



ALUMNI WEEKEND OVERVIEW

APRIL 18-20, 2024

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

5:30-6:30 PM
World Room,
Pulitzer Hall

A Life Well-Lived: Remembering Professor Dick Wald

Alumni, administrators, faculty, family, and friends will come together to remember Richard C. Wald, pioneering journalist at NBC and ABC News and the first Fred W. Friendly Professor of Professional Practice in Media Society at Columbia Journalism School.

6:30-8:00 PM

Alumni Weekend Welcome Reception

Alumni Weekend kickoffs with a welcome reception for alumni. Reconnect with old friends, enjoy light refreshments, and get ready for a weekend of celebrating your alma mater.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

2:00-3:00 PM World Room **Kickstarting Your Job Search**

Take your job search to the next level! This session, led by Anusha Shrivastava '02, will offer guidance on ways to refresh and reformat your resume, update your LinkedIn profile, and prepare for an online interview. Attendees will also learn effective networking strategies and ways to find job leads using resources like 12Twenty.

2:00-3:15 PM Lecture Hall **Can Non-Profit News Save Local Journalism?: What Models are Working?**

The decline of local news leaves communities in the dark about critical issues and erodes the foundation of democracy. Can non-profit journalism be the answer? Join us for a panel discussion exploring:

- The current state of local news: What challenges does it face, and how does it impact communities?
- The rise of non-profit models: From investigative powerhouses to hyperlocal community hubs, we'll examine different non-profit approaches and their successes.
- Sustainability and impact: Can non-profits build stable funding models and truly fulfill the needs of their communities?
- The future of news: What role can non-profits play in a broader ecosystem of local journalism?

Hear from experts in the field, ask your questions, and leave with a deeper understanding of this potential path forward for local news and its vital role in a healthy democracy. Moderated by **Emily Goligoski**, head of research and senior vice president at Charter, this panel will include **Rebecca Klein '17**, publisher at New York Focus and **Max Siegelbaum '16**, co-executive director at Documented.

3:00-4:45 PM Stabile Center **Afternoon Tea with the Alumni Board**

The Alumni Board will host an afternoon tea in honor of this year's alumni Award recipients. All are welcome.

3:30-4:30 PM **Building Tours (1)**

Embark on a sentimental journey through Pulitzer Hall with students, catching up on new developments while reflecting on your own J-School experience.

5:00-6:00 PM
Lecture Hall

Hearst Lecture: The Modern Face of War Reporting

New York Times journalist Malachy Browne will outline the reporting techniques of the visual investigations team in producing high-impact, accountability journalism that spans countries and conflicts. He will outline investigations conducted both on the ground and remotely and will touch upon technological advances that future investigators will utilize.

Even when it is too dangerous for journalists to bear direct witness, new sources and methods, combined with traditional reporting, enable us to advance our understanding of how a conflict is unfolding and investigate potential crimes.

Mr. Browne will outline how the visual investigations team and other outlets have challenged misinformation and revealed new insights into the Ukraine and Israel-Gaza conflicts. An overwhelming volume of images have emerged from these conflicts, published not by journalists but by soldiers and militants, witnesses, and victims. Satellites are capturing an increasing number of images and other data. Artificial Intelligence allows us to process data on a scale previously unimaginable.

He will also describe the diligent, relentless work of a team that collected troves of evidence of atrocities carried out in the Ukrainian town of Bucha in 2022. The resulting series of investigations caught Russian soldiers admitting their crimes in intercepted phone calls, identified dozens of victims, and culminated in a Pulitzer-winning film that named the Russian unit and commander responsible for their deaths. The revelations reverberated globally.

Reception follows.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20

9:00-10:30 AM **Breakfast**
Stabile Center

9:30-10:30 AM **Building Tours (2)**
Last chance to join students for a nostalgic tour of Pulitzer Hall, revisiting your J-School memories while discovering the latest changes!

10:30-11:45 AM **Managing Resilience for Journalists during Difficult Times**
World Room Led by the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma

12:00-1:30 PM **Alumni Awards Ceremony**
Lecture Hall

The Columbia Journalism School Alumni Awards Ceremony will recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of alumni with distinguished careers in journalism, notable contributions to journalism education, or achievements in related fields. This event promises to be an inspiring and reconnecting experience, fostering connections across generations and rekindling the spirit of our shared commitment to truth and information.

Honorees include

Julie Cohen M.S. '89

Documentary Director and Producer, BetterThanFiction Productions & Storyville Films

Cheryl Devall M.S. '82

General Manager, KRVS Public Media

Katherine Rowlands M.S. '89

President, Bay City News Service, Executive Director, Bay City News Foundation, and Editorial Director, LocalNewsMatters.org

LynNell Hancock M.S. '81

H. Gordon Garbedian Professor of Journalism, Columbia Journalism School

Thomas Brennan M.S. '15

Founder and Executive Director, The War Horse

Jenisha Watts M.S. '14

Senior Editor, *The Atlantic*

1:30-2:30 PM **Lunch**

1:30-4:00 PM
Room 607B

DocFest Screening Room

After Landing

Directed and Produced by **Beibei Liu '23** and **Mayara Teixeira '23**

Jezebel and Jorge, two lovers, left Venezuela and crossed the Darien Gap heading for what they thought would be a better life in America. After landing, reality doesn't meet their ideals.

Sparni

Directed and Produced by **Anna Gruszczynska '23** and **Nathan Siegelaub '23**

A promising young jazz vibraphonist named Sparni prepares for a culminating concert and a career on stage — all while grappling with the repercussions of mental illness.

2:45-4:00 PM
Lecture Hall

Climate TBA

2:45-4:00 PM
World Room

Partners in reporting: Generative AI and me (and you!)

Large Language Models (LLMs) like ChatGPT, Llama, Claude and Gemini are powerful platforms for prototyping new AI tools. Even after a year and a half of experience with these so-called “chat assistants,” we are continually finding new, incredibly sophisticated uses of generative AI for the production and circulation of journalism. In parallel, we are evolving standards for how to incorporate AI into reporting — guidelines for how we might interact with LLMs to usefully extend our reach.

What works well?

Where are there problems?

How do we, as journalists, adapt?

How do we report “on” as well as “with” these new platforms?

New skills, new ideas, new tools are emerging each day.

Join Professor Mark Hansen for an interactive session exploring the use of generative AI in journalism. He offered a similar workshop last April, but, oh goodness how things have changed! Models have improved, new capabilities have emerged, open source AI has become more accessible. Large LMs -> Small LMs? Generative AI has changed the way we teach technology at the school, and we'd love to share some of that as well. There's a lot to work with.

Milestone Anniversaries and Special Celebrations

4:00-5:30 PM

Class of **1974**: 50th Reunion

4:00-5:30 PM

Class of **1999**: 25th Reunion

4:00-5:30 PM

J-Ten Reception