THE 2017 NewsPro
12 To Watch in TV News

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Jeff Glor, Gayle King,
and

Norah O’Donnell

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FROM THE EDITOR

Excellence in Tubulent Times

As 2018 begins, we’re coming off a troubling year for journalism. From “fake news” to physical attacks on journalists, the downfall of several respected newsmen amid allegations of sexual misconduct and the ongoing cutbacks and layoffs hitting newsrooms, our profession has been confronting a serious onslaught on many sides— even from within, as news professionals become more cynical and stressed.

And yet, as demonstrated in this issue of NewsPro, many people maintain their faith in the power of journalism to affect change and make a difference in the lives of people around the world.

Our annual “12 to Watch in TV News” showcases key people who are working to make a difference, from NBC News’ Peter Alexander, who stood up to public ridicule from President Donald Trump, to “CBS This Morning’s” Gayle King and Norah O’Donnell, who set the tone for the program going forward after the abrupt departure of Charlie Rose, to CNN’s Will Ripley, who has traveled to North Korea 17 times since 2014 to focus on a country critical to global stability. These are just a few of the 12 who are pushing forward to make journalism better.

At the same time, we salute 10 top educators who are teaching tomorrow’s journalists the practical skills they’ll need while emphasizing the idealism and ethics that make the profession a career worthy of a lifetime.

Finally, we look at how journalists can work to improve their own skills as well as the profession through fellowships. With these programs, media professionals looking to further their education and their industry have a vast array of opportunities to tackle longer-term projects and expand their knowledge, both here and abroad.

With journalism under attack, from outside and within, we need to focus on these areas of excellence and hope. As RTDNA/F’s Dan Shelley says in his Sign-Off article, “There has been … a positive result from all of this: more and better journalism.” Here’s to a new year of new possibilities for excellence in journalism as we renew our commitment to hold our leaders and others responsible for their actions while informing citizens of what they need to know.

— Karen Egolf, Editor
As the news media come under increasing attack, from accusations of “false news” to outright physical assaults in public venues, the journalism profession as a whole is digging deeper into its roots as the Fourth Estate.

President Donald J. Trump was on the forefront of news and heading the “false news” charge in 2017. And the news of alleged sexual misconduct toward women by movie mogul Harvey Weinstein took precedence in October, ultimately flooding the airwaves with a rash of other known personalities facing similar charges, including veteran newscasters Charlie Rose and Matt Lauer.

The 2017 news year will also be remembered for its natural disasters, with a stretch of three hurricanes that threatened parts of the U.S. from August through September as wildfires ravaged California and other western states through the end of the year.

Coming off this news year, our annual list of 12 to Watch in TV News, here in no particular order, is a combination of up-and-coming and long-respected on-air journalists — including one team — who we believe will make a difference in 2018.
PETER ALEXANDER
NATIONAL CORRESPONDENT, NBC NEWS

Publicly insulted by then-Republican presidential frontrunner Donald Trump in May 2016 at an event in Jupiter, Florida, Washington-based national correspondent Peter Alexander of NBC News joined an illustrious group of his peers mocked by the president. But Alexander, whose work appears across all platforms of NBC News and MSNBC, including “NBC Nightly News With Lester Holt,” “Today,” “Meet the Press,” “Dateline” and NBCNews.com, turned the tables in early 2017 after publicly correcting Trump over his statement that he had won the biggest electoral college victory since Ronald Reagan.

Recognized with an Edward R. Murrow Award and by The Associated Press, the Radio Television Digital News Association and the Society of Professional Journalists, Alexander has been cited for coverage of the White House rewriting President Trump’s immigration order and former fast-food executive Andrew Puzder withdrawing his nomination as labor secretary. On a more personal side, Alexander has also been lauded for his ongoing reporting on his sister Rebecca and her rare genetic disorder, Usher Syndrome.

“Peter’s strength is his versatility. There’s no story too simple or too complicated that he can’t make compelling,” said Ken Strickland, VP and Washington bureau chief, NBC News. “Peter’s passion for politics is only superseded by his love for his family.”

JUJU CHANG
CO-ANCHOR, “NIGHTLINE,” ABC NEWS

Honored in November with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Newswomen’s Club of New York’s Front Page Awards, Juju Chang is continuing to push the boundaries of her journalism career. Chang, a former anchor for ABC’s “Good Morning America,” was first acknowledged in 1995 with an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award for producing a series on women’s health on “World News Tonight.”

Also a recipient of the Emmy, Gracie, Edward R. Murrow and Peabody awards, Chang’s notable news accomplishments are a combination of in-depth personal narratives, major breaking news for ABC News (such as coverage of Superstorm Sandy, the Orlando nightclub massacre and the Boston Marathon bombing), and global issues (including stories on the front lines in central Africa about Boko Haram in the latest on #bringbackourgirls).

Continuing to stand out, Chang in 2017 did an exclusive interview on “Nightline” with Chelsea Manning, a transgender U.S. Army soldier who was convicted under the Espionage and Computer Fraud and Abuse Acts and sentenced to 35 years in prison for releasing over 700,000 documents to WikiLeaks.

“Juju is an impeccable journalist, always working to get to the heart of a story, often shedding light on stories in the darkest of corners,” said Steven Baker, executive producer of “Nightline.” “I admire her passion for storytelling and the heart she brings to those in pain and suffering. From the massacre in Las Vegas and the 25-year anniversary of the Los Angeles riots to Chelsea Manning’s first television interview and sit-downs with the likes of [Facebook COO] Sheryl Sandberg to [model] Christy Turlington, her pursuit for the truth inspires us all at ‘Nightline.’”

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BRIAN STELTER
HOST, “RELIABLE SOURCES,” AND SENIOR MEDIA CORRESPONDENT, CNN

Brian Stelter got his first taste in media as a child by creating a fan site for children’s horror book series “Goosebumps.” Next, he started “The Nintendo Project,” which had the look and feel of the “Drudge Report,” only for kids. Then, as a student at Towson University in Maryland, he founded TVNewser, a blog about TV news that he later sold to Mediabistro.

Stelter joined CNN in November 2013 following a stint at The New York Times as a media reporter. In addition to hosting the network’s “Reliable Sources,” where he explores the media world, looking at how stories are created, he also reports and writes for CNN/U.S., CNN International, CNN.com and CNNMoney.com as well as his “Reliable Sources” newsletter.

Now, at 32, he’ll be expanding his news resume with his recently announced consulting role on an untitled drama for Apple about the world of network morning TV that will feature Jennifer Aniston and Oscar winner Reese Witherspoon. The program, Apple’s first scripted series, is based on Stelter’s book, “Top of the Morning: Inside the Cutthroat World of Morning TV.”

“Brian Stelter is the model for a 21st century reporter. He’s not a print reporter. He’s a reporter. Period. He understands that to be relevant in the modern media world, you need to reach audiences everywhere, and he does,” said Andrew Morse, executive VP of CNN Editorial and general manager of CNN Digital Worldwide. “He is all over CNN’s air every day. He hosts a weekly show. He writes a daily newsletter. He records a weekly podcast. He breaks news. Most important, Brian is truly devoted to the craft. He is a journalist’s journalist. That’s what drives him, and that’s what ultimately makes him successful.”

“We’re living in a golden age of journalism, and at this critically important time, Brian and ‘Reliable Sources’ will continue to be a beacon of strong reporting,” Morse added.

DYLAN DREYER
NEWS METEOROLOGIST AND WEATHER ANCHOR, “WEEKEND TODAY,” NBC

Reminiscent of a young Katie Couric (translation: affable and effective), Dylan Dreyer wears multiple hats at NBC News, which she joined in 2012 after honing her skills as a meteorologist at three East Coast television stations.

At a time when weather and natural disasters are increasingly front and center in news coverage, Dreyer is a weather anchor, rotating with Sheinelle Jones on “Weekend Today” and on MSNBC on weekends. She also appears on The Weather Channel and frequently fills in for Al Roker and Carson Daly on NBC’s “Today.” In addition, Dreyer appears when needed on NBC’s “Nightly News With Lester Holt.”

Dreyer is also the host of the NBC educational nature program “Journey With Dylan Dreyer,” which is seen on “The More You Know” programming block.

“Dylan Dreyer is the absolute go-to at NBC, where she can appear on any given show and have an absolute seamless fit,” said Robert Russo, president and CEO of consulting firm RNR Media. “She has the look and feel of a serious news presence, while also possessing that ‘girl next door’ type of quality that viewers of all ages find appealing. Considering the recent set of circumstances at NBC News, they would be wise to sign Dylan to years into the future. She is exactly the type of personality the network needs to rebuild its reputation.”

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Rising star?
We could have told you that 20 years ago.

The S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University congratulates alumnus

Jeff Glor ’97
of CBS Evening News.

We’re so proud to call you one of our own.
JEFF GLOR
ANCHOR, “CBS EVENING NEWS”

Jeff Glor debuted as anchor of “The CBS Evening News” on Dec. 4, replacing Scott Pelley, who left the position in June. While expectations might have pointed to Pelley’s temporary replacement, Anthony Mason, as the logical choice, Glor has amassed an impressive slate of accomplishments on his CBS resume.

Glor joined CBS News in 2007, reporting primarily for “The Early Show” before segueing into the Saturday edition of “CBS Evening News” and “CBS Sunday Morning,” where he won an Emmy for Outstanding Business and Economic Reporting in a Regularly Scheduled Newscast in 2011. He also joined the network’s CBSN when it started in November 2014, becoming a notable presence on the 24/7 streaming news service.


“Jeff is a thoughtful, probing journalist with the versatility to anchor in any circumstance, from daily reporting to the most significant events of our time,” CBS News President David Rhodes said in a statement. “In his more than 10 years at CBS News, Jeff has earned the trust of viewers and his colleagues.”

“CBS is obviously making a transition to the next generation of anchors,” said Robert Russo of RNR Media. “He has anchor experience, he has credibility and the audience knows him. More importantly, [at 42] he is younger than anyone that has ever anchored ‘The CBS Evening News,’ which could be the network’s attempt to also attract younger viewers.”

SHARON EPPERSON
SENIOR PERSONAL FINANCE CORRESPONDENT, CNBC

With the retirement of finance guru Suze Orman, Sharon Epperson inherited the role of trusted source for personal finance on CNBC. But in September 2016, Epperson suffered a sudden brain aneurysm that put her career on hold.

Epperson, who is also a motivational speaker and an adjunct instructor of international affairs at Columbia University’s School of International Public Affairs, returned to her role on CNBC in October 2017 after a 13-month absence, going through months of rehabilitation, including learning to walk again. Her recovery, along with her sound financial planning that helped her get through her ordeal, now makes her advice even more real, and enduring, to the audience. “In my reporting on personal finance, I always say that it is vital to have a financial plan,” Epperson said in an appearance on NBC’s “Megyn Kelly Today.” “And, going through this and ultimately surviving, this advice can be life-saving, particularly when an unexpected disaster changes your life.”

“I don’t see anyone out there at present better than Sharon Epperson for sound financial advice, particularly given her set of personal circumstances,” said Robert Russo of RNR Media. “If there is a lesson to be learned because of Sharon, it is to always plan ahead. And then, of course, there is her determination to get well again and make a comeback. It is that persistence that makes her someone to definitely watch in 2018 and beyond.”

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WILLIAM BRANGHAM
CORRESPONDENT, “PBS NEWSHOUR”

One topic still on the forefront of conversation at the “PBS NewsHour” is the ongoing HIV/AIDS epidemic, thanks to correspondent William Brangham. Brangham’s reporting on prevention and treatment efforts will return as a three-part series in 2018, following his reporting for the six-part series “The End of AIDS?” in 2017, which won a multitude of accolades, including a News & Documentary Emmy Award.

Brangham, who joined “NewsHour” in April 2015 from PBS “NewsHour Weekend,” was also part of the team that received a Peabody Award for “NewsHour’s” “Desperate Journey” series on the refugee and migrant crisis facing Europe. Brangham recently reported for “NewsHour’s” multipart series “America Addicted” on the U.S. opioid crisis and a story on in vitro fertilization for wounded veterans and female recruits in the Marine Corps.

Said Sara Just, senior VP and executive producer of “PBS NewsHour”: “William represents the best of what reporting at the ‘NewsHour’ is known for. He is drawn to stories that matter and brings a combination of curiosity, professionalism and compassion. We saw that last year in so many of his nuanced reports, from the opioid crisis crippling our nation to his chronicling female recruits who were among the first to enter combat roles in the Marine Corps. William’s tenacity, determination and sensitivity produce journalism we can be proud of.

“He is poised to do more great work in 2018 and beyond,” she added.

GAYLE KING and NORAH O’DONNELL
CO-HOSTS, “CBS THIS MORNING”

When veteran newsman Charlie Rose was ousted from “CBS This Morning” in November for alleged sexual misconduct, co-hosts Norah O’Donnell and Gayle King, both notably impacted by Rose’s departure, set the tone that morning after. Their professionalism and composure also laid the example for rival NBC’s “Today” show when Matt Lauer abruptly exited for similar reasons.

“[Their] responses were human, they were personal, and they were professional,” said media analyst Bill Carroll. “And it sent a message to the masses that [Rose’s alleged] type of behavior can never happen again, not in any industry and not to any individual.”

But then came the hard work: Getting past the perception that Charlie Rose was the serious journalist while King and O’Donnell were not. However, both women have strong media credentials. King is editor-at-large for the successful O, The Oprah Magazine, and worked as a special correspondent for “The Oprah Winfrey Show” and ABC’s “Good Morning America.” She also hosted interview program “The Gayle King Show” on OWN.

Before joining CBS, where she originally filled in for Scott Pelley on the “CBS Evening News,” Norah O’Donnell had been a commentator for NBC’s “Today,” chief Washington correspondent for MSNBC and White House correspondent for NBC News. She was once named one of Washington’s Most Powerful Women by Washingtonian magazine.

So far “CBS This Morning” still trails competitors “Good Morning America” and “Today” in the Nielsen ratings, but the numbers under King and O’Donnell remain consistent since Rose’s departure.

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We proudly salute our clients recognized by NewsPro’s 12 to Watch in TV News

JUJU CHANG
DYLAN DREYER
NORAH O’DONNELL
WILL RIPLEY
BRIAN STELTER

UNITED TALENT AGENCY
Los Angeles  New York  London  Nashville  Miami  Malmö
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In what was a tumultuous year for Fox News, there was one obvious area of stability: Tucker Carlson. As host of “Tucker Carlson Tonight,” which joined the Fox News lineup in November 2016 as the replacement for “On the Record With Greta Van Susteren,” Carlson made a seamless transition following Megyn Kelly’s departure from “The Fox Files” in January 2017 and, ultimately, the network’s loss of “The O’Reilly Factor” in April following Bill O’Reilly’s abrupt exit.

“I watched Bill O’Reilly for years,” Carlson said on moving into the 8 p.m. ET weekend slot in an interview in April. “What O’Reilly did was not easy. He set a high bar, and I’m going to do my best to meet it.”

Considering viewers identified Fox News with O’Reilly and Kelly, inheriting the cornerstone of the Fox News’ lineup was no easy task. Yet “Tucker Carlson Tonight” regularly wins the time slot in total viewers, normally ranking in the top three in cable news among all networks in prime time. And what was once unimaginable — Fox without Bill O’Reilly — has become reality as the current generation of Fox News prime-time personalities has been successfully ushered in.

“Coming at a time when Fox News was transitioning in prime time, Fox News desperately needed to have both a recognizable name and a stable force,” said Joanne Burns, principle of media consultancy RISE mc. “What could have been quite a challenge for the network was put in the right hands with Tucker Carlson, who is now an integral part of Fox News.”

Currently a political analyst for MSNBC and host of “AM Joy,” which airs from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET on weekends, multi-tasker Joy Reid is also the author of the book “Fracture: Barack Obama, the Clintons and the Racial Divide,” co-editor of “We Are the Change We Seek: The Speeches of Barack Obama” and a columnist at The Daily Beast.

Described as a forum for “compelling discussions with America’s preeminent political minds,” “AM Joy” has seen its ratings soar, rising by 59% in total viewers and 55% in the target adult 25-to-54 demographic, according to Nielsen, based on third quarter 2017, and the results in fourth quarter remained consistent.

Called MSNBC’s “most reliable pinch-hitter,” Reid has sat in for a variety of the cable news network’s personalities, including Rachel Maddow, Chris Matthews, Chris Hayes and Lawrence O’Donnell. “You’re kind of going into a different area of the theme park each time you sit in on a different show,” she said in an interview. Reid added a notch to her already impressive resume when she sat down for a one-on-one interview with Hillary Clinton in September.

“Joy Reid is part of what MSNBC has been able to do in terms of energizing their weekend coverage and establishing personalities outside of Monday to Friday,” said media analyst Bill Carroll. “She comes across as both sincere and highly knowledgeable, and her ability to snag a sit-down with Hillary Clinton, among others, makes her a growing go-to source for political coverage.”
LAURA INGRAHAM  
HOST, "THE INGRAHAM ANGLE," FOX NEWS  

Launching on Oct. 30, “The Ingraham Angle,” featuring radio host and best-selling author Laura Ingraham and guests discussing the day’s latest issues and controversies, is an attempt by Fox News to garner some much-needed attention following the departures of Megyn Kelly and Bill O’Reilly. Ingraham, an early supporter of Donald Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign who expressed interest in the White House press secretary job last fall, joined Fox News in 2007 to do a weekly segment, also called “The Ingraham Angle,” on the now-defunct “The O’Reilly Factor.”

Based on the national ratings for the program’s first week, “The Ingraham Angle” was off and running, leading the 10 p.m. ET hour with 2.7 million viewers, versus 2.3 million for MSNBC’s “The Last Word With Lawrence O’Donnell” and 1.0 million for CNN’s “Tonight With Don Lemon.” The ratings have remained consistent since then.

“I think Laura Ingraham could be Fox News’ next Megyn Kelly,” RNR Media’s Robert Russo said. “She is smart, sassy, informed and quite witty and, like Kelly, she is certainly not shy expressing her opinion.”

Ingraham’s support of President Trump, of course, will likely result in many spirited debates. “There are some people out there that are just never going to be satisfied with what he [Trump] says,” Ingraham said in a recent interview. “No matter what he says, in response to any crisis, they’re going to ridicule him, or satirize him, or say he’s dumb, or say he doesn’t really care, or he’s an egomaniac or — you know, pick your poison. He’s not trying to satisfy them at this point.”

WILL RIPLEY  
INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT, CNN  

Based in CNN’s Tokyo bureau, correspondent Will Ripley has traveled to North Korea 17 times since 2014, more than any other American correspondent. This has resulted in a growing array of notable accomplishments: Ripley was the only television journalist to interview three American detainees in North Korea. He was the only American journalist in North Korea when U.S. prisoner Otto Warmbier was released just days before his death. Ripley reported exclusively from Pyongyang after missile launches and nuclear tests. He was the first foreign journalist to visit North Korea’s satellite control center. And he was among a handful of reporters granted unprecedented access to leader Kim Jong Un’s first Worker’s Party Congress.

“Will came to CNN with an award-winning background in domestic newsgathering and all the attributes that demands,” said Deborah Rayner, senior VP of international newsgathering, TV & digital, CNN. “He is super smart, ambitious and eternally curious, which has made him a quick study on the international circuit, where he has eagerly volunteered for assignments in all regions and of all types, from hostile environments, mass coverage of major breaking news and lighter features. It was his determination and hard work that put him at the forefront of our North Korea coverage.”

In 2018, Ripley will move to Hong Kong, where CNN’s newsgathering, programming, feature programming and digital teams are based.

“This move will put him at the very center of our Asia Pacific operations, which is a really vibrant growth area for us,” Rayner said.
The Future of News

BEA Works With Academics, Industry on ‘Educating for Tomorrow’s Media’

By Michael Bruce

“I still believe that if your aim is to change the world, journalism is a more immediate short-term weapon.” — Tom Stoppard

We find ourselves in a world of immense change powered by technological innovation that is revolutionizing how communities access, process and evaluate news and information. In the midst of this sweeping change, journalists are confronting an assault on their profession and our hallmark, the Second Amendment, as evidenced by many in Crain’s NewsPro’s 2018 list of TV news professionals to watch.

While not unprecedented in the course of American history, these challenges, added to the difficult task of balancing training in ethics, accuracy and objectivity with hands-on technology while encouraging inclusion of diverse voices and audiences, require journalism educators to evaluate and adapt for teaching responsible journalists.

The Broadcast Education Association partners with media educators, students and industry professionals to prepare the next generation of journalists. An international media association originally established by the National Association of Broadcasters in 1955 as the Association for Professional Broadcast Education, BEA currently represents more than 2,500 individual members comprised of professors, students and media professionals and 275 college and university institutional members, all sharing a focus on quality storytelling through a diversity of interests such as narrative filmmaking, documentary, law and policy, mobile and news that go well beyond broadcasting. BEA’s tagline “Educating for Tomorrow’s Media” provides a quick summary of the organization’s mission: to serve in part as a “forum for exposition, analysis and debate of issues of social importance to develop members’ awareness and sensitivity to these issues and to their ramifications, which will ultimately help students develop as more thoughtful practitioners.”

While not strictly a journalism organization, BEA’s news interest division is one of the largest and most active in the organization. The news division shares BEA’s threefold focus on education, creative scholarship and research scholarship. This trebled focus is unique among academic communication associations and serves as a balance between theory and practice and between the academic and professional worlds. BEA accomplishes this focus through numerous programs and events, including annual conferences, journal publication, graduate and undergraduate scholarships, professional development for faculty, a creative media festival and archived interviews with industry leaders.

The BEA conference, co-located with the NAB Show in Las Vegas, draws 1,200 attendees to more than 200 sessions annually. The 2017 conference, for example, offered news-related sessions devoted to drone journalism, social media reporting, performing journalism in hostile environments and engaged journalism.

In addition to journalism panels like these, the 2018 conference will feature the ninth annual Research Symposium. The theme for this year’s symposium is “The Golden Age of Data: Big Data and Media Analytics,” which will feature a day of sessions, including one on reporting analytics data, and a keynote by Lee Rainie, director, internet, science and technology research, at the Pew Research Center.

Winners of the 17th BEA Festival of Media Arts sponsored by the King Family Foundation will also be recognized at the convention. The 2017 festival drew 1,414 student and faculty entries from over 200 different institutions in categories such as documentary, multimedia reporting, radio and TV newscast, hard news reporting and feature reporting. Entries from 96 different institutions received recognition at the 2017 conference, with Arizona State University, the University of Oklahoma, Palm Beach University, Goshen College and Huntington University leading the pack of institutions with multiple awards. A truly international festival, students from as far away as the American University of Cairo and University of Punjab in Pakistan received awards last year.

The diversity of BEA’s Festival of Media Arts is one example of the organization’s commitment to foster excellence and inclusion among students, faculty and media professionals. BEA’s leadership has pledged to “champion diversity, educational equality and the preparation of individuals who can live and work effectively in a multicultural and interdisciplinary world.”

Many of these activities and accomplishments are made possible because of BEA’s existing partnerships with the profession and allied associations. As journalism moves forward in an increasingly hostile environment, we must continue to seek new and diverse partnerships and opportunities for dialog about recruiting and training a new generation of media revolutionists.

Michael Bruce, Ph.D., is president of the BEA Board of Directors and associate professor of sports broadcasting at the University of Alabama.
BEA2018

Research | Creative | Hands-on Training | Industry Connections

Program - The Broadcast Education Association (BEA) is the premiere international academic media organization, driving insights, excellence in media production, and career advancement for educators, students, and professionals. BEA’s annual convention, BEA2018, produces well over 200 sessions, events and workshops.

Networking - BEA2018 is the ultimate intersection of academia and industry. Whether it is during an informal exhibit hall coffee break or evening reception, or during an informative session or interactive “Digital Research Presentation,” BEA2018 offers multiple opportunities to expand your connections between academia and industry.

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Broadcast Education Association
Educating for Tomorrow’s Media
Local Streaming

Newsrooms Face New Opportunities With IP Networks

By Debra Kaufman

TV news has been losing the competition with the internet. According to the Pew Research Center, 52% of Americans ages 18 to 49 prefer to get their news from websites, apps and social media platforms. But with the recent standardization of internet protocol networks, TV stations will be able to compete directly, producing streaming content with agility and flexibility and offering the same interactivity and connectivity as any app or website.

With IP networks, newsroom staff in the future might be able to work in home offices, utilizing chat and online streaming video to collaborate on content. A video or audio mixer might be nothing more than a web interface on a laptop, and viewers could contribute video or photos seamlessly and quickly, creating more of a two-way conversation between the TV news staff and viewers. The TV broadcast would resemble video on the internet, offering links and data impossible with over-the-air technology.

To make this possible, the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers just issued ST2110, the standard for IP networks. SMPTE Fellow and media consultant Thomas Bause Mason, who is leading a virtual class on the standard ST2110, said this new standard allows manufacturers to produce relevant gear. “Next year, you’ll see native IP equipment, and there’ll be more adoption,” he said. “Broadcasters are also pushing to get it out. They’re just waiting for the vendors.”

He also pointed out the exploding membership of industry group AIMS, the Alliance for IP Media Solutions, which “promotes the open standards that broadcast and media companies use to move from legacy [serial digital interface] systems to a virtualized, IP-based future — quickly and profitably.”

AJA is one of those vendors that, until now, manufactured equipment for the hybrid TV station, connecting the old SDI standard with IP. Senior Product Marketing Manager Bryce Button said his company is already working with many TV stations, beta testing IP networks. “The standard simplifies the process from cameras into routers and switching,” he said. “The station will have lots of choices of how to tailor the feed. IP will expand their options.”

Button said IP networks create more options in the TV station newsroom. “IP offers the ability to do much denser signals,” he said. “You can carry hundreds of different sources along very few cables, which means you can accept news sources from many more people.” The second key factor, he said, is the ability to be able to “separately pull out video from audio and metadata.”

“That’s huge in the newsroom,” Button said. “In the current world, you have to embed or disembed audio, and there’s very little metadata to do anything with. With IP, you can remove and place audio from anywhere in the chain and add video — while you’re live. You can stream in and switch from another video source.”

Viewers will be able to do much the same thing, with the power to, for example, use their mobile devices — and eventually their home TV sets — to switch, during a live broadcast, to weather graphics specific to their regions, or turn off a voice-over translation to hear the language of the original interview. “You can offer all sorts of practical data and links that would work for websites,” Button said. “That really is the huge potential of IP ultimately.”

IP networks will also enable more eyewitness news and two-way conversations between TV stations and viewers, said media consultant Christy King. “Millennials expect to be able to participate,” she said. “They have more interest and demand to be more active in the telling of these stories and sharing them.”

However, that increased capacity for viewers to actively record and share videos with TV newsrooms will offer new issues for broadcast executives. “What does it add to the story,” King asked. “Are advertisers interested in being part of it? Do we need to moderate it in a different way?”

She also pointed out that the end of net neutrality regulations poses unknown consequences for content on the IP network. “Today it’s viewed like a utility,” she said. “If the internet is run more like an AWS [Amazon Web Services] server where you pay for bandwidth, it will change how IP works across the board if you’re ABC News trying to push content out in a lot of different ways.”

As stations adopt IP networks, newsroom staff might see very few changes at first. “If the engineers and IT people are doing their jobs, they will make it look seamless,” Bause Mason said.

“A ton of new features will open up as you turn to IP,” added Button, who thinks that although some aspects will be automated, more news employees will be needed. “This will roll out in many different ways in 2018 and accelerate over the next few years.”

By Debra Kaufman
Top Teachers

News Professionals Choose 10 Journalism Educators Who Are Making a Difference

By Dinah Eng

No one becomes a great journalist without learning from great journalism teachers. This year’s NewsPro Noteworthy Journalism Educators honorees were nominated by NewsPro readers and members of the Radio Television Digital News Association and the Broadcast Education Association. They include professors, a lecturer and an associate dean from universities around the nation. Here in alphabetical order are 10 academicians who are being recognized for their outstanding work.

SCOTT ANDERSON
Former Assistant Professor, Managing Editor, Medill News Service, and Director, Medill Content Lab
Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communication
Northwestern University

Scott Anderson served as managing editor of the Medill News Service and directed the Medill Content Lab, which features stories produced by students in the graduate program at the journalism school. He retired in December after bringing more than 30 years of media experience to academia. Anderson previously spent 10 years as the head of editorial at Tribune Interactive, the umbrella organization for a national network of newspaper and broadcast station websites. He was acknowledged for his expertise in interactive publishing and leading interactive strategy for Medill’s National Security Journalism Initiative, which provides scholarships to graduate students who work in teams to conduct three-month, in-depth investigations with media partner organizations.

NINA BERMAN
Associate Professor of Journalism
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

Nina Berman is a documentary photographer whose interest in the American political and social landscape led to the publication of the books “Purple Hearts — Back From Iraq,” portraits and interviews with wounded veterans; “Homeland,” a look at post-Sept. 11 America; and “An Autobiography of Miss Wish,” a story of a survivor of sexual violence. Her work has been featured in publications such as Time, Newsweek and Life, and on broadcast outlets such as CBS, CNN, PBS, BBC and NPR. Her still and video work has been exhibited in more than 80 venues, including Houston’s Museum of Fine Arts, the Whitney Museum of American Art 2010 Biennial and Dublin Contemporary. Berman teaches a documentary specialization seminar and a visual storytelling course. She was lauded both as a working professional and as an educator who “leads the way. Her work is insightful, ethical and beautiful to look at as well as to read.”

BEN J. BOGARDUS
Assistant Professor of Journalism
School of Communications
Quinnipiac University

Ben J. Bogardus specializes in teaching media and broadcast news writing, TV reporting and TV newscast producing, and oversees “QNN,” a weekly show produced, reported and anchored by senior broadcast journalism majors. Bogardus is the former 5 p.m. newscast producer at WJLA, the ABC affiliate in Washington, and worked at TV stations in Jacksonville, Florida; Hartford, Connecticut; and Houston.

While in Washington, he won an Emmy, a regional Edward R. Murrow and two Associated Press “Best Newscast” awards. He was nominated for “his innovations in bringing continued on page 19
NOTABLE JOURNALISM EDUCATOR

Dr. Nancy Dupont, University of Mississippi

On the occasion of this well deserved recognition, we at the Meek School of Journalism and New Media salute Nancy Dupont and wish her the very best in her future endeavors.
podcasting into the classroom. He developed a course in podcasting that has filled to capacity three years in a row. Professor Bogardus also goes back to newsrooms occasionally as a freelance producer to keep his skills up-to-date. Students appreciate that he’s still connected to the industry and knows what employers are looking for in young TV journalists.”

**HUBERT W. “HUB” BROWN**  
*Associate Dean for Research, Creativity, International Initiatives and Diversity, Associate Professor, Broadcast and Digital Journalism*  
*S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University*

Hub Brown, a former reporter, anchor and producer in local commercial and public television, teaches courses in broadcast and digital journalism, ranging from reporting for radio and television to TV newscast production. His interest in diversity issues in media, ethical challenges and the impact of new media across journalism disciplines garnered him the 2016 Larry Burkum Service Award from the electronic news division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. He was praised for his ability to inspire others and motivate students: “He is great at critiquing without babying the students. He tells us where to improve, but also points out our small victories.”

**LAURA CASTAÑEDA**  
*Professor of Professional Practice*  
*Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, University of Southern California*

Laura Castañeda’s interests in diversity issues, Latino issues, women’s issues, LGBT media studies and learning differences have resulted in recognition for her contributions to higher education leadership and leadership studies. A veteran print journalist, Castañeda is a former staff writer, editor and columnist for the San Francisco Chronicle, the Dallas Morning News and The Associated Press in San Francisco, New York and Mexico. She is co-editor of the book “News and Sexuality: Media Portraits of Diversity,” and co-author of “The Latino Guide to Personal Money Management.” She is currently the academic at-large officer for the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

**NANCY DUPONT**  
*Professor of Journalism*  
*The Meek School of Journalism and New Media, The University of Mississippi*

Nancy Dupont, a former chair of the Radio-Television Journalism division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and twice chair of the news division of the Broadcast Education Association, is a veteran broadcast journalist who was selected in 2010 to be part of the first class of academic fellows of the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma. She was cited for putting “her heart and soul into working with students involved in ‘NewsWatch Ole Miss’ [a student broadcast]. She’s there every day coaching and mentoring, and her ideas for special projects, such as covering the 10th anniversary of Katrina from the Mississippi coast, have given students amazing opportunities to hone their crafts. Nancy continues to produce documentaries on her own and in partnership with students.”

**DAVID HAZINSKI**  
*Jim Kennedy New Media Professor and Associate Professor of Journalism*  
*Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Georgia*

David Hazinski, a former international correspondent for NBC News and reporter for TV stations in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Pittsburgh, was cited for being “on the cutting edge of technology, delivering student news broadcasts on Facebook Live and on TV stations, which gives students a resume reel they can present to employers.” He has trained national news anchors and reporters such as ABC’s “Good Morning America” news anchor Amy Robach, ESPN anchor Maria Taylor and Fox...
News correspondent Will Carr Hazinski currently owns Intelligent Media Consultants, which helps to launch TV networks around the world, including Aaj Tak and CNN-IBN in India and GEO TV in Pakistan. He holds the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professorship, and spent two years as writer, co-host and technology adviser of the internationally syndicated “World Business Review” with Caspar Weinberger, Secretary of Defense under President Ronald Reagan.

LYNN C. OWENS
Stembler Lecturer
University of North Carolina School of Media and Journalism
Lynn C. Owens teaches broadcast and electronic journalism, with a research concentration on newsroom best practices and diversity issues in broadcast news.

Before working in academia, she was a reporter for WNCT-TV in Greenville, North Carolina, where her stories won a regional Edward R. Murrow Award and two Emmy nominations. She also worked at Reuters Television in London as a technical producer. She was cited for winning the 2014 Scripps Howard/ AEJMC Social Media Fellowship and for recently serving as president of the Asian American Journalists Association’s North Carolina chapter.

In nominating her, one person wrote: “Dr. Owens has a wonderful, hands-on approach in all facets of local broadcasting: ethics, reporting, production, editing, multimedia and graphics. Using her impressive professional network, she brings frequent guest lecturers in to provide additional richness and depth to an already robust curriculum.”

JESSICA PUCCI
Ethics and Excellence Professor of Practice, Data Analysis and Audience Engagement
Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication
Arizona State University
Jessica Pucci, who teaches social media and analytics in the classroom, and leads those areas for Cronkite News, the news division of Arizona PBS, garnered praise for spearheading the school’s new Digital Audiences minor, a totally online curriculum focused on audience behavior, research, engagement, acquisition and analytics.

One nomination called her “a next-generation national leader who is helping ensure students understand how to make an impact through journalism in today’s complicated media world. With unrivaled enthusiasm, she teaches the value and impact of audience engagement and analytics in both classroom and real world settings.” Pucci works with tech partners from Google News Lab and Google Analytics to Parse.ly and Keyhole to test and implement tools that strengthen journalism. She previously edited consumer magazines and directed brand journalism, social media and engagement for national home-design and retail clients at communications agency Manifest.

FRANK SESNO
Director, Professor of Media and Public Affairs and International Affairs
School of Media and Public Affairs
The George Washington University
Frank Sesno leads more than two dozen professors at GWU’s School of Media and Public Affairs, and teaches classes on interviewing, environmental reporting and journalism ethics.

He was formerly White House correspondent, anchor, talk show host and Washington bureau chief for CNN. Before that, he was a radio correspondent for The Associated Press.

One nomination calls him an inspiration to students and faculty alike, adding, “He’s hands-on, but demands that students produce on their own. Frank created the ‘Planet Forward’ Salon series and now has a multiuniversity army of converts to tell stories about how the world is changing on topics like food production, climate, population increases and others. He has innovated beyond the typical university model.”
Gaining Perspective

How Liberal Arts Education Leads to Better Journalists

By Mike Cavender

Some years ago, I was talking to the CEO of a group broadcaster about whether I might be the right person to join his company to lead the news department of one of his major-market TV stations.

During our conversation, his interest was piqued not so much by my journalism credentials but rather by my studies in history, politics and economics. I recall him saying that my journalism education was a given, but my schooling in the humanities and liberal arts is what likely helped me develop the critical thinking skills needed to be a better journalist. I will tell you I was happy to go to work for him!

This issue of NewsPro pays tribute to some of the top journalism educators in the U.S. Every one of them, along with hundreds of their colleagues around the country, is dedicated to providing today’s J-students with high-caliber professional skills training.

But I suspect most, if not all of them, will readily admit that skills training is only part of a well-rounded higher education for those who are called to this career. Full disclosure here: I hold both undergrad and graduate degrees in journalism, and I found that part of my professional education extremely valuable. However, equally important is the knowledge I gained from the study of the world around me through its history, its politics, its languages and its culture. That came through the liberal arts.

Journalism education organizations and accrediting councils agree. They recognize the importance of a broad-based education that includes many of the courses in the humanities and social sciences. These studies all contribute to a J-student’s understanding of the trends, events and reasoning that influence much of today’s news in so many different ways. They provide a commodity invaluable to any reporter — perspective.

However, after visiting students at J-schools and career fairs around the country, I have a nagging fear there are students who don’t fully appreciate the benefits that come from taking classes that are not part of the core journalism curriculum. In a generation of iTunes, Netflix and Facebook, some can lose sight of the significance of understanding the past to more thoughtfully report on the present.

Scott Libin, the current chairman of the RTDNA and a former TV news director and trainer at the Poynter Institute, is now a senior fellow at the Hubbard School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Minnesota. So he sees this issue from many different angles.

“I don’t worry about whether the students are current on technology,” Libin observed. “Rather, are they developing the other skills they will need?” He says liberal arts studies teach students how to learn, to observe and to think critically, even skeptically. Those are extremely important skills for the young journalist to develop.

Journalism is, on many levels, a profession for well-educated generalists. Reporters may find themselves covering politics one day, consumer scams the next and then wrap up the week interviewing a local artist on his newest work. They’re expected to arrive on the scene and immediately be able to process and translate for their audience important information no matter the subject. In some respects, few other professions demand a practitioner so well-schooled on so many different topics.

The very demands of this business make a solid practical argument for liberal arts studies. You could say journalism is really generalism and, as such, deserves a generalist’s education.

Richard Sigurdson is an educator in Canada and a former acting dean of arts at the University College of the Caribou. In his article, “Why Study the Liberal Arts,” Sigurdson lists just a few of the skills and abilities one can develop by doing so:

• Analytical and critical thinking skills.
• Effective oral and written communication skills.
• The ability to pose meaningful questions.
• The ability to conduct research and organize material effectively.
• The exercise of independent judgement and ethical decision-making.
• A tolerance of cultural differences.

Sounds a lot like journalism, doesn’t it?

While learning should be a lifelong process for all of us, Libin reminds us there’s another good reason for making that college education a broad-based one. “College is often the last, best opportunity to really learn,” he said. “College is really all about ‘you,’ and you should take advantage of it to the fullest.”

I heartily second that advice.

Mike Cavender is executive director emeritus of the Radio Television Digital News Association and recently retired after a 40-year career in broadcast news. He can be reached at mike@rtdna.org.

CALL FOR ENTRIES Deadline Jan 30, 2018

Hillman Prize for Broadcast Journalism

Open to television, radio, podcast, and documentary investigative reporting and deep storytelling in service of the common good

$5,000 prize
No entry fee

More information at HillmanFoundation.org
For journalists seeking new opportunities or projects that just aren’t possible in resource-strapped newsrooms, or for those who want to jumpstart their careers by trying out a project they’re passionate about or studying a new area that will benefit journalism, fellowships could be the perfect next step in their careers.

Fellowships run the gamut, from short-term funding for a specific story or even equipment to improve reporting, to support for projects running months or years, to academic programs designed to deepen a journalist’s knowledge and expertise in specific areas. They also target people at different stages of their careers, from those starting out to journalists with years or even decades of experience. Yet the goal of each kind of fellowship is basically the same: to improve the profession of journalism.

While fellowships can resemble grants or awards, they are different in several key ways. “People define it in different ways, [but] I see it as a short-term, funded, competitive opportunity to do something exceptional,” said Vicki Johnson, founder and CEO of ProFellow, a leading free online database of more than 1,000 fellowships, including many for journalists. “People define it in different ways, but I see it as a short-term, funded, competitive opportunity to do something exceptional. Usually because it’s competitive, you’re getting to do something you typically wouldn’t get to do in a regular job.”

Fellowships offer a lot of advantages, even for seasoned professionals. “Sometimes there’s a little bit of fear of pursuing something that’s short-term,” Johnson said. “In fact, fellowships can really enhance your resume. The professional network that you build during your fellowship, the project that you get to do — it really sets you up to enhance and further your career. Most people, when they come out of a fellowship, they have more opportunities that come their way.”

Fellowships come in a multitude of forms, and those applying for them need to do their research carefully to see what each offers and what it requires. But whether someone is a newbie journalist or a seasoned pro who’s looking to do something greater, here are four examples of fellowships to explore.

For those just beginning their careers, a fellowship can be a good way to build a professional network and enhance their academic experience. The Radio Television Digital News Association, for example, offers four fellowships annually for professional broadcast or digital journalists with fewer than 10 years of experience. Two are for subject-specific reporting and two are for journalists of color. These fellowships are open-ended cash awards, ranging from $1,000 to $2,500, specified to go toward the pursuit of journalism, whether for travel to produce a story, upgrading equipment or continuing journalism education. Applications for the next round of fellowships are due Jan. 15.

In addition to funding, fellowships include one year of RTDNA
Best Practices: Applying for a Fellowship

When it comes to applying for a fellowship, the application process can be the biggest deterrent. People tend to believe that the process will be long and tedious — and it isn’t something they’ve done before, or at least not in a long time.

“People get intimidated about applying for something like this,” said Jane Sasseen of the McGraw Center for Business Journalism. “I hear people say, ‘I’d never apply for a fellowship; it takes so much work.’ That may be true for [some fellowships], but ours, and there are many like ours, basically we’re asking people for a pitch, a resume and clips, and a couple of recommendations.”

Here are some tips to make your fellowship application stand out:

1. Do your homework.
   Too often, applicants fail to do even the basics, such as read the fellowship’s website, particularly the FAQs. When applying, make sure to do a lot of background research on the fellowship and the organization offering it to understand what they’re looking for. “A lot of people, frankly, are wasting their time,” Sasseen said. “There are any number of applications that I read three paragraphs into it and don’t read further because it’s not appropriate for our fellowship. It might be a very good story but it doesn’t match the requirements of our fellowship in a way that is obvious if you bothered to read our site.”

2. Ask questions.
   If you’re not clear on what the fellowship is seeking, contact the organization either by email or phone. Many organizations welcome the opportunity to give advice or suggestions because they’re looking for the best proposals possible. Another source of good information on specific fellowships is fellowship alumni. “Go into your professional network and speak to alumni,” said Vicki Johnson of ProFellow. “Ask questions about the application process and what they’re looking for, do you think this kind of project would be feasible. That can give you a big head start.”

3. Set a specific goal.
   Why do you want a particular fellowship? What do you plan to do with it? Make sure your story idea or project hasn’t been done before, or at least not the way you plan to do it. And don’t write a generalized proposal that offers few details. “Have a strong idea in mind of what you would use this prize for,” said RTDNA’s Kate McGarrity. “Having a goal in mind will help focus your application, from writing your application to selecting your work samples. Also, focus on curating the strongest examples of your work that fit in with the theme of the fellowship.”

4. Address the fellowship’s purpose.
   Fellowships are designed with a set goal in mind, usually something that will further their area as well as the profession of journalism. You need to address this in your application. “When they start talking about how this will help them and their career, I know they don’t understand this program,” said ICFJ’s Ben Colmery. Added Johnson, “They’re providing funding to further their own mission. You have to find the common ground there to make sure you’re achieving the mission of the funding organization.”

5. Don’t wait until the last minute.
   Procrastination is common, but the application process can sometimes be more time-consuming than you might anticipate. “I know journalists often work right up to a deadline, but you don’t want to be scrambling to finish your application or waiting on your letter or recommendation,” McGarrity said.

Fellowships

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membership and free registration for RTDNA’s annual conference, where fellows can meet the organization’s leadership, network with news leaders and attend various seminars.

“The fellowships, especially those we offer to newer journalists, are a key way to stand out in a crowded field of applicants,” said Kate McGarrity, awards and programs manager for RTDNA. “Our honorees can take advantage of the networking opportunities available at our Excellence in Journalism conference. Even if you’re not looking for a new job, the chance to meet with your peers and leaders in the industry may become more valuable than the cash component of the prize.”

In choosing fellows, RTDNA asks for three work samples and a letter of recommendation. Karen Hansen, director of membership, marketing and communications for RTDNA, said that judges look for drive, commitment to journalism and the potential to excel in the industry. “Work samples are one of the most important parts of the application,” she said. “Judges are themselves experienced journalists and news managers, so they know great work when they see it.”

The Rosalynn Carter Fellowships for Mental Health Journalism

Application for 2018–19

$10,000 Stipend

U.S. Deadline: April 11, 2018

For inquiries, email: Carterfellows@cartercenter.org

www.cartercenter.org/MHJFellows

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see it. They’re looking for solid foundational skills and, as always, adherence to the RTDNA Code of Ethics.”

**Project-based Fellowships**

Another type of fellowship is designed to foster long-form journalism in specific areas, such as healthcare or the environment (see related article, Page 25). These fellowships give journalists the opportunity to devote more time and attention, even possibly traveling for interviews, than they’re able to do in their day-to-day work.

For the Harold W. McGraw Center for Business Journalism at the City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism, the basic premise behind its business journalism fellowships is to support and enhance business journalism in general.

“We would define the goal as ensuring that high-quality, more in-depth business journalism gets done, [both] enterprise and investigative projects,” said Executive Director Jane Sasseen. “A lot of the type of projects that we’re supporting are things that, as you well know, there’s a lot less money [available to do].”

The McGraw Fellowship for Business Journalism was started in 2014, when a lot of publications were struggling financially, reducing staff and resources. “There were a lot of cutbacks in terms of publications not being able to do as much long-form work that took a lot of time,” Sasseen said. As a result, the McGraw Family Foundation decided to support business and economic journalism through this fellowship.

In June and December, three or four applicants — journalists with at least five years of experience — are awarded fellowships of up to $15,000 to support costs during their projects. In addition, Sasseen, a longtime editor with BusinessWeek, provides editorial support for those fellows who request it.

Past projects have included an in-depth look at water privatization and a series on the issues surrounding reverse mortgages, which both appeared in the Washington Post.

In selecting fellows, the organization asks for clips, references and a story pitch that gives enough detail and depth to demonstrate that the reporter will be able to do a piece that will stand out. “We’re basically looking for good, solid journalists who have some record of doing the kinds of stories they’re suggesting,” Sasseen said. “We look at where we can make a difference.”

**International Work**

For those interested in working abroad, and for foreign journalists, a number of fellowships offer international opportunities. The advantages of working abroad through a fellowship, said ProFellow’s Johnson, is that the programs are set up to help ease the transition of moving and working in a different country.

The International Center for Journalists’ Knight International Journalism Fellowships send fellows to newsrooms and other organizations around the world to help set up operations that will engage and inform the public through areas such as mobile services, data mining, storytelling and social media.

“What makes [our program] distinct … is that our Knight fellows are geared toward working in newsrooms and with journalists to help them to build cultures of news and innovation and to adopt the newest tools and approaches to journalism,” said Ben Colmeroy.
Science Beat

Why Niche Fellowships and Programs Are Increasingly Critical

By Sunshine Menezes

In 1997, when Metcalf Institute for Marine & Environmental Reporting was originally founded at the University of Rhode Island, the idea of training journalists to better cover science was a somewhat "niche" type of professional development. Newsroom employment peaked in the 1990s, but even then, dedicated science and/or environment beat reporters constituted a small percentage of newsroom staff. Metcalf Institute was formed to help those beat reporters cover the science underlying environmental stories with greater clarity and accuracy. We aimed to achieve this goal by giving a cohort of 10 to 14 journalists a weeklong, immersive science fellowship, focusing on ocean and coastal science because of our relationship with the URI Graduate School of Oceanography. That original training program, the Annual Science Immersion Workshop for Journalists, celebrates its 20th year in 2018.

The past 20 years have seen a seismic shift in the journalism profession. According to the annual newsroom census conducted by the American Society of News Editors from 1978 to 2015, newspapers employed a maximum of 56,900 people in 1990, shrinking to 32,900 in 2015. This shift not only affected overall newsroom employment but also gutted the representation of specific beats, especially science and the environment.

Ironically, U.S. news organizations cast off many veteran environmental beat reporters just as their experience was gaining relevance across all news desks. Now, from local planning issues raised by more frequent and intense extreme weather events to regional and national economic impacts of our energy choices, to national security or immigration, there is an environmental angle everywhere you turn.

Unfortunately, precious few journalists are prepared to cover these stories with the critical eye or confidence they might bring to other topics. A 2002 survey of U.S. journalists reported that 3% received undergraduate degrees in science majors. A 2008 study found that 72% of surveyed journalism school administrators deemed statistical training, specifically, to be valuable for their students, but only 36% of their programs required a statistical reasoning course. As newsrooms increasingly rely on general assignment reporters to cover environmental stories, this absence of science and statistical training is a liability, making it far more difficult for reporters and editors to discern fact from spin on science-based stories.

It’s obvious why science training has become an increasingly important journalism credential, but it’s challenging for many journalists to take a full week away from their work. Metcalf Institute has adapted to this reality in several strategic ways. We offer one- and two-day science seminars at venues around the country. These intensive training programs focus on a specific environmental issue, such as regional climate change impacts or research related to environmental crises like the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The seminars consistently attract more applicants than we can accommodate.

We offer training programs in partnership with journalism and science conferences, an approach that’s cost-effective and offers a powerful incentive for both conference organizers and program participants. And we cast a much wider net with recruitment, reaching out to journalists from across the U.S. and abroad, from small and large newsrooms, and from all media types. These efforts enrich our programs, convening a wide range of perspectives and experiences and inspiring participants to produce more substantive environmental coverage, whether they are general assignment reporters in local outlets or editors overseeing environmental reporting for international audiences.

Over our 20 years, we’ve learned a few things about conducting this type of training. Most importantly, it works.

A recent study analyzing the reporting of Annual Science Immersion Workshop alumni found that, post-training, their stories provided greater context on environmental topics and addressed the
thorny issues of scientific uncertainty more often. We've seen that the off-deadline, interactive experiences in these training programs are essential.

Environmental stories are complex and require the ability to wade through both scientific information and an endless supply of opinions and agendas. Journalists are adept at learning on the fly, but given the time to dive more deeply into these topics, they can bring home new strategies for their reporting that serve their audiences.

Finally, we've learned that the professional networking among journalists within a training program is invaluable. The participants share resources, perspectives and war stories. Often, they share professional opportunities, assured that their new contacts take environmental coverage seriously enough to pursue training.

We are in a moment in our nation's history when journalists are frequently vilified as biased, inaccurate or even incompetent. Certainly, the blurred definitions of journalism have made the profession an easier target in the past decade. Yet, at every conference and training program, in professional groups and social media, I encounter journalists who seek to improve their craft and tackle some of the most challenging stories of our time. In the absence of professional development in newsrooms, it is essential that trainers step up to fill the void. Journalists need it, and millions of news consumers demand it.

Sunshine Menezes, Ph.D., is executive director of the Metcalf Institute and clinical associate professor of environmental communication for the Department of Natural Resources Science at the University of Rhode Island.

Fellowships  continued from page 24

director of the ICFJ Knight Fellowships. “Our goal through our fellows is to change how journalism is done around the world, to improve and deepen reporting and engage citizens in new ways and, ultimately, to have an impact on society.”

While ICFJ Knight Fellowships are a grantee of the Knight Foundation, the program also receives funding from the Gates Foundation for health- and development-focused reporting in Africa and India, and Google News Labs, which supports six-month fellowships, in addition to other organizations.

“This is not a training program, although training is an important means to an end,” Colmery said. “What we’re aiming to do is to change how people work and to show some kind of tangible results and leave something behind so that our partners and the people we work with can generate their own ideas and continue the work that we’ve helped to start.”

Because this is a long-range goal, the ICFJ Knight Fellowships start at one year and can go longer.

The fellowship is open to journalists as well as managers, digital strategists and technologists with a strong journalism background and accepts proposals as well as applications to existing programs throughout the year. The fellows receive an honorarium that serves as an income, travel expenses and some professional expenses, plus relocation costs if the person is moved to a different country.

In addition to its programs in other countries, ICFJ is also working with U.S. newsrooms, bringing fellows from other countries to collaborate on projects and offer new ideas that have been successful elsewhere.

Academic Fellowships

For those who want to expand their knowledge and their ability to contribute to journalism, academic fellowships have much to offer. Ann Marie Lipinski, curator of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University and a former Nieman fellow, said her fellowship experience was life-changing. “It had a dramatic impact on me,” she said. “It opened my mind to lots of possibilities for journalism and for journalists. It instilled in me a responsibility for the craft and for my place in the industry that I’m not sure I fully appreciated before.”

The Nieman Fellowship, which was started 80 years ago, is set up to strengthen participants’ professional skills and leadership abilities in an effort to further the news industry. The program accepts as many as two dozen journalists — 12 from the U.S. and 12 from abroad — each academic year.

Fellows move to Cambridge, Massachusetts, for the school year to do research and take classes at Harvard, MIT and other colleges in the Boston area. They also take part in a series of training and learning opportunities through the fellowship program.

In addition, the foundation now offers the Knight Visiting Nieman Fellowships, a 12-week program funded in part by the Knight Foundation, that brings individuals to campus to work on a targeted issue. And just introduced is the Abrams Nieman Fellowship for Local Investigative Journalism. With funding from the Abrams Foundation in Boston, three journalists from underserved markets in the U.S. come for the classic academic year but then follow that with support for up to nine months of field work on a project of importance to their local communities.

Overall, the Nieman Fellowship looks for people who are interested in leading and becoming significant contributors to journalism. “These are the opportunity for journalists along various points of their career to come for an academic year of study at Harvard,” Lipinski said. “We’re looking for people who will make the most of this time at a major research institution and who we think will be propelled out of here fortified to do even greater work.”

The basic Nieman Fellowship awards a $70,000 stipend as well as some financial support for housing, childcare and insurance. Applications for those fellowships are due Jan. 31, with Abrams Nieman applications due Feb. 15.
The Assault on News

Journalists Up Their Game in Face of Increasing Attacks

By Dan Shelley

It was a moment that lasted less than 15 seconds. But it said so much about the state of American journalism in 2017.

As U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore was arriving at a campaign rally Nov. 27 in Henagar, Alabama, two Moore campaign aides physically attacked a pair of photojournalists. The journalists’ transgression? Attempting to videotape Moore as he entered the building.

Sadly, such incidents have become the new normal. Never in the modern history of our nation has it been so perilous to be a journalist in the United States.

According to the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, a project of the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Freedom of the Press Foundation, the Radio Television Digital News Association and other press freedom advocacy groups, from January through November about three dozen journalists had been physically assaulted while performing their constitutionally guaranteed duty to report the truth.

Also, according to the Tracker, at least 32 journalists had been arrested through November 2017. At least nine of those were reporters and photographers covering Inauguration Day rioting in Washington Jan. 20. At least 10 journalists were arrested covering civil unrest that erupted in St. Louis in September.

We live in a time of the complete breakdown of civil discourse. It would be easy to say that it started during the 2016 election cycle, when, among other things, presidential candidate Donald Trump started calling journalists “the most dishonest people in the room” and “enemies of the American people,” or when he began labeling factual news reports he doesn’t like or finds inconvenient to his agenda “fake news.” But I am afraid it is much deeper and more complicated than that.

The president’s serial emasculation of responsible journalism merely tapped into an ugly vein within the ideological spectrum that for many decades has consisted of people who believe that the information coming from mainstream newsrooms does not reflect a true, unbiased outlook on society. The president’s verbal and tweeted attacks on journalists have exposed a motherlode of antinews media sentiment, enabling its believers to act out, often harshly.

Roy Moore’s campaign aide was not the first politician to physically assault a journalist in 2017. In May, Montana congressional candidate Greg Gianforte infamously body slammed a reporter for having the temerity to ask him questions. Gianforte was arrested and charged with assault, and later pleaded guilty, but still won the election and now serves in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Gianforte apologized and donated $50,000 to the Committee to Protect Journalists to atone for his actions. In a juicy bit of irony, CPJ used at least part of that money to launch the U.S. Press Freedom Tracker, which has become the archive of record for threats to press freedom in the U.S.

The full frontal assault on American journalism doesn’t always come in such overt ways. Across the nation, politicians, public officials and some in the judicial system have used it as cover to obstruct journalists’ ability to do their jobs.

There has been, however, a positive result from all of this: more and better journalism. News organizations have stepped up their games, committing flagrant acts of responsible journalism. Every day, journalists are holding the powerful accountable. They are exposing corruption and shining a light on problems that would otherwise go unnoticed, their stories often serving as catalysts for positive change.

That is precisely what it will take to gain the trust of that recalcitrant segment of our population that defaults to believing actual fake news yet considers actual journalism “fake news.”

In early 2017, RTDNA formed its Voice of the First Amendment Task Force with two missions, to defend against attacks on the First Amendment and press freedom, and to help the public better understand why outstanding responsible journalism is essential to their daily lives.

Since its founding, the task force has come to the aid of journalists who’ve been arrested, such as reporter Dan Heyman, who was taken into custody while attempting to ask questions in a public hallway of the West Virginia State Capitol.

The task force has offered legal advice to a local television newsroom in Florida that was sued by a state’s attorney after an investigative report left him, as his lawsuit stated, with “hurt feelings.” It has offered assistance to local newsrooms in Indiana and Washington state that have faced various forms of obstruction while trying to report on criminal hearings and trials.

RTDNA has also showcased outstanding broadcast and digital journalism through the Edward R. Murrow Awards.

There is much more work ahead. Some campaign consultants have advised 2018 candidates to attack the media because it worked so well for the president in 2016.

And then there’s this: Until RTDNA issued a complaint, Walmart and some smaller online retailers were selling a T-shirt that read: Rope. Tree. Journalist. Some Assembly Required. •

Dan Shelley is executive director of RTDNA/F.

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Voice of the First Amendment Task Force

Promoting responsible journalism.

Protecting the Constitutional duty to seek & report truth.

Join the fight.

Join RTDNA.

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