating CNS journalism into social media content, and devising and executing detailed distribution plans for projects published by the Howard Center.



FACULTY & STAFF

MERRILL COLLEGE MAKES MAJOR HIRES

ALANNA DELFINO NAMED BROADCAST LECTURER, RON HARRIS NAMED CNS ANNAPOLIS BUREAU CHIEF, AARON GUILLERMO VOGEL NAMED DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COORDINATOR, ROB WELLS NAMED ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

The Philip Merrill College of Journalism made four exciting additions to its faculty and staff in 2021-22. The college named award-winning photojournalist **Alanna Delfino** a broadcast lecturer, veteran journalist and educator **Ron Harris** its Capital News Service Annapolis bureau chief, **Aaron Guillermo Vogel** its first diversity and inclusion program coordinator, and **Dr. Rob Wells** a visiting associate professor. Wells was appointed an associate professor with tenure during the Spring 2022 semester.

A multiplatform photojournalist and editor for TEGNA’s national VERIFY team, Delfino is a 2015 Merrill alum and has been a Merrill adjunct lecturer since 2017. At TEGNA, she produced daily and long-form, data-driven content for local news stations around the country. Before that, she was a photojournalist at Baltimore’s WBFF Fox45, where she specialized in producing daily news with a creative storytelling approach.

In her new role, Delfino will teach undergraduate and graduate courses in broadcast and multiplatform news production, primarily shooting and editing but also newsgathering and visual storytelling. She will also serve as lead instructor for the college’s introduction to videography classes. Delfino replaced Senior Lecturer **Bethany Swain**, who became the University of Maryland’s director of video production.

Harris brought more than 30 years of high-level journalism experience to Merrill College, and joined the faculty after more than a decade at Howard University. He was managing editor of Howard University News Service and an adjunct professor, after

five years as the university’s director of communications. Before arriving at Merrill, he was a visiting editor on the UMD Howard Center for Investigative Journalism’s “Printing Hate” project.

Before Howard, Harris was an award-winning reporter, columnist and editor at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the Los Angeles Times and Ebony Magazine. Harris replaced **Karen Denny**, who became the college’s director of internships and career development.

Vogel arrived at Merrill after completing his master’s degree in Education and Human Development in the Field of Higher Education Administration at The George Washington University.

He brought more than six years of diversity, equity and inclusion programming experience with GWU’s athletics department, The Posse Foundation — which helps colleges and universities recruit students from diverse backgrounds and then build inclusive environments once they arrive — and AmeriCorps VISTA.

Wells, a 2016 Merrill Ph.D. alum, returned to the university in the Spring 2022 semester after more than five years at the University of Arkansas, where he rose to the rank of associate professor and led Arkansas’ journalism graduate program.

(continues)



Alanna Delfino



Ron Harris



Aaron Guillermo Vogel



Rob Wells

MERRILL COLLEGE MAKES MAJOR HIRES *(continued)*

He added another dimension to the Merrill faculty with more than two decades of business journalism experience at The Associated Press, Bloomberg News and The Wall Street Journal.

While at Arkansas, Wells partnered with Merrill’s Howard Center on multiple projects, including the award-winning “Nowhere To Go” homelessness investigation. He is the author of “The Enforcers: How Little-Known Trade Reporters Exposed the Keating Five and Advanced Business Journalism” (University of Illinois Press, 2019), and a forthcoming

book on business journalist **Willard Kiplinger**, expected to be published in 2022. While working on his doctorate at Merrill, Wells created a business reporting capstone class.

During the 2011–12 school year, he helped launch a business reporting program at the University of South Carolina while serving as a Reynolds Visiting Business Journalism Professor.

In the Fall 2022 semester, Wells became Merrill College’s Abell Professor in Baltimore Journalism and succeeded **Dr. Ronald Yaros** as director of the Merrill College Ph.D. program.

‘IMAGINING THE INDIAN,’ DOCUMENTARY CO-PRODUCED BY MERRILL’S KEVIN BLACKISTONE, WINS FILM FESTIVAL AWARD, NAMED FINALIST FOR KEN BURNS PRIZE

“Imagining the Indian: The Fight Against Native American Mascoting” — co-produced by Merrill Professor of the Practice **Kevin Blackistone** — won the Best Documentary prize at the Boston International Film Festival.

It also was named one of six finalists for the Library of Congress Lavine/Ken Burns Prize for Film, a national award for history documentaries.

The film made its world premiere April 3 at California’s American Indian & Indigenous Film Festival. It also appeared at Filmfest DC and screened outdoors at the Kennedy Center in Washington.

“Imagining the Indian” is a comprehensive examination of the movement to eradicate the words, images and gestures that many Native Americans and their allies find demeaning and offensive. While the filmmakers are encouraged by the recent changes made by the Washington Commanders and Cleveland Guardians, they realize that the fight against Native American mascoting is far from over.

The Kansas City NFL team, the Chicago NHL team, and the Atlanta MLB team remain adamant that they will not change their team names or practices, including the insidious Tomahawk/Arrowhead Chop. Additionally, close to 2,000 secondary schools throughout the country still have harmful Native themed mascots. “Imagining the Indian” seeks to shine a light on these harms.

“Changing the Washington Football Team’s name is long overdue, but the victory is only piecemeal until the other pro and amateur teams also choose new names,” said co-director **Aviva Kempner**.

“And eradicating Native American mascoting will rid us of its perniciousness, which is that exposure to it is at the root of negative stereotyping and treatment of all people of color,” Blackistone said.

The film is made possible by generous support from Executive Producers **Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation** and **San Manuel Band** of Mission Indians, and Co-Executive Producers **Jessica and Steve Sarowitz**.



Arizona rally against Native mascots in Phoenix, Arizona.



Producer Kevin Blackistone, Mary Kathryn Nagle and Director Aviva Kempner in Washington, D.C.

MERRILL ABELL PROFESSOR SANDY BANISKY RETIRES

Sandy Banisky, Merrill College's longtime Abell Professor in Baltimore Journalism, retired at the end of summer 2022.

Banisky joined Merrill College in 2008 after a distinguished career at The Baltimore Sun. She was Merrill's first Abell Professor and created the college's Baltimore urban affairs reporting course, in which students spend a semester working in Baltimore reporting on issues of importance to cities.

She also played a key editorial role on many of the investigative projects published by the college's Howard Center for Investigative Journalism, Capital News Service and Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism.

"Sandy Banisky has distinguished herself as a journalism educator since the day she joined Merrill College," Merrill College Dean **Lucy Dalglish** said. "She is one of our few faculty members who could teach literally any of our writing, reporting, editing, media law and ethics classes. To say she will be missed is an understatement."

"Merrill College is an amazing place, filled with people who bring great energy and ambition and dedication to journalism," Banisky said. "I've been awed by my colleagues every day. And I've been thrilled by the work of the students, who are crafting a brilliant future for our important profession. I can't wait to see what the people of Merrill do next."

Before joining the Merrill faculty, Banisky was deputy managing editor for news at The Baltimore Sun. In that job, she supervised the metro, foreign, national, sports and business desks, and developed front-page stories from every department.



Sandy Banisky, Merrill College Abell Professor in Baltimore Journalism, with her students at the old Baltimore Sun building.

“Merrill College is an amazing place, filled with people who bring great energy and ambition and dedication to journalism.”

– Sandy Banisky

She also served as The Sun's deputy managing editor for metro. In 2002, the metro staff's coverage of the Washington Beltway snipers was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. She earlier was national editor and before that was a reporter.

As The Sun's national correspondent, Banisky covered the Oklahoma City bombing, the trial of Timothy McVeigh, the aftermath of floods in North Dakota and the crash of a jet into the Everglades, among other events. As a reporter for metro, her beats included state and local government as well as abortion politics.

At Merrill, her Baltimore urban affairs class' reporting, in collaboration with the CNS data bureau, won the 2018 Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for the best college journalism for a project that explored how neighborhood environment promotes asthma triggers.

The capstone won several other awards, working with other Merrill classes, including a 2019 Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association Award for investigative reporting for a look at the challenges Baltimore's corrupt police force faces under the demands of a federal consent decree; and a National Association of Black Journalists 2017 Salute to Excellence award for a collaboration with Kaiser Health News investigating why residents of Baltimore's poorer neighborhoods lack access to good health care.

A graduate of Boston University, Banisky holds a law degree from the University of Baltimore and was admitted to the Maryland bar.



Dana Priest

MERRILL KNIGHT CHAIR DANA PRIEST WINS GEORGE POLK AWARD FOR ‘THE PEGASUS PROJECT’

The multinational team of journalists that included Professor **Dana Priest**, Merrill College’s Knight Chair in Public Affairs Journalism, won a prestigious George Polk Award in Technology Reporting for “The Pegasus Project.”

Journalists from The Washington Post, the Paris-based Forbidden Stories Network and The Guardian U.S. were recognized for their investigation that found that military-grade Israeli spyware intended for tracking terrorists and criminals was used by authoritarian governments to hack the smartphones of journalists, activists and business executives around the world.

Priest, a Washington Post investigative reporter, has now won two Pulitzer Prizes, three Polk Awards and a Peabody Award for broadcast journalism.

“It was a unique honor to join journalists from 15 countries, all helping one another to uncover and then explain the truly global nature of this unregulated spyware and its negative consequences on democratic forces and individuals in these countries,” Priest said.

Over the course of a year, the consortium linked thousands of phone numbers to individuals and, in dozens of cases, convinced victims to allow Amnesty International, the consortium’s forensic analysts, to test their phones. New revelations involving still more countries continue to roll out after the series was published. Governments in Europe and Mexico have launched their own investigations. The Biden Administration halted trade between the country, the Israeli-based NSO Group and U.S. companies.

“Professor Priest had a highly productive, wildly important sabbatical last year,” Merrill College Dean **Lucy Dalglish** said. “This investigation was a true accomplishment. Our students are so lucky to have the opportunity to learn from one of the world’s most distinguished journalists.”

The George Polk Awards are among the nation’s top journalism honors.



Tom Bettag

MERRILL BROADCAST LECTURER TOM BETTAG JOINS NATAS’ PRESTIGIOUS GOLD CIRCLE

Internationally renowned broadcast journalist **Tom Bettag**, a lecturer at Merrill College, was inducted into the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences’ prestigious Gold Circle in 2022.

The honorees join an impressive group of industry professionals who have helped shape the broadcast industry and continue to influence its future. Gold Circle inductees must have devoted more than a half-century to the broadcast industry and made significant contributions to the National Capital Chesapeake Bay community.

“This is a tremendous honor that is often compared to a ‘Hall of Fame’ within our chapter and the entire Academy,” President **Jason Gittlen** said in a statement. “Each inductee will join the ranks of other past inductees, including **Sam Donaldson, Gordon Peterson, Judy Woodruff, Ted Koppel, Bob Schieffer, Maureen Bunyan** and **Jim Vance**.”

Bettag is a 52-year veteran of television news and journalism. He has worked on some of TV news’ most important shows on CBS, ABC, CNN, NBC and the Discovery Channel and alongside some of its biggest names — **Walter Cronkite, Ted Koppel, Dan Rather, Candy Crowley, Brian Williams** and more.

He has won 30 Emmy awards, two Peabody awards, six duPont silver batons and the Fred Friendly First Amendment Award.

“But that comes with no ego,” the nominating letter from Merrill Senior Lecturer **Josh Davidsburg** read. “In person, he is a modest, humble journalist, willing to go out of his way to help our students in any way he can.”

Bettag has spent the past six years teaching Merrill College students, helping the broadcast program rival that of any other journalism school.

“He’s provided insight into an industry that only someone with the experience of a Gold Circle member can give,” Davidsburg wrote.

“His classes have produced long-form investigative pieces for PBS NewsHour and Maryland Public Television. Our students rave about his knowledge and his calm, even demeanor.”

FACULTY AND STAFF CHANGES



Zackary Albrecht



Luis Valderrama



Merrill College faculty and students bid farewell to Senior Lecturer Bethany Swain in December 2021.



Karen Denny

>> **Zackary Albrecht** became Merrill College's program manager of alumni relations and development in June 2022, bringing with him more than six years of experience in fundraising, marketing and community engagement. Before joining Merrill College, Albrecht served as the associate director of communications and fundraising at San Diego State University, where he led the institution's annual giving efforts. He earned a B.A. in Journalism from San Diego State University.

>> **Luis Jaime Valderrama** became Merrill College's student services supervisor in July 2022. He supervises student employees and provides administrative support to the Office of Student Services. He has previously worked as a writing tutor and museum docent. He holds a bachelor's degree in History from Ithaca College.

>> Senior Lecturer **Bethany Swain** left Merrill College at the end of the Fall 2021 semester to become the University of Maryland's director of video production. Swain, a nationally recognized photojournalist, multimedia producer and educator who spent most of her career innovating at CNN, taught at the college for nearly a decade.

>> Senior Lecturer **Karen Denny**, who directed the CNS Annapolis bureau since 2014, replaced Senior Lecturer **Adrienne Flynn** as Merrill's director of internships and career development. Flynn retired at the end of 2021 after more than two decades on Merrill College's faculty.

In Memoriam



FRANK QUINE

Former Assistant Dean
and Development Director
1937-2021



ENZO ALVARENGA

Student
2003-2022



JERRY CEPPOS

Alum/Merrill College
Hall of Famer
1946-2022



DAVID POVICH

Co-founder of
The Shirley Povich Center
for Sports Journalism
1935-2022



RENEE POUSSAINT

Former Adjunct Lecturer
1944-2022

MORE ON FACULTY



Rafael Lorente

ASSOCIATE DEAN RAFAEL LORENTE APPOINTED TO ACEJMC ACCREDITING COMMITTEE

Rafael Lorente, Merrill College's

associate dean for academic affairs, was appointed to the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (ACEJMC) Accrediting Committee.

The ACEJMC is responsible for evaluating professional journalism and mass communications programs in colleges and universities.

Members of the 15-member Accrediting Committee meet once a year to thoroughly review reports of on-site observations submitted by site-visit teams. The committee then makes recommendations to the Accrediting Council, which makes all final accrediting decisions. Lorente's term runs through 2024.

Lorente joins Merrill College Dean **Lucy Dalglish** as part of the ACEJMC's leadership group. Dalglish is a member of the agency's Accrediting Council, making Merrill College one of three schools to be represented on both the Accrediting Committee and Council.



Deborah Nelson

NELSON WINS AHCJ AWARD

Professor **Deborah Nelson** won the Association of Health Care Journalists Award for Excellence in Health Care

Journalism in the Health Policy (large) category, taking first place for the Reuters project, "Out of Control: America's losing battle against diabetes."

Nelson co-wrote the series, which exposed the U.S. medical establishment's mismanagement of the diabetes epidemic and the tragic consequences for patients and their families, leaving few Americans untouched.



Tom Rosenstiel

ROSENSTIEL PUBLISHES LATEST NOVEL

Tom Rosenstiel, Merrill's visiting professor on the future of journalism, in November 2021 published the fourth

novel in his series of fictional political thrillers, "The Days to Come."

Rosenstiel is the author of 11 books, and founded two major media non-profits — the Project for Excellence in Journalism and the Committee of Concerned Journalists.

MERRILL COLLEGE PARTNERS TO LAUNCH CENTER FOR MEDIA INTEGRITY OF AMERICAN STATES

The Organization of American States in 2022 launched the Center for Media Integrity of the Americas as part of a partnership that includes Merrill College. The new hub will promote and support the practice of independent, noninterest-affiliated journalism and social media production in the Americas.

The center will promote initiatives that recognize and support fact-based, rigorous journalism and social media information dissemination.

As part of the partnership, which includes the United Nations Development Programme and The Washington Post, Merrill College will offer recurring journalism seminars for both traditional and new media creators.



Josh Davidsburg

DAVIDSBURG'S DOC PICKED UP BY STARZ

"Queen of the Capital," the first documentary by Merrill College Senior Lecturer **Josh Davidsburg**

'01, was picked up to be broadcast and streamed by STARZ.

The 2020 documentary explores the world of Washington, D.C., drag queens. Directed by Davidsburg, the production also involved alums **Alanna Delfino** '15, **Alex Glass** '14 and **Brandi Vincent** '15.



The Merrill College community came together to celebrate the retirement of Senior Lecturer Adrienne Flynn, who spent more than two decades at the college, with Capital News Service and the Merrill career center.



STUDENTS

MERRILL COLLEGE LAUNCHES LOCAL NEWS INITIATIVE WITH KLINGENSTEIN FAMILY ANCHOR COMMITMENT, HIRES JERRY ZREMSKI TO LEAD PROGRAM



Jerry Zremski

The Philip Merrill College of Journalism will launch a local news initiative thanks to an anchor commitment from the Andrew and Julie Klingenstein Family Fund.

Merrill College will create a new local news collaborative and a related internship program to strengthen local newsrooms and increase collaboration among news organizations in Maryland, while providing students with invaluable experience in local news reporting.

“We are thrilled to be able to participate in this effort to help strengthen the local news sector, which we believe is vital to the health of our communities and critical to a functioning democracy,” **Andy and Julie Klingenstein** said.

To lead the initiative, Merrill College hired award-winning reporter **Jerry Zremski** to its full-time faculty as a lecturer. Zremski, who has been the Washington bureau chief for The Buffalo News since 2007 and a reporter for the publication since 1984, has spent two stints as a Merrill adjunct lecturer, most recently since 2019. He will be a part-time enterprise reporter for The Buffalo News going forward.

“As a longtime reporter covering issues of importance to the people of Buffalo, Jerry Zremski is the perfect choice to lead this initiative,” Dean **Lucy Dalglish** said. “We know we’ve made a great selection for the leader of our innovative local reporting program.”

The local news collaborative will team Merrill with news media in Maryland, providing experience for students through a midlevel reporting and writing class focused on local beat reporting while offering supplemental reporting for news organizations in Maryland. The course will be taught by Zremski.

The local news internship program will offer stipends for select students each summer to intern at a news outlet whose coverage and audience is predominantly local. Students will typically pursue these internships after their sophomore or junior year. The stipends will cover living expenses and summer tuition credits.

One of the first priorities in launching the collaborative will be recruiting media partners in communities where Merrill’s reporting resources could have substantial impact.

The collaborative is planned to be in place during the Spring 2023 semester and the internships will first be awarded in summer 2023.

“The path to rebuilding trust in news and defending democracy at home and abroad starts with improving access to high-quality local news,” said **Rafael Lorente**, Merrill College’s associate dean for academic affairs. “We’d like to thank Andy and Julie Klingenstein for helping us expand access to news in Maryland and beyond.”

Andy Klingenstein has been an early stage investor for many years and previously practiced law. He now devotes most of his time to leading a set of family philanthropies based in New York City with interests in scientific research, mental health and early childhood development. Julie Klingenstein, a 1980 University of Maryland graduate and a former trustee of the College Park Foundation, is active in structured-literacy efforts and is a longtime literacy volunteer for District of Columbia Public Schools. As residents of Washington, D.C., Julie and Andy focus their personal philanthropy on D.C. public education, promoting the health of low-income infants and mothers, and supporting robust journalism.

“This new initiative will serve the people of the state of Maryland with fuller local news coverage — which is essential to democracy — while serving Merrill College students with a great opportunity to get hands-on journalism experience,” Zremski said. “I couldn’t be happier or more proud to be leading this effort. In funding this project, Andy and Julie Klingenstein have done an extraordinary public service.”

“The path to rebuilding trust in news and defending democracy at home and abroad starts with improving access to high-quality local news.”

– Rafael Lorente

MORE STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

MERRILL COLLEGE AWARDS 2022 CAPITAL GAZETTE HONORS

Melena DiNenna '22 won the 2021 Gerald Fischman Award for News Commentary and Criticism and **Varun Shankar** '24 was honored with the John McNamara Sports Writing Award. **Tom Davidson** won the Rob Hiaasen Adjunct Faculty Award. The awards honor UMD alumni who were killed in the 2018 Capital Gazette shootings, and are presented at Merrill commencement every spring.

PIETRORAZIO WINS MILITARY REPORTERS & EDITORS AWARD

Gabriel Pietrorazio '21 earned the 2022 Military Reporters & Editors Association journalism award in the Student Project category. Pietrorazio, who worked in the Capital News Service Washington, D.C., bureau, won for his CNS story, "Biden's 9/11 declassification order renews debate over secrecy vs. transparency."



Gabriel Pietrorazio

PERRY NAMED NLGJA CONNECT SCHOLAR

Daryl Perry '23 was named a CONNECT Scholar by NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists. CONNECT is a multimedia journalism training program for college students and recent grads. A cohort of 10 students will attend the NLGJA national convention, produce portfolio-quality journalism, network with media professionals and receive feedback on their resumes and career plans.

SHANKAR SELECTED TO SJI CLASS OF 2022

Varun Shankar '24 was one of 16 students selected to the Sports Journalism Institute's 30th class. SJI is a nine-week training and internship program for college students interested in sports journalism careers. The institute's mission is to increase the diversity in the nation's sports media from the ground up. Shankar was assigned to spend summer 2022 working for The Charlotte Observer.



Varun Shankar

With his selection, Merrill College now has had 11 students participate in SJI for the third most in program history.

UMD RANKED NO. 10 SPORTS BROADCASTING SCHOOL

The Sportscasters Talent Agency of America ranked the University of Maryland and Merrill College the 10th-best sports broadcasting school in the nation in 2022. The deciding factors were quality of instruction, schools that have campus radio and/or television stations, and alumni involvement.

Additionally, the STAA named student **Matt Levine** '22 a Jim Nantz Award Third-Team All-American and **Ben Curtis** an honorable mention. The award program recognizes the best collegiate sports broadcasters.

MERRILL AWARDS INAUGURAL CNN RICHARD DAVIS FELLOWSHIP TO VALERIA I. GONZÁLEZ MONTERO

Merrill College awarded the inaugural CNN Richard Davis Endowed Distinguished Graduate Fellowship in Journalism to master's student **Valeria I. González Montero**.



Valeria I. González Montero

The fellowship is funded by a \$300,000 gift from CNN to honor Merrill College alumnus **Richard "Rick" Davis** (M.A. '84), who retired at the end of January 2021 after serving as CNN's executive vice president of news standards and practices since 1998. Davis is a member of Merrill College's Board of Visitors and of the University of Maryland College Park Foundation Board of Trustees.

It provides merit-based support for Merrill College graduate students with a preference for students who will promote diversity in the newsroom.

González Montero is a master's student from Utuado, Puerto Rico.

TORCHINSKY NAMED PHILIP MERRILL PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

Rina Torchinsky '22 was chosen as a 2021-22 Philip Merrill Presidential Scholar and she chose adjunct lecturer **Marissa Lang** as her faculty mentor. This highly selective program is made possible by the generosity of the Philip Merrill family and is awarded through the UMD Office of Undergraduate Studies. It recognizes students' academic excellence as well as a K-12 teacher and University of Maryland faculty member selected by the student.

EIGHT MERRILL STUDENTS SELECTED TO WASHINGTON POST 2022 SUMMER INTERN CLASS

The Washington Post hired 30 students from 18 colleges and universities to join its 2022 Summer Intern Class. Eight of those students came from Merrill College.

Erin Harper '23 interned in emerging news products. **Sahana Jayaraman '22** interned on the data team. **Alyssa Kraus '22** interned in audience. **Angela Mecca '21** and **Colleen Neely '22** interned on the multiplatform editing desk. **Zoe Pierce '22** was an editing intern in Opinions. **Vanessa Sánchez '22** was a Bradlee Fellow and a reporting intern in Metro. **Aadit Tambe '22** interned in design and graphics.

FOUR MERRILL STUDENTS EARN WHCA SCHOLARSHIPS

Merrill College had four White House Correspondents' Association college scholarship winners in 2022: **Sarah Elbeshbishi '22**, **Erin Harper '23**, **Katherine Mahoney '24** and **Sophia Marchionini '25**. It was the second-most WHCA scholarship recipients of any college or university in the nation.

BENZAN EARNS SPOT IN WNBA

Katie Benzan '22, who graduated from the master's program in May after playing for the UMD women's basketball team, earned a roster spot with the WNBA's Washington Mystics out of training camp and appeared in three games. After being released, she was hired to the front office of the NBA's Utah Jazz.



Katie Benzan

FOUR MERRILL STUDENTS NAMED DOW JONES NEWS FUND INTERNS

Four Merrill College students were selected as Dow Jones News Fund interns as part of the organization's largest class in nearly a decade. **Rina Torchinsky '22** interned at The Wall Street Journal as part of the DJNF business reporting program. **Hannah Ziegler '24** interned at The Atlanta Journal-Constitution as part of the data journalism program. **Carmen Molina Acosta '22** interned at Connecticut Public Radio as part of the digital media program. **Shifra Dayak '24** interned at Stars and Stripes as part of the Texas multiplatform editing program.

BAINUM, ROSENSTIEL, ADEFIWITAN, MECCA SERVE AS MERRILL'S 2021-22 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS

New Visiting Professor **Tom Rosenstiel** and graduating senior **Angela Mecca '21** served as Merrill College's Winter 2021 commencement speakers. Rosenstiel, the former executive director of the American Press Institute, joined Merrill College in Fall 2021 as the Eleanor Merrill Visiting Professor on the Future of Journalism. Mecca is a journalism major and history minor from Fairfax County, Virginia, who was editor in chief of The Diamondback.



Angela Mecca



Stewart Bainum Jr.



Anuoluwapo A. Adefiwitan

At the Spring 2022 commencement, **Stewart Bainum Jr.**, founder of The Venetoulis Institute for Local Journalism, and graduating senior **Anuoluwapo A. Adefiwitan '22** served as speakers. Bainum's nonprofit launched The Baltimore Banner. Adefiwitan is a journalism and voice performance dual-degree student from Baltimore.



MERRILL COLLEGE STUDENTS WIN AWMF GRACIE, WHNPA EYES OF HISTORY, BEA FESTIVAL OF MEDIA ARTS, NATAS STUDENT PRODUCTION AWARDS

Several Merrill College students won broadcast and video awards from the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation, The White House News Photographers Association and the Broadcast Education Association in 2021-22.

Kimi Fleming '22 won an AWMF Gracie Award in the television student category, Soft News Feature, for her ViewFinder story, "A horse from heaven." The Gracies are national awards that recognize exemplary programming created by, for and about women in radio, television, cable and interactive media.

In the WHNPA's 2022 Eyes of History contest, **Morgan Pravato** '21 won the Award of Excellence as the runner-up in the Top Honors category for her portfolio of three Capital News Service ViewFinder stories.



Senior Lecturer Bethany Swain and her students attend the WHNPA Eyes of History contest event in February 2022.

Merrill students swept the General News or Feature: Natural Sound category with Fleming earning first place for "A horse from heaven."

Valeria Isabel González Montero '22 took second place with "A Special Connection: Horse and Rider," and **Dominick Acierno** '21 placed third with his ViewFinder story, "Community Growth."

In the Sports category, **Erin Burnett** '24 earned second place for "D1 Golfer Alex Burnett reflects on his golfing journey while practicing."

In the BEA Festival of Media Arts, Acierno won a prestigious Best of Festival award in the Student Film and Video Competition for "Community Growth." Acierno's video won first place in the Instructional/Educational category.

Also in the Instructional/Educational category, **Garrett Mogge** '21 placed third for "Plant Therapy."

Michael Hernández '22 won an Award of Excellence in the TV Anchor category for Spanish anchoring of CNS TV.

Nick McMillan '21, **Jenna Cohen** '22, **Kelly Livingston** '21 and **Maddy Peek** '23 won an Award of Excellence in the Student Documentary Competition for "White-owned newspapers fueled the 1919 Elaine massacre," which was part of the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism's "Printing Hate" project.

Five projects by Merrill students earned 2020-21 Student Production Awards from the National Capital Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. NATAS is the organization that awards the Emmys.

Four of the winning projects were produced by Merrill College's View-Finder team, led by Senior Lecturer **Bethany Swain**.

In the Nonfiction - Short Form category, **Maris Medina** '20 won for her ViewFinder project, "'We're just trying to survive': Making ends meet in the District's encampments."

Sid Espinosa '20 and **Carly Haynes** '20 won in the Public Affairs/Community Service category for their ViewFinder project, "A Look Inside D.C. Encampments."

The two entries were a part of the UMD Howard Center's "Nowhere To Go" project on homelessness.

Dominick Waldman '21 also won in the Public Affairs/Community Service category for his ViewFinder project, "Feed Anne Arundel: Helping Tyler Heights."

In the News Report - Light News category, **Molly Castle Work** '21 won for "Everybody, unmute your mics," the final project from her News Videography course. **Annabelle Janssens** '21 also won in the category for her ViewFinder project, "Desperate for Diapers."

Earlier this year, Espinosa was also nominated for a professional regional Emmy by NATAS for her project, "Healthcare's New Home: A Barber-shop Story."



RESEARCH

MERRILL PH.D. CANDIDATES HONORED, PRESENT RESEARCH AT 2022 AEJMC NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Several Ph.D. candidates from the University of Maryland Philip Merrill College of Journalism were honored with awards and presented peer-reviewed research at the national conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) in Detroit in August 2022.

April Newton won the Mary Gardner Award for Graduate Student Research, which is given by AEJMC’s Commission on the Status of Women. The award funds research that is likely to make an important contribution to scholarship on women and journalism/communication. Newton won for her ongoing dissertation research exploring the choices women journalists make in terms of how they do their jobs, after experiencing sexual harassment or sexual assault in the course of their work. The research will offer an opportunity to develop best practices for covering other people’s experiences of sexual harassment and assault.

Carolina Velloso won the Mary Ann Yodelis Smith Award for Feminist Scholarship, which is also given by AEJMC’s Commission on the Status of Women. The award funds feminist scholarship that has the potential to make significant contributions to the literature of gender and media. Velloso won for her ongoing dissertation, which examines metajournalistic discourse on whether journalists should be allowed to lean into their identities, personal commitments and

lived experiences in the newsgathering process. It also considers how journalists articulate the impacts of their embodied identities and experiences on their work.

Robin Sundaramoorthy was awarded the AEJMC’S 2022 Diversity and Inclusion Career Development Fellowship from the Committee on Career Development. The fellowship includes travel expenses to attend an AEJMC career development pre-conference workshop and complete a one-year mentorship program.

Mohammed Ademo placed second in the AEJMC International Communication Division’s James W. Markham Student Paper Competition for “Cultural Mobilization and Counterpublics: Analyzing the Cloth, Colors, and Symbols of the Oromo Revolution.”

Dinfin Mulupi presented four papers at the AEJMC conference, while **Frankie Ho Chun Wong, Nataliya Rostova, Shannon Scovel, Velloso, Jodi McFarland Friedman, John McQuaid, Sundaramoorthy and Sohana Nasrin** were each a part of one research presentation. Associate Professor **Ronald Yaros** also co-wrote one of the papers presented at the conference.

Yaros and Ph.D. candidate **Wei-Ping Li** each moderated a panel at the conference as well. Li moderated “The Power of Narrative in the Information War” on Aug. 4, where she was joined by fellow Ph.D. candidates **Bobbie Foster** and **Mahfuzul Haque**. Yaros moderated “We are exhausted! Students newsrooms in times of COVID” on Aug. 6.

Friedman presented her paper, “‘Mystery People’: Tri-Racial Isolate Newspaper Coverage and Conceptions of Race from 1880-1943,” as part of the History Division. Earlier this year, the paper earned the Elliot King Award for outstanding research presented at the AEJMC/American Journalism Historians Association Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference.



Jodi McFarland Friedman



Dinfin Mulupi



Mohammed Ademo



April Newton



Merrill Ph.D. candidates with Associate Professor Rob Wells at the AEJMC Conference.

Complete List of Papers Presented by Merrill Research Community at AEJMC Conference:

- >> **Jodi McFarland Friedman**, “‘Mystery People’: Tri-Racial Isolate Newspaper Coverage and Conceptions of Race from 1880-1943,” History Division
- >> **Dinfin Mulupi**, “Eugenic Sterilization in the New York Times Between 1905-1910 and 1925-1929,” History Division
- >> **Dinfin Mulupi**, “Extended Abstract: Media and Labor Unions: Newspaper Coverage of the Amazon Worker Movement,” Newspaper and Online Division
- >> **Dinfin Mulupi, Frankie Ho Chun Wong, Nataliya Rostova** and **Ronald Yaros**, “Investigating Effects of a Physician’s Race and Gender on User Engagement with and Perceived Credibility of COVID 19 Vaccine News,” Minorities and Communication Division
- >> **Lindsey Blumell, Dinfin Mulupi** and **Rana Arafat**, “The Impact of Sexual Harassment on Job Satisfaction in Newsrooms: A Sub-Saharan Africa, Southeast Asia, and Arab Region Comparison,” International Communication Division
- >> **Shannon Scovel** and **Carolina Velloso**, “Dear Diary, I’m winning the Olympics: A feminist critical thematic analysis of storytelling techniques used by NBC and the Olympic Channel in the 2016 gymnastics broadcast,” Commission on the Status of Women interest group
- >> **John McQuaid**, “IMDb Reviews of ‘Don’t Look Up’ as Responses to Climate Change and Science Communication Failures,” Communicating Science, Health, Environment, and Risk Division
- >> **Robin Sundaramoorthy**, “William Worthy and the Documents from the U.S. ‘Espionage Den,’” History Division
- >> **Melanie Wilderman** and **Sohana Nasrin**, “How Scholastic Journalists Cover Controversy: A Textual Analysis,” Scholastic Journalism Division



PH.D. CANDIDATE SHANNON SCOVEL WINS ROBERT K. BARNEY GRADUATE STUDENT ESSAY AWARD

Shannon Scovel, a third-year Merrill Ph.D. student, won the Robert K. Barney Graduate Student Essay Award from the Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research, which publishes the “Journal of Olympic Studies.”

The award is given annually to one graduate student who submits the most outstanding piece of original research in the area of Olympic studies.

Scovel’s paper was entitled “Men’s stories, women’s emotions and the ‘Inequality’ Games: A feminist analysis of media objectivity and the 2012 Olympic media coverage in The Times.”

Scovel said her curiosity around the topic of media objectivity and the Olympics started when she was working on her master’s thesis at the University of Stirling (Scotland), titled “Media coverage of women at the Olympics:

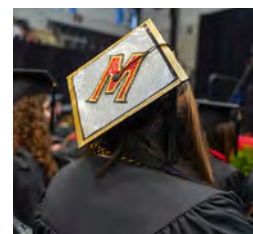
Patterns of change from 2008-2016.” For that paper, Scovel looked at newspaper coverage of women in the Olympics before, during and after the 2012 Games.

She said her current work goes into more depth specifically about 2012, and “evaluates how The Times (U.K.) covered female athletes during what was nicknamed ‘The Equality Games,’ the first Olympics where women competed in all of the same sporting federation events as men.”

As the winner of the contest, Scovel received \$250 and her essay was forwarded to the “Journal of Olympic Studies” for peer review and possible publication.



Shannon Scovel



MERRILL PH.D. CANDIDATE CAROLINA VELLOSO WINS 2021 RAY HIEBERT HISTORY OF JOURNALISM STUDENT PAPER AWARD

Ph.D. candidate **Carolina Velloso** was awarded the 2021 Ray Hiebert History of Journalism Student Paper Award for the best work of journalism history presented at an academic conference by any student or faculty member at Merrill College.

She received a \$1,000 honorarium.

Velloso was honored for her paper, “A True Newspaper Woman: The Career of Sadie Kneller Miller,” which was published in the March 2022 issue of the quarterly journal, “Journalism History.”

“I am elated to have won the Hiebert Award,” Velloso said. “Conducting jour-

nalism history research is so valuable and rewarding, and I am grateful to have found a supportive community of leading journalism historians and talented colleagues at Merrill. It was an honor to produce the first full-length examination of the life and career of **Sadie Kneller Miller**, a trailblazing journalist and Maryland native.”

Velloso, who earned her M.A. at Merrill College and a B.A. with high honors in History from UMD, researches at the intersection of gender, race and identity in journalism, with a particular interest in the professional experiences of minority and marginalized journalists.

The Hiebert Award reflects the interest of **Dr. Ray Hiebert** — founding dean of the UMD College of Journalism and a journalism historian — in the historic role of journalism in American life, politics, government and culture. His intent in establishing this award is to promote the teaching of journalism history in journalism education and to encourage research that sheds light on that history.



Carolina Velloso

PH.D. STUDENTS WEI-PING LI, ROBIN SUNDARAMOORTHY AWARDED UMD RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Merrill Ph.D. candidates **Wei-Ping Li** and **Robin Sundaramoorthy** were awarded campus-wide research fellowships by the University of Maryland.

Li was awarded the UMD Graduate School’s **Ann G. Wylie** Dissertation Fellowship for the 2022–23 academic year. The fellowship supports students with excellent qualifications in the latter stages of writing their dissertations and carries a \$15,000 stipend, a candidacy tuition award and a credit for mandatory fees for one semester. Li’s advisor is Merrill Professor and Senior Scholar **Sarah Oates**.

Sundaramoorthy was awarded the UMD Graduate School’s **Lee Thornton** Dissertation Fellowship for the semester of her choice during the 2022–23 academic year. Sundaramoorthy’s advisor is Merrill Professor **Linda Steiner**.

Thornton, the first woman of color to serve as a University of Maryland dean, endowed a campus-wide dissertation fellowship for dissertation research in any discipline or field, particularly but not exclusively for research with implications for the betterment of society.

The fellowship carries a \$15,000 stipend, a candidacy tuition award, a credit for mandatory fees for one semester and reimbursement of an individual health insurance plan.

Li was a journalist covering financial and legal news in Taiwan. She is also a lawyer licensed to practice in New York state and worked as a consultant and researcher focusing on digital rights policy. In her dissertation, she will explore how foreign disinformation flows into other countries’ domestic media systems and impacts societies. She hopes the research could help find ways to combat foreign disinformation and propaganda in an age when authoritarian countries have aggressively expanded their information influence.

Sundaramoorthy has 20 years of TV news experience at the local and network levels, and earned a master’s degree in journalism from Michigan State University. Her research explores the gaps and silences found in traditional and new media. Through oral history and archival research, she examines how videography, radio, podcasting and social media highlight and give voice to those who have been omitted, overlooked or forgotten.



Wei-Ping Li



Robin Sundaramoorthy

2021-22 RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS



Professor Sarah Oates is honored as a UMD Distinguished Scholar-Teacher by President Darryll Pines, right, and Provost Jennifer King Rice in September 2021.

>> Professor **Sarah Oates**, a specialist on Russian disinformation, published a book chapter in “The Routledge Companion to Media Disinformation and Populism”;

an article on war propaganda in “Journalism & Communication Monographs”; gave three invited talks on disinformation; and was the lead author of a paper on Russian narratives in U.S. news at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in September 2021.



Christoph Mergerson

>> Hired as a visiting assistant professor in race and media in 2021, **Dr. Christoph Mergerson** was appointed into the University of Maryland FAMILE (Faculty

Advance at Maryland for Inclusive Learning and Excellence) program in spring 2022. He became an assistant professor (tenure track) in August 2022. Mergerson won the Outstanding Graduating Media Studies Ph.D. award from the Rutgers University School of Communication and Information in May 2022. He contributed an invited commentary for Harvard University’s Nieman Lab in December 2021: “Predictions for journalism 2022: Journalists acknowledge equity as an essential value of democracy.”



Mark Feldstein

>> Professor **Mark Feldstein** presented at the “Watergate and the News Media” panel for the Senate Watergate Committee 50th reunion at the U.S. Senate in June 2022.



Susan Moeller

>> Merrill researchers were involved in analyzing COVID pandemic news. Oates was a member of a grant team at the UMD Applied Research Laboratory for Intelligence and Security (U.S. COVID Response – Sociotechnical Analyses to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic) funded by the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security with \$1.8 million. Professor **Susan Moeller** presented “Journalism and the Pandemic” and “A Global Moment in Time: Photojournalists Document Challenges and Opportunities in the COVID Era” for the U.S. Department of State in October 2021.

>> Associate Professor **Rob Wells** is the author of “The Insider: How the Kiplinger Newsletter Bridged Washington and Wall Street” (University of Massachusetts Press, 2022). He co-published a chapter in “Business and Politics” in 2022, called “Bilateral Tensions, the Trade War, and US-China Trade Relations.”



Naeemul Hassan

>> Assistant Professor **Naeemul Hassan** continued work on his National Science Foundation grant, “Baitbuster 2.0: Keeping Users Away from Clickbait” (July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2024, \$228,401). He received a supplemental grant of \$16,000 from the NSF in 2021–22 to fund research experiences for undergraduates and continued to develop and direct Merrill’s Computational Journalism Lab. Hassan was co-author of three peer-reviewed conference publications in 2021–22.



Linda Steiner

>> Professor **Linda Steiner** co-edited and co-wrote “Newswork and Precarity” (Routledge, 2022) and published a chapter on feminist ethics for journalism in the “Handbook of Global Media Ethics” (Springer, 2021). Steiner’s book for which she was the lead editor, “Front Pages, Front Lines: Media and the Fight for Women’s Suffrage” (University of Illinois Press) was designated a Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2021.



Krishnan Vasudevan

>> Assistant Professor **Krishnan Vasudevan** was the lead author of “Gamification and Work Games: Examining Consent and Resistance Among Uber Drivers” in “New Media & Society.” Vasudevan also contributed a chapter to the “Newswork and Precarity” volume, “Deadspin’s Fight with its Private Equity Owner and the Rise of Defector.”



Ira Chinoy

>> Associate Professor **Ira Chinoy** published a teaching essay on pandemic-driven innovation in “AJHA Intelligencer” from the American Journalism Historians Association in October 2021. He was a co-author of “Fighting misinformation in college: students learn to search and evaluate online information through flexible modules” in “Information and Learning Sciences” (February 2022).



ALUMNI

MERRILL COLLEGE INDUCTS INAUGURAL HALL OF FAME CLASS

To kick off celebration of its 50th anniversary, Merrill College inducted its inaugural Hall of Fame class on April 7, 2022. The class included five distinguished alums plus one celebrated faculty member.

The college inducted alums **Emilio Garcia-Ruiz** (B.S. '84), **Charles Green** (B.S. '74), **Maria Douglas Reeve** (M.J. '92), **Bey-Ling Sha** (M.J. '95, Ph.D. '99) and **Sandra Dawson Long Weaver** (B.S. '74). The first faculty honoree was late Merrill College Dean Emeritus **Reese Cleghorn**.

"Merrill College's graduates have distinguished themselves in news reporting, foreign correspondence, broadcasting, newsroom leadership, marketing, communications, advertising and a host of entrepreneurial endeavors," Dean **Lucy Dalglish** said.

"We are grateful to Ralph Crosby for a gift that will allow us to honor outstanding alums for decades to come."

The class was selected by the college's new Hall of Fame committee, and joined the 12 Merrill graduates who were previously honored as Distinguished Alumni by the UMD Alumni Association.

The inductees were immortalized with plaques in the atrium at Knight Hall. The project was made possible with the support of alumnus **Ralph Crosby** '56.

ABOUT THE INDUCTEES

Emilio Garcia-Ruiz (B.S. '84) has been editor in chief of the San Francisco Chronicle since September 2020. He previously served as the managing editor in charge of digital at The Washington Post, overseeing the newsroom's development, implementation and execution of digital strategy.

Charles Green (B.S. '74) served as editor of the National Journal from 1999 to 2013, leading the staff to the National Magazine Award, the National Headliner Award, the Gerald R. Ford Award and many more honors. He previously spent 17 years at Knight-Ridder, covering Congress, the White House, politics and social issues as a reporter before becoming a news editor.

Maria Douglas Reeve (M.J. '92) has been executive editor at the Houston Chronicle since July 2021, when she became the first person of color to be named to the top job at the legacy news outlet. She has been a reporter and newsroom leader for more than 30 years, at the St. Paul Pioneer Press and the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

Bey-Ling Sha (M.J. '95, Ph.D. '99) is considered a public relations pioneer and has been dean of the California State University, Fullerton, College of Communications since July 2019. After getting her Ph.D. from Merrill College, she worked as a public affairs officer at the U.S. Census Bureau and spent 15 years as a faculty member in public relations at San Diego State University.

Sandra Dawson Long Weaver (B.S. '74) co-founded the National Association of Black Journalists and was the first



Members of the inaugural Philip Merrill College of Journalism Hall of Fame class. Back row (left to right): Charles Green, Ralph Crosby, Jay Kernis, Adam Ostrow and Jerry Ceppos. Front row (left to right): Mi-Ai Parrish, Lori Beecher, Sandra Dawson Long Weaver, Jane Healy, Bey-Ling Sha and Maria Douglas Reeve.

Black woman to serve as managing editor of The Philadelphia Inquirer. Her 47-year journalism career included stops at The Wilmington Journal, The Bulletin in Philadelphia and The Tennessee Tribune.

Reese Cleghorn, who died in 2009, was once called "the most outstanding dean of an American journalism school in the second half of the 20th century" by **Eugene L. Roberts**, former managing editor of The New York Times and a fellow Merrill College faculty member. After a remarkable journalism career, Cleghorn served as Merrill College dean from 1981 until 2000.

Merrill College's UMD Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni honorees inducted into Hall of Fame:

- 2016 - **Adam Ostrow** '04
- 2013 - **Mi-Ai Parrish** '92
- 2012 - **Lori Beecher** '87
- 2011 - **Amal Mudallali, Ph.D.** '97
- 2009 - **Mei Xu, M.A.** '92
- 2008 - **Connie Chung** '69
- 2007 - **Emory K. Kristof** '64
- 2006 - **Jay A. Kernis** '74
- 2005 - **Ralph W. Crosby** '56
- 2004 - **DeWayne Wickham** '74
- 2003 - **Jane Healy** '71
- 2001 - **Jerry Ceppos** '69

MERRILL ALUMS, CURRENT STUDENT SHARE IN WASHINGTON POST PULITZER FOR CAPITOL RIOT COVERAGE

Several Merrill College alums and current student **Sahana Jayaraman** '22 played key roles in helping The Washington Post win the 2022 Pulitzer Prize in Public Service for its coverage of the Capitol Riot on Jan. 6, 2021.

Marissa Lang '11 and **Michael Brice-Saddler** '18 were covering the assault live from the Capitol the day of the riot.

Lang, fellow alum **Dan LaMothe** '07 and Jayaraman, an intern with The Post's data team, all shared bylines in the 15-story Pulitzer package.

Alum **Aneeta Mathur-Ashton** '21 was also listed as a contributor to coverage, from her time as an American University graduate student reporter.

Monica Norton '87 also was honored for her editorial contributions to the coverage.

When the Pulitzer win was announced, Lang spoke in The Post newsroom on behalf of the local reporters who provided the on-the-ground coverage of the riot on Jan. 6.



Merrill alum Marissa Lang '11 addresses the staff of The Washington Post in the newsroom on May 9, 2022, after the Pulitzer Prize had been announced. Lang spoke on behalf of the local reporters who provided the on-the-ground coverage of the Capitol Riot on Jan. 6, 2021. (Courtesy of Marissa Lang/Washington Post)

KURKJIAN INDUCTED INTO NATIONAL BASEBALL HALL OF FAME



Tim Kurkjian, left, with Povich Center Director Mark Hyman during the 2022 Baseball Hall of Fame festivities in Cooperstown, New York.

Alum **Tim Kurkjian** '78, ESPN's longtime national baseball reporter, was honored with the 2022 Baseball Writers' Association of America Career Excellence Award and was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in July 2022.

Kurkjian began his career in 1979 for the Washington Star and two years later was the Texas Rangers beat writer for the Dallas Morning News. After four years in Texas, Kurkjian returned to Maryland, joining The Baltimore Sun to cover the Orioles for four years.

Kurkjian then spent seven years as Sports Illustrated's senior baseball writer. In 1998, he joined ESPN where he has worked as a columnist, national baseball analyst and Emmy-winning on-air contributor.

Povich Center Director **Mark Hyman** traveled to Cooperstown, New York, to celebrate Kurkjian's accomplishments. In March 2022, the college celebrated the honor with a virtual event featuring a conversation between Kurkjian and fellow UMD alum/ESPN personality **Scott Van Pelt**.

ALUMS BERRY, VALENCIA NAMED 2022 HARVARD NIEMAN FELLOWS

The Nieman Foundation for Journalism selected 24 journalists from around the world for a year of study at Harvard University, and that group included two Merrill College alums.

Deborah Berry '85, a national correspondent for USA Today covering civil rights, voting rights and politics, will study the pivotal role Black women have played in local and national

politics from the civil rights movement to the Black Lives Matter movement, with a focus on voter registration and the pursuit of elected office.

Jorge Valencia '07, the Mexico City-based Latin America correspondent for The World, will study narrative portrayals of migrants, with a focus on how news organizations can better represent them.

FORD NAMED DILLARD UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Dr. Rochelle L. Ford '95 in 2022 was named the eighth president of Dillard University in New Orleans. Ford was dean of Elon University's School of Communications, where she led more than 80 faculty and 1,500 students.

Ford is also a 2021 fellow in Clark Atlanta University's HBCU Executive Leadership Institute.

"Dr. Ford is a dynamic, charismatic and visionary leader," said **Michael D. Jones**, chair of Dillard's board of trustees. "Students, faculty, and trustees were blown away by her insight, passion and drive. As impressive as Dillard has been over the past 150 years in producing history makers and change agents, there is no question that, under Dr. Ford's leadership, the best is yet to come."



Rochelle Ford



Robert Klemko '10 surveying destroyed Russian tanks days after Russians were ambushed by Ukrainians outside of Kyiv. (Photo by Kostiantyn Khudov)

MERRILL ALUMS COVER WAR IN UKRAINE

Among the Merrill alums on the ground covering Russia's war in Ukraine were **Robert Klemko** '10 and **Joyce Koh** '14 for The Washington Post, and **Ashley Westerman** '14 for NPR.

Klemko, who covers police and criminal justice, volunteered to step in for a month when foreign correspondents needed time off. Koh provided on-air video coverage from Ukraine. Westerman worked as a journalist and producer for NPR in Ukraine.

ALUMS CALL MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL GAMES IN 2022

Merrill alums **Josh Maurer** '03 and **Jake Eisenberg** '17 joined Major League Baseball announcing crews during the 2022 season.

Maurer became a member of the Milwaukee Brewers' radio broadcast team, and Eisenberg filled in part-time on the New York Mets' broadcast team.

Maurer previously worked on both television and radio for the Boston Red Sox' Triple-A team, and had filled in on several Red Sox and Philadelphia Phillies broadcasts since 2015. Eisenberg is also the lead play-by-play announcer for the Kansas City Royals' Triple-A affiliate.

Additionally, **Scott Kornberg** '13, the director of broadcasting for the Miami Marlins' Triple-A team, called two Marlins spring training games before the 2022 season.



Alum Jake Eisenberg calling a minor league baseball game.



John A. Jenkins

MERRILL ALUM, BOV MEMBER JOHN A. JENKINS DONATES HISTORIC JOURNALISTIC ARCHIVE TO UMD LIBRARIES

University of Maryland alum **John A. Jenkins** '72, an accomplished publisher, journalist, author and entrepreneur, has donated a collection of historic papers to UMD Libraries documenting his remarkable career.

The John A. Jenkins Papers comprise Jenkins' body of work spanning more than a half-century in journalism and entrepreneurship. The archive includes thousands of pages of historical primary-source documents, and hundreds of hours of historical audio and video relating to major events of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

Jenkins, who graduated from Merrill College and is a member of the college's Board of Visitors, is founder of Law Street Media as well as president and publisher emeritus of CQ Press. He previously held executive positions with Ziff Davis, France Telecom and The Bureau of National Affairs (now Bloomberg Industry Group).

As a journalist and author, Jenkins' work appeared in such major magazines as The New York Times Magazine, where he was a regular contributor from 1983-87; GQ (American and British editions); The Washington Monthly; and The American Lawyer. He is a four-time recipient of the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel Certificate of Merit, one of the highest awards in legal journalism, for his coverage of law and the courts.

MORE ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

- >> **Idrees Ali** '14 was on the Reuters team that won the 2022 Military Reporters & Editors Association's Joe Galloway Award, which goes to the judges' Best of Show in the journalism contest. Ali, a national security and foreign policy correspondent, joined his colleagues in winning for the project, "Afghan pilots targeted for assassination as the U.S. withdrew from Afghanistan."
- >> **Chelsea Crawford** '07 and **Catherine Comer** '14 were among The Daily Record's Leading Women Under 40. Crawford is a partner at the law firm Brown Goldstein & Levy, and has her own civil rights practice. Comer is vice president of advancement at The Arc Central Chesapeake Region.
- >> **Gabriel Escobar** '83, editor and senior vice president of The Philadelphia Inquirer, was elected to the Pulitzer Prize Board in December 2021.
- >> **Justin Fenton** '05, a reporter at The Baltimore Banner, had his first book, "We Own This City: A True Story of Crime, Cops, and Corruption," about criminal corruption by the Gun Trace Task Force within the Baltimore Police Department, adapted into a miniseries by HBO, produced by UMD alum **David Simon** and **George Pelecanos** of "The Wire."
- >> **Megan Brockett Heiman** '14 was appointed the deputy mayor of the city of Binghamton, New York. Heiman previously was a journalist in Binghamton and Annapolis.
- >> **Monica Norton** '87 and former Merrill adjunct lecturer **Mark W. Smith** were promoted to become deputy managing editors at The Washington Post in January 2022, with a focus on leading daily news coverage.
- >> **Olivia Owens** '14, who works as creator and general manager of IFundWomen of Color, was named one of Forbes' 2022 30 Under 30 in the Social Impact category.
- >> **Brett Roberts** '18 was the cinematographer for the documentary, "Fate of a Sport," on the launch of the Premier Lacrosse League. The film premiered at Tribeca Festival and was purchased by ESPN Films.
- >> **Eun Yang** '95 celebrated 20 years at NBC4 Washington in early 2022.



DEVELOPMENT

FEARLESS IDEAS

CAMPAIGN CONCLUDES

“Fearless Ideas: The Campaign for Maryland” concluded Dec. 31, 2021. Merrill College raised \$15.2 million during the seven-year campaign, exceeding its goal by more than 50%. Overall, the University of Maryland raised \$1.55 billion from 119,771 donors, more than doubling the university’s endowment. More than \$54 million was raised for scholarship support alone, benefitting more than 13,000 students.

At Merrill College, highlights of the campaign included a total of \$6 million from the Scripps Howard Foundation to establish the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism, the creation of the George Solomon Endowed Chair in Sports Journalism and the funding of more than a dozen new endowed scholarships for Merrill students.

BOARD OF VISITORS CHALLENGE RAISES \$200,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

With the help of a matching challenge from members of the Merrill College Board of Visitors, the college raised more than \$200,000 in new, current-use scholarship funding for Merrill students. These scholarship funds are being used immediately to make a Merrill education more accessible to outstanding, diverse students from across the country who wish to study journalism at the only public journalism program inside the Beltway.

GIVING DAY BREAKS RECORD

Thank you to the more than 230 alumni and friends who contributed to a record-breaking Giving Day in 2022. With your support, Merrill College raised more than \$95,000 for scholarships and programs, the largest Giving Day total yet. A special thank you to **John Jenkins** '72, **Rob Doherty** '79, **Etan Horowitz** '03, **Andrea Chamblee** '83 and **Eileen Chamblee** for their matching and challenge gifts that helped make the day a success.

Please save the date for Giving Day 2023: March 8, 2023. If you are interested in making a matching or challenge gift, please contact **Katie Aune** at kaune@umd.edu or 301-405-2420 no later than Dec. 1, 2022.



JOURNALISM ALUMNI NETWORK COMPLETES INAUGURAL YEAR

The Journalism Alumni Network, which formally launched in spring 2021, completed a successful first year.

The network kicked off with a virtual trivia event in June 2021 and followed up with an in-person happy hour at The Hall CP during Homecoming Week. In March 2022, the network organized a virtual panel discussion with Pulitzer Prize finalists/Merrill alums **Darcy Costello** '16, **Nora Eckert** '20 and **Christopher Weaver** '08. It wrapped up its first year with an in-person happy hour to welcome the class of 2022 to the Merrill alumni community.

Operating in conjunction with the UMD Alumni Association, the network is a volunteer-led effort with a mission to facilitate a strong and ongoing relationship among Merrill students, faculty and alumni; provide a supportive environment that nurtures the professional and personal development of network members; and create a community beyond the College Park campus for all alumni.

All Merrill College alumni who are members of the UMD Alumni Association are automatically part of the Journalism Alumni Network. A portion of your dues directly support the network’s activities. To join, please visit alumni.umd.edu/join.

The Journalism Alumni Network is led by a 15-member board currently composed of President **Catalina Mejía** '18, Vice President **Nermin Foundas** '95, Secretary **Jacob Pargament** '16 and Treasurer **Steven Overly** '10, as well as 11 at-large members. Applications to join the board are available each spring and new members are selected each summer. To learn more about the Journalism Alumni Network, please visit go.umd.edu/JOURAlumni.



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