Cronkite Launches
Howard Center for
Investigative Journalism

SUPPORTED BY A MAJOR GRANT FROM THE
Scripps Howard Foundation

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“Judged on the basis of the past, I am certain American journalism will not fail in the task that is ahead.

Criticize it, check up on it, call it to account, but keep your

Permit no force to undermine it or abridge its freedom, for when its so also will be yours. Ended also will be this democracy of ours which, is still the freest and the most enlightened government that the mind
freedom is abridged or ended, with all its shortcomings, of man has yet evolved.”

—Roy W. Howard
Philanthropy Fuels Cronkite’s Growth, Success

We are very proud that the exponential growth and success of the Cronkite School over the past dozen years has become one of the great stories in journalism education. But what may not be as well known is that much of that success has been fueled by philanthropic investments — large and small — from foundations, corporations, and individual families, alumni and supporters.

Since President Michael M. Crow made Cronkite an independent school in 2005, the size of our full-time faculty has more than tripled. Today, we have more than 60 professors teaching, mentoring and inspiring the next generation of great journalists and communications professionals.

Many of those positions were made possible through new endowed professorships, such as the Sue Clark-Johnson Professorship in Media Innovation and Leadership, named in honor of our late friend and colleague who was publisher of The Arizona Republic. The professorship is now proudly held by the talented Mi-Ai Parrish, another former Republic publisher and one of our newest faculty members (page 86).

Other faculty positions were funded by foundations, such as a new senior research professorship created by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, one of our most steadfast supporters. Designed to explore ways to innovate local television news, this new position enabled us to bring to Cronkite one of the top thought leaders in broadcast news, former CBS News President Andrew Heyward (page 87).

We now have eight permanently endowed chairs and professorships and another eight faculty positions funded through philanthropy, with more joining the school in the coming year.

Philanthropic investments also have allowed us to expand our growing array of immersive professional programs. In this issue of The Cronkite Journal, you will read about a transformational gift from the Scripps Howard Foundation to create the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism in honor of the legendary news executive and innovator Roy W. Howard (pages 4-9).

You also will read about the dedication of the Elizabeth Murphy Burns and Richard Burns / Morgan Murphy Media Theater, named in honor of endowment board member Elizabeth Murphy Burns who, along with her husband Richard, made an enormously generous lead campaign gift in support of the Cronkite School.

External support also allows us to expand our research and service missions. Gifts and grants from organizations such as the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Mayo Clinic, Ford Foundation, U.S. Department of State, Facebook, Democracy Fund, News Integrity Initiative, Ruderman Foundation, Luce Foundation and the Rita Allen Foundation have led to the creation of new initiatives to explore news media literacy, TV news innovation, disability coverage, medical journalism, religion coverage and sustainability news (pages 16-21 and 48-50).

And of course there are the gifts that go directly to our most deserving students. In the past year alone, we have added an array of new scholarships, thanks to the generosity of longtime supporters such as Valley philanthropists Ellie and Michael Ziegler and Tim and Mirja Riester; national organizations such as the White House Correspondents Association and the NASCAR Foundation; and Cronkite professors, including Weil Family Professor of Journalism Leonard Downie Jr., Frank Russell Chair Julia Wallace and Southwest Borderlands Professor Fernanda Santos, who worked with friends from the Sauce Foundation to establish a scholarship in honor of her late husband (pages 128-131).

These endowed gifts will ensure that Cronkite students for generations to come will be able to realize their dreams.

Many people believe that state universities such as ASU are funded primarily by the state. That, however, has not been true for a long time, as state investments in higher education around the country continue to shrink. Only about one-tenth of our funding comes from the state. The largest funding source at Cronkite is you — our great alumni, supporters and friends.

As we enter the final stage of our university’s first comprehensive fundraising campaign in nearly a generation, we hope you will consider supporting Cronkite in the way that best aligns with your passions. Please join us. There are few things more rewarding than knowing you have played a role in ensuring the success of the next generation while helping to preserve and protect journalism, a free press and our democracy.

Dean Christopher Callahan
Today some 13,000 ASU students study on the ASU Downtown Phoenix campus. In addition to the Cronkite School, that includes the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions, the College of Nursing and Health Innovation, the Phoenix Biomedical Campus, the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts’ Grant Street Studios, University Center and other buildings largely dedicated to professional fields that benefit from this urban setting. In the next several years, the Thunderbird School of Global Management will complete its new building and join this list.

We take pride in our role as a catalyst in driving growth and enriching the cultural, intellectual and economic life of the city. This matches our mission to embed ourselves in and serve the communities that surround us. This engagement makes it possible to ask new questions, identify significant challenges and develop concrete, real-world solutions to enhance the quality of life and generate change.

To be sure, this includes the work of Cronkite. At a time when the media has been under attack and misinformation has been rampant, the role of journalism has taken on added importance. It’s one reason we are excited by the launching of the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism to advance deeply researched journalism that benefits from multidisciplinary thinking and experience.

Of course, the effort to gather facts, expand knowledge and provide reliable information and insights — across the full range of the university’s disciplines — extends beyond downtown Phoenix. It’s part of why we are expanding ASU’s footprint on both coasts.

This year we opened the eight-story ASU Barbara Barrett and Sandra Day O’Connor Washington Center in the heart of the U.S. capital, creating a new home for Cronkite’s Washington bureau, establishing a dynamic new setting for other ASU enterprises such as the McCain Institute for International Leadership, and serving as a convener for dialogue and ideas that can help shape the future of our globe.

In the next several years, we will dramatically increase our involvement in Los Angeles when renovations are completed on the recently acquired Los Angeles Herald Examiner building. While Cronkite already operates a sports bureau out of ASU’s Santa Monica office, this legendary building in downtown LA will make it possible to launch new educational initiatives and create new learning opportunities for faculty and students at Cronkite and across the university in one of the nation’s most vivid and significant cities.

The ASU community, which spans the U.S. and extends to people and projects around the world, thrives because of the shared belief in creating access and opportunity and pioneering new ways to teach and learn and design solutions. ASU Online has grown to more than 38,000 degree-seeking students in more than 100 countries. In turn, ASU is home to more than 13,400 international students from more than 136 countries, establishing ASU as the nation’s top public university for international students for four straight years.

Taken together, our community is a powerful resource and force. We look to the storytelling skills of Cronkite students, graduates and faculty to help us identify the best ways to tell the stories that are shaping our collective future. It’s up to all of us in the ASU community to do the hard work that ensures we have a compelling story to share.

ASU President Michael M. Crow
The values of two groundbreaking news leaders help create the future of investigative reporting.

Walter Cronkite
Roy W. Howard
Investigative reporting is arguably more important today than ever before — and also more challenging.

New
Howard Center for Investigative Journalism
Established at Cronkite School

The great investigative reporters of today and tomorrow require advanced data, visual and technological skills, in addition to the tried-and-true fundamentals of shoe-leather reporting and compelling storytelling.

Students will get that training and more in the Cronkite School’s new Master of Arts in Investigative Journalism — the nation’s first graduate degree program devoted exclusively to investigative reporting.

The Howard Center for Investigative Journalism will welcome its first class of students on campus in the fall of 2019 with the goal of training the next generation of investigative reporters while also producing major national reporting projects and creating a replicable model for other universities to improve their teaching of investigative journalism.
“American journalism will, I believe, prove to be in the future what it has been in the past —
The center is funded under a three-year, $3 million grant from the Scripps Howard Foundation and is named for Roy W. Howard, the pioneering news reporter and former chairman of the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain.

Unlike other journalism master’s programs, the Howard Center degree is designed for career-switchers who have expertise and knowledge in other fields as well as early and mid-career journalists.

Maud Beelman, U.S. investigations editor for The Associated Press, has been tapped as the founding executive editor for the new Howard Center. She will lead student reporting on topics of major social, economic and political concerns, overseeing national investigative projects for publication on digital, print and broadcast platforms. Beelman has led award-winning investigative projects throughout her career at the AP, The Dallas Morning News and International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, where she served as founding director of the Center for Public Integrity initiative.

“I’m so honored to have been chosen and so excited to work at the innovative and distinguished Cronkite School,” Beelman said. “I’ve had the good fortune to do many wonderful things in my career, but being offered the chance to help shape the future of investigative reporting is more than I could have hoped for.”

The immersive master’s degree program will be hands-on and highly interdisciplinary, with courses designed and delivered by top professors across ASU in disciplines such as business, computer science, engineering and law. Journalism classes in investigative techniques, writing and multimedia skills will be taught by Cronkite’s Pulitzer Prize-winning faculty members.

Students are being recruited from fields, disciplines and professions such as business, law, science, the arts, engineering, government, public policy, medicine, social work and other areas.

One of the Howard Center’s Pulitzer-winning faculty members followed a similar path. Knight Chair Sarah Cohen studied economics and worked for a decade as an economist in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics before entering journalism in the early 1990s. After earning...
her master’s in journalism, she embarked on an impressive career in investigative and data reporting at news organizations such as The New York Times and The Washington Post.

“I went into journalism when others were leaving — in the middle of one of the first devastating recessions in the industry,” Cohen said. “Having some specialty that others didn’t gave me a huge leg up in the job market, and I found it more useful than I’d ever dreamed. The opportunity to move into investigative reporting, in general, and data journalism, in particular, has let me report on subjects like elderly guardians, housing scams, child welfare and even farm subsidies. I’d never have been able to make that much of a difference where I was.”

In addition to Beelman and Cohen, the Howard Center’s roster of faculty includes Leonard Downie Jr., the former executive editor of The Washington Post; Walter V. Robinson, former editor of The Boston Globe’s Spotlight team that won a Pulitzer Prize for uncovering the sexual abuse scandal in the Roman Catholic Church; Jacquee Petchel, a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist at The Miami Herald and other news organizations; and Steve Doig, a pioneer in data journalism who also won a Pulitzer Prize at The Miami Herald. Other Cronkite faculty members will serve as affiliate members of the Howard Center.

“We are honored to be selected for this critically important initiative and to preserve and celebrate the extraordinary legacy of Roy W. Howard,” said Christopher Callahan, dean of the Cronkite School and CEO of Arizona PBS. “The mission of the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism should be journalism’s mission,” Callahan said. “Few have articulated that mission better than the center’s namesake, Roy W. Howard, who wrote that journalism exists to ‘ensure to readers the fullest possible access to the truth and the greatest possible divergency of viewpoint.’”

In support of the Howard Center, ASU President Michael M. Crow said, “More than ever, we need to hold the powerful accountable, shed light on wrongdoings and broadly share facts and diverse viewpoints. This is the foundation of democracy.”

Major Investigative Journalism Projects

From a state-of-the-art newsroom in the Cronkite School, Howard Center students will produce deep, original and data-driven investigative reporting.

“Students will work and learn from Howard Center faculty and staff, producing investigative stories of national and international importance, while learning how to effectively collaborate and problem solve together,” Callahan said.

He added that students will pursue stories that expose many of the great injustices and explore some of the greatest challenges facing the country and world today. These stories will be shared with publishing partners that will include some of the nation’s most influential news outlets.

The Cronkite School has existing publication and broadcast partnerships with news organizations, such as The Washington Post, USA Today, NBC News, the Investigative News Network, PBS NewsHour and the Center for Public Integrity.

More than half of the students’ coursework will be focused on investigative reporting. Classes will cover data journalism, public records, interviewing and techniques of investigative reporting.

Students also will take on an array of coursework in other disciplines such as law, business and engineering, where they will be exposed to methods of scientific inquiry and research in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities.

They will spend their final semester in the Howard Center, working on their investigative projects.

Students will have the choice of
The Scripps Howard Foundation supports philanthropic causes important to the E.W. Scripps Company and the communities it serves, with a special emphasis on excellence in journalism. At the crossroads of the classroom and the newsroom, the foundation is a leader in supporting journalism education, scholarships, internships, minority recruitment and development, literacy and First Amendment causes. The Scripps Howard Awards stand as one of the industry’s top honors for outstanding journalism. The Foundation improves lives and helps build thriving communities. It partners with Scripps brands to create awareness of local issues and supports impactful organizations to drive solutions.

The Howard Centers are designed to bridge “the classroom and the newsroom to ensure tomorrow’s journalists are prepared ... ”

— Liz Carter, president and CEO of the Scripps Howard Foundation

“Today and tomorrow must stir our enthusiasm rather than yesterday.” — Roy W. Howard
Why Universities Like ASU Are Producing Investigative Journalism, Not Just Teaching It

Why investigative reporting is essential

Before Larry Nassar was sentenced to 40 to 175 years, the prosecutor said if it weren’t for the investigative reporting of The Indianapolis Star, Nassar would still be abusing gymnasts. Those reporters now share how they gave a voice to the victims.

Investigative reporting, a form of journalism that focuses on holding the powerful accountable through painstaking, often lengthy independent investigations of institutions and people, has played an increasingly vital role in American life and democracy ever since journalists uncovered government lies and subterfuge during the Vietnam War and Watergate.

Investigative reporting can right wrongs, give voice to the voiceless, expose ineptitude and corruption and help point the way to solutions in almost every dimension of society — from government, national security, business and law enforcement to the environment, education, health care and social welfare.

It has toppled government officials, business executives and religious leaders. It has forced the Catholic Church to acknowledge and act to stop child molestation by its priests, alerted the nation’s hospitals to fatal shortcomings in their care of newborn babies, and focused the nation’s attention on police shootings.

It has led to sweeping institutional reforms, prompted changes in laws and revealed to the public important, previously hidden information.

We believe this kind of probing journalism on behalf of the American people is more important than ever in today’s cacophony of confusing, contradictory and misleading information, not to mention skepticism — and at times flat-out rejection — of facts.

How we’re stepping in to fill the gap

But the growing need for deep investigative journalism, which is resource intensive, comes at a time of significant financial stress for a news industry massively disrupted by new technologies and economic change. A relentless stream of cutbacks in traditional newsrooms has led to reductions of reporters, editors and producers devoted to this critical — but very expensive — form of journalism.

At the same time, however, we have seen
the proliferation of independent, nonprofit investigative reporting centers, largely fueled by philanthropy. Large national nonprofits such as ProPublica and smaller state-focused investigative centers in Arizona, Florida, Kentucky and Wisconsin, to name just a few, have helped fill the gap.

Now universities are poised to play key leadership roles in this new investigative journalism ecosystem.

The Scripps Howard Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the Cincinnati-based E.W. Scripps Company, recently announced what is believed to be the largest gift ever to higher education for investigative reporting: $3 million to our Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University, and $3 million to our colleagues at the University of Maryland's Philip Merrill College of Journalism, to create the Howard Centers for Investigative Journalism.

The dual goals of the Howard Centers are to produce both great investigative journalists and great investigative journalism. At Cronkite, new nationally recruited Howard Center faculty will join five Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative reporters and editors already at ASU.

It's like a teaching hospital for news

University-produced journalism is not new, but it is growing. Over the past decade, the Cronkite School alone has launched a dozen programs that model the design of a teaching hospital in medical education, where top professionals join the faculty to lead bright young students in professional centers, creating immersive learning environments while serving a larger community outside of the university. For medical schools, the service is health care; for journalism schools, it is news and information.

For example, Cronkite News, a statewide multiplatform news operation with bureaus in Phoenix, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles, focuses on key public policy issues facing the Southwest in areas such as health, law and the environment.

It reports on people and communities across the region often under-represented in news media, such as American Indians and those living on borderlands. The work is distributed each day on media platforms that include Arizona PBS, the nation's seventh-largest public television station.

While there is a growing array of fully student-staffed, professionally led “teaching hospital” programs such as Cronkite News and others at ASU and other universities around the country, few have the resources of the Howard Centers or are focused exclusively on investigative journalism.

This is a university-wide effort

The Howard Center at ASU will draw on the values of fact-based journalism — accuracy, fairness, thoroughness, accountability — embodied by both Cronkite, the legendary CBS News anchor and our school’s namesake, and Roy W. Howard, one of the most influential news executives of the first half of the 20th century, who led the Scripps-Howard newspaper chain and for whom the new center is named.

The new center also will take advantage of the staggering portfolio of digital tools and techniques available to today’s journalists to find information, tell powerful stories and engage more meaningfully with new audiences.

But the most distinctive feature of the Howard Center is its university-wide, interdisciplinary design.

The Howard Center will tap into the best and brightest minds at one of the world's most comprehensive research universities to better prepare the next generation of investigative journalists. Professors from across ASU will be teaching their disciplines’ specialized methods of inquiry and research to the emerging journalists. The Howard Center also will recruit students from areas of study and industries beyond the news media.

A new generation of investigative reporters, armed not just with time-honored journalistic techniques from the past and the latest 21st-century digital tools, but also with information-gathering and analytical abilities drawn from accountancy, anthropology, history, law, medicine and many other fields, will be able to produce deeper, more insightful and impactful stories to better serve readers, viewers and the country.

Our democracy deserves nothing less. ■

A version of this column first appeared in The Arizona Republic on Aug. 26, 2018
The Cronkite School is home to five Pulitzer Prize winners. They range from the former executive editor of The Washington Post to the former head of The Boston Globe’s “Spotlight” team, memorialized in the movie by that name.

“Having these extraordinarily talented professors on our faculty is a tremendous asset for our students,” said Christopher Callahan, dean of the Cronkite School. “Every day, they roll up their sleeves and work side-by-side with our students, teaching, guiding and inspiring them to create impactful journalism.”
LEONARD DOWNIE JR.
Piling up the Pulitzers

It would be hard to find a more decorated journalist than Leonard Downie Jr., the Weil Family Professor of Journalism at the Cronkite School. During his 17 years as executive editor of The Washington Post, the newspaper won 25 Pulitzer Prizes, including three Gold Medals for public service.

Downie started as an intern at the Post in 1964 and went on to report on local courts, law enforcement and mortgage fraud. He later served as the paper’s London correspondent and as deputy metro editor during the Watergate scandal. He became managing editor in 1984 under then-executive editor Ben Bradlee, eventually succeeding Bradlee as executive editor.

During his time at the paper, Downie presided over coverage of major stories that ranged from the Pentagon Papers and the Senate Watergate hearings to the impeachment proceedings against former President Bill Clinton and the Iraq War.

Downie made his first mark at the paper just two years into the job. In 1966, he was nominated for a Pulitzer for a seven-part series on corruption and dysfunction in Washington, D.C., courts, which led to an overhaul of the system.

“The reaction to the series was swift, and legislation through Congress abolished the court,” Downie said. “That experience showed me the power of accountability journalism.”

Accountability journalism is what Downie preaches and teaches to his students today, and it’s also the name of his signature class. He defines the term as “holding accountable everybody in society who has power and influence over others.”

Downie disputes the notion that he headed newspapers at a time when journalism was at its peak.

“It was a golden era in that it was a privileged time, which is to say there was no internet and there was a monopoly of news by newspapers and the three broadcast networks,” he said. “Today’s journalism is just as strong, and there’s more investigative journalism going on than ever before.”

Downie began teaching at Cronkite after retiring from the Post in 2009. In addition to his Accountability Journalism course, he helps lead a seminar for students around the country who participate in the national News21 investigative reporting program. He also mentors students pursuing investigative work at Cronkite News and is a featured speaker at school events each semester.

Each incoming class of Cronkite students gets their first exposure to Downie in a Principles and History of Journalism class, during which Downie describes coverage of Watergate and the Pentagon Papers with the kind of detail that can only happen from being there.

Outside class, Downie monitors the progress of many of the students he has come into contact with, offering career advice and job recommendations.

“Seeing them develop is very, very rewarding,” he said.

In her new role, Cohen teaches graduate and undergraduate data journalism classes at Cronkite and assists with data-driven projects in other programs, such as Cronkite News, the news division of Arizona PBS.

The move to the western U.S. has been pleasantly surprising, Cohen said. “It’s been a treat to leave the East Coast for the first time in my life. There’s a different sense of what’s important outside the East Coast corridor.”

Making the transition easier is the fact that she’s working with several former colleagues, including fellow Pulitzer Prize winner Leonard Downie Jr., who hired her at The Washington Post and worked with her from 1999 to 2009.

While at the Post, Cohen shared in the Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting in 2002 for a project that exposed the failures of the District of Columbia’s child protective services to prevent 229 deaths. The series, “The District’s Lost Children,” also won the grand prize in the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award. Five years later, she was a Pulitzer finalist for public service for a series that uncovered waste and duplication in federal farm-subsidy programs.

Students are now Cohen’s main focus, and she wants to teach them the skills that made her a standout journalist and editor.

“It’s exciting to teach the fundamentals of investigative journalism to a new generation,” Cohen said. “It will help keep the powerful accountable for another generation.”

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SARAH COHEN
New Pulitzer on the Block

Sarah Cohen became Cronkite’s most recent Pulitzer Prize-winning faculty member when she joined the school in late 2017 as the Knight Chair in Data Journalism.

While she might be the new Pulitzer winner on the block, she is not new to the practice of journalism. Cohen enjoyed a 25-year career in news, most recently leading a group of New York Times reporters who focused on data- and document-driven investigations. Prior to the Times, she was database editor at The Washington Post. She also served as the first Knight Chair in computational journalism at Duke University and is the immediate past president of Investigative Reporters and Editors, a 5,000-member training organization for journalists.

Sarah Cohen (second from right), with Scott Higham and Sari Horwitz of The Washington Post, receives the 2002 Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting for a series on local courts, law enforcement and mortgage fraud. She later served as the paper’s London correspondent and as deputy metro editor during the Watergate scandal. He became managing editor in 1984 under then-executive editor Ben Bradlee, eventually succeeding Bradlee as executive editor.

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HOMETOWN PULITZER MAKES GOOD

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jacquie Petchel got her start as a reporter for The State Press, ASU’s student newspaper. After graduating from the Cronkite School, she spent six years as a reporter for The Arizona Republic before moving to the Miami Herald, where she began to do investigative work.

Petchel was part of the team that won the 1993 Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for public service for the post-Hurricane Andrew investigation to which Doig also contributed. Later, she was a member of the team that received the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news for coverage of the federal raid that

I really owe my career to the service," he said. "My first few years of college were spotty, and I was sort of adrift. The Army gave me strong direction and ultimately my career, which I didn’t know or want before. I’m the perfect example of someone who discovered journalism later in life.”

Doig said his “superpower” as a journalist was “dealing with numbers and data.” He became one of the country’s foremost data journalists and an early advocate of computer-assisted reporting.

These days, Doig’s superpower is teaching data journalism online, which he does from his new home in Seattle. He said he finds teaching online surprisingly personal. “You can get to know students very well through online,” he said. “I’m still able to pass on the tools and techniques of what I’ve learned over the years.”

His Pulitzer is not something he often brings up with his students — or anyone else, for that matter.

“The Pulitzer in some cases is happenstance. If Hurricane Andrew didn’t hit, we wouldn’t have won,” he said. “But it’s like my son said, ‘Once you become a Pulitzer, you know what the first line of your obituary will be.’”

JACQUEE PETCHEL

Hometown Pulitzer Makes Good

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jacquie Petchel got her start as a reporter for The State Press, ASU’s student newspaper. After graduating from the Cronkite School, she spent six years as a reporter for The Arizona Republic before moving to the Miami Herald, where she began to do investigative work.

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removed 6-year-old Elián González from his relatives' home in Miami and returned him to his father's custody in Cuba.

Petchel also has experience in television news. She was senior producer of investigations at WCCO-TV in Minneapolis and executive producer of investigations at WFOR-TV in Miami. Before joining the Cronkite School in 2013, she led the investigative team at the Houston Chronicle.

As executive editor of the Carnegie-Knight News21 investigative journalism program, Petchel works with top Cronkite students and others from around the country each year to produce a major multimedia investigation into a topic of national importance. The projects, which have ranged from voting rights to hate crimes, have won numerous top student journalism awards. In addition, Petchel has led two school-wide projects that resulted in documentaries on opioid and heroin addictions that have earned top professional journalism awards.

“At Cronkite we are doing our best to ensure that investigative reporting does not die and moves forward with a new generation of journalists to tell those stories in a variety of different ways,” she said.

Returning to Cronkite after a long career as a professional journalist is “a way to give back to my alma mater because my alma mater has been so instrumental in my success,” Petchel added. “My great pleasure is to give back to students from what I learned at this very place decades ago.”

A version of this article first appeared in ASU Now on Sept. 11, 2018
The 2017-2018 school year brought major new initiatives to the Cronkite School in TV innovation, news literacy and sustainability. Plus, students enrolled in two new professional programs in sports and digital audiences.

The Cronkite School received a $1.9 million grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in February to innovate local TV news. The school also launched the News Co/Lab, a pioneering program supported by the Facebook Journalism Project, the News Integrity Initiative, the Democracy Fund and the Rita Allen Foundation to promote news literacy.

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting funded a news collaborative with Arizona PBS and other regional public media outlets in Arizona, California and Colorado to expand sustainability coverage.

The Cronkite School also launched a professional program for students that allow them to report on the intersection of sports and society as well as a digital audiences lab, specializing in digital strategies, audience engagement and social media integration.
three-year grant provides a foundation for advancing digital and broadcast innovation in local television news.

The Cronkite School will serve as a testbed for experimentation and innovation in both English and Spanish language TV news.

“The need for game-changing innovative ideas in local television news has never been more critical,” said Cronkite Dean and Arizona PBS CEO Christopher Callahan. “This generous Knight Foundation support will allow television stations to beta test their ideas at the Cronkite School without the risks that often impede change and innovation in the media industry.”

Callahan said the initiative promotes local TV news innovation through research, collaboration and experimentation.

The research arm is already under way with the hiring of Andrew Heyward, the former president of CBS News. As Knight Professor of Practice in TV News Innovation and senior researcher for TV news, Heyward is seeking out and analyzing effective local TV news initiatives already taking place across the country on both linear and digital platforms.

Additionally, local television news executives from across the country will come to the Cronkite School to participate in the Local Television News Innovation Table Stakes Project. Executives will work to cultivate effective change-management strategies to promote innovation in areas such as TV news format, digital storytelling and revenue generation.

“This partnership with the Cronkite School will support innovation in local television news and support television newsroom leaders focused on driving change,” said Karen Rundlet, program director for journalism at Knight Foundation.

The Knight Foundation is not new to the Cronkite School. It has helped establish some of the school’s signature programs, providing more than $10 million in support. Knight-funded programs include Carnegie-Knight News21, a national fellowship program in which top journalism students from across the country conduct national investigations into issues critical to Americans, and the Knight Chair in Data Journalism, a tenured professorship currently held by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Sarah Cohen, who formerly led the data journalism team at The New York Times.
News Co/Lab Aims to Improve Public Understanding of News

The Cronkite School has designed a major new initiative aimed at helping the public find new ways of understanding and engaging with news and information.

The News Co/Lab is a pioneering program supported by the Facebook Journalism Project, the News Integrity Initiative, the Democracy Fund and the Rita Allen Foundation.

The lab’s first project, in collaboration with media partner McClatchy, helps newsrooms work with their communities to develop innovations that increase transparency, engagement, mutual understanding and respect.

“The launch of News Co/Lab at ASU is a great step forward in accelerating the growth of news and media literacy,” said Campbell Brown, Facebook’s head of news partnerships.

“We are proud to work with the Cronkite School to establish this important effort to develop and expand innovative tools for news-literacy-friendly newsrooms.”

The lab is a direct outgrowth of the News Literacy Working Group convened in March 2017 by Facebook and ASU to sharpen strategies for fighting misinformation masquerading as news. Experts from around the world participated.

The Lab’s co-founders are media literacy experts Dan Gillmor and Eric Newton, both of the Cronkite School. With other faculty, staff and students, they are exploring ways to improve the public’s ability to understand and build public trust in reporting, increase transparency in how news is produced, and improve community engagement and feedback.

Their projects are under way at Cronkite News in Phoenix, the student-powered news division of Arizona PBS, and at three McClatchy newsrooms — The Kansas City Star, The Modesto Bee in Central Valley California, and The Telegraph in Macon, Georgia. The Cronkite School will track the success of these programs and share best practices and models that work.

“We know that local news is essential to thriving communities and the results of this timely and important collaboration will guide not only McClatchy newsrooms, but also serve as a best-practices template for the media industry,” said Craig Forman, president and chief executive officer of McClatchy.

While McClatchy has been the Lab’s first media partner, other early collaborators include the News Literacy Project, the Trust Project, the Newsseum, Knight Science Journalism at MIT, the Poynter Institute, the Trusting News project, the Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook University and the MIT Center for Civic Media.

“Democracy Fund’s support will help foster engagement and transparency between journalists and the communities they serve,” said Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan. “We’re excited to move forward on this important initiative.”

Over time, the lab plans to work with a variety of partners, from educators and technologists to community groups and a variety of newsrooms of different types and sizes.
students enroll for credit in this professional immersion experience each semester or work part time assisting with content production of GlobalSport Matters.

The new website gives writers and reporters, including Cronkite students, a chance to provide deep dives into the world of sport.

“We want content that people want to share,” said Executive Editor Kathy Kudravi, a veteran sports journalist who leads Cronkite’s Sports Knowledge Lab, which started in the summer of 2018. “There’s all this great research out there that no one knows is available, so we’re looking for things that anyone who is interested can find and share with ease.”

The Global Sport Institute is supported by a combination of funding from ASU and Adidas sportswear, and its efforts are supported and integrated across the entire university, from engineering to the athletic department.

Kenneth Shropshire, CEO of the Global Sport Institute, said of the new site: “It’s a content hub that will push out all the great research being done at ASU and elsewhere and will allow us to reach people we may not have direct access to. So it will be pretty far-reaching beyond the typical informational website.”

Kudravi, who previously led news teams at ESPN and CNN, added: “We want to engage people globally on every aspect of sport and society, whether it’s the best ways to hydrate when you exercise, to trends in elder activity, to what is the latest wearable technology.”

Connor Pelton provided information for this report. A version of this story first appeared in ASU Now on April 12, 2018.

GlobalSport Matters is part of ASU’s Global Sport Institute, which encourages collaborative, multidisciplinary inquiry. The Institute is led by Kenneth L. Shropshire, an international expert in the intersection of sports, business, law and society and former director of the Wharton Sports Business Initiative at the University of Pennsylvania.

Award-winning sports journalist Kathy Kudravi oversees the publication of GlobalSport Matters, a multimedia storytelling platform with data and advice from across the world of sports.

Students enroll for credit in this professional immersion experience each semester or work part time assisting with content production of GlobalSport Matters.

Brett Kurland, director of sports programs at the Cronkite School and one of the key figures in the creation of the Sports Knowledge Lab, said GlobalSport Matters is a natural extension of the school’s sports journalism curriculum, which teaches students to look beyond the scores and place sports in a larger context.

ASU and Adidas
The Global Sport Institute is supported by a combination of funding from ASU and Adidas sportswear, and its efforts are supported and integrated across the entire university, from engineering to the athletic department and beyond.
Many of today’s media jobs require special skills in digital strategies, audience engagement and social media integration.

To meet the growing demand, the Cronkite School is offering new online and on-campus programs to help students launch careers focused on digital engagement.

New online degrees include a Bachelor of Science in Digital Audiences and a Master of Science in Digital Audience Strategy. Cronkite also now offers an online graduate certificate in digital audiences as well as an online minor in digital audiences.

Additionally, the school is launching a Digital Audiences Lab in which students will create and execute digital strategies for real-world clients, including ASU-affiliated organizations such as Slate’s Future Tense, Zócalo Public Square, GlobalSport Matters and Arizona PBS.

“These new programs will help students pursue cutting-edge careers in an array of industries that rely on digital audience engagement,” said Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan.

The online degrees are taught by top professionals and scholars in digital audience research and engagement, led by Director of Digital Audiences Programs Jessica Pucci.

Pucci, a respected expert in content analysis and audience engagement, is joined by Assistant Professor Hazel Kwon, whose focus is social network analysis; Assistant Professor Syed Ali Hussain, a Fulbright Scholar who has more than a decade of experience in behavior change communication and social influence; and Assistant Professor Jacob Nelson, whose research explores audience engagement in newsrooms.

“All businesses and organizations have audiences to build,” Pucci said. “These degrees give students conceptual skills in social, search, analytics and strategy to grow and engage audiences, plus innovation and leadership skills that expand their career possibilities to roles in strategic and integrated communications, digital marketing and entrepreneurship.”

Pucci, who served as the lead designer of the lab, said the mission is to grow and engage audiences for these organizations through digital strategy development, search engine optimization, social media marketing and analytics reporting, among other areas.

The new lab is led by Luis Bonilla, who has more than a decade of digital marketing experience, most recently serving as the digital services architect for the NBA’s Phoenix Suns.

“Luis brings unparalleled expertise and audience growth experiences to the table,” Pucci said.
Arizona PBS Takes Lead on Sustainability Coverage in West

Arizona PBS, operated by the Cronkite School, is the lead station in a regional news partnership to expand coverage of four important sustainability issues in the West — water, renewable energy, climate change and urbanization.

The project, Elemental: Covering Sustainability, is funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The Regional Journalism Collaboration for Sustainability includes partners PBS SoCal, and KPCC (Southern California Public Radio) in Los Angeles, KJZZ radio in Phoenix, and Denver’s Rocky Mountain PBS, which includes five TV stations and KUVO radio.

The content is shareable across the five partner stations and is available to national public media programs, including NPR’s “Morning Edition” and “All Things Considered,” “Marketplace” and “PBS NewsHour.” The initiative also experiments with new forms of digital video to provide better coverage of sustainability issues.

“We’ve seen the importance of our investments in collaboration when, for example, stations in the Texas Station Collaborative were better prepared to serve their communities throughout the devastation of Hurricane Harvey,” said Kathy Merritt, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting’s senior vice president for journalism and radio.

“This generous grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting enables us to cover some of the most critical challenges of our time,” said Arizona PBS CEO and Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan. “Sustainability matters to everyone, and the Regional Journalism Collaboration for Sustainability can spur civic engagement on issues of political, economic, cultural and social importance.”

In the first part of 2018, more than 20 Cronkite students contributed television, radio and even a video news game to the website and to partners in the region.

Elemental has featured innovative student work, ranging from a stop-motion animation about cryptocurrency to a description of how sheep are used to maintain solar panel farms.

The RJC for Sustainability produces broadcast and digital news content that helps the public better understand the complexities of water, energy, climate and urbanization issues.

Since 2009, CPB has invested more than $32 million to help launch 29 local and regional news collaborations, creating 127 newsroom positions. Fronteras, a longstanding borderland news cooperative in the Southwest, is among the projects.

Arizona PBS has access to much expertise on sustainability issues, as ASU is home to the nation’s first school of sustainability, offering degrees and research on real-world solutions to environmental, economic and social challenges. ASU also is the home of the Julie Ann Wrigley Global Institute of Sustainability, the hub of ASU’s local and global sustainability initiatives.

The website for Elemental: Covering Sustainability is elementalreports.com
The Teaching Hospital

At the Cronkite School, students don’t just study journalism — they apply what they’ve learned in real-world settings. Cronkite’s “teaching hospital” approach to journalism education gives students experience through award-winning professional programs in areas such as broadcast and digital news, political reporting, investigative journalism, sports journalism, public relations, digital audience engagement, and more.

At its center is Cronkite News, the news division of Arizona PBS, with more than 100 student journalists, 13 full-time faculty and staff, and 10 other faculty who regularly work with students. Its reporting bureaus in Phoenix, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles deliver Arizona news to an estimated 1.9 million homes and news organizations in Arizona and the Southwest.

Students also produce a major national investigative report in Carnegie-Knight News21. Portions of investigations have been published in The Washington Post, USA Today and other major news organizations.

Cronkite Noticias gives bilingual students the chance to work with professionals to create digital content and a Spanish language newscast that appears on Univision Arizona.

Public relations students work with major nonprofits and Fortune 500 companies to develop and execute strategic communications campaigns. And in the New Media Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab, students push the limits of journalism, developing new ways to tell stories through virtual reality and other immersive experiences.

Students also produce segments on Cronkite’s new television magazine program, “Catalyst,” which highlights research at ASU and airs in prime time on Arizona PBS.

News21 Investigates Growing Climate of Hate in America

Each summer, several dozen of the nation’s top journalism students gather at the Cronkite School as fellows of the Carnegie-Knight News21 program to conduct in-depth reporting on an issue of national importance.

“Hate in America,” a package of multimedia stories on intolerance, racism and hate crimes, was the program’s project for 2018.

From their working base at the Cronkite School, 38 journalism students from 19 universities traveled to 36 states, including a 7,000-mile road trip around the country. They conducted nearly 300 interviews — some from the middle of angry protests, and they reviewed thousands of pages of federal court documents, FBI data and state and federal statutes.

Their news products included 12 digital stories, a 43-minute documentary film and a five-episode podcast following the life cycle of hate. The content
News21 fellows traveled to 36 states during the summer of 2018 to report on hate crimes.

“Having this opportunity so early in my career is one of those things that you can’t ask for,” said News21 fellow and ASU graduate student Justin Parham.

Photos by News21 students in the field
was published and aired by major newspapers and news sites across the country.

“Student journalists looked at every aspect of hate, using their own data analysis and on-the-ground reporting,” said Leonard Downie, Jr., former executive editor of The Washington Post, who teaches a seminar for News21 students. He worked with Jacquee Petchel, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter and editor, who served as executive editor.

The student journalists found that more than 2.4 million hate crimes were committed across the U.S. between 2012 and 2016, based on an analysis of national crime statistics.

Further, they learned that reported crimes do not always lead to arrests, prosecutions or even a record of hate crimes, as police departments are reluctant to characterize hate crimes as such.

Only 12 percent of the nation's police departments reported any hate crimes to the FBI. In addition, many victims of hate crimes were reluctant to make police reports.

Black Americans and LGBTQ community members have historically and consistently been targeted by hate crimes, though more recent political rhetoric has targeted Latinos and Muslims, the student journalists found.

“One of our most critical jobs as journalists is to cover conflicts that marginalize certain populations,” Petchel said. “In this case, we chose to examine the culture of victimizing and targeting people by those who see themselves as superior based on race, religion or other factors. These young reporters, even in precarious or dangerous situations, rose to every occasion, no
matters the circumstances. I couldn’t have asked for more, especially on a project with so much conflict and national importance.”

Justin Parham, a Cronkite graduate student, worked on stories examining hate crimes against African-Americans as well as violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans.

As a videographer, he traveled to five states, including a visit to the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. He also shot video of the imperial wizard of the Original Knights of America, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

“This has been an amazing experience,” Parham said. “Having this opportunity so early in my career is one of those things that you can’t ask for. It’s just one of those blessings that you have to receive. I just tried to be a sponge and soak up everything.”

Other Cronkite faculty and staff who worked with students on the project include: Sarah Cohen, the former data editor for The New York Times who serves as the Knight Chair in Data Journalism; Assistant Editor Maureen West, a former editor at The Arizona Republic; Multimedia and Design Editor Alex Lancial; Photo and Multimedia Editor Jim Tuttle; and Web Application Developer Bhuvan Aggarwal.

Work on the project began in January 2018 with a seminar on hate issues taught by Downie and Petchel. Students heard from experts on the topic, analyzed data and researched story topics. In late May, they began working in reporting teams based at the Cronkite School.

Downie said News21 has an advantage over most other news operations. “Our reporters can go deep on a topic,” he said. “We can have somewhere between 30 and 40 reporters working on an investigative project in a very concentrated effort.”

This year’s team partnered with ProPublica’s “Documenting Hate” project, which collects, researches and reports hate incidents.

News21, which launched in 2005, has won numerous national awards for enterprising reporting.

Previous News21 projects have included investigations into the safety of drinking water, guns in America, post-9/11 veterans’ issues, marijuana laws and voting rights, among other topics.

Supporters

News21 was supported in 2018 by grants from the Carnegie Corp. of New York, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation, the Hearst Foundations, the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation, Myrta J. Pulliam and the Veronica Guerin Dublin City University fellowship program.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. The foundation provides core support for News21.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York was established by Andrew Carnegie in 1911 “to promote the advancement and diffusion of knowledge and understanding,” and is one of the oldest, largest and most influential American grant-making foundations. The foundation makes grants to promote international peace and to advance education and knowledge.

The Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation was founded by Edith Kinney Gaylord, the daughter of The Oklahoman Publisher E.K. Gaylord. Ms. Gaylord created the foundation in 1982 to improve the quality of journalism by supporting research and creative projects that promote excellence and foster high ethical standards in journalism.

The Hearst Foundations are national philanthropic resources for organizations and institutions working in the fields of education, health, culture and social service. Their goal is to ensure that people of all backgrounds have the opportunity to build healthy, productive and inspiring lives. The charitable goals of the foundations reflect the philanthropic interests of William Randolph Hearst.

The Donald W. Reynolds Foundation is a national philanthropic organization founded in 1954 by the late media entrepreneur for whom it is name. It has committed more than $115 million nationwide through its journalism program.

Myrta J. Pulliam is an Indianapolis philanthropist and supporter of investigative journalism. The Veronica Guerin Dublin City University fellowship program honors the Irish crime reporter Veronica Guerin who was murdered by drug lords in 1996.
"Catalyst," a new prime-time show about Arizona scientists and researchers, is now a weekly 30-minute feature of Arizona PBS.

The program, which airs in the time slot following the popular “NOVA” series, is produced by Cronkite students under the direction of Professor of Practice Steve Filmer, an award-winning television producer whose credits include “ABC World News Tonight” and “Good Morning America.”

The show premiered in April and continued through the summer, after which work began on a second season.

The students work on all dimensions of the show, from story conceptualization to research, shooting, editing, writing and production.

“I want the students to come out of here with a high level of skills and a passion for storytelling,” Filmer said. “We’re not starting out trying to imitate other shows; we’re finding our storytelling techniques for each segment.”

Cronkite Professor of Practice Vanessa Ruiz, a former co-anchor for 12 News, the NBC affiliate in Phoenix, is the host of “Catalyst.”

“I am incredibly proud to be part of such a quality program that I know will enrich the lives of our viewers,” Ruiz said.

The first episode featured ASU research on the development of an artificial tree that can reduce carbon dioxide and a segment on advances in “swarm intelligence” in robots, important for the development of driverless vehicles. The premiere also examined how viruses can be used to combat diseases and how technology can help teams work better in high-pressure situations.

Other episodes featured an ASU graduate student who created a device to help researchers trying to find a cure for a disease that is devastating bee colonies. Photo by Steve Filmer
athletes overcome performance anxiety, and a researcher who is studying how urban life is affecting the health of birds in the city — with lessons for human health.

“Catalyst” is supported by ASU Knowledge Enterprise Development, which promotes interdisciplinary research institutes and initiatives.

“Through this immersion program, a new generation of science journalists is not only learning more about the cutting-edge research at ASU but also demystifying its impact on our everyday lives,” said Sethuraman Panchanathan, executive vice president of Knowledge Enterprise Development and chief research and innovation officer at ASU. “Telling the stories of people behind the research, their motivations and contributions is key to fueling curiosity and engaging future innovators and storytellers in the pursuit of path-breaking discoveries.”

Allie Barton, a Cronkite student from Gilbert, researched, filmed and edited several stories for “Catalyst,” including a story about Psyche, NASA’s mission to explore an asteroid. Interviewing the mission’s principal investigator was the year’s highlight for her, she said.

The NASA story, which she reported in narrative-driven segments, helped her learn how to better report complex science stories and connect them to the more earthly experiences of news consumers.

“Catalyst” airs Wednesdays on Arizona PBS. See all the episodes at: azpbs.org/life-and-science/catalyst

Student Craig Johnson (left) and Professor of Practice Steve Filmer on location in Yuma, Arizona, capturing NASA’s test of the Orion capsule parachute. Photo by William Isbell

The “Catalyst” crew films the final parachute test for the Orion spacecraft at the U.S. Army’s Yuma Proving Ground. Top photo by William Isbell. Other photos courtesy of NASA
The Cronkite News bureau is now housed in ASU’s new Barbara Barrett and Sandra Day O’Connor Washington Center, at 1800 I St., NW, close to major government offices.

Most journalists go through their entire careers and don’t get to put “Washington correspondent” on their resumes, but that’s not the case for digital and broadcast students who work a semester in the Washington bureau of Cronkite News.


The bureau also has a new home in the ASU Barbara Barrett and Sandra Day O’Connor Washington Center.

Students cover major national news. When U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise, a Republican from Louisiana, was shot by a gunman while practicing for an annual charity baseball game, Cronkite News was on the scene and one of the first to interview Arizona eyewitnesses, including U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake, who witnessed the attack.

Cronkite senior Ariana Bustos, who worked in the Washington newsroom in spring 2018, said that with the opportunities comes a lot of hard work.

“We talk to a lot of different people, so you have to get out of your shell,” she said. “If you’re shy, you might have to overcome that, but it’s really fun and really exciting.”

Student Austen Bundy reports in front of the U.S. Capitol. Photo by Bill McKnight
1. ASU’s new Washington Center
2. U.S. Capitol
3. White House
   1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
4. National Mall
5. International Monetary Fund
   1900 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
6. Council on Foreign Relations
   1777 F St., NW
7. Newseum
   555 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
8. World Bank
   1818 H St., NW
9. Trump International Hotel and Tower
   1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
10. Mexican Embassy
    1911 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
11. National Press Club
    529 14th St., NW
12. Nationals Park
    1500 S. Capitol St., SE
Cronkite News is one of the largest and most diverse newsrooms in the state, with news desks covering government, education, health, Indian Country, money and consumer issues, the border and sustainability. Its staff of students includes broadcast and digital journalists, as well as digital web producers and social media specialists.

“To be a journalist today, you have to do it all,” Cronkite graduate student Kianna Gardner said.

In Cronkite News, Gardner, who once saw herself mainly as a writer, learned to take photos and create graphics while also polishing her reporting and writing skills.

From the Phoenix bureau, located in a state-of-the-art newsroom on the sixth floor of the school, students fan out across the state and region to report stories of concern to Arizonans.

Gardner traveled to Nevada in October 2017 to cover the Las Vegas shooting that left 58 people dead and 851 injured. In the same semester, she reported on a herd of bison on the north rim of the Grand Canyon.

Student content is shared with more than 30 Arizona news outlets, including The Arizona Republic and The Associated Press.

“Students are doing original reporting on important stories that otherwise might go uncovered,” said Christina Leonard, executive editor of Cronkite News.
Cronkite News Professional Programs in Phoenix

1 Cronkite News – Broadcast
The award-winning Cronkite News broadcast airs daily on Arizona PBS, with top professionals guiding student anchors, reporters, producers, editors and production staff.

2 Cronkite News – Phoenix Bureau
Students in the Phoenix Bureau produce stories across media platforms for 30-plus professional news outlets, covering stories from the Statehouse to the Mexico border.

3 Cronkite News – Borderlands
Students report on important immigration and border issues in English and Spanish for Cronkite News under the guidance of professional borderlands journalists.

4 Reynolds Business Bureau
Business journalism students produce stories on all platforms, focusing on business, finance and the economy for Cronkite News and regional news outlets.

5 Cronkite News – Digital Production
Students, working with faculty members, serve as web producers for the Cronkite News website and work with students in other Cronkite News bureaus to create and showcase multimedia content.
Recent Cronkite graduate Tyler Fingert covered protests outside U.S. Sen. Jeff Flake’s office in Phoenix over the Affordable Care Act, efforts in rural Arizona to stop the opioid epidemic, and ways Saguaro National Park near Tucson is deterring thefts of cacti.

“We don’t cover minute little things that happen day-to-day, we cover stories that aren’t being covered, that are — that should be — important to an Arizona audience,” said Fingert, who worked in the broadcast newsroom of Cronkite News before graduating with a master’s degree in 2018.

Each semester, more than 50 students spend at least two days a week working on the newscast alongside experienced journalists. The student-run news experience is less like a class and more like a first job, said Melanie Asp Alvarez, former Cronkite News assistant news director.

“This is a student-powered newsroom,” Alvarez said. “Every broadcast we produce has to be as good as everyone else’s in the market.”

The Cronkite News experience helped Fingert land a TV news reporting job at Fox 10 News (WALA-TV) in Mobile, Alabama.
During fall 2017, news outlets around the world published stories about DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that affects more than 25,000 young undocumented immigrants in Arizona. Cronkite Noticias, where bilingual students report on issues critical to the Latino community, decided to take another approach.

Noticias students created content for a page on the Cronkite Noticias site called Más allá de DACA (Beyond DACA), that offered help. “We made it be more about the answers and solutions and not so much about the chaos and the doom of the situation, which is oftentimes what some of the reporting focuses on,” said Valeria Fernández, who leads the Cronkite Noticias program.

Students focus on education, sustainability, immigration and other issues important to the region’s Latino communities, Fernández said. They report stories across the state and along the U.S.-Mexico border for the Cronkite Noticias website and also produce a Spanish-language newscast that airs on Univision Arizona.

Mersedes Cervantes, an anchor during the 2018 spring semester for the Noticias show that airs on Univision Arizona, said Cronkite Noticias prepared her to report on Arizona’s Latinos by grounding her work in those communities.

Clockwise from left: Students Yattsi Medina (left) and Carla Maldonado anchor Cronkite Noticias.

Students Maldonado and Ricardo Ávila prepare for the Spanish-language newscast.

Maldonado and Medina anchor a newscast on Facebook Live. Photos by Valeria Fernández and Victor Ren.
Cronkite sports journalism students get real-world experiences covering professional and intercollegiate sports in two of the country’s largest media markets through the Cronkite News Phoenix and Los Angeles Sports bureaus.

Phoenix is one of only 13 markets in the country with all four major professional sports — the MLB, NBA, NFL and NHL — and journalists in the Phoenix Sports Bureau of Cronkite News cover all of them, as well as college teams. They also report from Major League Baseball spring training and the Waste Management Phoenix Open.

Phoenix Sports Bureau Director Brett Kurland said the students produce broadcast and digital sports enterprise and news stories that go beyond typical game coverage. Kurland pointed to recent stories on the dangers of sports specialization in youth sports and rising concerns about sports gambling and addiction.

Broadcast sports reporter Tyler Paley, a 2018 Cronkite graduate, covered an undefeated Phoenix boxer who also is a DACA recipient who was brought to the U.S. by his undocumented parents when he was 1. After DACA was rolled back, Paley interviewed the boxer and his family, about his uncertain future. His story aired on the “PBS NewsHour.”

“It shows that sports stories are more than scores and highlights,” Paley said. “In this case, a sports story put a face on a national issue.”

In the Cronkite News Los Angeles Sports Bureau, students cover sports in the nation’s second largest media market, which leads to experiences stories on the dangers of sports specialization in youth sports and rising concerns about sports gambling and addiction.
students normally wouldn’t have until they are in the professional world, said Tom Feuer, director of the LA Sports Bureau. Students regularly cover sports for national and regional sports outlets such as FOX Sports West, the Pac-12 Network and Los Angeles-area broadcast stations.

“We sharpen their skills in all facets of production and on camera presentation,” Feuer said. “We have had really good success at students coming out of our bureau and getting jobs in the industry. That is what we hang our hat on.”

Students work regularly on a new 30-minute show for the Pac-12 Network called “Crosstown Stories,” featuring deeper storytelling on athletes and coaches at UCLA and USC, Feuer said. The show is completely student hosted and produced.

“I am only 20 and producing a show for an actual network — it is a huge achievement,” said Hailey Koebrick, producer of the show and a senior studying sports broadcast journalism and political science. “I go to work every day. A lot of journalism schools don’t have that environment.”

In Los Angeles, Kyra Goodman wrote about two-time Olympic medalist Reid Priddy, who was making the transition from indoor to beach volleyball. Shooting one of her favorite sports on the Southern California beaches — Goodman said it doesn’t get better than that.
Students in the Cronkite School’s New Media Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab are pushing the limits in digital storytelling. After a semester in the lab, students can create video games, mobile applications and 3D scenes for virtual reality – all to help newsrooms tell stories in new ways, said Retha Hill, director of the lab.

“One side of the lab is innovation, where we’re using cutting-edge technology to tell stories,” Hill said. “And the other side is entrepreneurship. Usually every semester, I’ll have students who have ideas for their own businesses.”

Students spent the first half of the 2017 fall semester learning video game storytelling. After fall break, the focus switched to 360-degree video and augmented reality, so students could leave the lab with the experience of building an original game, shooting a 360-degree video and creating an augmented reality program.

Graduate student Veronica Stodolnik worked with classmates to create “Miguel and His Paper Wars,” a game set during the Spanish-American War, when Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst were engaged in a head-to-head circulation war. The game was played through the perspective of the little boy, Miguel.

“We were trying to teach people about journalism, but also, it’s kind of cool because you’re a little boy running around this town,” Stodolnik said.

During Stodolnik’s time in the lab, the VR theme was “quirkiness exclusive to Phoenix,” so she and her group did a project on a taxidermy shop in downtown Phoenix.
From promoting a student documentary to creating a website and logo for About Care, a nonprofit that provides support services for East Valley seniors, recent graduate Caitlin Bohrer accomplished a lot in her three semesters with the Cronkite Public Relations Lab.

She also credits the hands-on experience with preparing her for post-graduation communications and public relations work, including handling media relations for Charter One and managing more than 20 social media accounts for the American Leadership Academy.

“I got a lot of hands-on opportunities managing different clients and different projects. I really built up my portfolio,” Bohrer said.

The lab provides an intensive learning environment where senior-level students and graduate students work with actual clients, said Fran Matera, associate professor and director of the lab.

Clients range from startups to Fortune 500 companies. In the fall of 2017, students worked with the U.S. State Department and the Institute of International Education to design a digital celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows Program, which brings professionals from around the world to study at U.S. universities for a year.

Savannah Harrelson, who worked on promoting the 2018 Phoenix St. Patrick’s Day Parade while in the lab, enjoyed seeing her project go from the planning stages to fruition.

“The parade was so cool because we actually got to go see it live,” Harrelson said.

The lab, she said, “is something unique that Cronkite has to offer.”
Students at the Cronkite School don’t just win awards. They make history.

In the 2017-2018 school year, a team of students collaborated with journalists at The Arizona Republic on a ground-breaking project that featured video footage of the entire 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border. The project went on to win the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in Explanatory Reporting.

Students also won one of the top awards in intercollegiate journalism, the Student Edward R. Murrow Award for Excellence. The win was the fourth since 2015, the most of any journalism school in the country.

In the Hearst Journalism Awards, known as the Pulitzer Prizes of collegiate journalism, the Cronkite School extended its consecutive streak of top-10 finishes to 17 years.
The Cronkite School has dominated the Student Production Awards competition, winning 42 student production awards since 2009, more than any other journalism program in the region.

Cronkite students have won 147 awards at the Festival of Media Arts in the past nine years, more than any school in the country.

Over the past decade, Cronkite students have tallied 458 awards in the regional SPJ Mark of Excellence contest, the most of any journalism program in the region.

Society of Professional Journalists’ Mark of Excellence Awards

Broadcast Education Association Festival of Media Arts

Rocky Mountain Emmys Student Production Awards
Student Edward R. Murrow Award

**Excellence in Digital Reporting**

Hearst Journalism Awards

Overall results:
- Ninth in nation
- Broadcast: Fifth in nation
- Writing: Eighth in nation
- Multimedia: 11th in nation
- Photo: 15th in nation

**National Journalism Championship**

**Broadcast News**
Finalist: Lillian Donahue

**Category Winners**

**Television – News**
First: Lillian Donahue

**Breaking News Writing**
Second: Megan Janetsky

**Multimedia – Enterprise**
Seventh: Craig Johnson

**Radio News and Features**
Eighth: Bridget Dowd

**Sports Writing**
Eighth: Fabian Ardaya

**Personality/Profile Writing**
16th: Mia Atkins

SABEW Best in Business
Winner: Emily L. Mahoney and Charles T. Clark, with contributions from Ryan Santistevan, Lily Altavena, Nicole Tsau, Kelsey Hess, Joshua Bowling, Sarah Jarvis and Ben Moffat, “Arizona Owners Can Lose Homes Over as Little as $50 in Back Taxes,” The Arizona Republic

National Native Media Awards

**General Excellence in Student Coverage**
Second: Cronkite News, Indian Country coverage

**TV – Best Feature**
First: Adriana De Alba, “Veterinary Science,” Cronkite News
Second: Katie Bieri, “Border Wall,” Cronkite News

**Print/Online – Best News Story**
Second: Lily Altavena, “Hopi High Hires Investigators to Examine Special Education,” Cronkite News

**Print/Online – Best Feature Story**

National SPJ Mark of Excellence Awards

**Online/Digital Sports Videography**
Winner: Zac Pacleb, “GCU’s Russell gets ‘one shining moment’ on Final Four floor,” Cronkite News

**Online Opinion & Commentary**
Winner: State Press Editorial Board

**Broadcast News Videography**
Finalist: Lillian Donahue, “Trade Drives Rise of Middle Class in Mexico,” Querétaro: Promise of Prosperity for Mexico

**Online News Reporting**
Finalist: Ryan Santistevan and Ben Moffat, “Opioid overdose deaths continue to mount,” Hooked Rx: From Prescription to Addiction

**Broadcast Sports Videography**

**Online/Digital News Videography**
Finalist: Melanie Abramoff, “Unstable ground in Pinal County,” Cronkite News
BEA Festival of Media Arts

**Student Newscast**

Best of Festival: Maya Patrose, Chase Boeke and Jade Nicole Yeban, Cronkite News, Nov. 16, 2017

**Television Hard News**

First (tie): Adriana De Alba, “Border Wall Encroaches on Texas Retirement Community,” Cronkite News


**Television Sports Talent (Anchor/Host)**

First: Zac Pacleb, sports reel

**Television Feature**

Third: Adriana De Alba, “Kayenta Agricultural Program Helps Navajo Students,” Cronkite News

**Television Sports Story/Feature**


**Television Sports News Program**

Award of Excellence: Troy Lynch and Blaine McCormick, “ASU Football Show Episode 12,” SBNation: House of Sparky

**Student Documentary**

Award of Excellence: Kristina Vicario, Louisa Stanwich and Allie Barton, “MANZO”

Award of Excellence: Tyler Paley, “Fighting for Fearlessness,” Cronkite News (also appeared on Fox Sports Arizona and Arizona Horizon)

**Educational Program**

Award of Excellence: Adrienne St. Clair and Andrew Nicla, “In Focus DACA Special Report,” Cronkite News

Award of Excellence: Blake Benard, “A Unique Approach to Training,” Cronkite News

**Rocky Mountain Emmy Student Production Awards**

**General Assignment**

Winner: Adriana De Alba, “Border Wall Encroaches on Texas Retirement Community,” Cronkite News

**Public Affairs/Community Service**

Winner: Louisa Stanwich, Allie Barton and Kristina Vicario, “MANZO,” documentary

**Sports**


**Arts and Entertainment/Cultural Affairs**


**Long Form: Fiction/Non-Fiction**

Winner: Adriana De Alba, Allison Bailey, Sierra Theobald and Brianna Davis, “Let Them Bee,” documentary

**Video Essay (Single Camera Only)**

Winner: Katie Bieri, “Hummingbird Migration in Arizona,” Cronkite News

**Talent**

Winner: Katie Bieri, “Talent Reel”

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Cronkite Students Work on Ground-breaking Pulitzer-winning Project

By Kalle Benallie

Three Cronkite School students were embedded in The Arizona Republic newsroom looking at video footage of the U.S.-Mexico border for weeks.

Their hard work paid off.

In April, they discovered that they were part of a team of journalists and photographers from the Republic and the USA Today Network that won the 2018 Pulitzer Prize in Explanatory Reporting.

Okechi Apakama, Gregory Walsh and Brendan Walker were among the Cronkite students who played an important role in “The Wall,” which featured video footage of every foot of the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border. The project was published on Sept. 22, 2017, on azcentral.com and USA Today. It allowed users to travel the border virtually, viewing barriers, examining topography and learning about the people who live in the border region.

To create the map, Apakama, Walker and Walsh worked with Shea Lemar, geographic information system project manager at ASU’s School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning, utilizing aerial footage taken from a helicopter. The students combed through 20-plus hours of footage multiple times, linking every second to its location on the map.

Apakama said the 12 weeks it took to complete the project involved a lot teamwork which made it special.

“There was no way we could have done this without everyone who was just working hours and hours and days and weeks for this,” he said.

Apakama and Walker said they were both in disbelief that they were a part of a project that won the prestigious award.

“I was at a loss for words because all three of us were college students participating in a project that won the Pulitzer Prize — not many people get to win that award,” Walker said. “I just felt special to be part of that.”

Walsh said it was inspiring to work on the project, which helped people experience the entire U.S.-Mexico border in a new way.

Cronkite students Nicole Gimpl, Robert Gundran and Ryan Santistevan also worked on the project, providing key research. Santistevan was a Pulliam Fellow at the Republic and worked with reporter Daniel Gonzalez on a story about migrants who died during the treacherous journey crossing the Sonoran Desert.

“Working on this project was an amazing experience because I want to become an investigative border reporter,” Santistevan said.

She was in the Republic newsroom when the Pulitzer was announced in April 2018. “That we won was so incredible. It was so surreal to be a part of that.”

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Cronkite School junior Nicole Neri started shooting photos at age 13 when she borrowed her twin sister’s point-and-shoot camera. From there, she took photos for her high school newspaper and yearbook. While at Cronkite, she has been on the front lines of major national news stories in the Valley, photographing President Donald Trump’s 2017 rally, the women’s march in 2017 and stories about migrants.

“I try to do good with my photos by showing things as they are, but my main driver is to learn about people and their experiences,” Neri said.

The versatile photographer is the winner of 2018 Greg Crowder Memorial Photojournalism Award. Her photos have appeared in Reuters, The Arizona Republic, the Lincoln (Nebraska) Journal Star, Cronkite News and the Downtown Devil.

Neri is on the photo and video team for Cronkite News, works as the Downtown Devil photo editor, and is a photographer for the ASU Enterprise Marketing Hub. She plans to pursue a career in photojournalism as a staff photographer at a news organization.

The Crowder Award was created in 2010 to honor Cronkite alumnus and photojournalist Greg Crowder, a 1980 graduate and longtime photojournalist at The Riverside Press Enterprise in California who passed away in 2005. While a student at ASU, he worked for The State Press, ASU’s independent student-run newspaper, and interned at The Arizona Republic.

Crowder’s parents, Troy and Betsy Crowder of Chandler, established the award and an endowment at the Cronkite School to honor the life and spirit of their late son. Since the first Crowder Award contest, 27 students have been recognized, with some going on to work for leading media outlets such as The Arizona Republic, Minneapolis Star Tribune, The San Francisco Chronicle and Statesman Journal in Salem, Oregon.

Neri received the $1,000 prize and her photos are on exhibit at the Cronkite School for a year.

2018 Crowder Award Honorees
Winner: Nicole Neri
Second place: Ben Moffat
Honorable mentions: Megan Janetsky and Anya Magnuson

2018 Crowder Award Judges
Kristin Gilger, senior associate dean, Cronkite School
Con Keyes, former photo editor, Los Angeles Times
Chris Shlemon, member of the White House News Photographers Association

To view winning photo entries since 2010, go to cronkite.asu.edu/crowderwinners.
Cronkite PR Student Jackson Dorsey Wins Aspire Award

By Kaleb Martinez

Two weeks into his college career at the Cronkite School, Jackson Dorsey decided to shift his focus to public relations. From that moment, he thrived on creating professional marketing and communication campaigns for a wide range of clients in the school's Public Relations Lab.

Dorsey’s efforts earned him the 2018 Aspire Award, the school’s top public relations award, established in honor of Enid R. Pansky by her son Scott Pansky, co-founder of the global public relations firm Allison+Partners, and his wife Yovita.

The PR Lab Mentorship Lecture, established in honor of Enid R. Pansky, is the Cronkite School’s signature public relations event. The annual lecture and award program is made possible, in part, through a gift from Scott Pansky, co-founder of Allison+Partners, a global public relations firm. The lecture honors the entrepreneurial spirit of Pansky’s mother, who served as a mentor to many.

What (the Cronkite School) offered, and what it gave me, were tremendous opportunities and connections that I wouldn’t have found anywhere else,” Dorsey said. “It gave me the ability to develop my skillset … and be ready for the next advancement and installment of my career.”

Each recipient of the Aspire Award is paired with a prominent communications leader to discuss career goals, review their portfolios, and build a professional relationship in the lead-up to the mentorship lecture. Dorsey worked with Alex Thompson, vice president of brand stewardship and impact at Recreational Equipment Inc., best known as REI.

“If you talk about a golden opportunity, the mentorship with Alex is that,” Dorsey said. Dorsey’s passion for the outdoors was sparked when he got a job as a supervisor at a country club in his home state of South Dakota. He used his PR skills to develop and market a digital application for Get Out Golf, a startup company.

In 2016, Dorsey co-founded the Tom Pfeifle Memorial, LLC, a nonprofit organization that created a 5K run/walk event that has raised more than $12,000. He established the organization in memory of a close friend who died in an outdoor accident. All proceeds were donated to the Wilderness Society.

After graduating in May, Dorsey entered the University of Oregon, where he is pursuing a master’s degree in sports project management.
Zach Quinn, ‘The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon’

“Any school can teach you how to write, shoot and edit, but Cronkite taught me something far more valuable: How to react and adapt under deadline pressure and function in a professional setting while also developing invaluable contacts and mentorships. Interning at ‘The Tonight Show’ has been a goal of mine since I was in middle school.”

Keerthi Vedantam, Axios

“I worked with the video team in scripting and storyboarding videos, creating animations and editing footage. I got to see firsthand the calculated decisions my department made when making content. Why are we making this? How does it influence the media landscape? Having to answer those questions made me more purposeful and meticulous in my work. I learned a lot of the technical skills at Cronkite (video editing, shooting, lighting, audio production) as well as how to exercise similar editorial intuition.”
Samie Gebers, Hawaii News Now in Honolulu
“I was immersed into a new culture, and the islands felt like a whole new world. I had to learn about a new market, and fast. In every way, this internship helped me prepare for my future as a broadcast journalist.”

Ariella Nardizzi, WBZ-TV in Boston
“I interned with the investigative unit at WBZ-TV this summer with a team focused on long-term investigative projects. I worked closely with the producer and videographer. I conducted interviews and researched stories, on top of learning script writing. At Cronkite, each internship leads to another opportunity or challenge.”

Austin Westfall, Hawaii News Now in Honolulu
“The coolest part of the internship was reporting on this year’s volcano eruption. I quickly became somewhat of an expert on the Kilauea volcano, pitching and executing unique story ideas about the eruption ravaging the Big Island. I followed the volcano beat all summer.”

Hailey Mensik, Chicago Tribune
“I wrote deadline stories about big companies in Chicago and pitched and reported on bigger issues that interested me. I’m grateful Cronkite understands the value of learning from experience and pushes us to get great internships.”
Taylor Carmichael, Work In Sports in Phoenix

“As a social media intern, I was asked to create content strategy, graphics and manage platform interactions that catered to our sports-loving audience. It made me become more aware of my strengths as a journalist, but even more conscious of how I could be better.”

Derek Hall, The Seattle Times

“I was general assignment on the business desk, where I wrote a wide range of stories. I covered major companies. I wrote five deadline stories on the first marijuana company to successfully launch an IPO in the U.S., covering the story from the initial filings through the first days of trading. Editors expected me to know how to find relevant information in business filings, and I knew because of Andrew Leckey’s business classes at Cronkite.”

Charlene Santiago, Univision Arizona

“I interned at Univision Arizona for two semesters, and that has been my favorite internship because I want to work in Spanish news. And it was at Univision, where I learned how to cover the local Hispanic community on immigration and breaking news.”

Katherine Chase, 21st Century Fox, Los Angeles

“Interning at 21st Century Fox was one of the best experiences of my life. I gained great experience in a huge corporate environment and learned something new every day. And a perk, I had to talk to and meet many famous producers, directors and actors while there.”

Taylor Carmichael, Work In Sports in Phoenix

“As a social media intern, I was asked to create content strategy, graphics and manage platform interactions that catered to our sports-loving audience. It made me become more aware of my strengths as a journalist, but even more conscious of how I could be better.”
The Cronkite School's reach into the community and the nation continues to grow.

A new fellowship program with the Mayo Clinic will help deepen coverage of medical issues nationwide. A new partnership with the Ruderman Foundation will result in a bigger spotlight on people with disabilities.

And the Cronkite School continues its work on training future journalists, both those in college and in high school, providing them the most up-to-date reporting tools.

In all of these programs, for professionals and students, Cronkite faculty and staff share their expertise in entrepreneurship, digital media, business journalism and sports journalism, among other topics.
New Mayo Clinic-Cronkite Fellowship Aims to Deepen Medical Reporting

In a new joint fellowship program, the Cronkite School and Mayo Clinic in Arizona brought 16 leading journalists to Phoenix in May for five days of interactive workshops and seminars teaching sophisticated coverage of medical stories.

Journalists from The New York Times, USA Today, CBS News and Univision were among the participants in the first Mayo Clinic-Cronkite Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic’s campuses in Phoenix and Scottsdale and the Cronkite School on ASU’s Downtown Phoenix campus.

Julia Wallace, Cronkite’s Frank Russell Chair and former editor-in-chief of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, is leading the new fellowship program.

“We had an amazing week, with some of the top medical journalists in the country learning from the best talent at the Cronkite School and Mayo Clinic,” Wallace said.

At the Mayo Clinic, fellows attended sessions on regenerative medicine, augmented human intelligence and other medical innovations and participated in a hands-on experience that simulated the high-pressure situations doctors face in emergency and operating rooms.

Instructors included neurosurgery expert Dr. Bernard Bendok, women’s health internal medicine expert Dr. Jewel Kling, critical care expert Dr. Ayan Sen and neurologist Dr. Joseph Sirven.

“Education is a fundamental part of Mayo’s mission as a not-for-profit academic medical center,” said Dr. John Wald, a neuro-radiologist and the medical director of public affairs at Mayo Clinic. “This program, in collaboration with Cronkite, is a wonderful way for journalists to receive hands-on training to cover medical stories.”

Sessions at Cronkite included workshops on data journalism, narrative writing, video storytelling and social media and digital metrics. Lectures also covered “fake” stories in health care, challenges for female physicians and other timely topics.

Instructors included Leonard Downie Jr., former executive editor of The Washington Post and current Weil Family Professor of Journalism at the Cronkite School; analytics expert Jessica Pucci; and former New York Times Phoenix Bureau Chief Fernanda Santos, now a Southwest Borderlands Initiative Professor.

“This program, in collaboration with Mayo Clinic and ASU Alliance for Health Care, a research partnership designed to improve health care delivery through better reporting of medical issues.

“Journalists play a critical role in our public health system in communicating vital information to communities,” said Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan. “We are thrilled to be partnering with the Mayo Clinic, the world leader in patient care and research.”

Sixteen journalists from across the U.S. participate in a fellowship on health and medicine as part of the Mayo Clinic-Cronkite Fellowship. Photo by Kynan Marlin
Mayo Clinic-Cronkite Fellows

Kaitlyn Chana, founder and president, Reel Stories. Real People. Inc., Jacksonville, Florida
Hyacinth Empinado, multimedia producer, STAT, Boston
Sherry Hsieh, editor of startups and health, Orange County Business Journal, Irvine, California

Caroline Kee, health writer and reporter, formerly at BuzzFeed, New York
Beth Kutscher, senior news editor/health care, LinkedIn, San Francisco
Andy Marso, health care reporter, The Kansas City Star, Kansas City, Missouri
Ashley May, multiplatform producer, USA Today, Washington, D.C.
Lesley McClurg, science and health reporter, KQED/NPR, San Francisco
Priyanka Dayal McCluskey, health care reporter, The Boston Globe, Boston
Sheila Poole, reporter, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Atlanta
Sabriya Rice, health care reporter, The Dallas Morning News, Dallas
Kristen Jordan Shamus, columnist/reporter, Detroit Free Press, Detroit
Maria Alesia Sosa, digital journalist, Univision Noticias, Miami
The National Center on Disability and Journalism has been housed at the Cronkite School since 2008, offering resources and guidance for journalists, including a popular style guide that offers advice on the use of disability-related words and terms.

Each year, the center also administers a national contest honoring the best in disability reporting.

A Chicago Tribune investigation, “Suffering in Silence,” about the mistreatment of disabled adults in Illinois group homes won top honors in the 2017 Katherine Schneider Journalism Award for Excellence in Reporting on Disability.

The awards program was expanded in 2018 with the addition of the Ruderman Foundation Awards for Excellence in Reporting on Disability, which will recognize work by large-market digital, broadcast and print media outlets, with prizes of $10,000, $2,500 and $1,000 for first-, second- and third-place winners, respectively. The first Ruderman Family Awards will be presented at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., featuring a keynote address on disability journalism as well as a workshop about the ethics of reporting on disability.

At the same time, the Schneider Award will become the Katherine Schneider Medal and will honor small media outlets for outstanding disability reporting. The awards will range from $500 to $5,000.

Cronkite Senior Associate Dean Kristin Gilger, who directs the NCDJ, said people with disabilities make up at least 19 percent of the U.S. population — 54.4 million people — yet important disability issues still don’t get the attention they deserve and, too often, the coverage that does exist portrays people with disabilities in stereotypical or inaccurate ways.

“The support from the Ruderman Family Foundation and Katherine Schneider is an important step in helping journalists and the general public better understand people with disabilities and disability issues,” Gilger said.

Jay Ruderman, president of the Ruderman Family Foundation, said inclusion and understanding of all people is essential to a fair and flourishing society.

“All too often people with disabilities are portrayed as charity cases or objects of pity,” Ruderman said. “We hope that this award will change the landscape of journalism so that reporters will portray people with disabilities as active and contributing members of society.”

The NCDJ has administered the Schneider Awards since 2013 with the support of Schneider, a retired clinical psychologist who has been blind since birth.

The 2017 winners, Chicago Tribune reporters Michael J. Berens and Patricia Callahan, identified more than 1,300 cases of documented harm since July 2011 in Illinois taxpayer-funded group homes and their day programs.

Second place in the Schneider Awards went to the Brian M. Rosenthal of the Houston Chronicle for an investigation that revealed how Texas officials systematically denied special education services to thousands of children.

Mona Yeh, Sonya Green and Yuko Kodama won third place for reports aired on Seattle-Tacoma public radio station 91.3 KBCS chronicling the experiences of one wheelchair user trying to navigate public transportation in Seattle.

Honorable mention went to Belo Cipriani of The Bay Area Reporter. Cipriani, who is blind, wrote a series, “Seeing in the Dark,” about the disabled community in the Bay Area.
Cronkite’s Scripps Institute Ignites Entrepreneurial Spark

Jonathan Groves worked for 14 years as a newspaper reporter and editor before making the move to academia, and he knows how quickly the business model has been changing.

He and 12 other journalism professors from across the country were part of the Cronkite School’s annual Scripps Howard Journalism Entrepreneurship Institute, a rigorous five-day seminar exploring the concepts and practices of entrepreneurship within journalism.

Groves, a communications professor at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri, wanted to learn more about the future of journalism and the media — in particular revenue generation.

“We somehow become soiled by thinking about revenue and that’s not the case,” Groves said. “Now you have to think about revenue because there are limited resources.”

The institute, which ran from Jan. 2-6, 2018, was designed to help journalism professors to integrate entrepreneurship into their academic programs. The institute, which started in 2010, is made possible through a grant from the Scripps Howard Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the E.W. Scripps Company.

The 13 fellows were competitively selected, and each of their universities committed to offer a class in journalism entrepreneurship in the year following the fellowship.

Cronkite Professor of Practice Dan Gillmor, an internationally recognized author and authority in new media and entrepreneurship, led the institute, which featured sessions on the principles of entrepreneurship, digital product development and the startup culture.

“The Scripps Howard Journalism Entrepreneurship Institute takes the concepts and the spirit of entrepreneurship to journalism programs worldwide and throughout the nation,” Gillmor said. “We are thrilled to continue our work with the Scripps Howard Foundation on this important program for a seventh year.”

The Scripps Howard Foundation supports philanthropic causes important to the E.W. Scripps Company and the communities it serves, with a special emphasis on excellence in journalism. At the crossroads of the classroom and the newsroom, the foundation is a leader in supporting journalism education, scholarships, internships, minority recruitment and development, literacy and First Amendment causes.

By Kalle Benallie

Participating Professors

Yvette Benavides, Our Lady of the Lake University
Patricio Contreras, Universidad Alberto Hurtado
Michael DiBari, Hampton University
Melissa DiPento, ASU
Nathaniel Frederick II, Winthrop University
Jonathan Groves, Drury University
Summer Harlow, University of Houston
Julie James, University of North Texas
Kathy Kiely, University of New Hampshire
Christine Larson, University of Colorado, Boulder
Benjamin Shors, Washington State University
Matthew Swaine, Cardiff University
Brandon Szuminsky, Baldwin Wallace University

Participating Professors

Journalism professors from across the country learn how to bring entrepreneurship to their classrooms through the Scripps Howard Entrepreneurship Institute led by Dan Gillmor (far right). Photo by Camaron Stevenson
Top student journalists from across the country spent 10 days in late May at the Cronkite School for intensive digital journalism training as part of a Dow Jones News Fund internship program.

Twenty college students, including Samie Gebers, Charlene Santiago and Austin Westfall from Cronkite, received the latest digital media training before they headed to paid summer internships at news organizations, such as The Miami Herald, The Arizona Republic, Austin American-Statesman, Storyful, International Center for Journalists and Hawaii News Now.

“I didn’t know a thing about organizing information into a graphic presentation until the DJNF training,” said Samie Gebers, a Cronkite student. “When I got to my internship at Hawaii News Now, they asked around if someone could create a chart on tropical cyclones. If it hadn’t been for that training, I wouldn’t have been able to help them out. They went to me for all the informational graphics after that.”

The Cronkite School is the only institution in the country serving as a DJNF-sponsored digital training center for students. In response to growing demand for digital training, the 2018 cohort was expanded to 20 to include more students, said Mike Wong, director of Cronkite Career Services.

The nine-day program included lessons in visual storytelling, social media analytics, audience engagement, basic coding and podcast production. Following the program’s conclusion, students spent 10 to 12 weeks at paid digital internships across the nation.

“We expect this dynamic programming in 2018 to have significant impact for news organizations and aspiring journalists in an increasingly demanding, digital industry,” said Linda Shockley, managing director of Dow Jones News Fund.

Launched in 1960, the DJNF summer internship program supports seven training sites at leading journalism schools. This year, 82 undergraduate and graduate students were selected from more than 730 applicants for the program. Four were from the Cronkite School. Interns returning to college receive $1,000 scholarships.

2018 Dow Jones Multimedia Interns

Elizabeth Backo, Ohio University, The Arizona Republic
Neetish Basnet, University of Texas, Arlington, Dallas Business Journal
Elizabeth Castillo, California State University, Chico, CALmatters
Brooke Fisher, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, American City Business Journals
Samie Gebers, ASU, Hawaii News Now
Angela Gervasi, Temple University, Lexington Herald-Leader
Kathryn Hardison, University of Missouri, Storyful
Justin Hicks, New York University, San Angelo Standard-Times
Sierra Juarez, University of Texas, Austin, The Arizona Republic
Lauren Lee, Pennsylvania State University, Centre Daily Times
Christian Marquez, University of New Mexico, Searchlight New Mexico
Summer Journalism Institute Looks to Future

For two weeks each summer, students from across the country are introduced to journalism at the Cronkite Summer Journalism Institute. In June, 28 high school students from Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Mexico and North Carolina arrived for the Summer Journalism Institute in Phoenix. Students attended classes taught by Cronkite faculty, toured local media outlets and produced news stories.

The project is funded by the Arizona Broadcasters Association, Cronkite Endowment Board member Tom Chauncey, RIESTER advertising, the Dow Jones News Fund and alumni and friends of the school.

Classes included lessons on reporting, writing, multimedia journalism, videography, video editing, podcasting and social media. At the end of the two-week program, students worked with Cronkite faculty to produce a newscast, which included creating news packages, writing scripts and operating studio equipment.

The Summer Journalism Institute is led by Anita Luera, the Cronkite School’s director of high school journalism programs and the immediate past president of the Arizona Latino Media Association.

Classes were taught by Luera and Cronkite faculty and staff that included Associate Professor Craig Allen, Assistant Dean Rebecca Blatt, Cronkite News Executive Editor Christina Leonard, Director of Digital Audiences Programs Jessica Pucci, and Southwest Borderlands Professor Fernanda Santos. Cronkite alumna Megan Thompson, a reporter at ABC15 in Phoenix, also was among the instructors.

“Each year, the Summer Journalism Institute gets better and better,” Luera said. “These students are getting a great jump-start on their journalism careers. My greatest hope is to see many of them studying journalism at Cronkite in the next few years.”

Cecilia Mazanec, University of Florida, The Palm Beach Post
Narda Perez, University of Texas, Arlington, Austin American-Statesman
Cristobal Reyes-Rios, University of Central Florida, Miami Herald
Charlene Santiago, ASU, Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Eric Schmid, Stony Brook University, AccuWeather
Divya Thirunagari, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, International Center for Journalists
Tess Vrbin, University of Missouri, The Kansas City Star
Austin Westfall, ASU, Hawaii News Now
Paolo Zialcita, University of Nevada, Reno, Connecticut Public Radio.
2018 Cronkite Summer Journalism Institute Students

Pristina Benally, Chinle, Arizona
Brook Bowman, Cave Creek, Arizona
Kiara Cuvas, Fort Defiance, Arizona
Kiyahno Edgewater, Blue Gap, Arizona
Gabriel Fredericks, Kykotsmovi Village, Arizona
Om Gawali, Chandler, Arizona
Erin Griffith, Scottsdale, Arizona
Breanna Gruber, Phoenix
Jacqueline Gutierrez, Tucson, Arizona
Gabriel Hawthorne, Chandler, Arizona
Gabriella Herran, Sahuarita, Arizona
Sahra Hussen, Mesa, Arizona
Helen Innes, Phoenix
Emerald Izuakor, Raleigh, North Carolina
Gabriel Jerez, Tucson, Arizona
Ahlia Jones, Chandler, Arizona
Michayla Lopez, Queen Creek, Arizona
Donnie Minor Jr., Naperville, Illinois
Juliana Ortiz, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Kaitlyn Ourada, Glendale, Arizona
Robbie Patla, Durango, Colorado
Victor Robles Hernandez, Tolleson, Arizona
Aedan Rodriguez Rivas, Phoenix
Morgyn Stanley, Window Rock, Arizona
Madison Thomas, Douglas, Arizona
Madeleine Williamson, Gilbert, Arizona
Megan Yazzie, Window Rock, Arizona
Jessica Zhang, Concord, Massachusetts

Top to bottom: Summer Journalism Institute counselor Gabriel Gamiño Guerrero works with student Kiara Cuvas on film editing on an iPad.

High school students Breanna Gruber, Madeleine Williamson and Madison Thomas learn to produce a newscast.

Student Morgyn Stanley prepares video playback for the broadcast. Photos by Anita Luera

Left: Students Robert Patla (left) and Erin Griffith practice anchoring a show. Photo by Anita Luera

Donnie Minor Jr. (left) and Gabriel Gamiño Guerrero work behind the camera. Photo by Anita Luera
High School Students Experience Media Innovation at Cronkite School

Twenty high school students from across Arizona explored what it means to be a multimedia journalist during a two-week media innovation training camp at the Cronkite School in June.

The High School Media Innovation Camp, a joint venture of the Cronkite School, The Arizona Republic/azcentral.com and the USA Today Network, pairs high school students with entrepreneurs, technologists, journalists and professors to learn how to create compelling content for digital audiences.

The camp included sessions on news games, 3D model creation, 360-degree video and 3D printing, among other topics taught by Cronkite faculty and The Arizona Republic/azcentral.com staff.

The residential camp on ASU’s Downtown Phoenix campus was free to participants, thanks to support from The Arizona Republic’s Media in Education program, which is funded by subscribers who donate the value of their subscriptions during vacations or other temporary stoppages.


“Our ability to deliver deep and engaging stories is limited only by our imagination, and this camp is a place where imagination takes hold.”

The camp was led by Retha Hill, director of the Cronkite New Media Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab, and Anita Luera, the school’s director of high school journalism programs.

"The High School Media Innovation Camp exposes students to some of the latest cutting-edge technologies that are reshaping journalism," Hill said.

**2018 Media Innovation Students**

Mikayla Anderson, Fountain Hills, Arizona
Aubrey Carpenter, Goodyear, Arizona
Sydni Cloutier-Standiford, Chandler, Arizona
Riley Duemler, Mesa, Arizona
Anthony Ellerman, Chandler, Arizona
Talia Frindell, Scottsdale, Arizona
Amanda Hicks, Peoria, Arizona
Andrew Kim, Chandler, Arizona
Minha Kim, Phoenix
Minseo Kim, Phoenix
Alexandra Krueger, Scottsdale, Arizona
Connor MacSpadden, Phoenix
Xavier Martinez, Phoenix
Aaryan Mukherjee, Chandler, Arizona
Kris Ortiz, Douglas, Arizona
Melissa Rimsza, Scottsdale, Arizona
Sam Sario, Phoenix
Emmerald Smith, Mesa, Arizona
Mario Stinson-Maas, Tempe, Arizona
Eve Wodarcyk, Chandler, Arizona
High School Students Learn About Sports Journalism from the Pros

Thirty-two high school students from 16 states came to Phoenix for a two-week sports journalism summer camp in July, where they learned how to report on professional sports teams such as the Arizona Diamondbacks and Phoenix Mercury.

The students did play-by-play for a Diamondbacks game from the Chase Field press box and spoke with right fielder Steven Souza on the field. They interviewed Phoenix Mercury and Phoenix Rising players and attended a Manchester United soccer game together as fans. They also put together broadcast packages and anchored a sportscast.

The Cronkite Sports Broadcast Boot Camp gave the students an introduction to careers in sports journalism. And in the process, they formed deep friendships that continued beyond camp.

Students who decided to attend ASU after graduation from high school said those friendships helped them transition to college.

Students did play-by-play and sideline reporting, studio producing and live on-air reporting in the classroom and on the field under the leadership of Cronkite Professor of Practice Paola Boivin, former sports columnist for The Arizona Republic.

“One of the great things about this camp is the partnerships we have with the teams in town,” Boivin said. “We’re both grateful and fortunate, and our campers always say they are blown away by the ‘insider’ access.”

It was the fourth year of the camp, which is offered in partnership with the Diamondbacks, Mercury, the Phoenix Rising FC Soccer camp and other professional sports teams.

Mason Larson, an ASU freshman from Los Angeles, said he knew the Cronkite School was the place for him after he attended the summer camp.

“Seeing the technology and other resources Cronkite has, the outstanding mentors, and the hands-on experience the program provides, I knew it was a top-notch program,” Larson said.
Clockwise from top left: Matthew Venezia prepares to do a report before a Diamondbacks game. Boot camp students conduct an interview at a Phoenix Rising soccer practice. Students pose for pictures at the Phoenix Mercury’s center court.

Left: Trey Weston (right) and Cameron Ezeir anchor a newscast from the Cronkite School. Photos by Paola Boivin

2018 Sports Boot Camp Students

Carter Bainbridge, Franklin, Tennessee
Nicholas Borgia, Los Gatos, California
Blaise Breaux, St. Martinsville, Louisiana
Dylan Busby, Pinehurst, Texas
Michael Carano, Charlotte, North Carolina
Benjamin Cohen, Providence, Rhode Island
Mihaela Davies, Greenwich, Connecticut
Carter Day, Litchfield, Connecticut
Cameron Ezeir, LaJolla, California
Alison Feinberg, Sterling, Virginia
Kevin Gatti, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania
Theresa Hemberger, Lawrence, New Jersey
Ezequiel Idelson, Oakland, California
Carlo Jimenez, Campbell, California
Bradley Kaltenthaler, Julian, California
Annelise Kofod, Raleigh, North Carolina

Alexander Landowski, Houston, Texas
Samuel Madrigal, Oviedo, Florida
Remy Mastey, New Rochelle, New York
Brendan Mau, Anthem, Arizona
Cullen McCarthy, Glendale, California
Onalisa Mitchell, San Francisco, California
Lucas Owens, Saratoga, California
Ethan Piechota, Long Beach, California
Ben Pokorny, Barrington, Illinois
Elizabeth Seaver, Vancouver, Washington
Gregory Settos, Westport, Connecticut
Brenden Slomka, Charlotte, North Carolina
Charlie Steenberge, Ballwin, Missouri
Sophia Torres, Victorville, California
Matthew Venezia, Haymarket, Virginia

Trey Weston, Chesterfield, Missouri

Clockwise from top left: Matthew Venezia prepares to do a report before a Diamondbacks game. Boot camp students conduct an interview at a Phoenix Rising soccer practice. Students pose for pictures at the Phoenix Mercury’s center court.

Left: Trey Weston (right) and Cameron Ezeir anchor a newscast from the Cronkite School. Photos by Paola Boivin
Global Programs

Cronkite Students are not just studying abroad, they are reporting around the world on everything from hurricanes to golf. And, from Scotland to Albania and Pakistan, the Cronkite School is building partnerships across the globe.

Faculty are leading the school’s global outreach efforts, teaching journalism worldwide and building bridges through programs such as the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship program for visiting journalists.

“Through initiatives such as the Humphrey Fellowship program, we literally bring the world into our classrooms,” said Assistant Dean B. William Silcock, director of Cronkite Global Initiatives. “Now, we’re also bringing Cronkite around the world through innovative programs in Albania and Pakistan.”

Borderlands Students Report from Puerto Rico on Hurricane Maria’s Aftermath

When Cronkite student Charlene Santiago traveled to Puerto Rico to report on the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, it was more than just another news story to her.

Born and raised in Canóvanas, Puerto Rico, she said it was difficult for her to see the devastation of her homeland. Santiago was one of 19 students participating in this year’s Southwest Borderlands class, in which students study and report on transnational issues.

“For me, it was eye-opening that this is what I’m going to be able to do as a reporter,” Santiago said.

Not only did she get to meet and work with reporters who she grew up watching, but she stood next to Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló as he made a speech about the hurricane.

The depth reporting project was led by Southwest Borderlands Initiative Professor Rick Rodriguez and Professor of Practice Jason Manning. To prepare for the trip to Puerto Rico over spring break, the students spent significant time researching the country’s history, arranging interviews and preparing themselves for the challenges to come.

From a base in Bayamon, just outside San Juan, students traveled all over the island to report their stories.

“We went from one end of the island to the other to chase stories,” Rodriguez said.

Cronkite student Sydney Maki did a

cronkitenews.azpbs.org/2018/puerto-rico-restless-and-resilient
Puerto Rico: Restless and Resilient
On Sept. 20, 2017, Puerto Rico was devastated by the most powerful hurricane to hit the island in 85 years, leaving its 3.6 million residents without power, without potable water, with severely damaged infrastructure and with little hope for a quick recovery. In March 2018, a team of student reporters from the Cronkite School traveled to Puerto Rico to assess recovery efforts. They found parts of the island still devastated, but its people determined to rebuild and move forward. Photos by Cronkite Borderlands students.

The Southwest Borderlands Initiatives is made possible by a grant from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, a private foundation working to improve the standard of living and quality of life for the world’s most impoverished and marginalized populations.

“Being there, you’re able to tell stories in a new way. You can be more specific and actually get photos and videos so that was really cool,” she said.

The people she met had an impact on her, and she was impressed by their endurance under difficult conditions. She also valued putting her Cronkite classroom knowledge to work in the field.

“It’s a good opportunity to step outside of your comfort zone,” she said.

The students’ stories have been published on Univision in both Puerto Rico and Arizona and on Cronkite News and its website.

“This was the first project that we did extensive reporting in both English and Spanish,” Rodriguez said.

Going into a different country, “you’ve got one shot, so you have to have everything organized; it teaches them how to plan,” Rodriguez added.

“The other thing it does is gives you confidence.”

Maki didn’t miss the big picture: “Shining a light on really important issues was a big perk of the trip for me,” she said.

Sierra Poore contributed to this report.
Coming from Egypt, China, Uruguay and other countries around the globe, 12 journalism professionals, fellows of the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship in Journalism, had an eye-opening year at the Cronkite School.

The program, in partnership with the U.S. State Department and the Institute of International Education, invites highly-accomplished international journalists to selected universities in the U.S. for 10 months of academic study and professional interaction.

Holger Roonemaa of Estonia said he learned far more than he ever imagined from other fellows in the program and the people he met in the U.S.

“It’s just amazing to share the experience,” Roonemaa said. “To see, to hear about similar problems and feelings that we have about journalism and about our careers.”

Roonemaa took classes at the Cronkite School and traveled the country, including visits to The Washington Post in Washington, D.C., and BuzzFeed in San Francisco. He also got three stories published on BuzzFeed.

“The Humphrey Program brings Cronkite students closer to major global issues,” said Assistant Dean B. William Silcock, director of the Cronkite Global Initiatives and curator of the Humphrey program. “Doing so opens doors of understanding and...”
1. **Martin Aguirre**, Uruguay, is the newsroom director of El País, the largest newspaper in Uruguay. With more than 15 years of experience, Aguirre has covered a variety of topics, from politics to sports. He also is a lawyer and a college professor.

2. **Ahmed Elashry**, Egypt, works at the Middle East Africa Strategic Advisors, where he develops policies for companies and organizations. Elashry, a lawyer, founded a youth-run radio program and works with the Women’s International Peace Movement.

3. **Daneel Knoetze**, South Africa, is communications officer at Ndifuna Ukwazi, a South African activist organization dedicated to constitutional rights and social justice. He reported for the Cape Argus and GroundUp, and freelanced for the Mail & Guardian.

4. **Kazi Mohua**, Bangladesh, has been an anchor and current affairs editor for nearly a decade, anchoring news and talk shows for a 24/7 news channel. Mohua also is an op-ed writer and a motivational speaker, empowering women in journalism.

5. **Mila Moralic**, Croatia, has more than 10 years of experience as a journalist, with a focus on foreign policy and international affairs. She works as an executive editor at Media Servis, the Croatian national radio news agency.

6. **Paul Udoto Nyongesa**, Kenya, has more than 20 years of experience as a high-school teacher, journalist and communications expert. Nyongesa has written about wildlife and tourism for a variety of publications.

7. **Szabolcs Panyi**, Hungary, is an investigative journalist at Hungary’s news site, Index.hu. He won the Gőbölyős Soma Prize for the best investigative articles in his country in 2015 and 2016. He focuses on anti-corruption and national security.

8. **Bopha Phorn**, Cambodia, has covered economics, politics, corruption, crime, security, environmental and social issues for more than a decade. She is a stringer for Voice of America and worked at Deutsche Presse Agentur and The Cambodia Daily.

9. **Marina Ridjic**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, has been a journalist for more than a decade and is a news presenter for Al Jazeera Balkans. Her reporting focuses on politics — in particular campaigns and elections.

10. **Holger Roonemaa**, Estonia, is the head of news for Eesti Päevaleht and delfi.ee. Under his leadership, his reporters have won national journalism awards. He has expertise in politics, defense and security, corruption and crime.

11. **Kiran Somvanshi**, India, is the chief manager at the research bureau of India’s leading financial daily, The Economic Times. She has a decade of experience in financial journalism, tracking consumer goods and pharmaceutical companies.

12. **Xiaofeng Wang**, China, is a senior journalist with the Beijing News, where she has worked for six years covering political and international news with a focus on China’s foreign policy. Wang has traveled to many Asian countries to cover regional issues.
Eight Cronkite faculty members traveled to Pakistan in 2017 and 2018 as part of two U.S. State Department grants designed to bolster journalism and journalism education in that country.

Senior Associate Dean Kristin Gilger, Assistant Dean B. William Silcock and Cronkite Associate Professors Dawn Gilpin, Joseph Russomanno and Leslie-Jean Thornton participated in an academic conference for journalism educators in Lahore, Pakistan, that was the culmination of a three-year collaboration with the University of Punjab.

In the years prior to the conference, the grant brought seven faculty members from the University of Punjab to spend a semester at the Cronkite School, where they were paired with faculty mentors to pursue research projects and improve their teaching. Gilger, Silcock and former Senior Associate Dean Marianne Barrett also made separate trips to Pakistan to share teaching and research methods.

The three-year exchange resulted in a number of research collaborations, including a paper on ethical considerations in political cartooning co-authored by Russomanno and University of Punjab communications faculty member Ayesha Ashfaq. Even more significantly, it “helped to build bridges between scholars at ASU and that important region of the world,” Gilpin said.

The Cronkite School partnered with the ASU Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict on the project.

Another U.S. State Department grant took Silcock and Cronkite Professors of Practice Jason Manning and Theresa Poulson to three cities in Pakistan to conduct workshops for journalists who cover politics and elections. Nearly 80 journalists attended the two-day workshops in Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi, which covered everything from polling to ethics and social media. The project led to the development of a “Reporting Elections” website with permanent resources for Pakistani journalists and educators. It also resulted in the creation of new courses at several Pakistani universities, modeled on one Manning developed for ASU students on politics and the media. ■
Cronkite Takes ‘Teaching Hospital’ to Albania

The Cronkite School is building the skills of Albanian investigative journalists by teaching them innovative ways to convey stories across media platforms.

In March 2017, Cronkite instructor Theresa Poulson and six Cronkite graduate students spent a week in Albania working with young reporters on a series of investigative stories.

Later in the year, Julia Wallace, the school’s Frank Russell Chair, helped young Albanian journalists pitch, research and develop an additional group of in-depth stories.

In June of this year, Assistant Dean B. William Silcock led a team of Albanian journalists who created a 30-minute TV news magazine documenting issues in five Albanian cities.

The cross-cultural teams of Albanian and American faculty taught the importance and value of a free press, using lectures and field reporting experiences, said Silcock, who is director of Cronkite Global Initiatives. He also traveled to Albania to assist with training.

The Albanian journalists produced stories spotlighting historic elements, unique characteristics and problems of five Albanian cities.

Albanian students evaluating the experience had a common complaint:

“More, please.” They only wished the program would have lasted longer, Silcock said.

Luce Foundation Supports Closing Gap Between Religion Scholars and Journalists

The Cronkite School is part of a national effort to improve media coverage of religion in the U.S.

With the support of a grant from the Henry Luce Foundation, the school is partnering with the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict at ASU to hold a series of workshops that bring together faculty in religion, the humanities and journalism as well as journalism practitioners. The $60,000 grant also supports several public lectures and the development of a course at ASU on media and religion.

ASU is one of three universities to receive support from the Luce/American Council of Learned Societies Program in Religion, Journalism and International Affairs to promote greater interaction between religion scholars and journalists who report and write about religion.

“We hope to bridge the gap between scholars and journalists in order to improve coverage of religion in this country,” said Cronkite Senior Associate Dean Kristin Gilger.

She said scholars often don’t know how to get their work into the media, while journalists often focus on conflict and reinforce stereotypes that misrepresent or don’t accurately capture religious thought and practice.

John Carlson, associate director of the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, said the overarching theme of the program is the vital role civil society plays in democratic societies.

“There have been significant attacks in recent years against the authority of scholars and journalists alike,” Carlson said. “These professions are indispensable to democracy, and they stand to benefit from working together and sharing critical insights.”

Participating Cronkite faculty are Assistant Professor Syed Ali Hussain, Cronkite News Borderlands Director Vanessa Ruiz, Associate Professor Joseph Russomanno and Southwest Borderlands Initiative Professor Fernanda Santos.

Local journalists who are participating include Luige del Puerto, associate publisher and editor at the Arizona News Service, which publishes Arizona Capitol Times; Mark Curtis, longtime anchor at 12 News in Phoenix; Maria Polletta, political reporter for The Arizona Republic; and Sarah Ventre, a producer at KJZZ, the NPR affiliate in Phoenix.

Anand Gopal, assistant research professor with the Center for the Study of Religion and Conflict, is helping direct the project. Gopal has covered Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan for multiple news outlets and is the author of “No Good Men Among the Living: America, the Taliban, and the War Through Afghan Eyes.”

The Luce Foundation was established in 1936 by Henry Luce, co-founder and editor of Time Inc., to honor his parents, who were missionary educators in China. The foundation seeks to bring important ideas to the center of American life, strengthen international understanding and foster innovation and leadership in academic, policy, religious and art communities.
Cronkite Students Study in Scotland, the Birthplace of Golf

By Marshall Terrill

Fourteen days. Twelve students. Seven cities. Cool stories. Haggis.

A dozen Cronkite students ventured to Scotland for an immersive study of golf and its cultural roots.

“We wanted to create a news operation in a foreign country but also provide a one-of-a-kind experience, while putting something on their resumes that helps set them apart,” said Brett Kurland, director of sports programs at the Cronkite School.

Since the Cronkite School announced new sports journalism degrees in 2014, students have covered major sporting events, including the Super Bowl and NCAA Final Four. Cronkite took students to the Summer Olympics in 2012 and 2016, and Kurland is currently working on a 2020 trip to Tokyo.

Kurland said the golf program in Scotland is Cronkite’s first sports journalism study-abroad not tied to the Summer Olympics, and he wants to do more programs like it.

“This trip was designed to open the door to international reporting for more sports journalism students,” said Kurland, who led the trip along with Cronkite doctoral student and faculty associate Gail Rhodes.

The group traveled to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth,
St. Andrews, Carnoustie, Aberdeen and Gullane to discover golf’s roots and report on the nuances of the game in the country where it was born.

Dining at Edinburgh Castle on haggis, a national dish of Scotland, was a necessary introduction to the culture of Scotland, students said.

“You know, it wasn't that bad,” said Drake Dunaway, a 24-year-old graduate student. “It gets a bad rap, pretty much like the American hot dog.”

Dunaway covered a story that has been plaguing golf around the world: how to invigorate the sport with newcomers. He visited courses and golf societies that are coming up with initiatives such as shorter courses, playing tee forward, team formation and prizes, no golf fees for players under 18, and speeding up the game.

Cronkite students also visited the British Golf Museum in St. Andrews, Glasgow Golf Club, the Royal Burgess Golfing Society, the St. Andrews Golf Company, the Scottish Open, the British Open and the iconic Old Course at St. Andrews. They shadowed NBC and Golf Channel reporters covering golf events.

A version of this story appeared in ASU Now on Aug. 13, 2018.

Clockwise from top: Cronkite students pose at St. Andrews Links, one of the oldest golf courses in the world.

Will Tyrell interviews Jonas Hedberg, golf operations manager at Trump Aberdeen in Scotland.

Golf Channel reporter Bailey Mosier, a Cronkite graduate, guides students through the media center at the Open Championship in Angus, Scotland.

Madison Kerley checks out golf equipment at a factory.

Photos courtesy of Brett Kurland
Our Events

The Cronkite School hosted some of the country’s leading journalists and communications professionals who offered inspiration and hope for the future of their profession.

Judy Woodruff, anchor and managing editor of PBS NewsHour, emphasized that it is the job of journalists to be the eyes and ears of the people, holding public officials accountable. Woodruff and her late friend and PBS colleague Gwen Ifill were honored with the 2017 Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism.

Other speakers explained how their role as political journalists have changed.

A panel on “Covering Washington in the Age of Trump” was a keynote event March 12, opening the new Barbara Barrett and Sandra Day O’Connor Washington Center, which also houses the Washington bureau of Cronkite News.

Panelist Chloe Arensberg, a senior producer at CBS This Morning, said journalists today have to give viewers more context. It’s not just enough to tell people what is happening, she said. “We also have to tell people simultaneously what it means, or what it could mean.”

Judy Woodruff and the Late Gwen Ifill Receive Cronkite Award

“PBS NewsHour” journalist Judy Woodruff pushed back against attacks on the news industry during a ceremony honoring her and her late co-host Gwen Ifill with the 2017 Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism.

Woodruff vigorously defended journalists against charges of “fake news.”

“I am not an enemy of the American people,” she said to rousing applause. “I love this country.”

Woodruff said it is the job of journalists to be the eyes and ears of the people, holding public officials accountable.

“This superb institution,” she said, referring to the Cronkite School, “turns out young men and women every year to go digging for news, searching for the stories that matter, enriching the pool of journalists in this country.”
Woodruff’s visit included an appearance on the public affairs program “Arizona Horizon” on Arizona PBS. She was interviewed by host Ted Simons on her career and friendship with Ifill as well as her memories of Walter Cronkite.

“He was avuncular,” Woodruff said. “He always had that twinkle in his eye. You could see it on television and in person; it was absolutely there.”

Woodruff and Ifill co-hosted the “PBS
Recipients of the Cronkite Award with their positions at the time of the award

2017 Judy Woodruff and Gwen Ifill, co-anchors and managing editors, “PBS NewsHour”
2016 Scott Pelley, anchor and managing editor, “CBS Evening News”
2014 Robin Roberts, anchor, “Good Morning America”
2013 Bob Schieffer, moderator, “Face the Nation”
2012 Bob Costas, host, “Football Night in America”
2011 Christiane Amanpour, anchor, “This Week with Christiane Amanpour”
2010 Diane Sawyer, anchor, “World News with Diane Sawyer”
2009 Brian Williams, anchor and managing editor, “NBC Nightly News”
2007 Jane Pauley, former anchor of NBC’s “Today Show” and founding co-host of “Dateline NBC”
2006 Tom Brokaw, former anchor, “NBC Nightly News”
2005 Dave Barry, Pulitzer Prize-winning humor columnist for The Miami Herald
2004 Charles Osgood, host of “The Osgood Files” and “CBS News Sunday Morning”
2003 Andy Rooney, “60 Minutes” correspondent
2002 Al Michaels, sportscaster, ABC Sports
2001 Bob Woodward, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for The Washington Post
2000 Cokie Roberts, ABC News correspondent
1999 Tom Johnson, president of CNN
1997 Roone Arledge, chairman of ABC News
1996 Charles Kuralt, former host of “On the Road” and “CBS News Sunday Morning”
1995 Bill Moyers, PBS host and producer
1994 Bernard Shaw, CNN anchor
1993 Helen Thomas, White House bureau chief of United Press International
1992 Don Hewitt, creator and executive producer of “60 Minutes”
1991 George Will, Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist and author
1990 Ted Turner, chairman and president of Turner Broadcasting System and founder of CNN
1989 Malcolm Forbes, publisher and editor-in-chief of Forbes magazine
1988 Allen H. Neuharth, chairman of Gannett Co. and founder of USA TODAY
1986 Otis Chandler, publisher of the Los Angeles Times
1985 Bill Mauldin, Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist
1984 William Paley, founder of CBS, and Frank Stanton, former president of CBS

NewsHour,” the first national newscast to be anchored by two women. Woodruff hosted the “PBS NewsHour” from the Cronkite School during her stay, interviewing Cronkite professor Jacquee Petchel and students Claire Caulfield and Jasmine Spearing-Bowen about their Carnegie-Knight News21 national investigation into water quality in the U.S.. She also interviewed U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego as part of an ongoing NewsHour series on the future of the Democratic Party.

Visiting with students after the taping, she said: “We’ve never needed journalists more than we need them today, when journalism is being challenged and when leaders of our country are saying journalism is not to be believed. More than ever, we need each one of you who cares about informing the American people.”

Photos by Victor Ren
Anderson Cooper, the Emmy- and Peabody Award-winning primetime anchor at CNN, is the recipient of the 2018 Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism.

Cooper, the anchor of CNN’s “Anderson Cooper 360” and a correspondent for “60 Minutes” on CBS, was scheduled to receive the 35th award given by the Cronkite School at an October 2018 luncheon ceremony at the Sheraton Grand Phoenix Hotel. The award recognizes distinguished journalists who embody the values of the school’s namesake.

“I’m so honored and humbled to accept the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism,” Cooper said. “I’m proud to honor Mr. Cronkite’s legacy. He sparked my interest in journalism at a young age and remains a guiding star for generations of journalists.”

Cooper, who has reported live from more than 40 countries since his journalism career began in 1992, has earned a reputation as one of television’s leading journalists, having won 13 Emmys.

Cooper’s award-winning coverage at CNN has included on-the-ground reporting of major natural disasters.

He won two Emmy awards for his reporting on the Haiti earthquake in 2011. He also helped lead CNN’s Peabody Award-winning coverage of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. And in 2004, he worked on prime-time specials on the Indian Ocean tsunami, which won an Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award.

As a regular contributor to “60 Minutes” since 2006, he reported on Congo’s civil war in 2008 as well as the dire conditions of coral reefs near Cuba in 2011, for which he won an Edward R. Murrow Award.

Cooper, who joined CNN shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, plays a key role in the network’s political and election coverage, anchoring from the national political conventions and serving as moderator during several presidential primary debates and town halls.

Cooper was an ABC News correspondent from 1995-2000, and served as anchor of ABC’s overnight newscast, “World News Now.” He also was a correspondent for “World News Tonight” as well as “20/20.” He joined ABC from Channel One News, a school television network seen daily in more than 12,000 classrooms nationwide.

Cooper graduated from Yale University in 1989 with a bachelor’s degree in political science. He also studied Vietnamese at the University of Hanoi.

“Like Walter Cronkite, Anderson Cooper’s on-the-ground reporting has brought important global issues closer to home,” said Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan.

“He is a model for our students.”
Cronkite Celebrates Launch of ASU’s New Barrett and O’Connor Washington Center

ASU’s new Ambassador Barbara Barrett & Justice Sandra Day O’Connor Washington Center expands the Cronkite School’s presence in the nation’s capital and raises the profile of the Washington bureau of Cronkite News.

The center, which opened in March, is located at 1800 I St., NW, an easy walk to the White House and the State Department.

A panel discussion on “Covering Washington in the Age of Trump” was part of a weeklong slate of events to celebrate the opening of the center.

Leonard Downie Jr., the Weil family professor of journalism at Cronkite and former top editor of The Washington Post, moderated the standing-room-only discussion, which featured a trio of reporters — “CBS This Morning” senior producer Chloe Arensberg, Washington Post reporter Ashley Parker, and CNN White House correspondent Abby Phillip.

Parker said that in some ways the White House is more accessible than in the past, and “you have a lot more acute sense of what the president is thinking because his tweets are literally what he’s thinking in the moment.”

Arensberg said journalists today have to give viewers more context because so many things are happening for the first time.

“It’s not just enough to tell people what is happening, she said. “We also have to tell people simultaneously what it means, or what it could mean.”

Also on opening day, prospective students from the East Coast visited the Barrett & O’Connor Washington Center’s fourth floor to tour the Washington bureau newsroom, where Cronkite students work 15-week assignments covering the nation’s capital for Cronkite News.

Cronkite alumna Lisa Ruhl, The Hill’s senior producer, was on-hand. She said she has hired several Cronkite graduates.

“I know what their work ethic is,” Ruhl said. “I know what kind of program they have gone through. I know they always make good hires and interns.”

The women for whom the center is named have diverse backgrounds. O’Connor made history in 1981 as the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. Barrett, a three-time ASU graduate, was the first female Republican candidate for governor and is the former U.S. ambassador to Finland.

The building’s renovation was funded in part by a Campaign ASU 2020 gift from Barrett and her husband, Craig Barrett, a former CEO of Intel.

More about the Washington Center, at washingtondc.asu.edu
Moderated by Julia Wallace, Frank Russell Chair

Speaker Series Addresses Sexual Harassment and Women in Workplace

Reinforce other women's good ideas. Encourage them to speak up. Don't let anyone push a colleague around. Take chances.

These are some of the things women and men can do to make newsrooms and other workplaces more welcoming to women, according to Retha Hill, director of the New Media Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab at the Cronkite School.

Hill and more than a dozen other female journalists were part of a semester-long series entitled “Women, the Media and the Workplace” at the Cronkite School. It started in January 2018 following reports of sexual assault allegations against several prominent media figures and the rise of the #MeToo movement, with many women coming forward with stories of harassment in their workplaces.

Julia Wallace, the Cronkite School’s Frank Russell Chair and the first female editor-in-chief of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, developed the series and moderated all four events.

“Our students will be the future leaders of the media,” Wallace said. “These in-depth conversations about gender will better prepare them so they can lead the charge in ensuring workplace safety and equity in newsrooms.”

The first event, titled “Sexual Harassment: What It Took for Journalists to Break This Story,” drew a full house in the First Amendment Forum.

Panelists were Assistant Managing Editor Rebecca Corbett of The New York Times; reporter Stephanie McCrummen of The Washington Post; and reporter Olivia Messer of The Daily Beast.

Messer’s reporting for The Texas Observer in 2013 exposed sexual harassment in the Texas Legislature. She had witnessed sexist comments made to female legislators and she was warned by her editors to be careful dealing with certain male legislators. She was just a year out of journalism school, but she realized there was a story to be told.

“It was odd to me that hadn’t occurred to anybody — it wasn’t even worth reporting,” Messner said.

McCrummen, who broke the story about Alabama U.S. Senate candidate Roy Moore’s alleged assaults of young women, said she didn’t travel to Alabama looking for that story, but the story emerged when local residents shared stories about Moore. As the Post later reported, “What started as a tip became a story that could shake an election.”

Corbett, who edited The New York Times’ story that initially reported the allegations about movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, said there are a lot of reasons why harassment has persisted for so long and has been so pervasive, but “the test of whether this really is a transforming moment will be in the months and years to come.”

Three other sessions in the series delved into sexual discrimination, harassment and retaliation.

From battling bosses who demand sexual favors, to being the recipient of vulgar Twitter messages and being denied big stories or promotions — the panelists shared what they have endured and learned in the newsroom: Speak up, document bad behavior, find mentors, search for allies and...
work toward reshaping newsroom cultures.

“Be a better friend, a better boss,” Mi-Ai Parrish, the Sue Clark-Johnson Professor in Media Innovation and Leadership, advised.

Panelists agreed that newsrooms and other businesses need to provide more support for young employees.

During the panel on “What Women and Men Can Do to Change the Culture that Allows Sexual Harassment,” Anita Helt, general manager of ABC15/KNXV-TV, said there’s a lack of training for new managers on how to lead.

“Companies have to do more of this kind of training and leadership development and only then are we ever really going to see a true change in our newsrooms,” she said.

The series wrapped up with “Beyond Sexual Harassment — What it Takes for Women to Succeed in Media Today.”

“The biggest thing is, be sure of yourself,” said Rashida Jones, senior vice president for specials at NBC and MSNBC. “If you project insecurity, other people will pick up on that.”

She added that people sometimes look down on her “because I’m a woman, because I’m young, because I’m African-American. … But you can’t deny what I’m delivering.”

Young journalists were encouraged to project their passion, call attention to themselves, raise their hands and demand a place at the table.

Kristin Gilger, Cronkite senior associate dean, offered this advice: “Don’t question whether you belong: You belong.”

Kalle Benallie contributed to this report.

Pulitzer Prize-winning Reporter’s Advice: ‘Treat your sources well’ — Carol Leonnig
Early in her reporting career, Carol Leonnig took a job with The Washington Post to cover federal courts. It was considered a backwater local beat, but, over the years, she has turned it into the gold of Pulitzer Prizes.

How? The sources she met there — young lawyers, judges and politicians — have matured into important national sources. And they trusted her.

"Those assistant U.S. attorneys were in their 20s when I was in my 20s. Those judges who treated me as the daughter who didn't go to law school and tried to help me understand things, … all of those people have risen quite dramatically and been in very important positions," she said.

Leonnig delivered the 2018 Paul J. Schatt Memorial Lecture at the Cronkite School.

She started her career at The Philadelphia Inquirer making $250 a week. Her editor told her to treat her sources well as she might need to call on them over the next 20 years. She has followed that advice, taking care to cover even the smallest stories thoroughly, accurately and fairly.

"When you take the time to understand the subject well and invest in that source time to get every fact right, including the nuance — when you invest that energy, then they think ‘I can trust this person with something more sensitive and even more sensitive,’” she said.

Today, Leonnig is part of The Washington Post team that won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting for its coverage of Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

Covering the that story has been challenging, she said, and has led to some awkward moments. People thank her profusely for what she is doing, as if she were a partisan on their side, trying to bring down the president.

"I frown and say, 'Thank you,' but that is not my goal," she said. "My goal is to share information with you — share with you what is true. Democracy will do the rest."

In addition to the 2017 Pulitzer, Leonnig was awarded the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in National Reporting for her work on security failures and misconduct inside the Secret Service.

She also was part of a team at the Post that was awarded the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for revealing the U.S. government’s secret surveillance of Americans.
Dangerous doses dispensed by trusted pharmacies, grocery chain shoplifting by the bosses, and the huckster game of naming everyday conditions as medical disorders — coverage in these three largely uncovered areas earned journalists honors in the 11th annual Barlett & Steele Awards for Investigative Journalism.

The Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism, based at the Cronkite School, presents the awards each fall. The 2017 recipients of the gold, silver and bronze awards, respectively, went to the Chicago Tribune, The Post-Courier of Charleston, and MedPage Today.

“News organizations of all sizes and locations still take seriously their responsibility to investigate critical money and health issues that can harm the public.”

— Andrew Leckey, president of the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism

Gold Award
“Dangerous Doses” by Sam Roe, Ray Long and Karisa King of the Chicago Tribune, capped a two-year investigation into the failure of the nation’s pharmacies to adequately warn patients of dangerous drug combinations. The Tribune’s staff tested 255 pharmacies to see how often stores dispense dangerous drug pairs without warning patients. Fifty-two percent of those tested sold the medications without mentioning potential interactions, whether the stores were in affluent or poor neighborhoods. As a result of the story, the nation’s largest pharmacy retailers announced significant steps to improve patient safety, including better computer systems and training for pharmacists and technicians.

Andrew Leckey (right) of the Reynolds Center with Barlett & Steele winners. Photo by Celise Jones

Andrew Leckey, president of the Reynolds Center, which has helped train more than 30,000 business and investigative journalists since 2003, said this year’s contest winners represented the highest standards of watchdog reporting.

The judges for this year’s awards were Paul Steiger, executive chairman of ProPublica, Cesca Antonelli, a senior executive editor at Bloomberg News, and Dan Hertzberg, longtime financial journalist with The Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg News.
The Best in Investigative Business Journalism

Headquartered at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University

untangled a complex story of betrayal and greed in the demise of employee-owned grocery chain, Piggly Wiggly Carolina. Senior executives had urged employees to work harder during difficult times because they were a “family of owners.” But, at the same time, those executives were carting away millions of dollars. Thousands of pages of IRS, Labor Department, SEC documents were examined, alongside corporate memos and emails.

Silver Award
“Sticking with the Pig: A Tale of Loyalty and Loss” by Tony Bartelme of The Post and Courier in Charleston, South Carolina, untangled a complex story of betrayal and greed in the demise of employee-owned grocery chain, Piggly Wiggly Carolina. Senior executives had urged employees to work harder during difficult times because they were a “family of owners.” But, at the same time, those executives were carting away millions of dollars. Thousands of pages of IRS, Labor Department, SEC documents were examined, alongside corporate memos and emails.

Bronze Award
“Lowering the Bar” by John Fauber, Kristina Fiore and Matt Wynn in MedPage Today, revealed how everyday ailments are now being “medicalized” as disorders by drug companies. The investigation showed how eight non-life-threatening conditions affecting more than 180 million Americans have been rebranded into medical disorders.

Blood sugar a little too high? It’s now called “pre-diabetes.” Need to visit the bathroom frequently? It’s now “overactive bladder syndrome.” Are you a super-energetic personality? No, you’re sick; you’re hyperactive.

Resulting treatment regimens are a source of serious side effects. For example, drugs for attention-deficit hyperactivity sent 28,000 people to emergency rooms in one year.
Each year, dozens of leaders in journalism come to the Cronkite School to share their experiences with students and the public during the “Must See Mondays” lecture series.

In 2017-2018, speakers included a top anchor at ESPN’s “SportsCenter,” the executive producer of “PBS Frontline,” the editor-in-chief of National Geographic Magazine, a veteran White House correspondent, the CEO of Weber Shandwick and the head of news at Snapchat.

“‘Must See Mondays’ introduces students to notable professionals operating at the highest levels of American journalism,” said Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan. “I don’t know how many times students have told me how inspiring it is to hear them and actually meet them.”

1. “Young Alums: Views from the Working World”
Cronkite 2013 alumni Chelsey Davis (above), multimedia journalist at ABC15; Shawn Deloney (below), also of the Class of ’13, a senior producer of creative content at the Phoenix Suns; Samantha Incorvaia (’16), digital producer at azcentral.com; Meenah Rincon (’14), media relations officer at ASU; and Steven Totten (’12, ’15), reporter at the Phoenix Business Journal talked about their careers during a panel discussion led by Vanessa Ruiz, director of the Cronkite News Borderlands desk.

5. “National Geographic: Storytelling in the Digital Age”
Susan Goldberg (left), editorial director of National Geographic Partners and editor-in-chief of National Geographic Magazine, spoke about powerful ways to tell stories around the world.
**SERIES**

2. “Sports, Media and Society”
Kenneth L. Shropshire (right), CEO of the ASU Global Sport Institute and the Adidas Distinguished Professor in Global Sport, explored the unifying power of sports with Brett Kurland, director of sports programs for the Cronkite School.

3. “Covering the Latino Community: From the Barrio to the Border”
Vanessa Ruiz (below right), director of the Cronkite News Borderlands desk, and Fernanda Santos (left), Southwest Borderlands Initiative Professor, shared their experiences reporting from the border with Rick Rodriguez, Southwest Borderlands Initiative Professor.

4. “Reporting the News on Snapchat”
Award-winning political journalist Peter Hamby (below), head of news at Snap Inc., talked about the growing influence of news in social media with Jessica Pucci, director of Digital Audiences Programs.

6. “Covering President Trump: Observations from a Veteran White House Correspondent”
Jon Decker (right), White House correspondent for Fox News Radio, shared his experiences covering the president in a discussion with Assistant Dean Rebecca Blatt.
7. “Data-Powered Journalism”
Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Sarah Cohen (right), the Knight Chair in Data Journalism, spoke about the importance of data journalism with News21 Executive Editor Jacquee Petchel.

8. “The Art and Science of Strategic Communications”
Cronkite alumnus Margo Gillman (’93), executive director of Enterprise Transformation and Internal Communications at City of Hope, explored strategic health communications and the critical role it plays in promoting consumer awareness with Mark Hass, Cronkite professor of practice in strategic communications.

9. “From Cronkite to ESPN: Getting Started in Sports Journalism”
Left: 2001 Cronkite alumnus Matt Barrie, anchor and studio host at ESPN’s “SportsCenter,” shared his path from the Cronkite School to the “worldwide leader in sports” during a talk with Paola Boivin, professor of practice in sports journalism.

Paula Kerger (below right), president and CEO of PBS, discussed the impact of public broadcasting with Mary Mazur, general manager of Arizona PBS.
11. "Cronkite Faculty Research — People, Press, PR"
From left: Louise Solheim Professor Marianne Barrett, Associate Professor Joseph Russomanno and Associate Professor Xu Wu addressed the latest in journalism and communications research.

Alison Overholt (below right), editor-in-chief of ESPN The Magazine and espnW, explored the impact storytelling has in sports journalism in a talk moderated by Brett Kurland, director of sports programs at Cronkite.

13. “Future of the Olympic Games”
Anita DeFrantz, a member of the International Olympic Committee and IOC Executive Board, discussed the impact of the Olympic Games with Victoria Jackson, sports historian and lecturer at the ASU School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies.

Raney Aronson-Rath (below right), executive producer of “PBS Frontline,” talked about the flagship investigative journalism series of PBS and the power of public media with Mary Mazur (below left), general manager of Arizona PBS.
15. “Speech on Campus: When Protests Turn Extreme”
Below: Allison Stanger (left), a professor at Middlebury College, and Lucia Martinez Valdivia (right), a professor at Reed College, discussed free speech on campus with Cronkite Associate Professor Joseph Russomanno. Right: Paul Carrese, founding director of the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership, introduced the panel.

16. “Journalism in the Walter Cronkite Tradition… From Behind the Camera”
1983 Cronkite alumnus Chris Shlemon (near left), the 2017 ITN Video Editor of the Year and member of the White House News Photographers Association, demonstrated the power of videography with Cronkite Professor of Practice Peter Byck who moderated.

17. “New Challenges and Opportunities in Strategic Communications”
Andy Polansky (right), CEO of Weber Shandwick, talked about changes in the field of strategic communications. He was introduced by Professor of Practice Mark Hass.
18. “The Power and Promise of Diversity”
Above, from left: Jennifer Greer, president of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, moderated a panel on diversity in journalism that included Associate Professor Sharon Bramlett-Solomon, Cronkite News Executive Editor Christina Leonard and Vanessa Ruiz, director of Cronkite News Borderlands. Senior Associate Dean Kristin Gilger (above left) introduced the group.

Recent Cronkite School alumni shared their experiences as media innovators with Retha Hill, director of the New Media Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab. Alumni included Andrew Jones, co-founder of Small Emperor; Chandler Longbons, founder of SocialLeap; Carolina Marquez, co-founder of Terrainial VR; and Dave Ryan, WordPress developer at Meredith Corp.

20. “The Limits of Objectivity”
Tanzina Vega (far right), host of “The Takeaway” on WNYC/PRI, discussed objectivity in journalism in a talk introduced by Vanessa Ruiz, director of Cronkite News Borderlands.
The speakers at the Cronkite School’s fall and spring convocation ceremonies offered bold challenges to the school’s graduates.

Fall 2017: ‘Power the Change We Need’

Kevin Merida, the former Washington Post managing editor who now leads ESPN’s "The Undefeated," rallied the December 2017 graduates of the Cronkite School to be a driving force of change in journalism.

Merida was the fall convocation keynote speaker at ASU Gammage, where 280 students received degrees.

“Success and opportunity await you now, not tomorrow,” Merida said. “Your generation is powering the change that we need.”

“You are graduating from this magnificent school of journalism and mass communication. And I predict that the most magical time of your life is ahead of you.”

— Cecilya Moreno, student speaker
Fall 2017 Student Awards

Outstanding Graduate Student
Jasmine Spearing-Bowen

Outstanding Undergraduate Students
Taylor Bishop  Thalia Varelas
Hannah Dickens  Nicole Walker
Emily Liu

Highest Grade Point Average in Journalism
Libby Allnatt

Highest Grade Point Average in Media Studies
Gregory Vickers

Kappa Tau Alpha National Honor Society
Elliott Adams  Emily Liu
Libby Allnatt  Andrea Neff
Taylor Bishop  Mallory Prater
Taylor Clark  Adrienne St. Clair
Hannah Dickens  Nicole Walker

Fall 2017 outstanding undergraduate students (left) are Hannah Dickens, Nicole Walker, Taylor Bishop and Thalia Varelas. Emily Liu is not shown.

Associate Professor Fran Matera hoods Wafa Unus, a Ph.D. graduate (below center).

Photos by Marcus Chornicle
Margaret Brennan, moderator of “Face the Nation” and senior foreign affairs correspondent at CBS News, challenged the newest graduates of the Cronkite School to grow the public’s trust of the news media.

Brennan was the keynote convocation speaker at Comerica Theatre in downtown Phoenix, where 339 students received degrees.

“We need you,” she said. “We need all of you to be the great journalists and communicators that you have been training to be. We need all of you to be (Walter) Cronkites.”
“We are the future of media. It’s up to us to change the culture.”

— Isabel Greenblatt, student speaker
Arizona Republic Publisher Named Sue Clark-Johnson Professor

Former Arizona Republic Publisher Mi-Ai Parrish, an award-winning journalist and media executive is the inaugural Sue Clark-Johnson Professor in Media Innovation and Leadership.

Parrish, who served as president and publisher of Republic Media, which operates The Arizona Republic, azcentral.com and La Voz as part of the USA Today Network, joined Cronkite on Jan. 1, 2018. “I’m thrilled to join the most innovative university in America to partner internationally on re-imagining the future of media,” Parrish said. “This was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up.”

The new Sue Clark-Johnson professorship honors the late pioneering media executive who served as president of the newspaper division of Gannett Co. and earlier as publisher of The Arizona Republic. Following her 41-year career in the news industry, Clark-Johnson was a professor of practice at the Cronkite School from 2010 until her death in January 2015. The professorship is supported by a new endowment created by Clark-Johnson’s husband, the late Brooks Johnson; Louis A. “Chip” Weil, another former Arizona Republic publisher and close friend of Clark-Johnson; Arizona Public Service electric company, where she served as a board member; the Gannett Foundation; and 34 other friends and colleagues from around the country.

Brooks Johnson wanted the professorship to reflect his wife’s passion for journalism, the news industry, leadership and innovation. “She believed providing people the information to make informed choices could bring about real, positive change,” Johnson said.

In her new post, Parrish teaches, writes, speaks and collaborates on how to preserve and grow a robust free press in the digital age. During her first semester, she taught a course in Business and the Future of Journalism and...
After graduating from Harvard, Andrew Heyward had his sights set on going to law school. However, the pull of journalism attracted him to a local TV news station in New York. From there, he would rise to become president of CBS News.

Heyward has returned to his roots in local television in his new role as senior research professor at the Cronkite School, helping lead a major initiative to promote innovation in local TV news.

He and his Cronkite colleagues will examine strategies used by 700-plus local news stations across the country in order to grow their audiences.

To put it simply, Heyward said he is seeking “to find the good stuff and tell people about it.”

Supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the initiative consists of three parts — research, creation and experimentation. Heyward will head the research effort and contribute to the latter portions.

Beginning in 1981, Heyward served in various producer roles at CBS, including work at “CBS Evening News.”

HEYWARD>>
Jacob Nelson Focuses on Journalists and Their Audiences

By Kaleb Martinez

Jacob Nelson’s career path is summed up in the first sentence on his website: “I was a journalist, and now I research journalism.”

Fresh from earning a doctorate in June 2018, Nelson joined the Cronkite School as assistant professor of digital audience engagement. His focus is the changing relationship between journalists and their audiences.

In addition to conducting research in audience engagement, he is teaching students to utilize and interpret audience data from social networks, websites and apps.

Nelson began his research at his alma mater, Northwestern University, after he was accepted into that university’s Ph.D. program in 2013. He said his work contains two main strands.

First, he examines how audiences interact with the news from a quantitative perspective based on audience data. He also meets with news organizations and asks about their specific audiences and “how they go about trying to pursue that audience.”

Nelson’s work has been published in academic journals such as Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly and Digital Journalism, as well as publications such as the Columbia Journalism Review. In 2017, he was named a Knight News Innovation Fellow by the Columbia Journalism School’s Tow Center for Digital Journalism.

His professional career began in 2010, when he became a journalist in Highland Park, Illinois, a suburb outside of Chicago, where he covered local news for Patch, a hyperlocal online news organization. “I didn’t even know what research was back then,” he said.

While working for Patch, Nelson discovered a love for teaching as an adjunct professor at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern. “I really loved reading [students’] work and…seeing them really push themselves to tell stories that they thought were interesting and worthwhile,” he said.

Nelson is part of a new digital audiences team of professors guided by Director of Digital Audiences Programs Jessica Pucci.

Nelson said he finds Cronkite’s innovative environment rewarding. “I love how the Cronkite School’s research and instruction focuses on making a positive contribution to the profession of journalism,” he said.
Fulbright Scholar Brings Communications Strategies to Cronkite Students

By Kalle Benallie

Syed Ali Hussain has more than a decade of experience in behavioral change communication and social influence, as well as designing communications campaigns for public health projects.

After finishing his doctorate in summer 2018 at Michigan State University, he joined the Cronkite School as an assistant professor in the digital audience programs, conducting research and teaching social media engagement.

“One of the things I like about the Cronkite School is its hybrid focus on both research and practice,” Hussain said. “It’s the human-centric design and implementation of digital innovations that makes the school so unique.”

A Fulbright Scholar, Hussain holds a master’s degree in health and risk communication and a Ph.D. in information and media from Michigan State University. He also earned a post-graduate certificate in public health from the University of Manchester, in England. While in graduate school, Hussain worked on research projects funded by the National Science Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. He also received the Outstanding Doctoral Student Award in 2018 at Michigan State.

Hussain has international work experience with USAID and Save the Children, working on public health communication projects in communities in Pakistan that had been affected by earthquakes and floods.

“Teaching is my passion,” Hussain said. “Brainstorming with students enables both of us to learn and grow together.”

He likes being part of a new team of scholars at Cronkite that is teaching students about digital audience acquisition and engagement. He said he hopes to help students learn to take their classroom learning into real life practice using digital platforms.

Photo by Marcus Chormicle
Kathy Kudravi, an award-winning sports journalist who has led news teams at ESPN and CNN, is the executive editor of a new international sports research and knowledge lab based at the Cronkite School.

Kudravi joined Cronkite in January 2018 to lead the Sports Knowledge Lab. The lab is part of ASU’s Global Sport Institute, an international sports research and knowledge institute that connects people to the power of sport by translating and amplifying complex sports research to global audiences.

In the lab, Kudravi oversees the publication of GlobalSport Matters, a multimedia storytelling platform designed to be the go-to source for data and advice from across the world of sport.

“Her experience to guide this effort is unmatched,” said Kenneth L. Shropshire, who serves as CEO of the Global Sport Institute.

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Kudravi oversees and teaches a team of Cronkite students in the production and presentation of a variety of curated and original content that examines the impact of sport on society and provides context for sports headlines from around the world. Content includes long-form writing, documentaries, articles, newsletters, data visualization and podcasts.

“What excites me most is exploring how old-school research, which forms the foundation of great storytelling, can combine with today’s digital tools to create even stronger story lines, thereby showcasing the interconnectivity between sport and society,” Kudravi said.

Kudravi served as a coordinating producer at ESPN from 1999-2012, managing reporters, producers and camera operators across the country who reported for “SportsCenter” and other network programs.

From 2012-2014, she was editorial director of sports at CNN, where she managed sports content across CNN U.S., CNN International and HLN. She also served as the editorial lead on the “World Sport Presents” documentary series.

“A 1992 graduate of the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism, Parrish started her journalism career as a reporter at The Virginian-Pilot and then served in editorial leadership positions at the Republic, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times and San Francisco Chronicle.

PARRISH>> was one of the lead panelists in a semester-long series at the Cronkite School entitled “Women, the Media and the Workplace.”

“Mi-Ai is the kind of global thought leader who will make a real difference to the news industry, inspire the next generation of great journalists and carry on Sue’s remarkable legacy,” said Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan.

Before joining the Republic in 2015, Parrish served as publisher of The Kansas City Star for four years and publisher of the Idaho Statesman for five years. Like Clark-Johnson, Parrish has been a trailblazer. She was the first female publisher of The Kansas City Star, the first minority publisher at the Republic and the first Korean-American publisher of a major metropolitan daily newspaper in the U.S.

A 1992 graduate of the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism, Parrish started her journalism career as a reporter at The Virginian-Pilot and then served in editorial leadership positions at the Republic, Minneapolis Star Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times and San Francisco Chronicle.

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“Kathy has worked in leadership roles at some of the most respected outlets in sports media,” said Brett Kurland, director of sports programs at Cronkite.

Most recently, Kudravi was the executive producer and digital director of Sinclair Broadcast Group’s American Sports Network, where she created a website focused on college sports and minor league baseball.

A graduate of Kent State University in Ohio, Kudravi also worked at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in Texas, The Tennessean in Nashville, Tennessee, and The Plain Dealer in Cleveland, Ohio.
Although Steve Filmer didn’t grow up in Phoenix, the city has kept calling him back. Over his career, he has worked in New York, Atlanta and Minneapolis — only to return to the Valley of the Sun each time.

He was working for Phoenix’s 12 News in 1996 when he had the opportunity to join “Good Morning America.” He was a consumer reporter for the program for about two years before returning to the Valley to work as a reporter for Fox 10 and ABC15.

In fall 2017, the Emmy-winning correspondent joined the Cronkite School to direct a new professional program in which students produce a television show highlighting research being done at ASU.

The show, “Catalyst,” is a 30-minute, prime-time program that airs weekly on Arizona PBS. The series premiered in April, and work is underway on a second season.

Before coming to the Cronkite School, Filmer was involved in a variety of independent projects. He produced a documentary called “Birthright: A War Story,” which was released in July 2017. “It’s about women who are being heavily restricted by abortion laws in this country,” Filmer said. “This documentary shows the movement to try and control pregnant women and what they can do with their bodies.”

Filmer’s experience extends beyond producing. In addition to “Good Morning America,” he worked as a reporter at stations across the country. His credits also include “ABC World News Tonight.”

As executive producer for the television magazine professional program, Filmer wants students to get real-world experience. He teaches students to look for different ways to tell stories about ASU’s research and the influence it has on everyday life.

“No other school in the country is producing something of this magnitude,” Filmer said.

He helped launch the primetime show, “48 Hours” which still airs today. His ascension within the company continued until 1996, when he became president, serving until the end of 2005.

“I just worked my way up in an old-fashioned, apprentice-like fashion,” he said. “It was a great experience.”

Following his tenure at CBS News, Heyward began focusing on the digital transmission of news.

Social media and the erosion of the newspaper industry in recent years has brought about a dramatic shift in how the general public consumes news, he said. However, he remains confident that local television news has a vibrant future.

“More people watch local news than consume any other kind of news,” he said. “It’s very important.”

He hopes the new initiative will positively impact not only the school, but the entire media industry.

ASU is the perfect place for such work, given its facilities and its credibility in the news world, he added.

Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan welcomed Heyward to the school, calling him “one of this country’s media thought leaders.”
In 2009, Mark Reda and his son took a tour of the Cronkite School. A decade later, Reda is back as a lecturer at Cronkite, coordinating the production streams of almost 100 ASU athletic events for the Pac-12 Network.

He leads a team of students who help produce the events, giving them valuable, hands-on experience while receiving class credit. Reda taught as a faculty associate before joining the faculty. He established an extracurricular club for Cronkite students who produced a show that aired on FOX Sports Arizona. At the time, he was a coordinating producer at the network. The show was called “Sun Devils 101.” Today, it is known as “Cronkite Sports Report.”

Cronkite student C.J. Chayrez, who worked with Reda doing Pac-12 Network streams said Reda, “was always there to give me direction.” What he learned from Reda helped him land an internship with Arizona Sports 98.7 FM.

Reda has 35 years of experience in live sports broadcasting, including eight years working with iconic sports broadcaster Vin Scully of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

He worked for FOX, CBS, Turner and ABC on events such as the Super Bowl, NCAA Final Four, British Open, and NBA and MLB post season.

As a producer, he was in the broadcast booth for the 1998 inaugural season of Arizona Diamondbacks baseball, working for FOX Sports Arizona.

His experience on both sides of the camera — as reporter, director and producer for several networks — give his teaching unusual depth, said Cronkite Associate Dean Mark Lodato.

“He was the perfect person to go to when it was time to start this live streaming experience,” Lodato said. “Mark has a wonderful demeanor and personality that mesh well in a teaching environment.”

Being part of sports journalism at Cronkite is something that Reda said he “will look back on very fondly.” However, he is not done yet.

“There are a lot of things in the next two to three years that are going to be happening here that will be very interesting,” he said.
Each year, the Cronkite School brings in visiting professors to teach investigative reporting, ethics and business journalism. The 2017-2018 cohort included Karen Bordeleau, a trailblazer in digital journalism and former top editor at The Providence Journal; Susan Lisovicz, former business reporter for CNN and CNBC; and Walter Robinson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative editor from The Boston Globe.

**Reynolds Visiting Professor Walter V. Robinson**

Robinson, who led The Boston Globe’s 2003 Pulitzer Prize-winning report on the Roman Catholic Church sexual abuse scandal, is helping students produce award-winning investigations at the Cronkite School. He taught an investigative journalism class for graduate students and advanced undergraduates for the second time in spring 2018, and is teaching the class again in spring 2019. In addition, Robinson is an adviser on the development of a new master’s program in investigative journalism that will be housed in the Howard Center.

**Reynolds Visiting Professor Susan Lisovicz**

Lisovicz is training future business journalists to find the economic element in all stories. Since 2011, she has taught advanced reporting and Cronkite’s business and the future of journalism course and helps assist in the award-winning Cronkite News broadcast. Lisovicz says her work as an educator is informed by her career as a journalist. Her reporting at CNN and CNBC has taken her to four continents covering everything from the World Economic Forum in Switzerland to a bank for poor people in Bangladesh. She also did a stint on Wall Street covering the dot-com boom, 9/11 and the Great Recession.

**Gaylord Visiting Professor Karen Bordeleau**

Bordeleau, former executive editor of The Providence Journal in Rhode Island, taught journalism ethics and diversity during the 2018 spring semester as the 10th Edith Kinney Gaylord Visiting Professor. Bordeleau, who retired in 2015, was the first woman in The Providence Journal’s 188-year history to lead the paper. Although she has taught college courses on everything from the foundations of journalism to advanced reporting, her specialty is journalism ethics, a topic that has never been more important, she said.

The **Donald W. Reynolds Foundation** supports visiting professors in investigative and business journalism at Cronkite. It is a national philanthropic organization founded in 1954 by the late media entrepreneur for whom it is named. Headquartered in Las Vegas, it has committed more than $115 million nationwide through its journalism program.

The **Edith Kinney Gaylord Visiting Professorship** was created at Cronkite in 2006 with the support of the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation. Edith Kinney Gaylord started the Oklahoma City-based foundation in 1982 to foster high ethical standards in the industry. Ms. Gaylord, the daughter of Daily Oklahoman Publisher E.K. Gaylord, launched her journalism career at her father’s newspaper in 1937 after graduating from college. In 1942, she joined The Associated Press in New York. The following year, she went to the AP in Washington, D.C., where she covered the Roosevelt administration and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt during World War II.
Valeria Fernández, a multimedia journalist who leads an innovative Spanish-language journalism program at the Cronkite School, was the inaugural recipient of the American Mosaic Journalism Prize by the Heising-Simons Foundation.

She was one of two journalists to receive the honor, which includes an unrestricted cash prize of $100,000 for each winner. Independent journalist Jaeah Lee, a 2017 senior fellow at Brandeis University’s Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism, was the other recipient.

The American Mosaic Journalism Prize recognizes excellence in long-form, narrative or deep reporting on stories about underrepresented and/or misrepresented groups.

At the Cronkite School, Fernández leads Cronkite Noticias, a multiplatform news experience in which students report on important issues in Spanish. Cronkite Noticias includes a newscast that regularly airs on Univision Arizona and a multiplatform website — cronkitenoticias.org — that focuses on education, sustainability, immigration and other issues important to the region’s Latino communities.

Fernández has been reporting on Arizona’s immigrant community and the many angles and faces of the immigration debate for more than 15 years. She has produced reports for CNN Español, CNN International, Radio Bilingüe, PRI’s “The World,” Al Jazeera English, The Guardian and The Associated Press.

“As a Latina immigrant journalist, who speaks Spanish as a first language, I’m humbled to receive this recognition,” Fernández said. “I hope it will bring attention to the voices of the women and the communities that I have dedicated my reporting on. As a professor, I can only wish it inspires students, especially students of color, to see their culture and their roots as strengths to ground their work, so they also work to listen to unrepresented voices, pursue nuanced stories and become a force for understanding.”

Recipients were selected by a panel of judges representing some of the country’s leading media outlets.

“Fernández’s work stands as testament to the trust people have in her to tell their stories with accuracy and compassion,” the judges said. “Her journalism benefits from the kind of access that comes from years of relentless beat reporting. She brings great depth to stories of people who are often the most difficult for journalists to access, including families broken apart by the immigration system, and a new immigrant’s struggles with mental health.”

Kurland, Pucci Promoted as Sports Journalism, Digital Media Expand

The Cronkite School expanded its leadership team to keep up with the growing demand for educational opportunities in the fields of sports journalism and digital media.

Brett Kurland, Cronkite professor of practice and director of the Cronkite News Phoenix Sports Bureau, now oversees all sports curriculum as director of sports programs. Cronkite Ethics and Excellence Professor of Practice Jessica Pucci, an expert in data analysis and audience engagement, leads the expansion of the school’s online analytics and analysis curriculum as the director of digital audiences.

In his new role, Kurland will continue to oversee the Phoenix sports bureau as well as cultivate partnerships with major sports media organizations. He also will manage the sports journalism bachelor’s and master’s programs launched in 2015. In addition, he will lead and grow the Cronkite School’s sports journalism camp offerings for high school students.

As director of digital audiences programs, Pucci will continue to manage data analysis and audience engagement at Cronkite News, where she works closely with students to grow the award-winning news program’s online audience. In her new role, she will further integrate audience engagement and measurement into the school’s curriculum. She also manages Cronkite’s digital audiences degrees.

“Jessica and Brett are at the forefront of providing innovative instruction in two of the fastest-growing areas in our field,” said Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan. “Their enthusiasm and passion for our students is a testament to their success at the Cronkite School.”
Maureen West Wins Faculty Associate of the Year Award

By Kaleb Martinez

Maureen West is an expert in solutions journalism, in which reporters investigate efforts to solve critical issues rather than just doing stories about problems.

At the Cronkite School, where she teaches solutions journalism as part of intermediate reporting courses, she often challenges students to ask: “Is there another way to tell this story?”

Sometimes that results in a solutions story rather than a traditional news story, she said.

Because of her innovative teaching approach, West is the recipient of the 2017 Cronkite Faculty Associate of the Year Award, which recognizes outstanding commitment and service to students. Each year, one recipient is selected among the school’s part-time faculty.

“I feel honored to be helping the next generation of journalists do their best possible work,” West said. “What could be more meaningful?”

Her former reporting students have interned with some of the country’s leading newspapers. Three former students completed internships in the summer of 2018 with the Chicago Tribune, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and The Seattle Times.

Anthony Totri, a former student who took an introduction to ethics class from West, said her dedication to the journalism field really stood out to him in the classroom.

“She was always asking thought-provoking questions about the type of ethical situations journalists face every day,” Totri said.

West has also taught beginning reporting, advanced digital storytelling and narrative writing since she began teaching at Cronkite in 2010.

In the summer of 2018, West worked as assistant editor on Carnegie-Knight News21’s project on hate in America. News21 is a multimedia summer investigative program that brings top journalism students from across the country to Cronkite each year to report on an issue of national significance.

A graduate of the University of Iowa’s journalism school, West worked at The Arizona Republic as a reporter and editor for over 15 years. She also reported for newspapers in Florida, North Carolina and Kentucky.

Cronkite Associate Dean Mark Lodato said that West’s versatility in teaching multiple classes has done wonders for the school.

“She’s exceedingly talented and has a wonderful demeanor and approach with students,” Lodato said, “and that’s something we really appreciate.”
Craig Allen, associate dean of the Barrett Honors College at the ASU Downtown Phoenix campus, represented ASU at the Arizona Honors Council conference at Northern Arizona University and hosted Barrett’s annual retreat for downtown honors students at Camp Tontozona.

Melanie Asp Alvarez, former assistant news director and executive producer at Cronkite News, crafted a newscast innovation and journalism transparency project with her team of producers called “Cronkite News Full Circle.” The show provided behind-the-scenes documentation of how news teams ideate, source, report, write and broadcast a news story on deadline, in hopes of fostering understanding and trust from the viewing public. The project was highlighted by the News Co/Lab at the Cronkite School. She now manages a new regional project, “Elemental: Covering Sustainability.”

Louise Solheim Professor Marianne Barrett is the book review editor for the Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media, one of the premier journals in mass communications and journalism. Barrett also is co-authoring, with doctoral student Chun Shao, a chapter on media economics theory for an upcoming book. In addition, Barrett presented her paper “Revisiting the Impact of Structural Factors on Television Audience Behavior in the Digital Age,” at the biennial World Media Economics and Management Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. She participated on a panel at the conference that explored challenges facing television audience researchers.

Assistant Dean Rebecca Blatt finished ASU’s Peer Leadership Academy, which aims to cultivate a new type of leader — one who can harness innovative collaborations to deliver on the promise of a New American University.

Associate Professor Sharon Bramlett-Solomon served on two panels at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in August: “Teaching Race and Diversity in the Trump Era of Race, Rage and Resentment: Perspectives and Pedagogical Strategies” and “How the Lionel Barrow Scholarship Advanced My Professional Development.” Bramlett-Solomon also reviewed a manuscript for the Howard Journal of Communication and served as a paper discussant for the ASU Black Graduate Student Association symposium.

Professor of Practice Peter Byck has been leading a team of 20 researchers as they explore the benefits of a new method of grazing cattle. He also is producing and directing a feature-length documentary on the research, which is funded by McDonald’s, the Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research, ExxonMobil, Wrangler, Timberland, Jim and Paula Crown, the Don and Bill Budinger/Rodel Foundation, and Stuart and Joanna Brown.

Assistant Professor Monica Chadha published three papers in peer-reviewed journals in the past year, including a co-authored article in the publication Journalism that examines online local news sites’ coverage of community news that fosters engagement with people in the community, advocates for them and mobilizes them. She also published a study of Indian news entrepreneurs in Journalism Studies. She co-presented five conference papers. In addition, she was an invited panelist at the University of Houston’s Symposium on Journalism in Asia.

Knight Chair in Data Journalism Sarah Cohen included eight years as a member of the Investigative Reporters and Editors board of directors. She also initiated a project to produce an open source
Steve Filmer, executive producer of “Catalyst,” launched a new TV magazine professional program and got a big assist from the Arizona PBS team to create the first 13 episodes of the prime-time program, which premiered on the station in April. Season 2 is scheduled to air in February.

Senior Associate Dean Kristin Gilger and Frank Russell Chair Julia Wallace have authored a book, “There’s No Crying in Newsrooms: What Women Have Learned About What It Takes to Lead.” The book contains interviews and advice from more than 100 women who lead or have led newsrooms around the country. The book is being published by Rowman & Littlefield and is slated to be published in mid-2019. Gilger also authored an article for “America” magazine about parents’ efforts to raise their children in a religious tradition.

Professor of Practice Dan Gillmor was a frequent speaker at conferences and events, including a talk on scaling the demand side of news literacy at MisinfoCon in Washington, D.C. Gillmor and Cronkite Innovation Chief Eric Newton continue work on the News Co/Lab’s partnership with McClatchy, a news and information company with operations in 30 markets around the country. This has led to significant moves toward transparency and engagement in Kansas City, Missouri; Fresno, California; and Macon, Georgia. As an example, The Fresno Bee made transparency about its journalism a core part of its elections coverage. In addition, a News Co/Lab survey of community journalism a core part of its elections coverage. In addition, a News Co/Lab survey of community journalism.

Our People

Heather Lovett Dunn, content director for Cronkite News, served on the “Emerging Technology in the Classroom” panel at the Broadcast Education Association conference in Las Vegas. She also is on the awards and honors committee for the executive committee of the Society of Professional Journalists and became faculty adviser for ASU’s SPJ/Online News Association chapter.

Valeria Fernández, director of Cronkite Noticias, won first place for statewide immigration reporting in the Arizona Press Club awards contest. Later in the year, the same story won first place for immigration coverage in a contest sponsored by the Association of Alternative News Media. Fernández spoke at the Broadcast Education Association Conference about the bilingual Cronkite News newsroom and spoke at the Logan Symposium about coverage of race and hate.

Tom Feuer, director of the LA Sports Bureau for Cronkite News, serves as a contributing editor for “Dig” magazine and judged two national contests: the Sports Emmy Award and the National Collegiate Sports Awards. In addition, under Feuer’s guidance, the Los Angeles-based student team of Cronkite Sports began producing a new show for the Pac-12 Network. “Crosstown Stories” is a 30-minute monthly anthology program concentrating on UCLA and USC athletics.

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conference. The 12 Cronkite News journalists produced nearly two dozen stories for the AHJC website during and after the conference, often leading the home page of the national organization. The stories also were broadcast on Arizona PBS, the Cronkite News website and social media sites for viewers and readers in Arizona and beyond.

Retha Hill, director of the New Media Innovation and Entrepreneurship Lab, created “Hoaxes & Havoc,” a game about how fake news is created and spread throughout the U.S. With a grant from the Knight Foundation’s Journalism 360 Initiative, she designed a unique tool to build 3D data visualizations in virtual reality. She also was a keynote speaker for the opening plenary at the National Association of Black Journalists national convention in Detroit, speaking about why black journalists need to understand the profound changes that technology will bring to the profession over the next few years.

Jim Jacoby, director of Studio Production for Cronkite News, presented on a panel at BEA, co-created a tribute video for Judy Woodruff of “PBS NewsHour” and the late co-anchor Gwen Ifill, and began his second year teaching his popular online class, Media Issues in American Popular Culture.

Director of Sports Programs Brett Kurland, who also is director of the Cronkite News Phoenix Sports Bureau, spoke to The Associated Press during the Olympics about the perils of covering sports on live TV in today’s media landscape.

Assistant Professor K. Hazel Kwon was a keynote speaker at the Data, Innovation and Social Convergence conference in Seoul, South Korea, talking about data innovation for social research. She also was a panelist at the International Communication Association meeting in Prague in the Czech Republic on the topic of understanding social capital in a networked communication environment. In addition, Kwon wrote an opinion piece for The Arizona Republic on why South Koreans can’t let themselves care about the nuclear threat from North Korea. Her research team developed a machine learning model that detects prejudice in social media with the results being published in Decision Support Systems, one of top journals in the field of Information Systems and Management.

Andrew Leckey, president of the Donald W. Reynolds National Center for Business Journalism and the Reynolds Endowed Chair in Business Journalism, was selected as a Fulbright Specialist to Taiwan. In spring 2019, he will begin a four-week assignment at Shih Hsin University’s College of Journalism and Communications in Taipei, Taiwan where he will teach business and economic journalism as well as conduct research and lecture. It marks the third Fulbright designation he has received, with the prior two in Uganda and Guangzhou, China. Separately, he taught a 60-student summer business journalism course at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing for a sixth consecutive year. Cronkite graduate Cong Wang, a reporter for China’s Global Times, was a guest speaker and shared with students his daily front page coverage of U.S.-China trade. Another Cronkite graduate, Pei Li from Reuters, also shared the challenges of breaking news involving major Chinese business sectors.

Christina Leonard, Cronkite News executive editor, was named vice president of the Asian American Journalists Association’s Arizona chapter.

Associate Dean Mark Lodato, the associate general manager for innovation and design at Arizona PBS, was a member of the second cohort of ASU’s Advanced Leadership Initiative. He, along with co-authors Sue Green, Carol Schwalbe and Assistant Dean for Research and International Programs B. William Silcock, have secured a new contract for a second edition of their textbook “News Now: Visual Storytelling in the Digital Age.” It will be published in 2019 by Taylor and Francis.

Professor of Practice Andres Martinez is working on a book project supported by a seed grant from the Global Sport Institute, exploring sports and globalization, particularly the globalization of the English Premier League. He also wrote several commentaries, including a column in the Los Angeles Times on the globalization of the Premier League. Martinez also penned a column for the Outlook section of The Washington Post before the World Cup in which he argued that the growth of popularity of soccer in this country poses a long-term threat to America First exceptionalism.

Associate Professor Fran R. Matera, director of Cronkite’s Public Relations Lab, worked with the Southwest Interdisciplinary Research Center on two projects: to develop materials for an HIV prevention campaign and to support the center’s National Institutes of Health grant to disseminate bilingual health-related messaging to Latino communities in the Southwest. In spring 2018, her PR Lab teams won three platinum and three gold Hermes Creative Awards from the international Association for Marketing and Communications Professionals.

Professor of Practice Jacquee Petchel and Weil Family Professor of Journalism Leonard Downie Jr. directed the 2018 Carnegie-Knight
Paola Boivin Proud to be Sports Journalism Pioneer

By Sierra Poore

Paola Boivin, who has helped lead the Cronkite Sports Bureau since 2016, is the first woman journalist to be both inducted to the Arizona Sports Hall of Fame and appointed to the selection committee of the College Football Playoff.

On Mondays and Tuesdays throughout much of the football season, she met with 12 other people at a hotel outside of Dallas to decide the top 25 teams and the four teams that should play in the post season. She began her three-year term in the spring.

Only one other woman, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, has served on the selection committee for the College Football Playoff before her. "It’s such an honor to be among this group of people that gets to make this really important selection in the sports world," she said.

Boivin, a graduate of the University of Illinois, was a sports talk show host at KMPC radio in Los Angeles and a columnist for the Los Angeles Daily News before joining The Arizona Republic in 1994. Earlier in her career she was a sports editor at the Camarillo (California) Daily News.

At the Republic, Boivin was a featured sports columnist. She also appeared weekly on sports radio, did extensive reporting for 12 News, and engaged audiences on social media. Before becoming a columnist, she covered sports beats, including ASU football and basketball.

For women working in the sports field, things have gotten much better, Boivin said. "I’m really encouraged by the number of women interested, but also by these teams and organizations and athletes now that don’t even blink when they see women covering sports."

Covering sports was "such an awesome experience that it makes me really happy to see other women exploring it," she added.

Her induction into the 2017 Arizona Sports Hall of Fame, had a major impact on Boivin.

She was honored, "especially to be inducted with a group of sports figures that have had such a positive impact on sports in Arizona," she said.

She joined Arizona Cardinals owner Bill Bidwill, former Arizona Coyotes forward Shane Doan, former Phoenix Suns guard Dan Majerle and ASU wrestler Anthony Robles in the 2017 class.

“The Hall of Fame Ceremony was the first time in this career where I felt like I belonged," she said.

News21 national student investigative reporting project — stories, photos, videos and a television documentary — on hate in America with several Cronkite faculty colleagues and 38 multimedia student journalists from 19 universities, including ASU.

Jessica Pucci, director of digital audiences programs, was named to Media Shift’s inaugural list of top 20 journalism educators who are innovating in journalism education. The EducationShift20 honor is for her work in audience engagement and promoting analytics for all types of communications. She also was named as one of Crain’s NewsPro top 10 journalism educators. In addition, Pucci co-chaired the research symposium on digital analytics at the 2018 Broadcast Educators Association conference.

Assistant Professor Sada J. Reed was selected as a 2018 Kopenhaver Center Fellow and was awarded a grant from ASU’s Center for the Study of Economic Liberty to launch a national version of a 2014 pilot study on the changing nature of freelance labor in sports departments. She also was awarded a Dean’s Research Grant to examine Russian and American sports coverage of doping. Her work was published three times this year, including a study in the Journal of Sports Media about American sports journalists’ sports enthusiasm, a study in the Journal of Emerging Sport Studies about sports journalists’ perceptions of their

Walter V. Robinson, the Donald W. Reynolds Visiting Professor of Journalism, spoke about the importance of investigative reporting in a democracy to audiences in California, Maine, Colorado, the Caribbean, Melbourne, Sydney and Anchorage.

Professor of Practice Vanessa Ruiz, director of the Borderlands team in Cronkite News, was emcee for the Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce’s DATOS event. DATOS: The State of Arizona’s Hispanic Market is an annual report on the latest economic trends shaping the Hispanic market in Arizona and nationwide. Ruiz also was keynote speaker for ASU’s Hispanic Convocation 2018 at the Wells Fargo Arena, where she spoke about the importance of diversity and inclusion in education before an audience of 11,000.

Associate Professor Dennis Russell’s peer-reviewed book, “The Portrayal of Social Catastrophe in the German-Language Films of Austrian Filmmaker Michael Haneke,” was cited in three scholarly film-studies books, including Alison Taylor’s “Troubled Everyday: The Aesthetics of Violence and the Everyday in European Art Cinema.”

Associate Professor Joseph Russomanno authored five articles published in academic journals in 2018. These included “Speech On Campus: How America’s Crisis in Confidence Is Eroding Free Speech Values,” in the Hastings Constitutional Law Quarterly. He organized, moderated or served as a panelist during five sessions at academic conferences and two ASU events, including interviewing noted First Amendment attorney Floyd Abrams. Russomanno also made a presentation on free speech at a conference in Lahore, Pakistan, and was an invited speaker to a session of “Arizona Talks” on free speech. He also began projects related to 2019’s 100th anniversary of modern free speech doctrine, and chaired two successful Ph.D. dissertation committees.

Southwest Borderlands Initiative Professor Fernanda Santos moderated a panel on politics and the changing demographics in Arizona for a group of Open Society Foundations fellows from the U.S. and several other countries. She taught two sessions on short-form narrative and immigration at The Associated Press Media Editors’s NewsTrain 2018, a two-day training program hosted by the Cronkite School. She also was a keynote speaker at the Agricultural Media Summit, the joint meeting of the American Agricultural Editors’ Association, Livestock Publications Council and American Business Media Agri Council, held at the Westin Kierland Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Assistant Dean B. William Silcock, director of Cronkite Global Initiatives who also leads the doctoral program at Cronkite, served on the accreditation site team for Elon University’s journalism program. A research scholar, he co-authored a paper that won a BEA broadcast news division second-place research award. The article was accepted for publication by Journalism Practice. The paper, written with Madeleine Liseblad, an assistant professor at Middle Tennessee University and Cronkite School alumna, was titled: “Beyond Walter Cronkite’s ‘And that’s the way it is’ - Ten American Network News Anchors’ Swan Songs.”

Associate Professor Leslie-Jean Thornton drew on nearly two years of social media images advocating violence toward the media for a AEJMC/C-SPAN broadcast: “Journalists in the Hot Seat: Staying Safe in a Hostile Political Environment.” She also was a panelist for the Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics on fake news, wrote an article for MediaShift and curated a presentation of social media images for a conference in Lahore, Pakistan. In addition, she published five works, several of which focused on the weaponization of the term “fake news” and ways in which journalists confront patently false information when reporting. The work included a chapter in a new book titled “Fake news: Understanding media and misinformation in the digital age,” edited by Melissa Zimdars for Cambridge: MIT Press.

Frank Russell Chair Julia Wallace wrote an opinion piece for The Arizona Republic about why powerful Baby Boomer women in newsrooms didn’t stand up strongly or loudly against sexual harassment prior to the #MeToo movement. She also wrote an opinion piece for USA Today about Kendra Penningroth, the Cronkite senior who went on the record to talk about sexual harassment she faced from State Rep. Don Shooter. Shooter was later expelled from the Arizona Legislature.

Associate Professor Xu Wu was awarded a sabbatical to study cross-cultural communication using the rebranding of China’s largest export city Guangzhou as a focus. In addition, his book titled “Why Does the West Misread China?” was published by the International Publishing Group.
Troy F. Crowder, a top ASU administrator and journalism professor who long championed the Cronkite School died Oct. 29, 2018, at age 94.

Crowder joined ASU in 1970 as assistant to the president and director of university relations. The former World War II fighter pilot taught classes in journalism and worked as the assistant to three presidents — Harry K. Newburn, John W. Schwada and J. Russell Nelson.

Crowder first worked with Newburn in the 1950s at the Educational TV and Radio Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan. It was the first national effort to bring television into higher education.

At ASU, Nelson and Crowder played a role in the early planning for the establishment of Barrett, the Honors College, which has been recognized as one of the top honors colleges in the nation.

“I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with them because in looking back, I can see how in this young and changing university, each president had the exact personality and abilities that were needed at the time,” Crowder said in a 2013 interview.

In 1986, Crowder retired as special assistant to the president under Nelson and was named an emeritus professor at the Cronkite School.

Crowder’s son, Greg, was a 1980 graduate of the Cronkite School who went on to become a photojournalist at The Press-Enterprise in Riverside, California. He tragically died in 2005.

To honor the life and spirit of their son, Crowder and his wife, Betsy, established an endowment in 2007 at the Cronkite School, supporting photojournalism and the creation of the Greg Crowder Memorial Photojournalism Award. Crowder and his wife regularly attended the annual Crowder Award ceremonies viewing the photos and talking with the students about photojournalism and their career goals.

“Troy’s commitment to the Cronkite School and ASU was unparalleled,” said Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan. “Both Troy and Betsy helped numerous students launch successful careers in photojournalism as a way to celebrate their late son’s life. Troy will be deeply missed, but his legacy will live on at ASU.”

Since the first Crowder Award in 2010, 27 students have been recognized in the contest. The winners have gone on to work for leading media outlets, including The Arizona Republic, Minneapolis Star Tribune, The San Francisco Chronicle and Statesman Journal in Salem, Oregon.

“Starting the endowment seemed like a really good way to memorialize our son,” Crowder said in 2007. “The endowment will be there forever.”

In Memoriam

The Cronkite School respectfully honors these alumni and friends who have passed away and who have contributed so much to the school.

Richard Benner ’88
Troy F. Crowder
Isolde Davidson ’69
Tad Evans ’67
Philip Fry ’59
James Gossen ’80
Samuel B. “Brooks” Johnson
Krista Lake ’00
Mary Louise Loper ’55
Kevin O’Toole ’82
Martin Pavell ’62
Ben Reid ’65
Michael P. Saucier
Walter Seago ’76
Kate Spade ’85
Donald Story ’69
Kathleen Treadway ’78
Michael Tulumello ’78
James Walters ’88
The new editor-in-chief of USA Today, the most-circulated newspaper in the U.S.
A reporter for CNN in Egypt.
ESPN’s Monday Night Football director.
A cybersecurity reporter for The Wall Street Journal, and a national security correspondent at Time.
A sportswriter and editor for The Japan Times.
An anchor for the NFL Network.

Those are just a few of the journalism careers that Cronkite graduates are pursuing around the world.

At KVIA-TV in El Paso, Texas, five Cronkite graduates work at the station. The station’s news director said she hires Cronkite journalists because they are ready for the job market right out of school.

Alumni also say the skills they learned at Cronkite transfer well to other professions. Cronkite grads include a diplomat, a spokeswoman for the National Education Association and numerous people working in politics.

Crystal Alvarez ’18 (B.A.) is a digital marketing specialist for Local First Arizona in Phoenix.
Olivia Anderson ’18 (B.A.) is a broadcast and digital producer at KREM-TV, the CBS affiliate in Spokane, Washington.
Alexander Argeros ’18 (B.A.) is a production coordinator for U-Haul in Phoenix.
Allison Bailey ’18 (B.A.) is an associate multimedia editor for NBC’s “Today” show in New York.
Allie Bice ’18 (B.A.) is a web producer at Politico in Washington, D.C.
Jillian Carapella ’18 (B.A.) is a marketing specialist at TechTHiNQ in Phoenix.
Chelsea Chiapuzio ’18 (M.M.C.) is a post-production assistant at the NFL Network in Los Angeles.
Adriana De Alba ’18 (M.M.C.) is a reporter for WVEC-TV, the ABC affiliate in Norfolk, Virginia.
Amy Edelen ’18 (B.A.) is the Spokane Valley City Hall reporter for The Spokane Review in Spokane, Washington.
Ciara Escalante ’18 (B.A.) is a marketing and communications coordinator with Allied Global Marketing in Phoenix.
Kristiana Faddoul '18 (B.A.) is a media assistant for the Sierra Club in Los Angeles.

Tyler Fingert '18 (M.M.C.) is a multimedia journalist for WALA-TV, a Fox affiliate in Mobile, Alabama.

Tynin Fries '18 (M.M.C.) is a digital strategist for The Denver Post in Denver.

Isabel Greenblatt '18 (B.A.) is digital producer for KXTV-TV, the ABC affiliate in Sacramento, California.

Lindsey Greenwood '18 (B.A.) is an assistant digital media planner for R&R Partners in Phoenix.

Timothy Johns '18 (M.M.C.) is a multimedia journalist and host for KBAK-TV, the CBS affiliate in Bakersfield, California.

Fortesa Latifi '18 (M.M.C.) is a research writer for Happiest Baby, Inc. in Los Angeles. Latifi writes scientific and parenting articles.

Noelle Lilley '18 (B.A.) is a multimedia journalist at KERO-TV, the ABC affiliate in Bakersfield, California.

Jasmyne Lott '18 (B.A.) is the digital and brand marketing coordinator at Make-A-Wish America in Phoenix.


Katriona Martin '18 (B.A.) is a communications assistant at Exceptional Women in Publishing in San Francisco.

Amanda Mason '18 (M.M.C.) is a multimedia journalist at KERO-TV, the ABC affiliate in Bakersfield, California.

Blakely McHugh '18 (B.A.) is a multimedia journalist and weekend forecaster at KOB1-TV, the NBC affiliate in Medford, Oregon.

Megan Meier '18 (B.A.) is a multimedia journalist at KION-TV, the CBS affiliate in Salinas, California.

Austin Miller '18 (B.A.) is a marketing associate for the Southwest region and Hawaii at Lyft in Phoenix.

Faith Miller '18 (B.A.) is a reporter for the Colorado Springs Independent in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Margaret Naczek '18 (M.M.C.) is a sports reporter at The Oshkosh Northwestern in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Andrew Nicla '18 (B.A.) is a producer at KKTU-TV, the CBS affiliate in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Tyler Paley '18 (B.A./M.M.C.) is a reporter for WTOL-TV, the CBS affiliate in Toledo, Ohio.

Melody Pierce '18 (B.A.) is an account coordinator at The Knight Agency in Phoenix.

Samantha Poulis '18 (B.A.) is an account coordinator at Entercom Radio in Denver.

Nicole Praga '18 (B.A./M.M.C.) is an assistant director of strategic communications for Penn State University Athletics in State College, Pennsylvania.

Tea Price '18 (B.A./M.M.C.) is an audio producer for The Arizona Republic in Phoenix.

Marisela Ramirez '18 (B.A.) is a video editor at The Hill in Washington, D.C.

Emily Richardson '18 (B.A.) is a multimedia journalist for Chamber Business News in Phoenix.

Aubrey Rumore '18 (B.A.) is a communications associate at the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation in Washington, D.C.

Ryan Santistevan '18 (B.A.) is a breaking news reporter at Poughkeepsie Journal in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Stephanie Shields '18 (M.M.C.) is a multimedia journalist at KTSJ-TV, the NBC affiliate in El Paso, Texas.

Melissa Szenda '18 (B.A.) is a marketing assistant at Relentless Beats in Phoenix.

Krista Tillman '18 (B.A.) is a publicity coordinator at Lavidge advertising and public relations agency in Phoenix.

Matthew Tonis '18 (B.A./M.M.C.) is a sports editor at the Berkshire Record (Limestone Enterprises) in Barrington, Massachusetts.

Justin Toscano '18 (B.A.) is a sports reporter for the Manhattan Mercury (Seaton Publishing) in Manhattan, Kansas.

Victoria Valenzuela '18 (M.M.C.) is a news and digital content producer at WMVT, the NBC affiliate in Madison, Wisconsin.

Alexandra Watts '18 (B.A./M.M.C.) is a reporter for Mississippi Public Broadcasting in Jackson, Mississippi.

Cameron Wiggins '18 (B.A.) is a production assistant at Windsong Productions in Fresno, California.
2017
Jessica Chavarria '17 (B.A.) is a producer for Univision Arizona in Phoenix.
Peter Cheng '17 (B.A.) is a news writer at NBC News Radio in Phoenix.
Sean Logan '17 (B.A.) is a photojournalist at The Arizona Republic in Phoenix.
Anthony Prosceno '17 (B.A.) is a producer at KTVT, the CBS affiliate in Colorado Springs, Colorado.
Shay Roddy '17 (B.A.) is an executive producer at Green Creek Films in Philadelphia.
Alisa Stone '17 (B.A.) is a marketing associate at the Warren Center in Dallas.
Ziyi Zeng '17 (B.A.) is a staff writer at Global Times in Los Angeles.

2016
Jesse Canales '16 (B.A.) is a reporter at KAUZ-TV, the CBS affiliate in Castaic, California.
Hope Flores '16 (B.A.) is an interactive content developer at Envida Group in Scottsdale, Arizona.
Hector Lagunas '16 (B.A.) is a multimedia journalist at Telemundo in El Paso, Texas.
Soyenixe Lopez '16 (B.A.) is a congressional fellow at the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.
Ashton Meisner '16 (B.A.) is a junior SEO specialist at Directive Consulting in Irvine, California.
Elena Mendoza '16 (B.A.) is a reporter/producer at KXII-TV, the CBS affiliate in Denison, Texas.
Jessica Morrison '16 (B.A.) is public relations manager at Equity Arizona in Phoenix.
Alexa Renfroe '16 (B.A.) is an editorial agent at Wilhelmina International in New York.
Lanette Rivera '16 (B.A.) is a communications and donor relations manager at Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth in Las Vegas.

2015
Brittany Bade '15 (B.A.) is an anchor/reporter at KRQE-TV, the Fox affiliate in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Malcolm Brinkley '15 (B.A.) is a Master DJ and Emcee at VOX DJs in Los Angeles.
Brenda Carrasco '15 (B.A.) is a public information officer for the ASU Police Department in Tempe, Arizona.
Cierra Eubank '15 (B.A.) is a camera operator for ESPN in Bristol, Connecticut.
Nihal Krishan '15 (B.A.) was a reporting fellow for the Center for Responsive Politics in Washington, D.C., before joining the editorial staff of The New Republic.
Imelda Mejia '15 (B.A.) is communications coordinator for the ACLU of Texas in Houston.
Dominic Valente '15 (B.A.) is a chief photographer at The Daily Herald in Provo, Utah.

2014
Christopher Hilliard '14 (B.A.) is a video editor at KPHO-TV, the CBS affiliate in Phoenix.
Ja’han Jones '14 (B.A.) is an associate reporter for HuffPost in New York.
Michael Kandaris '14 (B.A.) is content marketing manager at the Pima County Joint Technological Education District in Tucson, Arizona.
Aaron Lavinsky '14 (B.A.) is a staff photographer at the Minneapolis Star Tribune in Minneapolis.
Diana Lustig '14 (B.A.) is senior designer at Drawbridge Inc. in San Mateo, California.
Nicholas Marek '14 (B.A.) is a director of broadcast and communications for the Dallas Lone Star Brahmas, a Tier II junior ice hockey team in the North American Hockey League.
Lauren Maxwell ‘14 (B.A.) is a public relations coordinator at Forevermark in New York.
Patrick Ryan '14 (B.A.) is an entertainment reporter at USA Today, based in Phoenix.
Breanna Slocum '14 (B.A.) is a social media manager at Digital Firefly Marketing in Princeton, New Jersey.

2013
Alexys Bahn '13 (B.A.) is social media manager at Brooklyn Bedding in Phoenix.
Robert Barrett '13 (B.A.) is a newscast director at KSAZ-TV, the Fox affiliate in Phoenix.
Patrick O’Malley '13 (B.A.) is the education and county reporter at Gallup Independent in Gallup, New Mexico.
Ana Ramirez '13 (B.A.) is a multimedia journalist at the Austin American-Statesman in Austin, Texas.
Minerva Ruelas '13 (B.A.) is a news assistant at Disney ABC Television Group in Glendale, California.
Brennan Smith '13 (B.A.) is marketing manager at the Utah Olympic Oval in Salt Lake City.
Nicole Carroll, former editor of The Arizona Republic and ASU alumna, is the new editor-in-chief of USA Today, the most-circulated newspaper in the U.S. Carroll, a 1991 Cronkite graduate and 2008 Cronkite School Alumni Hall of Fame member, took the job in early 2018. She joined the Republic in 1999 after earning a master’s degree from Georgetown University and working at USA Today early in her career.

Carroll’s tenure at the Republic included stints as a city editor, managing editor of features and executive editor. She had been vice president of news and editor of the Republic and azcentral.com since 2015.

Nicole Carroll was the force behind the 2017 special report on “The Wall: Unknown Stories, Unintended Consequences” that won the Republic and the USA Today Network the Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting. Journalists traveled the border by ground and by air to document every mile and also reported extensively on President Donald Trump’s proposed wall.

Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan said Carroll has all the tools needed to advance the field of journalism. “Nicole is one of the finest editors of our generation,” he said. “She has a deep understanding of news and the communities served by news organizations. But just as important, she has the skill sets that are so critical in the digital age for leadership in any industry. She is a highly creative and innovative collaborator who excels at building teams and creating positive, forward-looking work environments. We are tremendously proud of all of her accomplishments.”

At the time she was named USA Today editor, Carroll said, “It is humbling to follow in the footsteps of some of the most respected and talented journalists in the business.”

Carroll vowed to focus on investigative journalism and protect the vital role of the press.

USA Today and The Arizona Republic are part of the USA Today Network, owned by Gannett Co. “Nicole embodies the values, journalistic excellence, integrity and fierce competitive spirit USA Today needs to further its position as a trusted national news leader,” said Maribel Perez Wadsworth, president of USA Today Network and publisher of USA Today.
Cronkite Alumni Among Top Business Innovators at ASU

By Kalle Benallie

Cronkite graduates are among the ASU alumni who made the prestigious Sun Devil 100 Class of 2018, and were honored in a ceremony in April. The distinguished alumni lead innovative businesses, represent the spirit of ASU and have the entrepreneurial drive it takes to be a leader. Each of the Cronkite alums said they learned vital skills at Cronkite that help them today.

Danielle Feroleto ’94 B.A.; ’98 M.A.

Danielle Feroleto is the owner and founder of Small Giants, a marketing, business development and strategic business services group. Established in 2006, the full-service marketing agency helps commercial real estate developers, engineers, general contractors and related companies achieve strategic, marketing and business development goals.

Feroleto believes that some of the most valuable skills she learned in the journalism program revolve around confidentiality, researching the facts and understanding how to ask the right questions, whether it’s for a story, the brand messaging of a firm or a presentation where millions of dollars are at stake. Her communication skills are called on every day as she leads a team of 20 employees.

Feroleto graduated from ASU in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and in 1998 with a master’s in Mass Communications.

Laura Capello ’97

Laura Capello, CEO and president of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona, had hopes of becoming a sports journalist. But her interests grew in a different direction — toward nonprofits and public relations.

Still, the skills she learned from journalism have helped her notice trends and find sources — people with different perspectives — to help her organization succeed.

“I still think like a writer/reporter and it has helped me to keep our nonprofit staying innovative and doing the work they need to do,” she said.

Capello said Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona continues to expand. “In order to help more kids, you have to have that competitive edge and be innovative,” she said.
Justin Hodge ’06
Hodge had planned to be a broadcast journalist, but while at Cronkite he worked at a moving company that inspired him to create his own.
“In was the one who did everything, writing articles about our business and putting the website together,” he said.
Hodge, who is president of Muscular Moving Men, which he co-founded with his friend, Josh Jurhill, said moving companies are present during important moments in people’s lives. His employees act as friends and therapists, which is part of the company’s appeal, he said.
“We’re not changing the world necessarily here, but you have an impact on a families’ lives,” he said.

Crystal Patriarche ’98
From a young age, Patriarche was an avid reader. She began her career in the high-tech world working with Microsoft and Sony as a PR professional, but she never lost her love for books, which led to a decision to start her own company, SparkPoint Studio.
“You have to spend a lot of time doing things you don’t want to do until, eventually, you can do the things you want to do,” she said.
Patriarche is the founder and CEO of a multimedia company that works with more than 500 female authors and is staffed entirely by women.
The Cronkite School gave her hands-on experiences that prepared her for a career in business, she said, and she’s pleased the school emphasizes real-world skills.
Anita Luera, an award-winning journalist who has played a pivotal role in the advancement of Latinos in the news industry, was inducted into the Cronkite Alumni Hall of Fame.

Luera, a board member and past president of the Arizona Latino Media Association (ALMA) who graduated from the Cronkite School in 1977, directs the Cronkite High School Journalism Institute. She manages a range of programs and outreach efforts that expose students to journalism and support high school journalism programs around the state. Much of her efforts are focused on reaching groups that are underrepresented in the news industry.

“Anita Luera represents the very best of the Cronkite School,” said Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan. “Her enthusiasm and passion for journalism have helped create a significantly stronger and more diverse news industry here in the Valley and beyond.”

Luera was inducted into the Hall of Fame during ALMA’s High School Journalism Workshop, which is held at the Cronkite School each spring. She is the 48th inductee into the Cronkite Alumni Hall of Fame.

Before coming to Cronkite in 2007, Luera worked in the Phoenix news market for 27 years. She was the first female news director of a Phoenix television news station, managing the news department for Univision Arizona, KTVW-TV. She also was a news producer at KTSP-TV, now Fox 10, and community relations coordinator and news producer at 12 News, KPNX-TV.

Luera is a former president and a longtime member of ALMA, which promotes a stronger media industry through diversity initiatives that deepen the scope, coverage and understanding of the Latino community. ALMA is the Phoenix chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

At Cronkite, Luera modernized the Summer Journalism Institute, the school’s annual high school summer camp, by moving the curriculum from a print to a digital focus. She also played an important role in the launch of additional high school summer camps in sports journalism and media innovation.

Luera regularly travels to high schools across the state as well as to high school conventions around the country. She reaches an estimated 2,500 students a year, introducing them to journalism as a potential career and encouraging them to attend college.

“I just love coming to the Cronkite School every day,” Luera said. “To get to know young people and share something that you’re very passionate about is special.”
Adelaida Severson, who leads one of the nation’s top satellite communications companies, is the 47th inductee into the Cronkite Alumni Hall of Fame.

Severson, who graduated from the Cronkite School in 1995 with a master’s degree and later earned a doctorate in public administration from ASU, leads Bushtex, which provides critical support to broadcasts of high-profile news events around the globe. Severson was inducted into the Cronkite Alumni Hall of Fame during the school’s fall convocation graduation ceremony at ASU Gammage in December 2017. The Hall of Fame celebrates the achievements of Cronkite School alumni who have made significant contributions to journalism.

“I am humbled and honored to be recognized by my university and represent our alumni,” Severson said. “It’s amazing how far the university has come since I graduated, and to have a diploma that says Arizona State University is incredibly overwhelming.”

Severson was inducted into the Cronkite Alumni Hall of Fame during the school’s fall convocation graduation ceremony at ASU Gammage in December 2017. The Hall of Fame celebrates the achievements of Cronkite School alumni who have made significant contributions to journalism.

Severson also played a key role in laying the foundation for global outreach at the Cronkite School. Her family’s support in 2012 led to the development of Cronkite Global Initiatives, the hub for all of the school’s global programs.

Today, the Adelaida and Barry Severson Family Cronkite Global Initiatives Suite is headquarters to a half-dozen international journalism training and exchange programs and study abroad programs for students.

“Adelaida, you are a role model for our students, and you represent what it means to be a graduate of the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication,” said Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan at the convocation ceremony.

Severson, who was born and raised in Hawaii, started her career as a journalist and reporter before entering the satellite broadcast industry in Los Angeles.

From 1994-2003, Severson served as director of special events at ASU, where she coordinated and facilitated events and fundraisers for the President’s Office.

Severson serves as an ASU trustee and vice president of the ASU Asian Alumni Chapter. She also is a member of the International Society of Satellite Professionals, the Asian American Journalists Association and the American Society of Public Administrators.
OUR ALUMNI

2011
Stacy Megan Dillier ’11 (B.A.) is manager of communications at Phoenix Children’s Hospital in Phoenix.
Alicia Hart ’11 (B.A.) works in global marketing communications in apparel and footwear for Avery Dennison in New York.
Michael Marconi ’11 (B.A.) is a communications senior associate in AR and VR (augmented and virtual reality) for Google in San Mateo, California.
Amanda Maria Markell ’11 (B.A.) is a digital project manager at AEG Presents in Los Angeles.
Griselda Nevarez ’11 (B.A.) is a reporter for KTAR News in Phoenix.

2010
Jessica Andrews ’10 (B.A.) is an associate director of speaker outreach and relations at Politico in Washington, D.C.
Elizabeth Cain ’10 (B.A.) is a press manager at E! Entertainment Television in Los Angeles.
Chad Ryan Cutler ’10 (B.A.) is a sports anchor at News 12 Networks in Long Island, New York.
Stephanie Sembrano Ferrer ’10 (B.A.) is a senior PR account executive at the Knight Agency public relations and marketing firm in Scottsdale, Arizona.
Cameron Gidari ’10 (B.A.) is a vice president at Edelman in New York.
Desmond Miller ’10 (B.A.) is a digital line producer at CBS Interactive in New York.
Thomas Miller ’10 (B.A.) is an anchor/reporter for KXAN-TV, the NBC affiliate in Austin, Texas.
Anthony Spehar ’10 (B.A.) is a video editor at KOAT-TV, the ABC affiliate in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
Cassandra Treasure-Jones ’10 (B.A.) is a morning weather anchor at KVVU-TV, the Fox affiliate in Las Vegas.
Alexandra Weiler ’10 (B.A.) is a senior account manager at the Lucid Agency in Tempe, Arizona.

2009
Madelyn Burke ’09 (B.A.) is a studio host at Sports Illustrated (SI Wire) in New York. In addition, Burke hosts studio segments for Bleacher Report and is a host and reporter for the New York Giants.
Jocelyn Marie Buras ’09 (B.A.) is event marketing manager at Sierra Nevada Brewing Co. in Denver.
Amanda Chan ’09 (B.A.) is managing editor Bustle in New York.
Shannon Green ’09 (B.A.) is a senior multimedia producer at USA Today in Washington, D.C. Green leads the audio content strategy at USA Today.
Laura Kennedy ’09 (B.A.) is the owner and creative director of Tilt Up Media, a video marketing company in Indianapolis.
Jesus Adrian Ledeza ’09 (B.A.) is a producer for CNN in Mexico City.
Krista Paniagua ’09 (B.A.) is senior program coordinator in career services at the ASU’s Cronkite School in Phoenix.

2008
Stephen Bohner ’08 (B.A.) is a digital editor for the mobile innovations team at The Washington Post in Washington, D.C.
Courtney Bonnell ’08 (B.A.) is the regional West desk editor for The Associated Press in Phoenix, helping plan and guide news coverage for the 13-state U.S. West region.
Bettina Hansen ’08 (B.A.) is a university editor at USA Today in Washington, D.C.
William Hennigan ’08 (B.A.) is a university editor at USA Today in Washington, D.C.

2007
Sandra Afloarei ’07 (B.A.) is manager of radio promotions (Southwest), Epic Record for Sony Music in Los Angeles.
Jeff Aronson ’07 (B.A.) is a lead media operator at ESPN in Washington, D.C.
Jessica D’Amico ’07 (B.A.) is a news correspondent at NBC News Radio in Seattle.
Iris Hermosillo ’07 (B.A.) is an Emmy Award-winning meteorologist at KNXV-TV, the ABC affiliate in Phoenix.
Ian James Lee ’07 (B.A.) is a reporter for CNN in Egypt, reporting on the Middle East.
Nick Lough ’07 (B.A.) is an attorney who owns his own firm in Huntsville, Alabama.
Zack Strier ’07 (B.A.) is a project manager at Gravillis Inc. in Los Angeles.

2006
Noah Berlin ’06 (B.A.) is a game
Cronkite alumnus Joey Carrera is the morning breaking news reporter at KVIA-TV in El Paso, Texas, but he still has Cronkite lessons on his mind every day. “When I go out there,” Carrera said, “I'm thinking of my Intro to Journalism class — like, OK, inverted pyramid, how can I set this up for our viewers on TV? So the lessons and the things that I learned at Cronkite are still of value to me every day.”

Carrera is one of five Cronkite graduates working at KVIA, the ABC affiliate in El Paso.

Brenda De Anda-Swann, the news director for KVIA, said the station has a close relationship with Cronkite. She trusts that Associate Dean Mark Lodato and Director of Career Services Mike Wong will send the station highly qualified graduates who are ready for the demand of daily television. “Working at Cronkite News they already have just tremendous hands-on training,” De Anda-Swann said.

One Cronkite graduate, Jamie Warren, a reporter and anchor for KVIA, said Cronkite News provided her with the experience she needed to work for KVIA. “When I got hired at KVIA, one of the things our general manager said to me was, 'Wow, I'm really impressed by how many internships you did,'” Warren said. “There are endless opportunities at Cronkite to get involved in whatever aspect of journalism you're interested in.” With so many former Cronkite students at KVIA, she said, “it's cool that we have our own little support system.”

Katie Faller, a producer for the station, said her employers were impressed she knew how to put on a newscast when she arrived at the station. Today she is responsible for producing the morning news show and makes developing and organizational decisions for the newscast. “You're kind of the boss of the show,” she said.

Faller explained she applied to KVIA-TV because of its close proximity to Arizona. She was attracted to “the idea of reporting on the border, reporting on stories about the borderland, about Mexico and about El Paso’s relation to Mexico.” Like in Arizona, news is plentiful, De Anda-Swann said. “National stories are local stories for us,” De Anda-Swann said. “You have immigration. You have border security. You have trade. You have military. It never stops. It’s a lot of fun to cover.”

Other Cronkite alums at the station are reporter Katie Bieri and Mauricio Casillas, anchor of “Good Morning El Paso.”
Our Alumni

operations and entertainment manager for the Arizona Diamondbacks in Phoenix.

Bryan Burgan ’06 (B.A.) is an associate director at Spectrum Sportsnet in El Segundo, California.

Katie Fisher ’06 (B.A.) is the executive producer at KNXV-TV, the ABC affiliate in Phoenix.

Stephen Grigely ’06 (B.A.) is the vice president of Fox Sports Network in Los Angeles.

Erika Patching ’06 (B.A.) is customer service director at HireVue in Chicago.

Joseph Rondone ’06 (B.A.) is a staff photographer/videographer based in Memphis, Tennessee, for Gannett and the USA Today Network.

Samuel Salzwedel ’06 (B.A.) is an investigative journalist at KVOA-TV, the NBC affiliate in Tucson, Arizona.

2005

Andrew Bland ’05 (B.A.) is the program director at Entercom in Seattle.

Rebecca Clark ’05 (B.A.) is the PR manager for Pottery Barn Kids and PBteen brands for Williams-Sonoma Inc. in San Francisco.

Beth Cochran ’05 (B.A.) is the founder and CEO of Wired PR in Phoenix.

Kerry Howe ’05 (B.A.) is an assistant director of communications at Stanford University in Stanford, California.

Jeff McGuire ’05 (B.A.) is manager of the Content Associate Program at ESPN in Bristol, Connecticut.

Nicole Saidi ’05 (B.A.) is a producer, social media at CNN in Atlanta.

2004

Maria Cervantes ’04 (B.A.) is director of media and public affairs at Chicanos Por La Causa in Phoenix.

Josh Davis ’04 (B.A.) is investigative producer at KNBC-TV, the NBC affiliate in Los Angeles.

Jack Dowling ’04 (B.A.) is a video assistant with the Chicago Bears in Chicago.

Joe Farris ’04 (B.A.) is a sports producer for KTVK-TV, an independent station, and KPHO-TV, the CBS affiliate in Phoenix.

Dominic Martinez ’04 (B.A.) is a newscast and show director at NBCUniversal Inc. in Los Angeles.

Brandon Mendoza ’04 (B.A.) is an editorial researcher at NFL Media in Los Angeles.

Jessob Reisbeck ’04 (B.A.) is morning anchor of WJLA-TV, the ABC affiliate in Washington, D.C.

In 2012, the Cronkite School established a celebration to honor the legacy of Walter Cronkite and the accomplishments of the school that bears his name.

Each year, Cronkite Day brings alumni, students and faculty together. The sixth-annual event in October 2017 was no different, with social, career development and networking opportunities as well as a special keynote address and an alumni reception.

The event also featured a special trivia night before the alumni reception in which alumni, students and faculty answered journalism and Cronkite-related questions. Faculty members from Cronkite News ended up topping the student and alumni teams.

Cronkite Day included tours highlighting many of the new initiatives and programs at the Cronkite School. The half-day event also featured a special training session from Cronkite Career Services on LinkedIn for alumni and students.

“Cronkite Day offers a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the spirit of our amazing alumni and fantastic students, while also honoring the life of Walter Cronkite,” said Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan.

Cronkite Day Celebrates Walter Cronkite’s Legacy
Students, faculty and friends of the Cronkite School participated in the annual fun-filled Cronkite Day celebration honoring the legacy of Walter Cronkite. Photos by Celisse Jones
Noah Sacksteder '04 (B.A.) is a senior business strategist and account executive at Entercom in Phoenix.

2003
Leela (Roof) Pon '03 (B.A.) is a senior vice president for programming and series development at E! Networks in Los Angeles.
Evan Rosenblum '03 (B.A.) is a co-executive producer at TMZ in Los Angeles.

2002
Jared Aarons '02 (B.A.) is a morning reporter/multimedia journalist at KGT-Tv-TV, the ABC affiliate in San Diego.
Kristen Hinsberger '02 (B.A.) is a senior program events manager at FICO in San Diego.
Adam Kress '02 (B.A.) is a senior manager of external communications at Honeywell Aerospace in Phoenix.
Joann Madden '02 (B.A.) is the founder and creator of No Guilt Mom in Chandler, Arizona.
Ryan McCaffrey '02 (B.A.) is an executive editor of previews at IGN Entertainment in San Francisco.
Nick Piecoro '02 (B.A.) is the Diamondbacks and MLB reporter at The Arizona Republic in Phoenix.
Randy Policar '02 (B.A.) is a public information and communications specialist for the City of Mesa in Mesa, including for the Mesa City Council.

2000
Aaron Walker '02 (B.A.) is senior vice president, digital crisis at Edelman in Washington, D.C.
Alyson Hurt '01 (B.A.) is senior graphics editor at NPR in Washington, D.C.
Jennifer Jones '01 (B.A.) is a senior content coordinator at KPHO-TV, the CBS affiliate in Phoenix.
Mandy Mrosia '01 (B.A.) is a senior marketing executive at The Denver Business Journal in Denver.
Ryan O’Donnell '01 (B.A.) is an anchor at KRON-TV, the MyNetworkTV affiliate in San Francisco.

2000
Matthew Fazzi '00 (B.A.) is a file asset specialist at Starz in Denver.
John Long Garcia '00 (B.A.) is senior editor at America Media in New York.
Joseph Mantone '00 (B.A.) is a senior editor at S&P Global Market Intelligence in New York.
Craig Savage '00 (B.A.) is a director of communications and external affairs at Austal in Mobile, Alabama.

1999
Meghan Gamber '99 (B.A.) is director of publicity at 20th Century Fox in Los Angeles.

Do you know the answer to this clue?
Watch the Cronkite School's appearance on "Jeopardy!" at cronkite.asu.edu/jeopardy.
Emily Mahoney Wins First Data Fellowship at Houston Chronicle

Emily L. Mahoney, a 2017 master’s graduate of the Cronkite School, is the first recipient of a new data fellowship.

The Cronkite School and the Houston Chronicle teamed up to offer a graduate a data fellowship in Houston for the first time the fall of 2017.

Leading the fellowship is Matt Dempsey, the data editor for the Houston Chronicle and Cronkite alumnus who earned his master’s degree in 2005.

The Cronkite Data Fellowship, which lasts 12 weeks, rotates a journalist across multiple teams in the Houston Chronicle newsroom. Each team teaches a different way to use data in reporting.

Learning how to find and analyze data is “essential to writing stories with impactful, original findings,” Mahoney said.

The data fellow works on projects that include deep dives into complicated records with the investigative/enterprise team, building a series of unique data pieces around the vibrant dining scene in Houston with award-winning food writers, and crunching statistics on the Houston Astros while working with the sports desk, Dempsey said.

“We’d love for this fellowship to be the start of a pipeline of Cronkite graduates with data skills getting real-world experience at the Houston Chronicle,” he said.

Mahoney said she wouldn’t have had the “skill set and the story clips to get a fellowship like this had it not been for what I learned during my time at Cronkite.”

The data fellowship is part of the school’s efforts to increase the teaching of data journalism. Many of these efforts are led by Sarah Cohen, a Pulitzer Prize-winning data editor from the New York Times, who joined the Cronkite faculty in 2016 as the Knight Chair in Data Journalism.

Kathryn Goodenough-Miller ’99 (B.A.) is on-air presentation manager for Fox Sports Arizona in Phoenix.

Staci Maiers ’99 (B.A.) is a senior media strategist/senior press officer and spokeswoman for the National Education Association in Washington, D.C.

Ed Odeven ’99 (B.A.) is a sportswriter and editor at The Japan Times in Tokyo.

Katie Raml ’99 (B.A.) is an anchor at KNXV-TV, the ABC affiliate in Phoenix.

Kathy Ritchie ’99 (B.A.) is a reporter for KJZZ, the NPR member station in Phoenix.

Dan Siegel ’99 (B.A.) is assignment manager at KPNX-TV, the NBC affiliate in Phoenix.

Chad Wilson ’99 (B.A.) is the director of creative and media services at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix.

Jaime Cerreta ’98 (B.A.) is an anchor/reporter at KTVK-TV, an independent station in Phoenix.

Tom Hanny ’98 (B.A.) is owner and operator of Sea Creature Films in Seattle.

Timothy Tait ’98 (B.A.) is the communications director at the Arizona Department of Transportation in Phoenix.

Juan Villa ’98 (B.A.) is the news director for Univision in Phoenix.

Rob Weinheimer ’98 (B.A.) is the senior director of game operations and multimedia productions for the Arizona Diamondbacks in Phoenix.

Laura Anderson ’97 (B.A.) is the vice president and general manager of global communications at Intel Corp. in Santa Clara, California.

Jacob Bense ’97 (B.A.) is a digital media producer for U-Haul International in Phoenix.

Gary Falkowitz ’97 (B.A.) is a producer editor at ABC News — 20/20 Primetime Specials in New York.

Erik Gamborg ’97 (B.A.) is a senior researcher for CBS Broadcasting Inc. in Los Angeles.

Ruthann Hogue ’97 (B.A.) is senior content developer/writer for Lavidge, an advertising and public relations agency in Phoenix.

Christopher Lohbrunner ’97 (B.A.) is director of creative advertising for 20th Century Fox in Los Angeles.

Justin Schmid ’97 (B.A.) is the marketing and public relations director for Arizona Forward in Phoenix.

John Seibel ’97 (B.A.) is a news anchor at WDTN-TV, the NBC affiliate in Dayton, Ohio.

Suzanne Wilson ’97 (B.A.) is a media relations officer at ASU in Tempe, Arizona.

1996

Brandy Aguilar ’96 (B.A.) is the director of storytelling for DigitalWire360 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Martin Bernoski ’96 (B.A.) works in audience development and programming for ESPN in Bristol, Connecticut.

Katie (Ackerman) Buchanan ’96 (B.A.) is senior vice president of program strategy and scheduling for Lifetime and Lifetime Movies in New York.
OUR ALUMNI

David Hughes ’96 (B.A.) is a sports TV producer for the Phoenix Suns in Phoenix.

Destry Jetton ’96 (B.A.) is the host of 12 News’ “Arizona Midday” on KPNX-TV, the NBC affiliate in Phoenix.

Seth Katz ’96 (B.A.) is the senior director of original content at Spectrum in Los Angeles.

Makiko Kitagawa ’96 (B.A.) is web writer/webmaster for myhealthcarenetwork.com in Tokyo.

Jhoana Molina Villar ’96 (B.A.) is the media and community relations coordinator for the Maricopa County Public Health Department in Phoenix.

1995

Mika Akikuni ’95 (B.A.) is the associate director of marketing at Texas A&M International University in Laredo, Texas.

Nicholas Gerbis ’95 (B.A.) is senior field correspondent, Science and Innovation for KJZZ, the NPR member station in Phoenix.

Josh Greene ’95 (B.A.) is the director of publications for the Arizona Diamondbacks in Phoenix.

Todd Kelly ’95 (B.A.) is senior online sports manager and multimedia journalist for azcentral.com in Phoenix.

Matt Musgrave ’95 (B.A.) is a line producer for “Jimmy Kimmel Live” in Los Angeles.

Jose Ochoa ’95 (B.A.) is the executive producer on-air promotion and new media branding at KNXV-TV, the ABC affiliate in Phoenix.

Rafael Romo ’95 (B.A.) is the senior Latin American Affairs editor for CNN in Atlanta.

Will Selva ’95 (B.A.) is an anchor for the NFL Network in Culver City, California.

Christopher Strohm ’96 (B.A.) is a reporter for Bloomberg News in Washington, D.C.

Deborah Yatska ’95 (B.A.) is a manager at Sony Pictures Entertainment in Los Angeles.

1994

Dusti Armstrong-Woods ’94 (B.A.) is an account services manager for Caesars Entertainment Corp. in Las Vegas.


Ari Bergeron ’94 (B.A.) is the producer for School Space Media in Minneapolis.

Carrie (Peterson) Hofmann ’94 (B.A.) is the news director for KSHB-TV, the NBC affiliate in Kansas City, Missouri.

Tracee Larocca ’94 (B.A.) is senior vice president, advertising and brand engagement for Taco Bell in Irvine, California.

1993

Jill Atwood ’93 (B.A.) is the chief communications officer for the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System in Salt Lake City.

Christa (Zusi) Gorman ’93 (B.A.) is the director of on-air strategy and promotion for CBS Sports Network in New York.

Sean Openshaw ’93 (B.A.) is a visual communication specialist at Northern Arizona Healthcare in Flagstaff, Arizona.

David Paredes ’93 (B.A.) is an investigative producer for NBC Universal in San Jose, California.

Robbie Sherwood ’93 (B.A.) is the communications director for the House Democratic Caucus in the Arizona House of Representatives in Phoenix.

Cary Truelick ’93 (B.A.) is partner, executive producer/director at True Story Films in Phoenix.

Erin Weissman ’93 (B.A.) is the director of sales promotion for Disney ABC Television Group in New York.

1992

Monica Apodaca ’92 (B.A.) is marketing manager at PetSmart in Phoenix.

Nicole Aullik ’92 (B.A.) works in business development and experiential marketing for Timeless Travel Trailers in Golden, Colorado.

Matthew McNulty ’92 (B.A.) is the multimedia designer for Early Digital in Mesa, Arizona.

Randall Raish ’92 (B.A.) is producer/director for the Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona.

1991

Bob Adlutch ’91 (B.A.) is executive producer for the Phoenix Suns in Phoenix.

Linda Hart ’91 (B.A.) is an executive producer at Cosmic Pictures Inc. in Salt Lake City.

Angela Senner Barrick ’91 (B.A.) is the head of industry, media and entertainment at Google in Los Angeles.

Paul Zemanek ’91 (B.A.) is an editing manager at Apple in San Francisco.

1990

Wendy (Strode) Dolipschi ’90 (B.A.) is the director of marketing for the central U.S. division of The Nature Conservancy in Chicago.

Julianne (Yamamoto) King ’90 (B.A.) is the founder and board president of the Hawaii Autism Foundation in Kailua, Hawaii.

Angelina Lawton ’90 (B.A.) is the founder/CEO at Sportsdigital in Minneapolis.

Terri Provencal ’90 (B.A.) is the publisher/editor-in-chief at Patron Magazine in Dallas.

Kristin Schaffer ’90 (B.A.) is a manager of special event sales for the Los Angeles Dodgers in Los Angeles.

Rocco Vertuccio ’90 (B.A.) is an anchor/reporter for NY1 News in New York.

1989

Manon Crespi ’89 (B.A.) is a contributing editor and writer for luxury jewelry for elitetraveler.com

Marty Sauerzopf ’89 (B.A.) is city editor for City News Service in Los Angeles. City News Service is the nation’s largest regional wire service.

Monica Sembler ’89 (B.A.) is executive director of sales for Fortune Live Media in San Francisco.
1988
Victor Barajas '88 (B.A.) is a sports copy editor at The Los Angeles Times.
Erik Maitland '88 (B.S.) is chief meteorologist at KWQC-TV, the NBC affiliate in Davenport, Iowa.

1987
Kerry Fehr-Snyder '87 (B.S.) is managing editor for Science, Health and Technology at KJZZ, the NPR member station in Phoenix.
Carol Thompson '87 (B.A.) is producer of news and special projects at WBBM-TV, the CBS affiliate in Chicago.
Tim Woody '87 (B.A.) is Alaska Communications Manager at The Wilderness Society in Anchorage.

1986
Cathalena Burch '86 (B.A.) is music critic and feature writer for the Arizona Daily Star in Tucson. She teaches advanced reporting at the University of Arizona.
Todd Daly '86 (B.S.) is executive vice president, general manager, Network Engineering and Operations Group for Fox Networks Group in Los Angeles.
Linda Obele '86 (B.A.) is a public relations executive at Fingerpaint in Phoenix.
Scott Rein '86 (B.A.) is national sales manager at KSAZ-TV, the Fox affiliate, and KUTP-TV, both in Phoenix.

1985
Melissa Bordow '85 (B.A.) is communications manager at ASU Enterprise Partners in Tempe.
Larry Budd '85 (B.S.) is senior project manager at Southern California Sound Image in Tempe.
Marissa Huth '85 (B.S.) is a communications specialist for the School for the Future of Innovation in Society at Arizona State University in Tempe.
Sherry Lowe '85 (B.S.) is chief marketing officer at Druva in Sunnyvale, Calif.

1984
Mark Cornelius '84 (B.S.) is marketing manager at Sunstate Equipment Co. in Chandler.
Wendy McCoy '84 (B.S.) is senior vice president of marketing for UPtv in Atlanta.
Julie Newberg '84 (B.S.) is director of communications for the Arizona Board of Regents.

1983
Lisa Boyle '83 (B.S.) is an account executive at KPNX, the NBC affiliate in Phoenix.
Lisa Noble '83 (B.S.) is a principal at Noble Media in Phoenix.
Kerry Oslund '83 (B.S.) is vice president of strategy and business for Tribune Broadcasting in Chicago.
Lynn Pellistri '83 (B.S.) is an adjunct faculty member at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix.
Francine Ruley '83 (B.S.) is a producer/editor for MSN Health & Fitness in Seattle.

1982
Trina Cutter '82 (B.A.) is president and CEO of Western Reserve Public Media in Kent, Ohio.
Aaron Heinrich '82 (B.A.) is a brand manager at KXTV, the ABC affiliate in Sacramento, California.

1981
Mark Flatten '81 (B.A.) is an investigative reporter at The Washington Examiner in Washington, D.C.
Becky (Nothnagel) Schol '81 (B.A.) is vice president of Tax Credit Connection in Denver.
Linda Williams '81 (B.A.) is an anchor at KSAZ-TV, the Fox affiliate in Phoenix.

1980
Julie Cart '80 (B.A.) is an environmental reporter at CALMatters in Los Angeles.
Charles Emmert '80 (B.A.) is a station manager at Know99 Television in Phoenix.
Murray Froehlich '80 (B.A.) is a TV producer/writer for CBS News in Denver.
Thomas Tingle '80 (B.A.) is a photojournalist at The Arizona Republic in Phoenix.
Lori Weinraub '80 (B.A.) is a media relations assistant at George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

1978
Mike Arnold '78 (B.A.) is a lead game director at "The NFL on CBS" in New York.
Lori Baker '78 (B.A.) is a public information officer with the Arizona Department of Transportation in Phoenix.
John Ehrhart '78 (B.S.) is a news director at KCWY-TV, the NBC affiliate in Casper, New York.
Susanne Tso '78 (B.S.) is the owner of The Write Word Communications in Phoenix.

1977
Chip Dean '77 (B.A.) is coordinating director at ESPN and is the “Monday Night Football” director.
The Cronkite School is proud to play a part in Campaign ASU 2020, the university’s first comprehensive, university-wide philanthropic effort in more than a decade. Building on our successes to date, our mission is to be the best and most innovative professional journalism school that serves as a critical regional news and community-engagement source, and in so doing, provide a new journalism school model. Through Campaign ASU 2020, we will do exactly that.

ENSURE student access and excellence … so the Cronkite School can continue to attract and retain students with the ability and ambition to become news leaders and communications professionals of the future.

CHAMPION student success … so Cronkite students can continue to thrive as they experience the “teaching hospital” concept of journalism education, participating in more than a dozen professional immersion programs, guided by award-winning journalists and communications experts, and apply what they have learned in the classroom in real-world learning environments.

ELEVATE the academic enterprise … so the Cronkite School can continue to attract, retain and enrich the work of faculty, including both award-winning professional journalists and world-class media scholars.

Charlene Santiago ’18
B.A. Journalism and Mass Communication

cronkite.asu.edu/2020

For more information on how you can support the Cronkite School today and in the future, please contact a member of our development team:
Liz Bernreuter, senior director
602-496-9444
Beth Steurer, assistant director
602-496-5052
Mardi Gradolf, director of development for Arizona PBS
602-496-3614
… With a Little Help From Our Friends

Support for the Cronkite School in 2017 and 2018 came from Arizona and far beyond — wherever people value great journalism.

The White House Correspondents Association expanded its geographic reach beyond the Beltway by supporting Cronkite journalists interested in covering politics and also by creating a new “Trust in Reporting” Scholarship with Thomson Reuters.

Morgan Murphy Media, a television and radio media group based in Madison, Wisconsin, and RIESTER, a Phoenix-headquartered advertising and digital marketing firm, continued their support of Cronkite, assuring that the school will continue to train future reporters and communicators.

Paradise Valley philanthropists Michael and Ellie Ziegler, big believers in higher education and keeping the public informed, created two new scholarships.

Three faculty members, Leonard Downie Jr., Fernanda Santos Saucier and Julia Wallace — professors who see the financial needs of their students every day — also established new scholarships.

Other new scholarships and grants were created to help specific groups: The first Raceway Charities Scholarship for Motorsports Communications supports students seeking careers in sports journalism, and a Ford Foundation grant allows Cronkite to lead the way in training journalists to report more knowledgeably on people with disabilities.

These gifts, along with hundreds of other generous contributions from individuals, companies and foundations, make possible the many career successes of Cronkite’s students and improve journalism throughout America and beyond.
The plaque dedicating the Morgan Murphy Media / Elizabeth Murphy Burns and Richard Burns Theater reads as follows:


This theater is proudly named in honor of Elizabeth Murphy Burns and Richard Burns of Morgan Murphy Media. A leading, family-owned multimedia company, Morgan Murphy Media’s legacy is built upon a forward-looking ethos that has embraced exceptional journalism in the communities it serves through three generations of family ownership dating back to 1890. The Cronkite School shares this commitment to excellence and service as we prepare the next generation of outstanding journalists in the mold of our namesake, Walter Cronkite. We offer our sincere thanks to Elizabeth and Richard for their dedication to this mission and support of the school.

Elizabeth Murphy Burns and Richard Burns at the theater dedication.
Photo by Gabe Mercer
Theater Named in Honor of Murphy Burns Family

Campaign ASU 2020 received a major boost with a generous gift from Elizabeth and Richard Burns of Morgan Murphy Media.

Celebrating the lead gift to the Cronkite School as part of ASU’s capital campaign, Cronkite has dedicated its largest teaching space in honor of Elizabeth Murphy Burns and Richard Burns of the pioneering media company headquartered in Wisconsin.

The couple, along with family and executives from Morgan Murphy Media, were on hand in October 2017 for the dedication of the Morgan Murphy Media / Elizabeth Murphy Burns and Richard Burns Theater, a 141-seat technologically advanced classroom at the Cronkite School. The couple contributed a seven-figure gift in support of the school.

“The Cronkite School is the best journalism school in the country, without a doubt,” Murphy Burns said. “The school does such wonderful work. It’s just so amazing what the students do here. It’s a remarkable place.”

Murphy Burns has been a longtime supporter of the Cronkite School, serving on the Cronkite Endowment Board of Trustees, composed of top media leaders who advise the school on a wide array of issues.

At the ceremony, Murphy Burns traced the origins of her company, founded in 1890 by her grandfather, John T. Murphy, who acquired a newspaper in Superior, Wisconsin. She talked about her father, Morgan Murphy, who took the company into the broadcast age by helping to build the first FM radio station in northern Minnesota.

“We’re here to celebrate the family,” she said. “This is a family company. It’s always been a family company, and it will continue to be a family company.”

Dean Christopher Callahan said the Burns family’s gift is critical in helping to educate the next generation of journalists at the Cronkite School.

“Both Liz and Richard have been great friends to the school, great supporters of the school and great advisers to the school,” Callahan said. “We are just so appreciative of Liz and Richard’s support in all of its dimensions.”

With three high-definition broadcast cameras, full audio and visual integration and a control room, the Elizabeth Murphy Burns and Richard Burns Theater is a technologically advanced learning space.

Callahan said the theater serves as the center of teaching and learning at the school. All first-year Cronkite students take their first class, the Principles and History of Journalism, in the theater. The room also serves as a space for special events. In 2010, the theater was the center of a special ABC News-Facebook town hall election event featuring then correspondent David Muir and Cronkite student Natalie Podgorski.

“The space breeds opportunity for our students and for our school,” said Cronkite Associate Dean Mark Lodato.

Morgan Murphy Media operates television stations in Madison and La Crosse, Wisconsin (WISC-TV and My Network TV in Madison and WKBT-TV and My Network TV in La Crosse). The company also has television stations in three cities in Washington (KXLY-TV, Spokane; KAPP-TV, Yakima; KVEW-TV, Kennewick). In addition, the company operates five radio stations in Grant County in southwest Wisconsin and seven radio stations in and around Spokane, Washington.

Morgan Murphy Media also recently acquired stations in the Joplin, Missouri/Pittsburg, Kansas, market (KOAM-TV) and Victoria, Texas, (KAU-TV, KMOL-TV, KXTS-TV, KUNU-TV, KVTX-TV and CrossroadsToday.com).

Murphy Burns has been responsible for moving this media company forward into the digital age. The company has been the market leader in embracing convergence journalism and convergence sales efforts.
Tim Riester, in his remarks announcing RIESTER’s gift, said the Cronkite School’s work is more important now than ever. Photo by Kynan Marlin.

The owners of RIESTER, one of the region’s leading advertising and digital marketing firms, has made a six-figure gift to support students and programs at the Cronkite School.

Tim and Mirja Riester, principals of the Phoenix-based firm, pledged their multi-year gift to establish an endowed scholarship for students as well as support the school’s Public Relations Lab, a full-service strategic communications agency in which students develop campaigns and strategies for clients that range from Fortune 500 companies to startups and nonprofits.

“The integrity of journalism and journalists is being questioned today in the United States from leaders at the highest levels of government and business,” said Tim Riester, who also serves as CEO of RIESTER. “Having ASU’s Cronkite School, with its superior reputation and history of high teaching standards to train our nation’s future reporters and communicators, is arguably more important than ever before in modern history.”

The gift also will name the PR Lab’s conference room, where students and faculty meet with clients and develop campaigns.

Additionally, the gift will provide support for Native American students interested in attending the Summer Journalism Institute, which brings top-performing high school students from underrepresented communities to the Cronkite School to experience broadcast and digital journalism.

“Motivating and supporting young adults from underrepresented populations to pursue careers in journalism is vital to ensure culturally sensitive and relevant news coverage in the future,” said Mirja Riester, who serves as chief strategic officer of RIESTER.

Cronkite Dean Christopher Callahan said the support comes at a critical time for the field of strategic communications.

“This generous gift from Tim and Mirja will help us continue to grow and advance our efforts in providing a world-class education to our students,” Callahan said.
Ford Foundation Grant Aims to Improve Coverage of Disability Issues

The National Center on Disability and Journalism, based at the Cronkite School, received a $300,000 grant from the Ford Foundation to expand its mission of improving media coverage and public understanding of disability issues.

The two-year Ford Foundation grant will provide core support to the NCDJ. The disability organization provides resources and support for journalists and communications professionals around the globe as they cover people with disabilities and disability issues.

The Foundation’s support made it possible to hire a staff member to manage and expand training programs, translate a popular disability language style guide into Spanish, and develop new training programs for journalists and other communication professionals, said Kristin Gilger, NCDJ director and senior associate dean of the Cronkite School.

“With this grant, it is now possible to tackle a range of projects and new initiatives and really step up our efforts to improve the quality and quantity of coverage of this important constituency,” Gilger said.

She pointed out that nearly 20 percent of the U.S. population has a disability of some kind, and yet people with disabilities appear in media coverage mostly as victims, charity cases or people who have somehow managed to “overcome” their disability.

“We need far more nuanced and complete coverage that portrays people with disabilities as participating members of society and that investigates the myriad institutional barriers they face that make full inclusion difficult,” Gilger said.

“With this grant, it is now possible to tackle a range of projects and new initiatives and really step up our efforts to improve the quality and quantity of coverage of this important constituency.”

— Kristin Gilger, NCDJ director and senior associate dean of the Cronkite School

The NCDJ has been part of the Cronkite School since 2008. It offers digital and on-the-ground training to journalists, communications professionals and journalism educators as well as a Disability Language Style Guide, with advice on the use of disability-related words and terms.

The NCDJ also manages the Ruderman Foundation Awards for Excellence in Reporting on Disability, a journalism awards contest that recognizes the best disability reporting by news organizations around the world.

The Ford Foundation is an independent, nonprofit grant-making organization. For more than 80 years, it has worked on the frontlines of social change worldwide, guided by its mission to strengthen democratic values, reduce poverty and injustice, promote international cooperation and advance human achievement. With headquarters in New York, the foundation has offices in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

Founded in 1936 by Edsel Ford, the foundation became the world’s largest philanthropy in the late 1940s with the bequests of Edsel and Henry Ford. Guided by Henry Ford II to become an independent institution with a global mission of advancing human welfare, the foundation has made more than $45 billion in grants and improved hundreds of millions of lives.
The Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication offers its most sincere thanks to the following alumni, parents, grandparents, friends, foundations, corporations and community partners for their generous support during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2018. Philanthropy enables the Cronkite School to prepare the next generation of exceptional journalism, media and strategic communications professionals to assume industry leadership roles and to do so with the strong foundation of excellence, integrity and innovation that was the hallmark of Walter Cronkite.

The following donor honor roll is from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

$1 Million+

Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research
Havi Group
John S. & James L. Knight Foundation
McDonald’s Corporation

$500,000 - $999,999

Donald W. Reynolds Foundation

$250,000 - $499,999

Elizabeth and Richard Burns
Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation
Facebook
Ford Foundation
The Miami Foundation
Morgan Murphy Media
News Integrity Initiative
ENSURE student access and excellence … so that the Cronkite School can continue to attract and retain students with the ability and ambition to become news leaders and communications professionals of the future.

To learn more about Campaign ASU 2020, go to cronkite.asu.edu/2020.

$100,000 - $249,999
Joanna and Stuart Brown
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Rita Allen Foundation
Rodel Charitable Foundation
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Barbara and Alan Cox
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Lila Harnett
Samuel “Brooks” Johnson
National Association of Broadcasters
Ruderman Family Foundation
Scripps Howard Foundation
Spirit & Word Ministries
Ellen Ziegler ’78 and Michael Ziegler
GROWING OUR SCHOOL

$25,000 - $49,999
Arizona Broadcasters Association
Arizona Community Foundation
Nelda Crowell ’58 and Norm Crowell
Janice and Leonard Downie
Florita and Herman Evans
Jeanne Herberger ’89 ’95 ’00

NASCAR Foundation - Raceway Charities Phoenix
Myrta J. Pulliam
The Sauce Foundation
Julia Wallace and Doniver Campbell
White House Correspondents’ Association

$10,000 - $24,999
Anonymous
12 News / KPNX-TV
ABC15 / KNXV-TV
APS
Sarah and David Bodney
Hana and Donald Callaghan
Thomas Chauncey ’73
Clear Channel Outdoor

Cox Communications Arizona
Pamela Del Duca ’68
Deeann Griebel
Cheryl Mandeb
RIESTER
Laura and Herbert Roskind

$5,000 - $9,999
Aker Ink
Andrea Aker ’08
Claudia and Douglas Anderson
Bonneville Broadcasting
Jean and Christopher Callahan
Deborah Carstens
Christine Devine ’87
Dow Jones News Fund
Fox Sports Arizona
Fox Sports Net Arizona
Sharon Harper
William Randolph Hearst Foundation
Linda Kauss ’68 and Clark Hoyt
Sandra and Marion Magruder
Claudia Mallace and Jeffrey Mallace ’85
Candace and Timothy McGuire
Judy Jolley Mohraz
Jacqueline Gaillard Petchel ’80
Phoenix Business Journal
Susan Bitter Smith ’77 ’82
Dorothy Sokol
Southwest Cable Communications Assoc.
Laurie and Charles Vermillion
Wal-Mart Stores
Daryl and Louis A. “Chip” Weil
John Whiteman ’63

$2,500 - $4,999
Arizona Diamondbacks
Arizona Highways Magazine
Ballard Spahr
BIG YAM
Bushtex
CenturyLink
Debra D’Adamo ’84 and Gene
D’Adamo ’84
Decibel Blue Creative Marketing
& PR
John Dille
Athia Hardt ’70
Hartt and Associates Public Affairs
Hubbard Radio Phoenix
iHeartMedia
Gordon C. James Public Relations
The Jordan Group
KAZT
KJZZ
Edward Lane
LaneTerralever
Francie Mallace ’82 and Michael
Mallace ’82
Oculus NextGen
OH Partners
Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust
R & R Partners
Raza Development Fund
Adelaida Severson ’95 ’06 and Barry
Severson

Sinclair Broadcast Group
Whitman Family Foundation

$1,000 - $2,499
ACEJMC
Laura Anderson ’97
Ray Artigue ’76
The Artigue Agency
Marianne Barrett
Liz and Jon Bernreuter
Rebecca Blatt and Bret Hovell
Paula Breen and Philip Blatt
Business Real Estate Weekly
Cable One
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Jennifer and Dean Ditmer
Donald Dotts ’58
Diane and David Eichler
Elvira and Tommy Espinoza
Daria and Richard Geraffo
Kristin and Gary Gilger
Terese Greene ’71 ’84 and Walter
Sterling
Clare and Vartan Gregorian
Scott Harkey
Helios Education Foundation
Anita and Kip Helt
House of Broadcasting
Phyllis Hughes ’68 ’85 and Mark
Hughes ’66
Gordon James

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Leonard Downie Jr. had three brothers, and sending him to college was not easy for his parents, Pearl and Leonard Downie Sr. Downie got help in the form of scholarships and also worked several jobs to pay his way through school. That support launched his successful journalism career, which included 44 years at The Washington Post, where he rose from a summer intern to executive editor. Under his leadership, the Post won 25 Pulitzer Prizes.

Now at the Cronkite School as the Weil Family Professor of Journalism, Downie is helping students in situations similar to what he faced as a student. He and his wife, Janice, have created the Pearl and Leonard Downie Scholarship in memory of his parents. He said the initial funding for the scholarship comes from a small estate his parents left him after they died.

"The scholarship I've set up is both to honor my parents for their strong non-monetary support, and it's payback for the scholarship money I received," Downie said.

Downie said he and his father shared an interest in journalism. His father had a passion for writing, but he never had the chance to pursue it because of the Great Depression and World War II, which led him on a different path.

When Downie decided at age 11 that he was interested in journalism, both his father and mother were enthusiastic.

"Both embodied the values of honesty, hard work, responsibility and accountability that are important to me," Downie said.

He hopes that the recipients of the scholarship will have those same qualities — and a desire to pursue investigative reporting.

The first Pearl and Leonard Downie Scholarship was awarded to BrieAnna Frank, a senior with a double major in journalism and political science as well as a certificate in religion and conflict.

The Cronkite senior has had a number of journalism internships, including at The Arizona Republic, which published an investigative article she worked on for more than a year. She covered a news story about a house fire that killed a mother and her son under suspicious circumstances, telling the story of the family’s anguish and documenting the course of the fire investigation over the next year.

“I was determined to graduate without going into debt or asking my mother to take out a loan for me to go to school," Frank said. "I'm so proud that I will be able to graduate in May without debt, but I know I have only been able to do that because of the generosity of scholarship donors such as Mr. Downie."
Bulldog Scholarship Rewards Tenacity

By Kalle Benallie

When longtime editor and media executive Julia Wallace came to the Cronkite School in 2017, she met a student with an unrelenting passion for and commitment to journalism.

And then she learned the student also worked 60 hours a week to pay for school. Her encounter with that diligent student and others like her led Wallace and her husband, Don Campbell, to create the Bulldog Scholarship.

The scholarship’s name can be traced back to Wallace and Campbell’s first meeting in 1983 when they were both working as journalists at USA Today. He called in a story in which he referenced “bulldog editions” of newspapers — the early editions of Sunday papers that came out on Saturday. She wasn’t familiar with the term and asked him to clarify, which sparked a conversation and the start of their relationship. They married three years later and have two grown daughters.

The “bulldog” title also references the qualities Wallace said journalists need to be great at their jobs.

“When you think about what’s important for journalists, tenacity and persistence are critical,” Wallace said.

Before assuming the Frank Russell Chair at Cronkite, she ran Cox Media Group Ohio and had a long career as top editor at several newspapers. She was the first female editor-in-chief of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. Under her leadership, the paper won two Pulitzer Prizes and she was named Editor of the Year by Editor & Publisher magazine.

Wallace said she and her husband have seen how dedicated Cronkite students are and wanted to help them. The scholarship recipient must be in financial need and diverse in some way, she said.

Journalism — to be accurate and credible — needs newsrooms filled with people from different backgrounds and perspectives, she said.

“Throughout our careers, we really believed in the importance of diversity,” Wallace said.

The first recipient of the award is Cronkite senior Katie Baker, who is majoring in mass communication and media studies with a double major in political science. She attends school fulltime and also works fulltime for an intellectual property law firm, helping 20 lawyers manage their dockets and deadlines.

At the same time, she is taking five classes in the school’s digital audiences program. She’s interested in how to better connect digital audiences with those in political and government service.

Baker plans to seek a career in the U.S. Foreign Service.

“Foreign Service is diplomacy, and there will be movement toward digital diplomacy and reaching audiences through the digital space,” she said.

The scholarship, she said, motivates her to work even harder at Cronkite.
Sarandon Raboin is the first recipient of the Raceway Charities Scholarship for Motorsports Communications. Raboin is a Cronkite sophomore studying sports journalism with an emphasis in broadcasting, loves covering sports of all kinds because, she said, you never know how a game, a match or a race is going to play out, and it makes coverage exciting.

Her freshman year she worked for Blaze Radio as a host on a sports show, talking about sports of all kinds, including racing.

She is the recipient of the first Raceway Charities Scholarship for Motorsports Communications. Receiving the scholarship has piqued her interest in doing even more reporting on raceways and motorsports. “So much there is going uncovered,” she said.

The NASCAR Foundation — Raceway Charities Phoenix partnered with ASU in 2018 to establish the scholarship to support students seeking a career in sports journalism in hopes of fostering greater interest in motorsports broadcasting.

The group also established a similar scholarship with the W. P. Carey School of Business for students interested in careers in marketing and business communications.

Raboin said she is grateful for the help. She was the first child in her family to go to college and her younger sister is now in college as well.

“It helps ease the family burden, but it also pleases me that there are people like the Raceway Charities group that care about students and really want to help them succeed,” she said.

Over the summer and fall, Raboin worked as a video intern for Mesa Channel 11, the local government access channel. She produced packages and public service announcements and has worked with the mayor on projects. But she is always on the lookout for sports packages, recently shooting a video featuring women who fly helicopters.

She said she hasn’t yet decided if she wants a career in front of or behind the camera but, either way, she’s certain sports journalism is in her future.
New Scholarship Honoring Mike Saucier Will Help First-generation College Students

After a battle with pancreatic cancer, Mike Saucier died at home on Nov. 1, 2017, at the age of 46.

But he has not been forgotten.

A year after his death, friends and family of Saucier are on their way to raising $25,000 for the Mike Saucier Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Cronkite School.

Saucier did not attend Cronkite, but his wife, Fernanda Santos Saucier, has taught at the school since August 2017, following a career in daily journalism, including 12 years at The New York Times. Mike also wrote stories for a living as a journalist and public relations consultant. Soon after moving to Phoenix in 2012, he founded Soss Communications, a consulting business.

In 2016, he was named editor of Frontdoors Magazine, which covers nonprofits and philanthropy in the Valley.

As the first in his immediate family to graduate from college, Mike Saucier was particularly struck by the opening line of the ASU charter — “ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed.”

Fernanda Santos Saucier, a Southwest Borderlands Initiative Professor of Practice, said those words were among the reasons she joined the faculty at Cronkite, which, after her husband’s death, became the ideal place to establish a scholarship in his name.

“How can I preserve the ideas that Mike lived by, which was that everyone who works hard deserves a chance?” she asked.

“This is the perfect place for it, where I get to teach students and see them grow up.”

The scholarship is one of two causes embraced by The Sauce Foundation, created in Mike Saucier’s memory by his widow and her good friends Tom and Andrea Evans. The other cause is raising money for pancreatic cancer research.

The foundation made an initial contribution of $5,000 toward the endowment fund. It will award at least $1,000 in scholarships beginning in fall 2019, with an emphasis on helping first-generation college students.

“He would be proud for sure,” Santos Saucier said.

Supporting the foundation has been a family affair. Last spring, their 9-year-old daughter, Flora, set up a lemonade stand that raised $48 from sales and $350 in online donations toward the scholarship. Flora also sets aside $2 from her $9 weekly allowance for the scholarship.

The effort has helped Flora turn her loss into something positive, Santos Saucier said. She hopes she and Flora will get to tell scholarship recipients about Mike, whom Fernanda described as a “one of the most caring, compassionate and fair people I’ve ever known.”

“We’re ultimately trying to be agents for good,” Santos

To learn more about the Mike Saucier Memorial Scholarship Fund and Sauce Foundation scholarship fund visit thesaucefoundation.org
Major News Groups Establish ‘Trust in Reporting’ Scholarship at Cronkite

The White House Correspondents’ Association and Thomson Reuters, an international multimedia news provider, have created a new “Trust in Reporting” Scholarship.

The annual scholarship is designed to increase diversity among professional journalists reporting on politics and will provide a $7,000 grant to one graduate student each year for the next five years.

Pat Poblete, an ASU graduate student studying broadcast journalism, is the 2018 recipient of the scholarship. He spent the summer in the Washington bureau of Cronkite News and is a member of the Asian American Journalists Association. Poblete has a bachelor’s degree in political science with a focus on international relations.

Poblete also hosted a weekly broadcast segment that seeks to decrease partisanship by highlighting the thought process behind contentious political topics.

Recipients of the scholarship had access to training and workshops through Reuters, and will be among the scholarship winners recognized at the annual dinner of the White House Correspondents’ Association.

Reuters President and Editor-in-Chief Stephen J. Adler said the scholarships will help build the diversity of the next generation of political journalists.

“Put simply, we need diverse newsrooms so that we can accurately cover the diverse world in which we live,” Adler said.

Ellie and Michael Ziegler Scholarship Supports Journalism and Higher Education

Philanthropists Michael and Ellie Ziegler are longtime proponents of higher education and keeping the public informed.

The Paradise Valley couple brought those two interests together in creating two new scholarships at the Cronkite School — one for a public relations student and the other in broadcast journalism.

“Michael and I are passionate about helping the next generation succeed, and we believe in the opportunities in the print and electronic media created by the Cronkite School,” Ellie said. “There is no better training than at this nationally acclaimed school with its more than a dozen disciplines and immersive experiences. Graduates are transformed into professionals with an excellent education and endless career opportunities.”

The two also want to provide an equal opportunity to those who seek an education. Learning shouldn’t just be for those with means, Ellie said. She was a communications major and said she loved every experience and opportunity it afforded her.

“My late mother said, ‘One can always be stripped of their material wealth, but no one can ever be stripped of their education,’” Ellie said.
White House Correspondents’ Association Helps Next Generation of Washington Correspondents

By Kaleb Martinez

Margaret Talev, the former president of the White House Correspondents’ Association, was seeking more geographic diversity when she considered possible new partnerships between the correspondents’ group and universities. She handpicked the Cronkite School in October 2017 for three White House Correspondents’ Association scholarships.

The nonprofit now provides scholarships to 10 universities in nine different states, including ASU.

“The awards benefit some of the brightest and most diverse student journalists in the country and connect our members with the next generation of White House correspondents,” Talev said.

Summer 2018 recipient Bryan Pietsch covered the immigration beat while in Washington, D.C., for Cronkite News and said that chasing senators and representatives alongside outlets such as The New York Times, The Washington Post, CNN and NBC was a crazy experience — in a good way.

“The school does so much to make sure that every student is learning in the best way possible and just getting ready to go into the industry,” Pietsch said.

The Cronkite junior said he has always been an avid consumer of news. As a sophomore, he secured press credentials with the White House to cover President Trump’s rally in Arizona in August 2017. Pietsch said he had “no story, no pitch, no editor,” and just showed up.

“What I did have was a desire to get the story,” he said.

He wrote about that experience when he applied for the scholarship.

Ariana Bustos was the spring 2018 recipient of the correspondents’ scholarship.

Cronkite senior Charlene Santiago was the recipient of the WHCA scholarship in fall of 2018. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, she reported for Cronkite Noticias in Washington, D.C., on issues critical to Spanish-speaking Arizonans. She also helped create a weekly Spanish Facebook live newscast.

Arielle Nardizzi, a sophomore studying journalism and global studies, is one of the scholarship recipients. She said the scholarship gives her a financial cushion so she can explore everything Cronkite has to offer.

During her freshman year, she worked for the Walter Cronkite Sports Network. She didn’t have any broadcast experience going in, but got training in front of and behind the camera and in the control room. That experience led her to a summer internship in the investigative unit at WBZ-TV, a CBS affiliate in Boston.

“It means everything to me and my family,” Nardizzi said of the scholarship.

Keri Orcutt, a senior studying public relations, is the other recipient of a Ziegler scholarship.

“I have worked two to three jobs every semester since starting school,” Orcutt said. While her parents gladly help her, she also wants to do her part to pay for college.

Orcutt has completed public relations internships in the public, nonprofit and private sectors. After graduation, she is leaning toward finding a job with a nonprofit because she likes working toward a mission and giving back to the community.

She thanked the Zieglers, saying, “It means so much to have someone who doesn’t know me want to help support me. When I have the money, I plan to donate back to the school as well.”

CHAMPION student success … so Cronkite students can continue to thrive as they experience the ‘teaching hospital’ model of journalism education, applying what they have learned in the classroom in real-world learning environments.

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The Cronkite School gratefully acknowledges these individuals, companies and foundations whose cumulative lifetime philanthropic contributions have exceeded $1 Million.

List as of June 30, 2018
Endowment Board members serve as our strongest advocates. They mentor and provide internships to students, hire Cronkite School graduates, facilitate community partnerships, give of their financial resources and advise the dean. They also organize and sponsor tables for the annual Cronkite Award Luncheon, where the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism is presented each year to an exceptional journalist. The Cronkite School offers its sincere thanks to these individuals for their outstanding service.

ELEVATE the academic enterprise … so the Cronkite School can continue to attract, retain and enrich the work of faculty, including both award-winning professional journalists and world-class media scholars.
Cronkite Enrichment Fund • Gifts provide general support for the most pressing needs of the school. Contributions may supplement student scholarships, provide the most up-to-date reporting tools and technologies, cover travel for students covering important stories, bring renowned journalists and communications professionals as guest speakers or support a host of other student services and activities that make the Cronkite School so successful.

Journalism Scholarships • Gifts have a direct impact on current students, making it possible for them to successfully complete their education. Gifts of any size can make a difference.

Program Support • Support provides much-needed resources to grow and sustain many of the school’s flagship opportunities.

Endowed Funds • Gifts provide sustaining support for scholarships, chairs and professorships. The income generated by these funds strengthens our programmatic core, enabling the Cronkite School to attract and retain top students and faculty. Named funds may be established to recognize and honor friends, family members, former professors, colleagues and mentors, or simply to provide support for the Cronkite School for years to come. A minimum of $25,000, which can be paid over a term of years, will establish an endowment in perpetuity.

Bequest Through a Will or Living Trust • It is easy to include a gift to the Cronkite School in your will or living trust. A simple provision or amendment prepared by your attorney at the time you make or update your will or trust is all that is necessary. Gifts included in wills and living trusts are popular because they are flexible, easy to arrange and may be changed with your life circumstances.

For more information on how you can support the Cronkite School today and in the future, please contact a member of our team:

Liz Bernreuter  
Senior director of development  
602-496-9444  
liz.bernstur@asu.edu

Beth Steurer  
Assistant director of development  
602-496-5052  
beth.steurer@asu.edu

Mardi Gradolf  
Director of development for Arizona PBS  
602-496-3614  
mardi.gradolf@asu.edu

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“Judged on the basis of the past, I am certain American journalism will not fail in the task that is ahead.

Criticize it, check up on it, call it to account, but keep your

Permit no force to undermine it or abridge its freedom, for when its so also will be yours. Ended also will be this democracy of ours which, is still the freest and the most enlightened government that the mind

Join the Cronkite legacy

You can have a meaningful impact on the future of journalism with a bequest to support the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication. This simple gift-planning tool allows you to make a commitment now while retaining control of your assets during your lifetime. Depending on your particular situation, a charitable bequest also may result in reduced estate taxes.

For more information about making a bequest through the ASU Foundation for A New American University to benefit the Cronkite School, please contact Brian Nielson, Office of Estate and Gift Planning.

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Cronkite Launches Howard Center for Investigative Journalism

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