

“There’s no greater gift that you can give your children than the tools to navigate their future lives.” p. 8

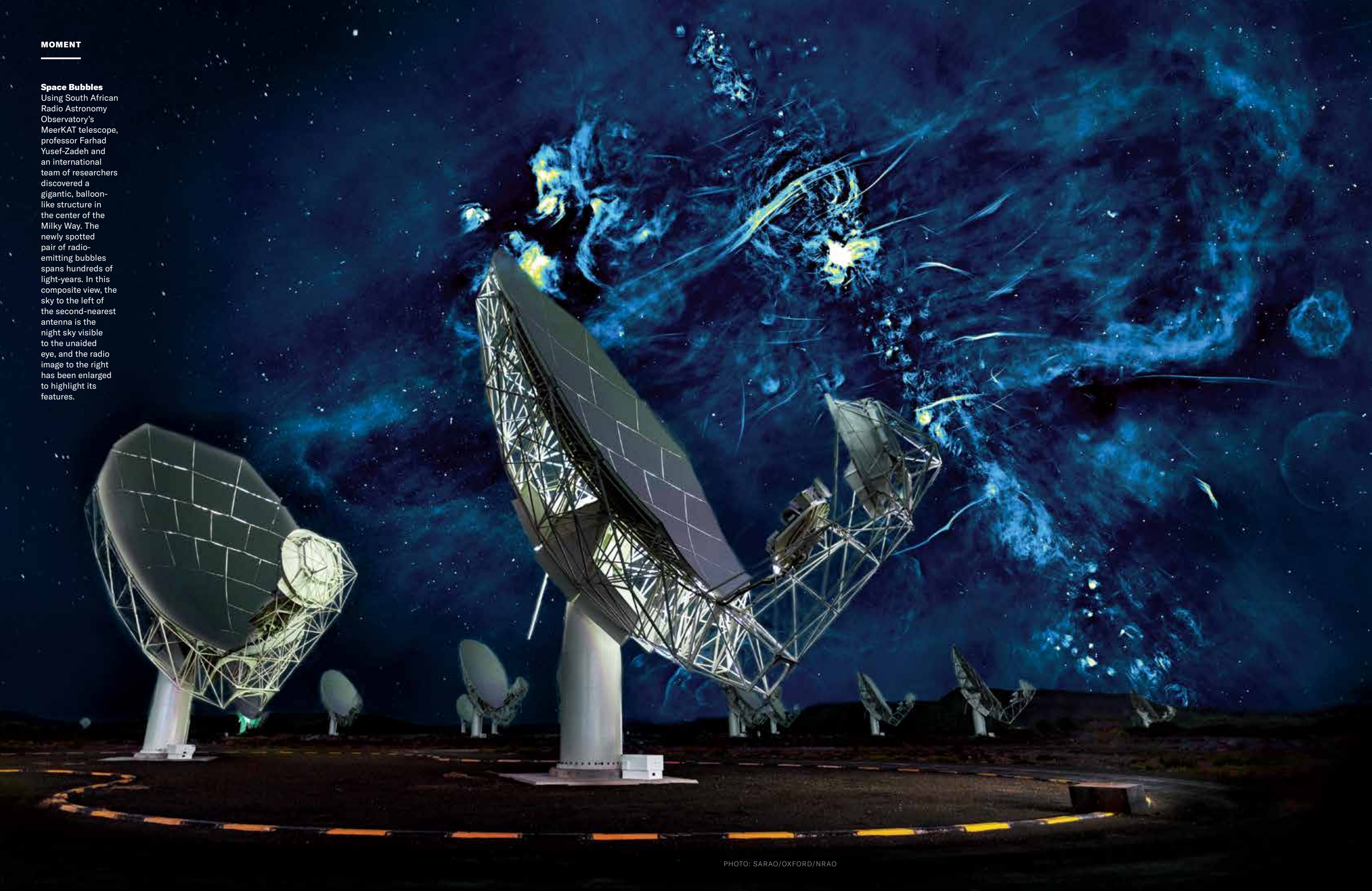
FALL 2019

- MAVROUDIS

MOMENT

Space Bubbles

Using South African Radio Astronomy Observatory's MeerKAT telescope, professor Farhad Yusef-Zadeh and an international team of researchers discovered a gigantic, balloon-like structure in the center of the Milky Way. The newly spotted pair of radio-emitting bubbles spans hundreds of light-years. In this composite view, the sky to the left of the second-nearest antenna is the night sky visible to the unaided eye, and the radio image to the right has been enlarged to highlight its features.



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← **Engineering senior Vishaal Mali launched PedalCell with the goal of creating a reliable onboard power source for cyclists. Future Founders named it one of its 2018 Outstanding Student Startups of the Year.**

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The Next Generation of Catalysts

In 1869 the Northwestern University Board of Trustees voted to admit women as students. This academic year we are commemorating 150 years of women at Northwestern, to celebrate the individuals who have taken risks, charted their own course and inspired great change.

At the end of September we welcomed 2,200 first-year and transfer students at the President's Convocation in Ryan Fieldhouse. This entering cohort is our most diverse ever, with students hailing from 67 nations; with more than 20% of students coming from low-income, Pell Grant-eligible families; with 13% representing the first generation of their families to attend college; and with 6% coming from Chicago Public Schools. And apropos of our commemoration, 51% of our entering students are women.

In short, the incoming class is filled with the next generation of catalysts — and I can't wait to see what they will accomplish here on our campus. I shared my hopes for them, as individuals and as future leaders, and touched on how they might be able to carry on a tradition of progress within their academic careers and lives, like those bold and brave women in the past 150 years who have opened doors, creating greater access and opportunity for all who followed.

It's easy for me to appreciate how exceptional our incoming students are, having reviewed a sample of the 43,000 applications we received for this year's first-year and transfer class. The 500 or so files I selected were suggested by alumni,

by other Northwestern graduates teaching at high schools in the area and across the globe, by current students, by faculty and staff and by many others. I read enough files to realize that finding 10 applicants to reject for each one that we accept is a daunting task, given that many of those we passed on would surely have thrived here if presented the opportunity.

I informed the outstanding few who beat those formidable odds that, now that they are here, our goal is for them to think of Northwestern as their home, their community and their family — not just for the next few years, but for a lifetime.

One of the concerns I shared with our entering undergraduates has to do with what many experts see as a national issue — stress and anxiety among college students at a time when the competition to outdo one another in academics and activities is more intense than ever. At Northwestern, we are always looking for ways to improve student well-being. We want our students to never be afraid to ask for help, to care for themselves and to watch out for one another.

Our new students reported to action within a particular context — a time, alas, of growing tensions and incivility in the world. With our recognition of 150 years of women at Northwestern, we're reminded of the call to succeed not simply at a personal level but in a way that lifts up others. That is not easy, given what is going on in our larger world.

During the darkest of times, I recall perhaps the most memorable talk I have attended during my decade at Northwestern. The speaker was on campus in 2016 as part of our Martin Luther King Jr. celebration. She was Diane Nash, a civil rights legend who still stays active in her hometown of Chicago. She put her life on the line as she fought for voting rights, for desegregation and for dignity for all.

Ms. Nash's talk was about effective activism, and this fall I recounted to

our newest undergraduates how she made the point that advocates for social and institutional change have a choice to make. They can be content in simply expressing their moral outrage and being consumed by their anger, or they can invest in the hard work that results in lasting change.

That work, she argued, means treating your opponents with a modicum of respect, even when it is tempting to resort to pure vilification. "But why do that?" one might ask. "Aren't our enemies the personification of all evil?" Perhaps not, she suggested. Give them some benefit of the doubt.

First of all, it is a lot easier to convince

people to change if you treat them in a civil manner, she argued; and second, even if you are unsuccessful in changing minds, treating them as humans rather than as symbols embodying all that you hate is quite simply the right thing to do.

I am not saying that there are *always* good people on all sides or that all sides are equally good — I believe that is absolutely not the case. But Ms. Nash offered our Northwestern community words to live by, even if they are easy to forget in the heat of the moment.

I told our new undergraduates that we need to understand and celebrate our

differences, treat each other with respect, learn from one another and be examples for others to emulate.

I believe our incredibly accomplished and supportive network of alumni provides a model for the manner of community we seek to build on campus. And I'm grateful especially for the many ways in which you help Northwestern students to become the next generation of catalysts — as they develop deep and enduring friendships, gain the ability to educate themselves over a lifetime and prepare to repair a broken world.

Because of our students' talents and

ambitions, and your ability to help bring those talents into full blossom, I believe you will be hearing from this entering class for years to come.

Best wishes,



Morton Schapiro
President and Professor



“I told our new undergraduates that we need to understand and celebrate our differences.”

Northwestern Magazine

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Talk Back

SOLUTIONS FOR TROUBLED WATERS

I read “Solutions for Troubled Waters” [summer 2019] with great interest but was dismayed to see the No. 1 issue impacting water was not addressed — population growth. Many of the problems discussed would not be an issue if the world’s population wasn’t sprinting toward 13 billion. All the technology in the world can’t offset the ramifications of a near doubling of our population over the next 80 years.

Progressive thinkers tend to focus on the negative impacts of industry and business and ignore population growth. But Al Gore put it best: “Global climate change is caused by three things: population increases, certain modern technologies and people who refuse to acknowledge that population increases and certain modern technologies cause climate change.”

Excellent, well-written article! I love the many experts featured, each addressing different problems and solutions. Thank you for this important journalism! Karen Allen Chicago

PURPLE PIPELINE TO SESAME STREET

Thank you for sharing “How to Get to Sesame Street” [summer 2019]. No matter what I’m doing, if Sesame Street is on, an immediate



smile spreads across my face. Syreeta Carrington '97 West Orange, N.J.

Awesome stuff! Even Tech grads can appreciate this! Ken Crites '91, '97 MBA Shelburne, Vt.

What a delightful journey. Our daughter, Julie Petrando, now 50 years old, literally grew up with Sesame Street and interned with Jim Henson and his crew following her graduation. To say that Sesame has stood the test of time would be a gross understatement. It has enriched young lives for a half-century and hopefully will do so for another 50 years. Thomas Barger '62 Carole Shirreffs Barger '63 Bloomington, Ill.

DRIVING THE STEM BUS

Brilliant! Professor Nichole Pinkard’s creative energy [“On Board with STEM,” My Northwestern Direction, page 11, summer 2019] is exactly what is needed to pave the way for youth who may not have ended up on that bus to explore their potential. She is a rock star in the field of STEM education. We are lucky to have her in the community. Melanie West Evanston

INVENTION

Scoots Footwear [Innovation, News, page 21, summer 2019] is a brilliant invention and thoughtful solution to our horrendously overflowing landfills. I’m a vegetarian always looking for good-looking, well-made shoes. Ann Jarmusch '73 Sedona, Ariz.

FIVE QUESTIONS

More than anything else I have ever encountered, Dreyer’s English has made me think deeply about writing and editing — with the added benefit of making me laugh. It was a delight, then, to see the interview with its author, alum Benjamin Dreyer '79 [Five Questions, Creation, page 48, summer 2019]. Even more so, I was impressed by the fresh insights that the piece elicited. Well done! Matt Baron '90 Oak Park, Ill.

ON A HIGH NOTE

A friend and I attended a Cleveland Orchestra concert that Roderick Cox '11 [“On a High Note,” Close-up, page 63, summer 2019] conducted last month. It was magnificent. Madelyn Dinnerstein '83 Pittsburgh

KUDOS

Congratulations on the summer 2019 issue. It is far more interesting, intelligent, informative and useful than most past issues. The photographs were similarly of fine quality. The magazine synthesizes the creativity I lived with during my Northwestern years. Judith Harris '61 Trevignano Romano, Italy

Voices

CURBING GUN VIOLENCE

Background Checks Work

By Lori Post

This past August ended as it began — with a mass shooting in which a gunman took a significant number of lives. On Aug. 31 a man killed seven near Odessa, Texas, just weeks after a shooter in El Paso, Texas, and another in Dayton killed a total of 31 people. Although mass shootings in the U.S. comprise less than 1% of all gun deaths, sensationalism drives news cycles and ultimately gun policy. Polls show that the majority of Americans believe some sort of gun control legislation is needed.

In the wake of these recent mass shootings, politicians on both sides of the aisle voiced support for background checks as the solution.

However, as details emerged that the Odessa shooter had failed an earlier background check and still managed to obtain a firearm, this led some people to conclude that background checks don’t work. I strongly disagree.

In 2014 the Odessa shooter was denied the purchase of a gun because he was adjudicated “a mental defective.” Yet despite this, he was able to buy a firearm through a private sale. This is a pretty clear case that the background check worked when it was conducted and that a comprehensive background check system requiring a check for all gun transactions would have prevented the actual sale.

In Michigan I led a team that developed the national model for a comprehensive background check system for workers in long-term care facilities, to make sure that people who have physically abused or neglected patients or stolen Social Security checks don’t slip through the cracks.



↑ Lori Post, speaking at the United Nations Human Rights Council last September

administrators in anonymous surveys.

The creation of a federal universal background check is imperative to stop mass shootings because a patchwork of federal and state laws has created loopholes. Background checks will only work if the same rules apply within each state to both licensed and unlicensed or private vendors.

In the end, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell earlier this year refused to act on a House-passed bill to expand background checks for gun purchases because it was not clear that President Trump would support it.

In Texas, one day after the mass shooting in Odessa, eight new gun laws went into effect that were designed to ease restrictions on guns and curb fatalities by arming civilians.

Increasing the number of guns and gun-toters will not work. Let’s try prevention instead.

Lori Post, director of the Buehler Center for Health Policy and Economics at the Feinberg School of Medicine, was the lead principal investigator in the Michigan Background Checks Pilot Program, which became the prototype for the patient protections section of the Affordable Care Act.

SOUND OFF

Modern Parenting

How has parenthood changed in the past generation, and what are the advantages or drawbacks of 21st-century parenting?

Matthias Doepke, professor of economics and father of three



Parents on average now spend almost twice as much time on parenting — interacting with their kids — compared to a generation ago, even though the number of kids has gone down.

Our interpretation is that a lot of this more intense parenting is a reaction to rising economic inequality. Parents react by trying harder to give their kids the best shot in this more competitive environment.

There are clear downsides to these developments. We have more issues with anxiety and stressed parents and children alike. This intense parenting is also expensive and something you have to be able to afford. Not everyone can keep up, so that parenting is becoming more unequal.

However, there is some upside, because now parents and children often have emotionally closer relationships than in earlier times.



Shelly Vaziri Flais '95, '99 MD, '02 GME, clinical assistant professor of pediatrics and mother of four

Despite awareness in the last couple of years

about overparenting, helicopter parenting and lawnmower parenting, the tendency is to be overly involved in our children's lives even as they get older. We as parents need to be self-aware and not swoop in and solve all our kids' problems for them. We often err on the side of doing too much.

There's no greater gift that you can give your children than the tools and resilience to navigate their future lives.



Alexandra Solomon '98 MA, '02 PhD, clinical assistant professor of psychology, clinical psychologist at the Family Institute and mother of two

There are more teens struggling with more significant mental health problems now than a generation ago. There are also more kids dealing with chronic conditions: food allergies, asthma, autism spectrum disorder, ADHD.

Parents should not feel ashamed about or resistant to asking for help. Parenting is hard enough in the modern era, but when a child is facing additional challenges, having a therapist who's just there to support the couple can help a lot.

Craig Garfield, professor of pediatrics and medical social sciences and father of two



From 1965 to the present, the amount of time that dads are involved in fathering has more than doubled. When there's more equity at home, it leads to more fulfilled parents. And children thrive when parents thrive.

There may be two things driving this increase. One is a societal expectation. And there has been a shift in perspectives in that men look forward to and want to be involved.

Have a "Sound Off" question you'd like answered? Email us at magazine@northwestern.edu.

SOCIAL FEEDS

What's your favorite memory from the #Shakespeare garden?

"Exploring with my little boys, letting them think they'd found secret hiding places. Barefoot, of course."

@jane_grover



"We did wedding photos there. It's one of my favorite places in all of Chicagoland!"

@denaadae

"That took me back, feeling nostalgic and missing poetry class."

@chez_lululu

"It was a great secret in my years; very few people knew it was there. I used to retreat there to think when feeling stressed. Looks like the planting is much improved! (I live in England now. This looks 'proper.')"

@bencardsbites



By Louise Kiernan '92 MS

Editor-in-chief, ProPublica Illinois

MY NORTHWESTERN DIRECTION

Discovering the Power of Social Justice Journalism

When I was a graduate student at Medill, I took a legal reporting class in which we chose a local courthouse to cover. Cook County Circuit Court's Juvenile Division sounded to most students, I think, like the least desirable option. None of the local news organizations covered it on a regular basis, and there wasn't much public interest in the news the court generated.

But I found it appealing and asked for that assignment. From the first morning I walked through the court's metal detector, what I saw and experienced was a revelation.

Here, teenagers in the detention center upstairs would lean their mattresses against the windows on Wednesday nights so they

could look out to see if anyone had lined up outside to visit them that week. Here, I encountered toddlers in party dresses who had been prostituted by their parents to buy drugs, chubby-cheeked fifth-graders accused of carrying guns and teenagers who had been abandoned by their mothers, only to grow up and lose custody of their own children.

The time I spent reporting at juvenile court profoundly changed my understanding of journalism and how I wanted to approach it. I saw how government and policy and systems affect the lives of individuals who have little power or say in what happens to them. And I realized that those were the stories I wanted to understand and to tell. This is what journalism education at its best can do: bring us into the places and lives that transform the

“This is what journalism education at its best can do: bring us into the places and lives that transform the way we think about the world.”

way we think about the world.

Much of what has driven my work since has grown out of that experience. As a longtime projects reporter and editor at the *Chicago Tribune*, my work ranged from leading the enterprise and urban affairs teams to examining child homicide and writing about the Great Migration. But almost all of it had, at its roots, a focus on issues at the heart of public affairs: poverty, justice, race, gender and class.

In 2010, I returned to Medill to teach and have been fortunate to count among my friends Jack Doppelt, the professor who taught my legal reporting class. Together, Jack, lecturer Kari Lydersen '97 and I helped create Medill's social justice and investigative reporting specialization and Social Justice News Nexus — ideas, again, grounded in challenges facing the vibrant, troubled city around us. In my classroom I worked to introduce students to slices of that city, hoping to help them strike their own journalistic spark.

Two years ago I took an academic leave to join the nonprofit investigative news organization ProPublica, leading its first regional operation as editor-in-chief of ProPublica Illinois. To work for a newsroom whose mission is to “expose abuses of power and betrayals of the public trust by government, business and other institutions” feels like the natural next step on the journey that started at the doors of juvenile court.

Recently, I returned to the building, this time because ProPublica was arguing for our right to publish information in a case being heard there. It had been 28 years since I first walked through the metal detector. So much has changed since then, in my life, in the court, in journalism. But the fundamental questions of justice and truth? Those remain. And they drive me still.

Check out Louise Kiernan's “My Northwestern Direction” video at numag.nu/Kiernan.

WHAT INSPIRES ME

The Authentic Life

Professor and pastor finds common ground in the pulpit, the classroom and the boardroom.

Nicholas Pearce '10 MS, '12 PhD, clinical associate professor of management and organizations

"I'm no less a pastor in the classroom, and I'm no less a professor in the pulpit. I really try to bring my whole self wherever I am.

"I draw my inspiration from my faith. I really believe that I am doing this work because it's a calling from God. But on a more humanistic level, what also inspires me is seeing people grow and flourish. That is really the unifying thread. In the classroom, seeing the lightbulb come on in a student's eyes is a priceless moment. In the pastoral context, seeing parishioners grow in their understanding

and seeing them prosper and thrive — it's just an amazing privilege to know that you might've played some small part in encouraging them along the way.

"There's another piece of it too, and that is family. I married my high school sweetheart, and we have a toddler at home, and all of the things that I do outside the house are not as significant as who I am in the house."

Nicholas Pearce teaches three popular courses at the Kellogg School of Management — Leadership in Organizations, Negotiations Fundamentals and Beyond Diversity. He's also an assistant pastor at the



↑ Nicholas Pearce

Apostolic Church of God, a megachurch on Chicago's South Side. Pearce, founder and CEO of the Vocati Group, an executive consultancy, is the author of *The Purpose Path: A Guide to Pursuing Your Authentic Life's Work* (2019).

COMMENCEMENT 2019

Sound Advice

Newly appointed Smithsonian Institution secretary Lonnie Bunch delivered the address at Northwestern's 161st Commencement in June. Here are a few highlights from his talk and graduation speeches from across the University.

"One of the most important lessons I've learned is to think beyond yourself. Remember to fight the good fight. Remember that there is a greater good that transcends individual gain or personal achievement." **Lonnie Bunch '19 H**, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, at Commencement

"If what you thought you wanted isn't bringing you satisfaction, don't think of it as a failure but as a lesson. As you learn more about what drives you, take risks." **Courtney D. Armstrong '93**, '96 JD, MBA, executive vice president of worldwide business affairs at Warner Bros., at the Pritzker School of Law convocation.

"Mark my words, the day will come when you are so good at your job, you'll be asked to be in charge of other first-class problem solvers. Solving problems as a team will be your collective superpower." **Yie-Hsin Hung '84**, CEO of New York Life Investment Management, at the McCormick School of Engineering convocation

"The next time truth and misinformation meet at a media crossroad, you will not be students. You will be part of the media machine with a platform and a reach. It is up to you to determine what type of impact you will make." **Sara Al-Saadi '12**, director of public diplomacy at the Embassy of the State of Qatar in Washington D.C., at Northwestern University in Qatar's graduation



STEVE HALL

News

A dozen former Wildcats suit up on Sundays p 14

Female candidates struggle in times of economic uncertainty p 16

Putting pedal power to good use p 19



MEDICAL RESEARCH

A Modern Home for Discovery

Northwestern opens the largest biomedical academic research building in U.S.

The University celebrated the official opening of the Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Biomedical Research Center — the largest new building solely dedicated to biomedical research at an American medical school — in June at the Feinberg School of Medicine.

Northwestern is the fastest-growing research enterprise among all U.S. medical schools — climbing from 39th to 15th in National Institutes of Health funding since 2002. The new center





The Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center lobby

"I just know scientists will start talking about things that will lead to new directions and experiments, and bridge clinical and basic science."

Quaggin says the larger lab space will also enable her to hire new scientists with stem cell, vascular and developmental biology expertise to advance her efforts to develop a bioengineered kidney and pancreas that grow blood vessels, which she calls "the holy grail."

Flexible lab space also allows research groups to develop based on new discoveries and new funding. "You want space that is more open to expand and contract to follow where the science is going," says Elizabeth McNally, director of the Center for Genetic Medicine at Feinberg. "That's what the Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center gives us."

Space in the new building will allow McNally to hire new scientists to advance work on her new treatment for muscular dystrophy, a group of diseases that cause progressive weakness and loss of muscle mass in children.

The Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center is named in honor of trustees Louis A. Simpson '58 and Kimberly K. Querrey in recognition of their generous support that has advanced the University's academic excellence and scientific discovery. (See "New Chicago Facility Spurs Collaboration and Discovery," page 21.)

provides much-needed biomedical research space to continue the University's projected growth.

The 12-story building adds more than 625,000 square feet of research space to the Chicago academic medical campus. And it is designed for a future expansion, with up to 16 new floors in the second phase of construction.

The building brings physicians and scientists from Feinberg, the McCormick School of Engineering and Stanley Manne Children's

Research Institute together with colleagues from clinical affiliates Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and Shirley Ryan AbilityLab — in one academic medical district.

The floor plan for each lab is designed around the idea of flexible "research neighborhoods," with the goal of creating a vibrant hub. Each floor, which can accommodate 23 principal investigators and their teams, also has deliberate interaction space in the center to promote conversation among the three lab "neighborhoods."

"Collaborations will flourish on campus," says Susan Quaggin, director of the Feinberg Cardiovascular and Renal Research Institute.

"Collaborations will flourish on campus."

— Susan Quaggin



CLIMATE CORES
Greenland

Pete Puleo '19, an incoming doctoral student, collected sediment cores from island lakes in southern Greenland as part of Earth and planetary sciences professor Yarrow Axford's mid-July to mid-August research trip. The samples will be used in coming years to examine climate change over the past 15,000 years with a focus on abrupt climate events in the south Greenland region.

STEVE HAL

GLOBAL REACH

Wildcats Around the World



GUITAR VIRTUOSO
Amsterdam

In July senior classical guitarist Marisa Sardo performed her favorite piece, Johann Kaspar Mertz's Tarentella, on the classical guitar at Mozarteum University's Wiener Saal in Salzburg. Days later she performed at the Concertgebouw's Kleine Zaal in Amsterdam. Sardo showcased her talent after winning first prize in the senior age category (19 and above) of the Grand Prize Virtuoso International Music Competition.



MUSIC PRESERVATION PODCAST
Ghana

In the fall Cesar Almeida '19, front right, returned to Ghana on a Fulbright to produce a podcast with the University of Ghana. The podcast examines music preservation and monetization, and Almeida hopes to foster dialogue between Ghanaian scholars and musicians. Last year Almeida organized and facilitated a music education workshop in collaboration with Solidarity Studios and the University of Ghana to advance cultural preservation initiatives in Ghana.



CARBON CYCLE STUDY
Australia

Earth and planetary sciences professor Brad Sageman collected samples from a 90 million-year-old lake deposit in Australia to start developing a more complete reconstruction of the global carbon cycle from a high Southern latitude during an ancient hyperthermal period. Sageman received a Fulbright to support his sabbatical research, which could inform how we respond to current rapid climate change.



ENDING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
Vietnam

Over the summer junior Chloe Wong, above, worked with seniors Vasilina Kavadas and Nefertari Bilal, in Hanoi with the Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment (iSEE) as part of Northwestern's Global Engagement Studies Institute. They helped create a guidebook to train victim advocates and confidants as part of iSEE's Building Responsibility and Accountability for Gender-Based Violence Elimination project.

The Ticker

● Northwestern's sponsored research funding reached nearly **\$800 million** in 2018-19. This is a 13.6% increase over the previous year.



● Northwestern University in Qatar welcomed **its largest and most diverse class** with 123 incoming students. Members of the first-year class represent more than 30 nationalities. The new class includes an aspiring poet from Zambia, a Chinese student who wants to be a novelist and a professional cyclist from Syria.

● Professors David Cella, Susan Quaggin, John A. Rogers and Catherine Woolley were elected to the **National Academy of Medicine** in October.

● The University rose to **No. 9 in the 2020 Best Colleges Rankings** from *U.S. News & World Report*. For each of the past three years Northwestern has moved up one spot in the Best National Universities category, reflecting, in part, the University's continued success in attracting top researchers and research funding.



● Northwestern is the sole law school partner in the **Move the Needle Fund**, an initiative to create a more diverse, inclusive legal profession.

● Northwestern's new **Master of Science in Energy and Sustainability** degree, a full-time, one-year program, begins in fall 2020.



STUDENT LIFE

Welcome Home

President Schapiro urged first-year students to find community and family at Northwestern.

During the first crisp days of fall in late September, Northwestern welcomed its newest class of first-year and transfer students.

“My wish for you here is that when you graduate from Northwestern — and you will graduate from Northwestern — you’re going to cherish the friendships you’ve made here, that you’ll have the humility to realize that education doesn’t end with an NU degree — it begins with an NU degree — and that you will gain the tools to educate yourselves

for your lifetime,” President Morton Schapiro told the new students gathered for the President’s Convocation at Ryan Fieldhouse.

“Most of all, I hope and pray that when you leave this campus you will be prepared to repair a broken and challenging world.”

The convocation followed a week of Wildcat Welcome events, including new student orientation, March Through the Arch and a dash across Ryan Field at the start of the football game against Michigan State.

Parents on campus to say tearful farewells to their students included Denisse Guerrero, mother of Maria Daniela “Leli” Guerrero, a first-year student whose family is from Venezuela. Her younger brother Juan said Leli is living her dream — determined to study chemistry, then go into medicine.

“Oh my God, I’m going to cry,” said Denisse, standing in the middle of Sheridan Road before March Through the Arch. “I’m so proud. I’m speechless.”

Class of 2023

2,010

First-year students

252

First-generation college students

67

Countries represented



Chicago Bears special teamer Sherrick McManis

WILDCAT ATHLETICS

In the opening week of the NFL’s 100th season, 12 former Northwestern football players were on teams’ active rosters or reserve/injured lists, including four Green Bay Packers. For cornerback and special teamer Sherrick McManis ’10 the Sept. 5 kickoff against the Packers was his 100th game with the Chicago Bears. He is the longest-tenured active Bears player.

WILDCAT WELCOME: STUDENT AFFAIRS MARKETING; MCMANIS: JACOB FUNK © CHICAGO BEARS 2019

'CAT TALES

Abbey Road Anniversary

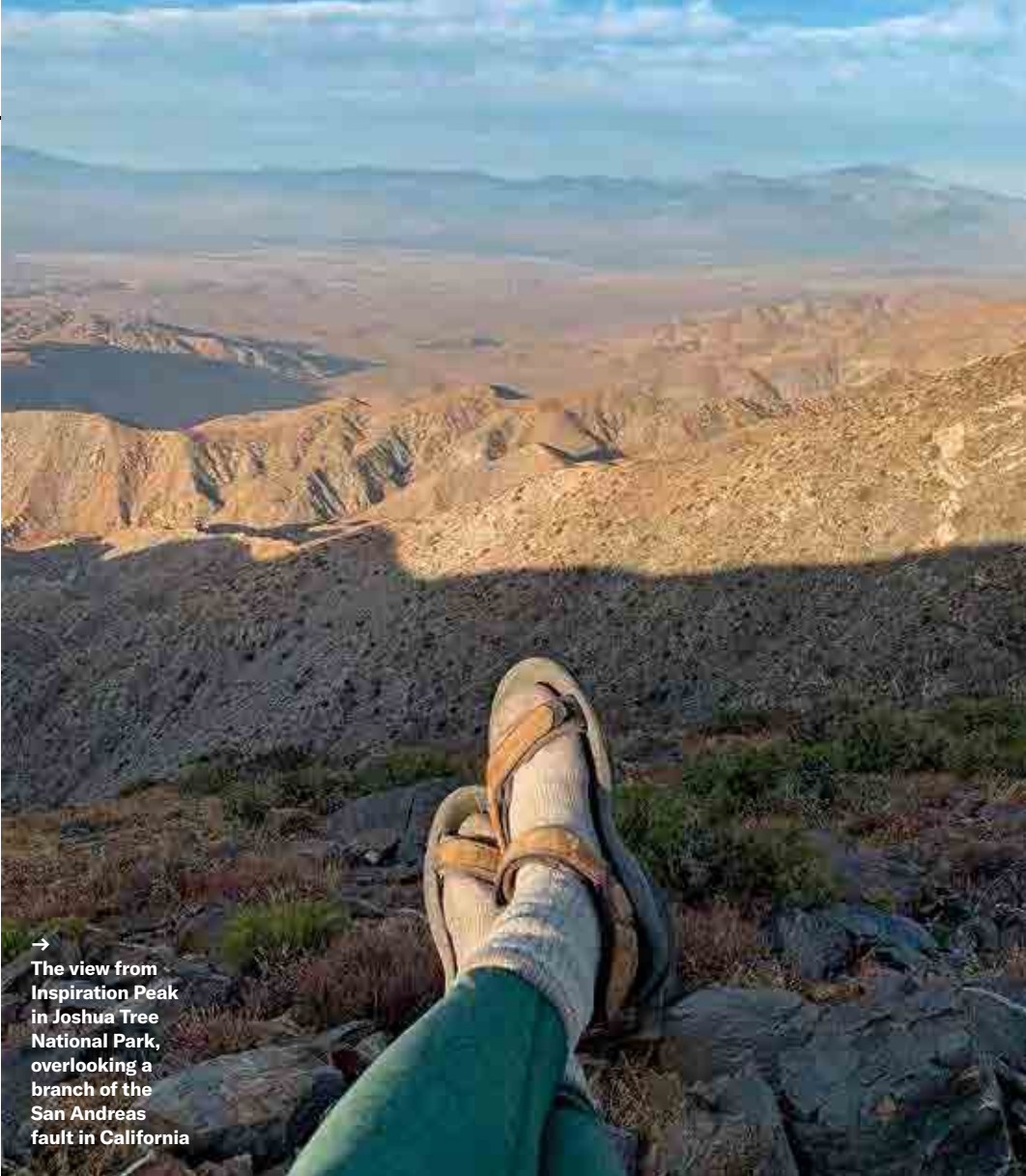
Fifty years ago, the world’s greatest band dropped what would become one of its most famous albums. Longtime NPR audio engineer and producer Flawn Williams ’74, who reviewed *Abbey Road* for the *Daily Northwestern* in October 1969, says the group’s last recorded album still holds up. “Some of the stuff rocks pretty hard, but a lot of it dates back to [the style of] English music hall,” he says. “Their producer, George Martin, figured out ways to string individual songs together into a medley.”

The Beatles have a special connection



APPLE RECORDS

to Northwestern. The Music Library’s John Cage Collection includes seven original lyric sheets from the Beatles as part of the Notations Project. The Music Library is one of just two libraries in the world with original Beatles lyric sheets.



→ The view from Inspiration Peak in Joshua Tree National Park, overlooking a branch of the San Andreas fault in California

FIELD NOTES

Seismic Memories

Graduate students collect earthquake anecdotes on California excursion.

It wasn’t your typical California road trip. Doctoral students Leah Salditch and Molly Gallahue spent a week in September hunting down earthquake stories from residents of Central and Southern California. Since the early 20th century, U.S. government agencies have sought firsthand accounts of earthquake

shaking. Information was once submitted via mailed questionnaires (until the mid-1980s) and can now be entered online via the U.S. Geological Survey’s “Did You Feel It?” system, introduced in the late 1990s. During the transition to the online system, some moderately sized earthquakes were overlooked. To help fill in this decade-long period in the data collection, Salditch

and Gallahue, both doctoral students in Earth and planetary sciences, collected anecdotes about two early-1990s earthquakes. The data will be used to create a publicly available database of seismic intensity called CHIMP (California Historical Intensity Mapping Project) and help improve hazard maps in earthquake-vulnerable areas.

POLITICS

Economic Uncertainty Costs Female Candidates

Northwestern researcher Galen Bodenhausen says that despite women’s political gains, an economic crisis can spark gender stereotyping.

More than 90% of Americans say they would vote for a woman for president, and research suggests that, in general, the disadvantages facing female candidates in past decades have largely vanished.

However, psychologists Galen Bodenhausen and his former graduate student Ryan Lei ’15 MS, ’17 PhD wondered, “Is that a stable gain, or is it a precarious gain that’s vulnerable to setbacks if the conditions don’t favor openness to female candidates?”

Research shows that people often look to men for leadership in times of war. Bodenhausen, a professor

of marketing at the Kellogg School of Management, and Lei, now an assistant professor at Haverford College, wanted to see if the same sentiment prevailed in times of economic crisis.

In their recent study, they found that female candidates face an uphill climb in times of economic uncertainty.

In an experiment designed to evaluate voters’ responses to male and female candidates, Bodenhausen and Lei, the study’s lead author, manipulated the participants’ sense of economic anxiety by giving them an article to read about the state of the economy and then examined their support for hypothetical Senate candidates who were

“Women have made a lot of important gains, but those gains can be reversed in situations that may lead people to question the suitability of women for leadership.” — Galen Bodenhausen



either male or female. (The candidate’s party matched the study participant’s stated party affiliation.)

When the economy was portrayed as strong, male and female candidates performed equally well. However, when the researchers amped up the economic anxiety, support for the female candidate declined while support for the male candidate was unchanged, in keeping with the stereotype that men are more capable at addressing economic issues.

Certain conditions can trigger latent biases,

Bodenhausen says. “Women have made a lot of important gains, but those gains can be somewhat tenuous, or they can be reversed in situations that may lead people to question the suitability of women for leadership based upon crude gender stereotypes they hold,” says Bodenhausen, the Lawyer Taylor Professor of Psychology. “And in our data it was much more likely to be men who held those stereotypes and applied those stereotypes to female leaders.”

Bodenhausen, whose research focuses on intergroup

13% Of Americans believe that men are better suited for politics than women

94% Of Americans say they would vote for a woman for president

117 Women appointed or elected to Congress in 2018

attitudes — beliefs people have about others based upon their group identities and demographic category memberships — says his study with Lei complements studies of women’s involvement in politics. One recent examination of nearly five dozen countries over a span of three decades corroborated that women’s electoral success in politics goes down in times of economic crisis.

In the aftermath of the 2016 election, there were two primary schools of thought on what led to Hillary Clinton’s

demise. Some blamed her loss on sexism. Others say she lost because of the economy. “Our study suggests those two explanations aren’t necessarily mutually exclusive,” says Bodenhausen. “They can actually dovetail in a way that may have disadvantaged Clinton.”

Bodenhausen is not in the business of predicting elections, but he says it would be an interesting test case if the economy is slumping and there’s a woman on the ticket against President Trump in November 2020.

RESEARCH

Celiac Treatment and a Chemo Trojan Horse

1 A treatment developed in the lab of professor Stephen Miller may reverse celiac disease, which can lead to damage in the small intestine. In a phase 2 trial, patients were given a biodegradable nanoparticle that contained gluten, hidden in a protective shell. The nanoparticle teaches the immune system that the antigen (allergen) is safe. After treatment, patients were able to eat gluten with a substantial reduction in inflammation.

2 Women are still underrepresented in the music industry, according to a study led by Ágnes Horvát, an assistant professor of communication studies. According to Horvát, men release more songs than women, are signed to record labels more frequently and are aligned with more collaborators to produce music.

3 A new drug-delivery system disguises chemotherapeutics as fat in order to outsmart, penetrate and destroy tumors. “It’s like a Trojan horse,” says chemistry professor Nathan Gianneschi, who led the research. “It looks like a nice little fatty acid, so the tumor’s receptors see it and invite it in. Then the drug starts getting metabolized and kills the tumor cells.”

Innovation

MATERNAL HEALTH

A Healthy Start

Sahar Jamal is creating a battery-powered breast pump so new mothers in East Africa can return to work.

During an internship at Jacaranda Health, a maternity clinic and nonprofit outside Nairobi, Kenya, in 2018, Sahar Jamal began to notice barriers to breastfeeding faced by middle-income new mothers. Many had to make the difficult decision to either stop working — often financially infeasible — or give up nursing their newborns, which can have dire health implications.

In developing countries, the risk of infant death is 14 times higher for babies who are not breastfed than for those who are breastfed exclusively for the first six months. “This is especially challenging for mothers who need to return to work as early as one month postpartum and resort to substitutes like baby formula with tea or cow’s milk, which pose major health

risks for both mum and baby,” says Jamal ’19 MBA.

Jamal, who spent time in maternal and newborn health-related work at Johnson & Johnson before attending the Kellogg School of Management, sought a solution.

Though only 7% of new mothers in Kenya use a breast pump, Jamal found in focus groups that women would be willing to pay for a more convenient, discreet, battery-powered model built for developing markets. “They’re already spending almost \$250 over six months on baby formula, so this could be more affordable and effective at providing critical nutrients for their baby,” explains Jamal, who launched Maziwa Breast Pump while at Kellogg.

Maziwa’s design includes a rechargeable battery-

powered cooler and pump so that women can collect and store breast milk even if they have no access to electricity or refrigeration — say on a worksite or in a factory restroom. The pump’s sleek, compact design also allows women to pump more discreetly.

Jamal worked with a team of Northwestern biomedical and mechanical engineers to develop a basic prototype out of “tubes and funnels” at The Garage. She returned to Nairobi several times with the help of Kellogg’s Zell Fellows Program to market test different designs. Shortly

before earning her MBA last June, she received Kellogg’s Social Entrepreneurship Grant, which provided \$70,000 in seed funding. Jamal also won the Audience Favorite award at Northwestern’s VentureCat competition.

Jamal, whose parents are from Tanzania and India, is working with Mark Fisher, clinical associate professor of biomedical engineering, to refine the prototype and develop the final design. She moved to Kenya full time in October to continue her market research and develop partnerships with local clinics, NGOs and distributors.



→ Maziwa founder Sahar Jamal



INNOVATION SPACE

The Garage at the Sardine Bar, located near Northwestern’s Chicago campus, is a new space for a small community of students and alumni working on entrepreneurial projects to meet, co-work and learn. It serves as an extension of The Garage. The original 1,000-square-foot venue, the Gold Star Sardine Bar, hosted such famed singers as Tony Bennett and Liza Minnelli.

INNOVATION



USB PORTS

Located in the Power Hub, the two USB-C ports allow riders to constantly use electricity during their rides. The high-power port is used for phones or GPS. The slower charge port is good for lights and other safety devices that need less power but stay on for longer periods.

SMART POWER HUB

The brains of the system, the Smart Power Hub allocates how the generated power is used via PedalCell’s patent-pending technology. An onboard microcontroller reads rider speed and other data to decide how much power to distribute so that there is always power available on a ride with minimal drag.

HIGH-EFFICIENCY GENERATOR

Attached to the front fork of the bicycle, a custom-designed brushless DC generator creates energy from the spinning of the wheel. Its output can reach up to 20 watts, six times more power than most other dynamo generators.

ON IN MINUTES, OFF IN SECONDS

CadenceX can be added onto almost any existing bicycle in minutes with an easy-to-use lockable clamp. And riders can easily turn the product on or off via a built-in decoupling mechanism.

INVENTION

PedalCell

Vishaal Mali, a McCormick School of Engineering senior, understood that more people might ride bikes if there was a reliable source of power onboard. So he started PedalCell with his University of Michigan-based co-founder, Adam Hokin. The two developed technology to convert the kinetic energy from a bike into stable and continuous electricity. PedalCell’s CadenceX product can power a rider’s devices, including a smartphone, bike lights and GPS. Chicago-based Future Founders named PedalCell one of its 2018 Outstanding Student Startups of the Year at its EntrepreneurshipU Awards last spring.

BENNETT: DAVID REDFERN/REDFERNS; JAMAL: © 2017 IMA MFON

NATHAN KEAY



SCHOLARSHIPS

Northwestern Receives Its Largest Gift to Financial Aid

University Trustee Jeff Ubben and Laurie Ubben have committed \$50 million for student scholarships.

A transformative gift from two longtime donors will help generations of highly qualified students obtain a Northwestern education. Trustee and alumnus Jeff Ubben '87 MBA and his wife, Laurie, have made an estate commitment of \$50 million to support scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and professional school students. It will be the largest gift made to financial aid in the University's history.

The Ubbens' bequest will

count toward **We Will. The Campaign for Northwestern**, which has fueled 424 new endowed scholarships and fellowships to date, and support the Thrive at Northwestern initiative, which aims to enhance financial aid resources and services for students from all backgrounds.

Over the past 10 years, the University has gone from enrolling 12% to 20% Pell Grant-eligible students in incoming classes. In the 2018–19 academic year, financial aid benefited 61%

of undergraduates and 47% of graduate and professional students. Northwestern also has eliminated loans from the financial aid packages of qualifying undergraduates.

“Laurie and I can think of nothing more worthy than to make a Northwestern degree accessible to as many outstanding students as possible,” Jeff Ubben says.

In 2017, Jeff Ubben completed a 10-year tenure as chair of the national board of directors for the Posse Foundation, which identifies

high school students with academic and leadership potential for admission into a partner college or university. He was instrumental in developing Northwestern's partnership with Posse.

The Ubbens' past Campaign gifts to Northwestern have benefited the Kellogg School of Management, Athletics and Recreation, the Bienen School of Music and the Ubben Program for Climate and Carbon Science within the Institute for Sustainability and Energy at Northwestern.

Jeff and Laurie Ubben have three children: Charlotte, Theo and Josephine '20 MBA, who currently attends Kellogg. Jeff Ubben's father, Timothy '59 MBA, also attended Kellogg.

↑ Scholarships and other forms of support help students thrive at Northwestern.

RESEARCH

New Chicago Facility Spurs Collaboration and Discovery

The Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Biomedical Research Center unites physicians and scientists under one roof.

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 17, Northwestern benefactors, trustees and administrators joined with other Chicago and Illinois dignitaries to officially open the Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Biomedical Research Center — the largest biomedical academic research building in the United States.

About 300 Northwestern supporters heard from several of the facility's visionary philanthropists, including University Trustees Louis A. Simpson '58 and Kimberly K. Querrey.

“The work that will be conducted here is mind-boggling,” Querrey said at the building dedication. “Lou and I are fortunate to be able to support the biomedical research community. And we're humbled by the brilliant collaboration of the many scientists and physicians working together to transform human life.”

The 12-story, 625,000-square-foot facility will be a home for researchers from the Feinberg School of Medicine, the McCormick School of Engineering and the Stanley Manne Children's

Research Institute. Designed to maximize collaboration, each floor accommodates 23 principal investigators and their teams in a flexible research neighborhood that focuses on a particular disease or therapy. By concentrating so many scientists in the same space, the building enhances opportunities for interdisciplinary interactions and breakthroughs in cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease and diabetes, among other maladies.

Located in Chicago's Streeterville neighborhood, the center is right next door to many of Feinberg's major clinical partners, including

Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab. Together, these institutions form one of the top medical districts in the world.

Throughout **We Will. The Campaign for Northwestern**, Simpson and Querrey have committed more than

“The work that will be conducted here is mind-boggling.”

— Kimberly K. Querrey

\$196 million to the University, \$90 million of which went toward the research center. Their generous gifts have supported the Simpson Querrey Institute, endowed the Louis Simpson and Kimberly Querrey Professorship held by John Rogers and created the Simpson Querrey Center for Epigenetics at Feinberg.

In addition to the research floors, the Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center's public spaces — such as the Potocsnak Family Atrium, the 160-seat Simpson Querrey Auditorium, the Judd A. and Marjorie Weinberg Gallery, the Kabiller Student Commons and the Senyei Conference Center on the mezzanine level — will serve researchers, students and visitors for years to come.

“It's a very exciting time for biomedical research at Northwestern,” Simpson said. “Kimberly and I are proud to be associated with the discoveries and the research that will come as a result of this building.”



→ Northwestern professors Amy Paller '83 GME and John Rogers spoke at the Louis A. Simpson and Kimberly K. Querrey Biomedical Research Center dedication.



← Kimberly K. Querrey with faculty Milan Mrksich, left, and Chad Mirkin at this summer’s dedication of the Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center

from the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, was awarded the Northwestern Alumni Association’s Alumni Medal in 2013 and received an honorary degree from the University in 2019.

“I was inspired by the education I received at Northwestern, which made me ready to face a rapidly changing world and try my best to make a difference for others,” she says.

Through her generous support, Kimberly K. Querrey has propelled Northwestern’s prominence in scientific and medical research.

When she and her husband, Louis A. Simpson ’58, both University trustees, were considering where to direct their philanthropy, “We felt like the transformative research taking place at Northwestern was something we wanted to support, as it will change the future of human health and disease,” Querrey says. Querrey and Simpson’s contributions during **We Will. The Campaign for Northwestern** represent the highest total giving from an individual family.

They have supported initiatives such as the

INSPIRED GIVING

Women Philanthropists Pay It Forward

As Northwestern marks the 150th anniversary of coeducation at the University, we recognize our generous women donors.

Inspired by their families, a love of Northwestern and the desire to make the University and the world a better place, women philanthropists have created exciting new spaces, programs and opportunities for students.

There is no denying the unprecedented leadership Shirley Welsh Ryan ’61, ’19 H has brought to Northwestern, in everything from the musical arts and groundbreaking research to athletics excellence and continuing education.

She and her husband, University Trustee Patrick G. Ryan ’59, ’09 H, made their first major gift to Northwestern in the early 1980s — Welsh-Ryan Arena is named in honor of their parents. In 2018 the

arena underwent extensive renovations and is now one of the most accessible facilities in college athletics, thanks in large part to Shirley Ryan’s influence.

In addition to the many other Northwestern facilities that bear the Ryan name, she and her husband have supported numerous endowed scholarships, fellowships and professorships. She also founded and remains involved in the University’s Learning for Life Lectures series.

→ Roberta Buffett Elliott visited with students and faculty at the Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs earlier this year.

“Impact is marked by empowering others to use their skills, their creativity and their education to live a good life and to contribute to making America even better,” says Ryan, who earned a bachelor of arts in English



↑ As the “We Will” Campaign’s co-chair for participation, Paula Pretlow inspires others to give to Northwestern.

Simpson Querrey Institute, the Simpson Querrey Center for Epigenetics and the Simpson Querrey Biomedical Research Center. This year they made an additional gift to advance research through the University’s Center for Bio-Integrated Electronics. “We’re on the cusp of many exciting discoveries in biomedical research,” Querrey says. “What was once science fiction is now becoming reality through some of the brightest minds collaborating across disciplines.”

A former athlete, Querrey honored the two women who raised her when she and Simpson contributed to the Walter Athletics Center. The facility’s Querrey Simpson Wing includes Nona Jo’s Dining Center, named for her grandmother Nona and Aunt Jo.

Roberta Buffett Elliott ’54 has expanded opportunities for international studies and research at Northwestern through her exceptional generosity — including the largest single gift in the University’s history.

It was Elliott’s dedication to her alma mater that led her to give back. A graduate of Weinberg College with a degree in history, she looks back fondly on the “wonderful four years” she spent as a student. “I had gone to a smallish high school in Omaha, and Northwestern just opened my eyes to the world. It changed my life.”

While co-chairing her 50th class Reunion, Elliott made her first major gift to the University, setting up an international visiting professorship program, followed by several other gifts benefiting global research. In 2015, she made a historic \$101 gift million gift to create the Roberta Buffett Institute for Global Affairs.

“It’s exciting helping students, from our country and other countries,” Elliott says.

→ Shirley Welsh Ryan’s generosity made possible the 2018 renovation of Welsh-Ryan Arena as well as the previous renovation in the early 1980s.

“It’s important to me to support Northwestern because Northwestern has supported me in so many ways.”

— Paula Pretlow

Donors often are inspired to give by others, such as University Trustee Paula Pretlow ’77, ’78 MBA, who travels across the country to engage alumni and friends in the “We Will” Campaign as its co-chair for participation. A member of the Campaign Steering Committee, she also co-chairs the San Francisco Regional Campaign Committee.

“My view of philanthropy was shaped at a very young age,” Pretlow says. “Even though I grew up in a household without the financial means to give money to certain causes, my mother would bake goods to distribute to neighbors and take to people who were sick, and my grandmother would

visit people in their homes.”

Pretlow earned her bachelor’s degree in political science from Weinberg College and is now a member of its Board of Visitors. She supports several areas of the University, including the College, Student Enrichment Services, the School of Education and Social Policy and the Kellogg School of Management, where she earned her MBA.

“It’s important to me to support Northwestern because Northwestern has supported me in so many ways,” Pretlow explains. “I arrived on campus with very little. I left with a ton more knowledge and with the tools and opportunities to make the best of my life that I could.”





150 YEARS OF WOMEN

Northwestern celebrates the remarkable alumnae, faculty, staff and students who have faced obstacles, broken barriers and forged ahead to make a difference in the University community and the world at large.

It was a century and a half ago that women were first given the opportunity to enroll at Northwestern as undergraduates. To mark the 150th anniversary of coeducation we are championing our remarkable community of individuals, who have taken risks, charted their own course and inspired change throughout our history and today. We also recognize a new generation of catalysts who continue the journey to transform our community and our culture, by challenging conventional norms and working to ensure Northwestern — and the world — is a more equitable and inclusive place. We celebrate the brave and bold women, womxn and gender-diverse individuals who have led — and continue to lead — the struggle to open doors, creating greater access and opportunity for all who follow. We applaud their contributions, achievements and resilience.

It has not been an easy journey, and myriad challenges remain, but Northwestern has long been a leader. The University was one of more than a dozen Midwestern institutes of higher education to accept women undergraduate students in the 1860s and '70s, more than 100 years ahead of some of our Ivy League peers, including Yale, Harvard, Princeton and Columbia. But even in the seemingly more progressive Midwest, women faced hurdles and resistant attitudes to getting into college.

The minutes of the Board of Trustees meeting on June 23, 1869, could not have been simpler: “Resolved that we approve of the admission of young women to the classes of the university upon the same terms and conditions as young men.”

As in any significant change, of course, the truth was much more complicated. The *Chicago Tribune* reported the next day that several board members had resisted passing the motion for hours. At the very least, they argued, women would require extra supervision to keep them out of trouble, and even worse, their

mere presence could damage the University’s reputation.

It would take a conflagration and major reorganization before Sarah Rebecca Roland became the first woman to receive a Northwestern diploma in 1874 — and many more years until women were fully accepted by the University community (see “The First Woman Graduate,” page 30).

Today, challenges remain to achieve equity across gender identity and expression, racial identity, sexual orientation and economic status. As we reflect on 150 years of women at Northwestern, we can take lessons learned from these inspiring catalysts to focus on creating a more positive future where all individuals have the same opportunities to flourish. The forward thinking and fierce determination of our Northwestern community challenges us to make the next 150 years more inclusive and equitable.

Here, in the following pages, are 11 outstanding graduates who are driving positive change in our world and motivating others to take the lead, from politics to comedy to biopharmaceuticals and many other fields. What is especially inspiring about these Northwestern alums is that not only have they followed their passions and found fulfillment and success, they’ve mentored others along their journey and are helping to create a more just society for all of us.

Northwestern Library’s exhibition On the Same Terms: 150 Years of Women at Northwestern runs through June 20, 2020, at Deering Library.

N
150 YEARS OF
WOMEN

To learn about Northwestern’s 150 years of women and the more than 200 remarkable individuals — past and present — who’ve left their mark on the University and the world, visit the 150 Years of Women website at www.northwestern.edu/150women



“We have nothing to lose and everything to win.”

CLAUDIA LÓPEZ ’19 PHD,
MAYOR OF BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

When Claudia López began her doctorate in political science at Northwestern in 2011, she was already well known in her native Colombia as an activist, political researcher and fearless investigative reporter.

Before López was awarded her degree last June, she had also served four years as a Colombian senator, beat cancer, run as the vice presidential candidate for the Green Alliance Party in 2018, triumphed over stereotypes as a proud lesbian and inspired a new generation of voters.

And the astonishing truth is, she’s just getting started.

In the months before and after Northwestern’s Commencement, López was in the middle of campaigning for mayor of Bogotá, Colombia’s capital and largest city. The position is akin to the mayor of New York City and is seen as a steppingstone to the Colombian presidency. On Sunday, Oct. 27, she became the first woman elected mayor of Bogotá,

winning 35.2% of the vote. Her four-year term begins Jan. 1.

López’s energetic, upbeat campaign appealed especially to young, urban voters eager for change and not yet weary from decades of corruption and violence. Since 1964 a civil war between the government, deadly right-wing paramilitary groups, organized crime and leftist guerillas has left hundreds of thousands of civilians dead and much of the country outside major cities ungoverned.

A November 2016 peace accord ended a half-century of war between the government and the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC. Yet, last August, the historic peace agreement was in trouble from opposing forces both inside and outside the government.

Despite the precarious state of her country, López infused her campaign with her signature optimism, warmth and tolerance.

“Claudia’s approach is celebratory and exciting,” says Northwestern professor Edward Gibson, López’s dissertation adviser. “As a gay woman she will be culturally transformative and motivating to a lot of people who have felt left out of mainstream politics.”

López now applies the ideas she learned at Northwestern to the often dangerous world of Colombian politics — a warrior bolstered by intellectual rigor.

An ardent defender of constitutional rights since her university days, López’s defining moment came during a televised panel discussion in 2010, when she confronted then-President Álvaro Uribe about his connections to paramilitary groups, mass murders and drug trafficking. Uribe had been a formidable force in Colombian politics for decades, and López’s takedown of him was epic.

Her attacks in the press against Uribe and violent groups led to the loss of her job at the newspaper *El Tiempo* and so many death threats she was forced into exile twice. Eventually she left journalism for politics.

“I was frustrated,” López recalls. “The people in paramilitary groups and drug cartels are so powerful. Instead of reporting endlessly I went to work so we can change it.”

At Northwestern, López studied methods of modern state-building — particularly those that could be applied in Colombia’s essentially lawless rural areas. Her dissertation focused on countries that had tackled similar challenges.

“Other countries have been able to build a vibrant society with an inclusive capitalist market,” she says. “We have to understand how others made it and stop making excuses.”

López has become the voice of a new center-left coalition working for anti-corruption agendas, political reform, environmentalism, education and gender issues.

Although she has seen the worst of humanity, López believes that the key to a thriving, stable society comes down to one quality: “The 21st-century citizenship needs empathy. Adaptation will be the constant change — we have to foster empathy and self-esteem so people have the capacity to adapt without fear.”

When asked how she remains confident despite so many challenges, she replies, “We have nothing to lose and everything to win. We have a planet to save. We have democracy to save. And we have a generation to lead.”

—Lisa Stein ’94 MS

“I was speaking a language that no one in the comedy world was speaking.”

ASHLEY NICOLE BLACK '08 MS, ACTOR AND WRITER

“**W**hen I started out acting, I got a lot of messages like, ‘Well, obviously a plus-size black woman can’t do this,’” says Ashley Nicole Black. “‘Maybe you can write or maybe you can teach.’ Then, my first job in television was on *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*. I applied as a writer. I got the job, and pretty quickly Sam offered me an on-camera role. It was exactly the thing that so many people had told me would never happen — and it happened immediately.”

Whether you know Ashley Nicole Black as a correspondent

on *Full Frontal* or from her viral tweets with Elizabeth Warren, she has certainly become a multiplatform powerhouse. Alongside fellow Northwestern alumna Robin Thede, Black recently made the leap to HBO, where she writes and stars in *A Black Lady Sketch Show*, a buzzy comedy that was quickly renewed for a second season.

But her road to TV stardom was not nearly as rapid. Growing up in the suburbs of Los Angeles, Black idolized actors Camryn Manheim and Gina Torres. “They stood out to me because they were alone,” she says. “There weren’t a ton of plus-size women on TV. There weren’t a ton of black women on TV. So, whenever there was one, I honed in on her.”

Black went to college to study acting, but after getting cast only in smaller supporting roles, she assumed she would never fully achieve her dream. “So I went into the graduate performance studies program at Northwestern to get the theoretical background,” she says.

After taking an improv class at Chicago’s famed Second City theater, Black knew it was time to free herself and unleash her full, comedic vision as a writer and performer. She left the doctoral program, having earned her master’s in performance studies. After working at Second City for five years, Black landed at *Full Frontal*. In the end, she says her experience at Northwestern probably helped her stand out in a crowded field. “People took an immediate interest in me because

my point of view and my voice were so defined and so different,” she says. “That’s partly because I was coming out of academia, speaking a language nobody in the comedy world was speaking.”

“When I was starting out, I couldn’t point to any one person and say, ‘I can do that,’” adds Black. “Now the idea that people can point to *Full Frontal* or *A Black Lady Sketch Show* and go, ‘Oh, there’s a place for me, there’s a finish line for me’ — I think that’s really great. Hopefully these shows provide that finish line for people to keep those diverse voices in the pipeline.”

—Martin Wilson '10 MS



JESSICA PRATT/TBS



“I had a full-on freak out. I realized the Clock defect was genetic.”

MARTHA HOTZ VITERNA '92 PHD, RESEARCH PROFESSOR OF NEUROBIOLOGY, NORTHWESTERN

As the morning sun peeks over the edge of Lake Michigan, 41 mice in a pitch-dark laboratory climb off their wheels and nestle into their bedding. The lab is quiet. And then, there is a clicking. Click, click, slide. Click, click, slide.

Mouse No. 25 is still awake. As he clicks along his running wheel, a pen spastically jolts up and down a rotating strip of paper. Martha Hotz Vitaterna, a doctoral student in the lab, will find the recording the next day.

“Mouse No. 25 was the founder mouse for the Clock mutant line,” says Vitaterna, a research professor of neurobiology at Northwestern’s Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences. “At the time, I didn’t know what I had on my hands.”

Before Vitaterna started her work, researchers did not think it was possible to find the genetic basis for circadian rhythms in mammals. When she applied to graduate school, three labs had just cloned the gene at the heart of flies’ circadian rhythms.

“Genetics as a tool to understand clocks was fascinating to me,” Vitaterna says. “But a professor at another school

said, ‘Looking for single-gene mutations will never work in mammals; they are way too complicated.’”

But Vitaterna, whose parents were also academics, was not one to get discouraged. “I grew up knowing that women are as intellectually capable as men,” Vitaterna says, “and confident enough to ignore someone who dismissed my ideas.”

She pursued a doctorate at Northwestern, where Professor Fred Turek encouraged her to look for clock genes in mice.

Vitaterna provided mice with running wheels and exposed them to normal light/dark cycles for a few weeks. Then, she turned off the lights entirely.

“By running on their wheels, the mice could tell me what time of day they thought it was,” she says.

Typically, a mouse’s internal clock is about 23.7 hours a day. But mouse No. 25 experienced a 24.7-hour day. After getting the mouse to breed, Vitaterna found the same pattern in some of the mouse’s offspring.

“I had a full-on freak out,” she says. “I realized the Clock defect was genetic. It was one thing to be allowed to do this far-out, long-shot project, but then to have it work was an incredible experience.”

In 1994 *Science* journal published the results of Vitaterna’s experiment, which was the first molecular piece of the mammalian clock. Since then, research with Clock mutant mice has shown that circadian rhythms are important to almost every physiological process — from sleep to digestion to mood and more.

—Amanda Morris '14 MA

Women-Focused Research from Northwestern

75%

Percentage of female leaders who maintain an inner circle composed primarily of women.

MICHAEL GOSS

86%

Percentage of respondents in 2018 poll who report that men and women are equally intelligent.

\$94K

The average grant for female first-time principal investigators, \$41,000 less than the average for men.

“I learned firsthand the power a team can have when bringing ideas to life.”

ELISE WETZEL '87, '92 MBA,
CO-FOUNDER, BLAZE PIZZA



Blaze Pizza started with a trip to Chipotle in 2011. Looking for a no-wait pizza lunch, Elise Wetzel and her husband, Rick, ended up eating burritos, but the made-your-way format sparked an idea.

They immediately started sketching out plans for a build-your-own pizza shop. A year later, Blaze Pizza was born. It started with two California locations and has expanded to become one of the fastest-growing franchises in the U.S., with more than 340 restaurants in 41 states and five countries.

Now Blaze is gunning for the pizza delivery giants, introducing larger, shareable sizes.

Wetzel first learned to think about consumer behavior when she studied economics as an undergrad and earned her MBA from the Kellogg School of Management, where she was part of the “28% Club,” a tongue-in-cheek reference to the percentage of women students at Kellogg when she attended. “We would say membership has its privileges, like the line in the women’s room wasn’t very long.” (The Kellogg Class of 2020 is a record-high 46% women.)

“My time at Northwestern was foundational,” she says. “I learned firsthand the power a team can have when bringing ideas to life. In one advertising class, I was part of a group charged with creating a campaign for the National Egg Commission. That shared endeavor gave me a more layered learning experience than working in an individual silo and was a great lesson in the value of teamwork.”

Elise and Rick have been launching brands as a team for 25 years, starting with Wetzel’s Pretzels in 1994. They have a daughter, Madison, and a son, Jack, who is a sophomore at Northwestern.

—Sean Hargadon

The First Woman Graduate

In 1874 Sarah Rebecca Roland became the first woman graduate of Northwestern University. Years later, Roland remembered that “when President [Charles] Fowler ... presented me my diploma on Commencement Day, he said, ‘You are the first of a long line, Miss Roland,’ and

he was a true prophet.”

Born in Cedarville, Ill., Roland started attending Northwestern’s College of Liberal Arts in 1870. (She was not the first woman to enroll; Rebecca Hoag enrolled in 1869 but did not complete her studies.) After Roland graduated with a bachelor’s degree in philosophy, she married John Aiken Childs, the owner and editor of the *Evanston Index* newspaper, in 1878. They later moved to Pasadena, Calif., where



Roland participated in the Northwestern Alumni Association. After Roland died on June 14, 1937, at age

86, the Pasadena chapter of the NAA organized her funeral service. Her two daughters also attended Northwestern.

In 1922 Northwestern named Roland Hall, a women’s infirmary at the intersection of Clark Street and Orrington Avenue, in honor of its first woman graduate. Roland Hall later became a women’s dormitory; it was razed in 1974. The Sarah Rebecca Roland Professorship honors her legacy.

BLAZE MARKETING



“Everything for me is about service.”

JOLENE LOETSCHER '01, CEO, MUD MILE COMMUNICATIONS; PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP SCHOLAR

Jolene Loetscher decided to run for mayor of Sioux Falls, S.D., while feeding her newborn daughter at 3 a.m. “I just had this epiphany as I’m holding this little nugget: If I don’t run, my daughter will learn that it’s OK to give into your fears and let doubt take over.”

Loetscher and her husband, Nate Burdine, had talked about her running for mayor for months.

At the time, the couple was creating a sports marketing arm of the agency they run together, Mud Mile Communications. That work, paired with first-time parenthood, made a campaign a daunting task.

She lost in a runoff, but the experience proved she could overcome her fears — again.

Born and raised in Nebraska, Loetscher was sexually abused by a family friend as a teen, and she decided years later that she could no longer ignore her pain. In 2011, as a former local news reporter in Sioux Falls, Loetscher knew that publicly sharing her story might change public perception of her. Her family

members might feel like they failed to protect her. Some people might even see her as a victim first and foremost. But here, as with the campaign, she refused to be guided by fear.

“I had been given a gift to be able to use my voice to tell stories, and so much of that was shaped by my Medill experience and my subsequent newsroom experience,” Loetscher says. “I witnessed the power of vulnerability and the cascade of change it creates. I felt a calling to put purpose to my pain.”

A state legislator reached out to Loetscher after seeing her TEDx Talk describing her abuse and its impact. The two worked together to revoke the statute of limitations on criminal rape in South Dakota. In 2014 the state passed Jolene’s Law, but there was an attempt to kill it by a legislative committee that objected to its \$21,000 cost when the law came up for renewal in 2015.

Jolene’s Law was saved by an executive order signed by Gov. Dennis Daugaard ’78 JD. The resultant Jolene’s Law Task Force, led by the University of South Dakota’s Center for the Prevention of Child Maltreatment, outlined six major goals and 48 supporting objectives that address a comprehensive approach toward ending child sexual abuse in South Dakota.

Loetscher was named a 2019 Presidential Leadership Scholar in recognition of her service through storytelling.

“Everything for me is about service,” Loetscher says. “When I went into journalism, I wanted to serve the community that I reported on and lived in. With Jolene’s Law, I’m trying to make the world safer for kids and families and for my daughter.”

—Clare Milliken

EMILY SPARTZ WEERHEIM

“Change the storytellers, change the world.”

VILLY WANG ’90 JD, FOUNDER, PRESIDENT AND CEO, BAYCAT

Raised by an immigrant single mother in the projects of New York City, Villy Wang longed to tell her mom’s story. That longing forged a passion for media because of its power to share and shape narratives. So Wang founded the Bayview-Hunters Point Center for Arts and Technology (BAYCAT), a nonprofit social enterprise in San Francisco that helps young people from low-income communities capture and tell untold stories and create social change.

After 15 years, BAYCAT has educated more than 4,000 students, and its recent graduates have gone on to work at Netflix, Lucasfilm, Pixar, HBO, Universal Studios and other production companies.

“I had this crazy idea: What if I could have this place where we teach young people the value of how their story matters and who they are matters?” recalls Wang, a Northwestern Law alumna. “Nobody ever told me that as a kid. And it’s certainly not represented in media — even today.”

As she contemplated creating what would become BAYCAT, Wang observed firsthand the lack

of resources in schools that were teaching the arts and digital media in lower-income communities — just as Silicon Valley was beginning to explode.

“We’re in one of the wealthiest, most innovative technology cities in the world, and I remember walking into one classroom that was a trailer, and part of it was burned down, and there were not even outlets for computers,” Wang says. “This is what we were dealing with, the gigantic contrast between that and how wealthy the Bay Area is. Solutions to equity and racial justice start with access.”

Today BAYCAT youth learn what the pros learn — training on the latest technology in video production.

“These skill sets are transferable to anything,” Wang says. “We don’t expect every kid to want to be a filmmaker when they grow up, but we have created this pathway from education to employment.”

Women and people of color are highly underrepresented in the media industry. Their stories are not being told, Wang says, which results in further underrepresentation in all forms of media.

“Change the storytellers, change the story” is BAYCAT’s motto, and Wang says the organization’s mission also is about breaking the cycle of poverty and helping to end racism and sexism.

BAYCAT has employed and placed more than 200 young adults in digital media, including Iman Rodney, now a 26-year-old three-time Emmy winner and cinematographer for the San Francisco Giants, who started in the program when he was 13 years old.

“Thank God I had BAYCAT,” says Iman’s mother, Regina Rodney, of San Francisco. “The forces of the street were calling him. As a mother, I didn’t know what to do.

“Villy was able to pull out Iman’s potential,” Regina adds. “She was able to say, ‘This is not your best. You can do better.’ I saw his maturity and growth.

“They say, ‘It takes a village.’ I say, ‘It takes a Villy.’”

—Hilary Hurd Anyaso

“I had this crazy idea: What if I could have this place where we teach young people the value of how their story matters and who they are matters?”



BAYCAT

RAYA AL-HASHMI



“It’s part of my purpose to share the lessons I’ve learned.”

KRISTEN KJELLMAN MARSHALL ’07, VICE PRESIDENT OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AT WEPLAYED

Sarah Albrecht remembers how the dynasty began. It was the 2005 NCAA Women’s Lacrosse National Championship in Annapolis, Md. Northwestern faced Virginia.

With the team’s first title in their sights, Albrecht remembers that her teammate Kristen Kjellman wasn’t blinking.

“She just came out firing,” recalls Albrecht ’06, now head coach for University of New Hampshire women’s lacrosse. “We

were just getting out of her way and letting her do her thing.”

Northwestern’s win signaled the beginning of the Wildcats’ reign over the lacrosse world, and Kristen Kjellman Marshall led the charge with her intensity and work ethic. She helped Northwestern earn its first three national championships, from 2005 to 2007.

Marshall, who twice won the Tewaaraton Award, given to the best player in men’s and women’s college lacrosse, stays involved with collegiate sports as vice president of business development at WePlayed, a community-driven sports video platform for all college sports.

A mother of two with another baby on the way, Marshall also remains active in the lacrosse world. She is an assistant coach for the varsity girl’s lacrosse team at New Hampshire’s Phillips Exeter Academy. She also hosts pro lacrosse camps, serves as a director on the US Lacrosse Foundation board and co-wrote *The ABCs of Girls’ Lacrosse*.

“The game has given me so much and had such an impact on the trajectory of my life,” she says. “Being a mentor to young women and girls on a personal level is very important to me. It’s part of my purpose to share the lessons I’ve learned with the younger generation and help make others better.”

—Jacob Muñoz ’21

Women Student Athletes

7

NCAA championships won by Northwestern women’s teams

267

Women student-athletes who play in 11 women’s varsity sports

58

Number of women’s sports athletes and coaches in the Northwestern Athletic Hall of Fame

“I look for artists who don’t have a plan B.”

JODY GERSON ’83, CHAIRMAN AND CEO,
UNIVERSAL MUSIC PUBLISHING GROUP

Jody Gerson wields enormous influence in the entertainment industry. She has overseen the signings and publishing-contract extensions of songwriters Rosalía, Billie Eilish, Ariana Grande, Elton John, Post Malone, Prince, Quavo, Carly Simon, Bruce Springsteen, SZA, Jack White and many others. “In the music business, you’re defined by the success of the talent you find,” explains Gerson, chairman and CEO of Universal Music Publishing Group (UMPG), headquartered in Santa Monica, Calif. “And in turn, my relationships with talent are what led me to this job at UMPG.”

Music publishing companies administer the copyrights of artists’ compositions, collecting royalties when recordings are sold or streamed and when songs are performed live or licensed for film and television (also known as sync). “I look for artists whose music and influence will make an impact on global culture,” she says, “someone who doesn’t have a plan B.”

Gerson, who grew up watching Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin at the Philadelphia nightclubs owned by her family, majored in communication studies at Northwestern. She began her career in music publishing at Chappell, then joined EMI, where she signed Alicia Keys and Norah Jones. In 2008 Gerson became co-president of Sony/ATV Music Publishing, where her first signing was the then-unknown Lady Gaga.

In 2015 Gerson became the first woman to be named CEO of a major music publishing company. She has transformed UPMG into a billion-dollar-plus company, and its revenue has increased 40%.

Last year Gerson, along with Grammy winner Keys and two other music industry veterans, co-founded the nonprofit She Is The Music to increase the number of women working in the business. “We champion equality, inclusivity and opportunity for women in our industry,” she says. Its programs — all-female songwriting camps, a global database of women creators and a mentorship program to educate and develop the next generation — are “all focused on moving the needle to change the numbers.”

“In my role, it’s really important to help other women achieve this kind of success,” Gerson told *Billboard* in 2018. “Being the only one is not OK anymore. I won’t be satisfied until there are more of us.”

—Jacob Arnold

“It’s really important to help other women achieve this kind of success. Being the only one is not OK anymore. I won’t be satisfied until there are more of us.”



RAINER HOSCH/
TRUNK ARCHIVE

“Dreaming is required for living.”

JADE MAZE '08 MMUS, MUSICIAN, AUTHOR AND EDUCATOR

Jade Maze remembers one of the times that she hit rock bottom: It was the late '80s, and she was trying to start a band in Santa Barbara, Calif.

On a creative kick, she rented a garage where she planned to live and write music full time, but she fell victim to a bait-and-switch scheme. Instead of a tidy garage with a concrete floor, like the model she'd been shown, she was given the keys to a dilapidated, mouse-infested, dirt-floor garage. Before long, she was couch-surfing. Then all her belongings and equipment were stolen from her car.

“Everything was gone,” she says. “It put me in a bad place mentally.”

When a friend found her walking aimlessly on the beach and asked if she was OK, Maze realized she needed help. “I did not want to fall through the cracks,” she says. “I immediately went to this crisis center and said, ‘Help me!’”

“It was a life-changing moment. If I hadn't realized that I needed help, that I was not in control, I don't know where I would be today.”

It wasn't the first time Maze had to overcome a personal crisis. She walked away from a troubled home in Oakland, Calif., at age 15.

The harrowing journey that followed — including periods of homelessness and incidents of rape, manipulation and isolation — shaped her life, but it did not define or defeat her.

Maze eventually landed on her feet back in her hometown of Minneapolis and devoted herself to music. She toured Germany and France with the Minneapolis Jazz Machine. After going through a divorce and dropping out of college in California, Maze moved to Boston in 1992 and became a jazz and pop headliner. She moved to Chicago in 1994 but stopped playing music altogether in 1998.

“I was all over the club scene and touring nationally,” Maze says, “but I was not happy being in circumstances where you don't see the best of people's behavior.”

That's when she started writing her memoir, *Walk Until Sunrise* (2017), about her runaway experience. “The story just kept nagging at me,” Maze says of her award-winning debut. “I didn't want to write the book, because they're not pleasant memories, but I felt compelled to. Within the last five years, I was objective enough and healthy enough to really write the story as it ought to be written.”

GLORIA ARAYA

BETTMANN

Maze, who lives in Westchester, Ill., says getting an education was the turning point in her life. A former straight-A student, she went back to school, earning her GED in her late 30s and then an undergrad degree from the University Without Walls program at Northeastern Illinois University.

Thanks to a partial scholarship, Maze studied voice with Bienen School of Music artist-in-residence Nancy Gustafson '80 MMus and earned her master's degree at Northwestern. Within days of graduating, she received a call from the Merit School of Music, a community music school in Chicago that serves talented youth in its tuition-free college-prep conservatory.

“It is my duty to push these students hard toward excellence by making them aware of how talented they are and what a responsibility that is,” Maze says. “I give my students — from all walks of life, rich or poor — a reality check, sugar-coating nothing. And if I think they have what it takes to go far, I back up my encouragement by doing my best to infuse them with fearlessness and brazenness that is necessary to pursue a solo performance career. And their efforts are reaping fruit.”

—Sean Hargadon

Women's Rights — NOW

After Karen Lipschultz DeCrow '59 came across an interview about the National Organization for Women (NOW), the largest organization of feminist activists in the U.S., the former journalist joined the organization and quickly rose through the ranks.

DeCrow established NOW's Syracuse chapter and coordinated the national Women's Strike for Equality while working toward her law degree at Syracuse University in 1972. She ran for mayor as a student in 1969, becoming the first female mayoral candidate in New York. Though she lost, DeCrow used the experience to organize a program to train women for politics.

An advocate for gender equality and representation of women, she served as the organization's president from 1974 to 1977. Under DeCrow's leadership, NOW campaigned for the Equal Rights Amendment, defended Title IX and ran



the first Take Back the Night march. (She died in 2014.)

Three decades after DeCrow's reign, Terry O'Neill '74 was named president of NOW in 2009. Also a feminist attorney, O'Neill guided NOW's updated multi-issue agenda until 2017 and oversaw the organization's battle against Donald Trump's travel ban. NOW also campaigned for awareness of voter suppression and worked to eliminate the culture of domestic violence in the NFL. Today O'Neill is executive director of the National Employment Lawyers Association.

“The most important thing you can do as a leader is to lift up others.”

EMILY HARBURG '18 PHD, DIRECTOR OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AT EF EDUCATION FIRST

While working at Walt Disney Imagineering as a behavioral sciences researcher, Emily Harburg didn't always feel comfortable speaking up. “Every day I'd be in meetings where I was the only woman in the room,” she says. “It took a while to get over the feeling that I didn't belong in that space.” Experiences like that one inspired Harburg to team up with Anna Bethune '19 MA and Jen Kamins to build Brave Initiatives, a series of workshops and camps for girls designed to promote self-efficacy and develop confidence in coding. To date, more

than 700 girls have participated in Brave programs around the world, and nearly 90% continue to code.

After receiving encouragement from a female mentor to get her doctorate, Harburg came to Northwestern to learn how to design technology that supports learning in the Technology & Social Behavior doctoral program.

As a test of her learning, Harburg developed a mobile app called Pairachute that pairs newcomers with mentors in the tech industry. The app is used today by Brave Initiatives, and Harburg updates it frequently by adding mentors she meets through networking to support aspiring female coders.

“For me, the most important thing you can do as a leader is to lift up others,” she says.

Harburg, who lives in Boston, currently manages a team of programmers as director of emerging technology and innovation at EF Education First, an international education company. She is working with her team to design technology to support learning, connection and exploration as students travel the world with EF.

“Designing technology that helps people better connect with the world and look out rather than down, these types of projects — the ones that can totally change our relationship with learning — are the ones I'm most passionate about and why I decided to do the work that I do,” she says.

—Monika Wnuk '14 MS



LISA BETH ANDERSON



“I do believe that we're here for a higher purpose.”

SHEILA GUJRATHI '92, '96 MD, CO-FOUNDER, PRESIDENT AND CEO, GOSSAMER BIO

When Sheila Gujrathi was a student at the Feinberg School of Medicine, she took a year off between her second and third years to live in an ashram in the south of India. Her mother, a pediatrician, was so worried about Gujrathi that she called the ashram and asked them to send her daughter home to finish school.

But Gujrathi, a second-generation Indian American, wanted to lead a more centered life. Her father, a psychiatrist, had encouraged her to study sacred Hindu philosophies and scriptures. He passed away when she was a teenager, and Gujrathi was still grieving. At the ashram, she says, she was able to work through her grief and explore a spiritual path.

“It was one of the best decisions I've made in my life,” says Gujrathi of her gap year. “It gave me the strength, values, resilience and courage to continue to move forward in my life and follow my dreams.”

Her dreams have taken her far — on an unconventional journey from becoming a doctor and treating patients to leaving the practice of medicine to becoming a management consultant to doing research in biotechnology to co-founding a biopharmaceutical company. Her goal was to create a next-generation, innovative biopharma company to do cutting-edge science and help as many patients as possible.

Today, as president and CEO of Gossamer Bio in San Diego, Gujrathi leads a company focused on the discovery and development of therapeutics in the disease areas of immunology, inflammation and oncology.

MELISSA JACOBS

In co-founding and building Gossamer, Gujrathi says, it was essential to use a different business model from the big pharma companies.

“I wanted to have the ability as a small, nimble biotech company to push the envelope every day and take risks,” she explains. “My thinking here is that we will have these successes, and where we don't have successes, we'll want to make those decisions quickly to stop programs and move on to what's next. Our ability to do that and then understand where the science is going and make new discoveries and keep furthering the field is so exciting for all of us.”

When Gujrathi ended her stay at the ashram, she returned to Northwestern to finish medical school, completing the seven-year Honors Program in Medical Education, in which she had also earned a bachelor of science degree in biomedical engineering. After her residency in internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, she did a fellowship year in allergy and immunology at the University of California, San Francisco, and Stanford.

“I always thought I'd be a physician,” Gujrathi says. “But I wanted to see if I could have a broader impact.” Coming into contact with entrepreneurial clinicians in the Bay Area and seeing the vibrant interaction between industry and academics, she made the decision to go into management consulting at McKinsey & Company.

“It was terrifying to leave medicine, but I learned a tremendous amount about communication and analytical and project management skills,” she says.

Eventually Gujrathi went back to clinical research within the biotech industry, focusing on science as a physician executive. From there she progressed to high-level management positions, eventually becoming the chief medical officer at Receptos, a drug discovery and development company, and then moved on to start Gossamer.

Gujrathi credits the year she spent in the ashram for giving her a holistic perspective on running a company.

“One of my motivations for forming Gossamer was that I wanted to bring those spiritual values to work and continue to grow myself, professionally and personally, but also help anyone around me who would like to also take that journey with me,” says Gujrathi. “You want to bring your authentic, whole self to work. It's transformed my life and for the better. It is at the core of how I think and what I do. And I do believe that we're here for a higher purpose. We're all doing our part in this universe to achieve that.”

—Stephanie Russell

“I wanted to bring those spiritual values to work and continue to grow myself, professionally and personally, but also help anyone around me who would like to also take that journey with me.”

Soul Restoration

Natasha Trethewey believes in the healing power of poetry as she confronts a family tragedy and the misapprehensions of American history.

BY ADRIENNE SAMUELS GIBBS



Pulitzer Prize-winning author and Northwestern professor of English Natasha Trethewey’s beloved mother died decades ago, and yet her grave, down in Mississippi, remains unmarked by a headstone.

The reasons for this are varied and complicated, and they speak to the essence of Trethewey, one of the most acclaimed poets of our time. Or perhaps the reasons are also singular and simple — alluded to in Trethewey’s latest collection, *Monument: Poems New and Selected* (2018). Line by brilliant line, she details uncomfortable truths about growing up biracial and black in Mississippi, the insidious nature of racism, the forgotten history of black laborers and the murder of her mother. The epigraph, a line from Walt Whitman’s “The Great City,” provides context for the entire tome: “Where no monuments exist to heroes but in the common words and deeds ...”

Trethewey’s monument to her mother — and to other forgotten Americans — is this book, a work that illustrates how leaning into memories, and memorializing the marginalized, delivers the soul. The two-term U.S. poet laureate, who laughs just as much as she cries when discussing how sorrow led to a Pulitzer, is sharing that restorative path with her students at Northwestern.

“When I am in the process of making, of being generative, that is when I am happiest,” says Trethewey, the Board of Trustees Professor of English in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences.

Though the story she is researching might be about a biracial woman forced into prostitution in 1800s New Orleans or about how Hurricane Katrina impacted thousands, Trethewey finds inspiration in sorting through the pain. “I am happy when I am in that zone, giving a kind of order to chaos, making a pattern.”

These patterns swirl about Trethewey, whose very life seems set up as if it were a book. The child of a marital union considered illegal in 1960s Mississippi, she experienced great personal tragedy,

wrote poetry, taught at several universities and became a Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundation fellow. In 2007 she won a Pulitzer Prize for *Native Guard: Poems*, her collection about a regiment of black, Louisiana-based Union soldiers whose history was largely unsung. She has written six books and was appointed U.S. poet laureate in 2012 and 2013. And then, in fall 2017, a few decades after her own mother lived in Chicago, she came to

Northwestern, where she is a Litowitz Creative Writing Graduate Program faculty member who also teaches undergraduates.

Upon arrival, she knew she belonged.

The realization came on

Halloween, when a little boy rang the bell and said, “Trick or treat.” The sight of a dimly lit child in a Civil War uniform was troubling; in her native Mississippi, the Lost Cause is still very much a cause and a Confederate costume is still a holiday dress-up option. She opened the door to find a 10-year-old wearing a Union uniform.

“I was born on Confederate Memorial Day and now? I feel like this is a place I was supposed to be,” she says. “It seems like I have chosen the geography in which I want to place myself.”

She pauses.

“This just feels like destiny.”

...

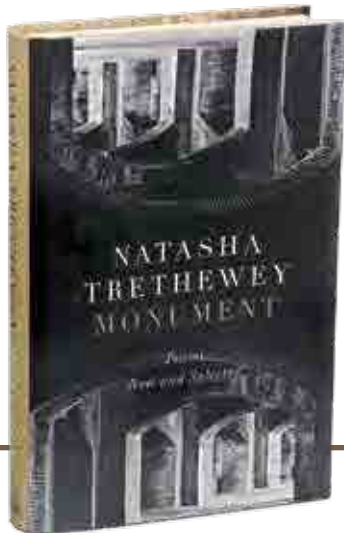
f Trethewey were a different person, a person with less grit and resilience, her mother’s death might have ended her. But it didn’t. She is matter-of-fact when discussing the tragedy that occurred when she was 19, and though she tears up, she pushes through. “Domestic violence is a not-explored-enough problem,” she says in an interview with this reporter, on the day that her mother’s second

ex-husband was released from an Atlanta-area prison after serving 34 years for the murder of her mother. Trethewey is angry but nowhere near defeated.

That’s because she comes from sturdy, hurricane-stock people who know how to build and blossom after a storm. Her family is from Gulfport, Miss., which was nearly wiped off the map during Hurricane Katrina. But her family land, and mother’s grave, stayed put. And then, having left Emory University to head to Northwestern, her beautiful new home caught fire and nearly burned to the ground — with all her boxes of memories and notes for a new book inside it — within months of moving in.

But all was not lost.

“The act of making poetry is an act of hope.”



Early Evening, Frankfort, Kentucky

by Natasha Trethewey

It is 1965. I am not yet born, only
a fullness beneath the Empire waist
of my mother’s blue dress.

The ruffles at her neck are waves
of light in my father’s eyes. He carries
a slim volume, leather-bound, poems

to read as they walk. The long road
past the college, through town,
rises and falls before them,

the blue hills shimmering at twilight.
The stacks at the distillery exhale,
and my parents breathe evening air

heady and sweet as Kentucky bourbon.
They are young and full of laughter,
the sounds in my mother’s throat

rippling down into my blood.
My mother, who will not reach
forty-one, steps into the middle

of a field, lies down among clover
and sweet grass, right here, right now —
dead center of her life.

Reprinted from *Monument:
Poems New and Selected*

No one was hurt. And the books — her books, her husband’s books, her father’s books — emerged unscathed. The volumes were packed so tightly on the shelves that no oxygen could get to them, and they did not burn.

The couple’s individual working documents had already been uploaded to the cloud. And the fire somehow skipped over the family photos and her father’s beloved Alpha Phi Alpha wooden pledge paddle.

Trethewey and her husband, Northwestern history professor Brett Gadsden ’99 MA, ’07 PhD, gutted the entire house and moved into an apartment for two years. They are finally, just now, moving back into their refurbished home.

“The house reminded me of my mother,” says Trethewey, dabbing her eyes while mentioning the fleur-de-lis etched into a stained-glass window and the daffodils and narcissus that line her garden in the spring and also make appearances in her poetry of Mississippi. “The fire was just terrible. But there’s growth in how it didn’t break me. It felt like the house did a cleansing, you know? The fire got rid of everything that needed to go. And now we get to start over.”

...

In “**Pastoral**,” a poem reprinted in *Monument*, Trethewey speaks about her beloved father. It’s a piece that on the surface is about a dream: taking a group photo with the famous “*Fugitive* poets” of the South. In the end, though, the poetry sears.

In part, she writes:

We’re lining up now — Robert Penn Warren,
his voice just audible above the drone
of bulldozers, telling us where to stand.
Say “*race*,” the photographer croons. I’m in
blackface again when the flash freezes us.
My father’s white, I tell them, and rural.
You don’t hate the South? they ask. You don’t hate it?

People often ask questions when they really make statements, says Trethewey, who underscores this communication style within the words of “Pastoral.”

But more than that, the piece illustrates Trethewey’s connection to her father, Eric Trethewey, a young white poet who met his future wife, Gwendolyn Ann Turnbough, while both were students at Kentucky State College. He stood out from the crowd and, despite being in the Deep South, was invited to join the historically black fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha in 1963.

Her parents divorced when she was 6, but a young Natasha often visited her father at Tulane University in New Orleans, where he was in graduate school, and years later would write of her visceral memories of being a child able to “pass for white” even while her mother and grandmother were unmistakably black.

Trethewey has always been interested in historical memory and historical erasure. She says that her poetry comes from two existential wounds, the wound of history and the immeasurable loss of her mother.

“W.H. Auden, in his memorial to William Butler Yeats (*In Memory of W.B. Yeats*), wrote, ‘Mad Ireland hurt you into poetry,’” she says. “Mad Mississippi, with its history of racial violence and oppression, inflicted my first wound. My mother’s death was the second. This is what hurt me into poetry.”

In the 2006 collection *Native Guard*, Trethewey dug deep to find materials about the Union regiment that was housed at Ship Island, near her native Gulfport. These soldiers were named the Louisiana Native Guards and were one of the Union’s first black divisions, mustered in late 1862 and charged with guarding Confederate prisoners during the Civil War. One of

a handful of “colored” regiments, the Native Guards fought for their own freedom, and the freedom of the country, but many suffered the indignities of dying without acknowledgment or even a grave. That is, until Trethewey and others from her area began to celebrate the contributions of those soldiers.

After *Native Guard*’s release, Mississippi honored the regiment’s memory with an actual monument near the dock where people board the boat to

“Poetry’s a thing that belongs to everyone.”

Ship Island. Trethewey’s words helped manifest a miracle: She wrote those dead soldiers back into their rightful place in American history.

Trethewey has published six books that blend historical research with poetry. One, *Bellocq’s Ophelia* (2002), is about the life of a biracial, antebellum-era New Orleans prostitute who lived in one of the “octoroon” brothels. Another, *Domestic Work* (2000), is the result of creating poems inspired by historic images of African Americans at work in the pre–civil rights era of the 20th century.

When Trethewey was named poet laureate, James Billington, then the librarian of Congress, said this about her work: “Her poems dig beneath the surface of history — personal or communal, from childhood or from a century ago — to explore the human struggles that we all face.”

A

t Northwestern, in her class Poetry and the Historical Imagination, Trethewey asks students to investigate the intersections between public history and their personal history in the places they come from.

She says that when they consider family stories and place, they begin to see deeper truths. After such an assignment, the process often leads students to expose their own hidden layers.

“I tell them also that unless they’re willing to write about things that are frightening to them, unless they are really trying to tell a truth — an emotional truth — then they’re not really writing,” says Trethewey. “I try to make a space in my classroom where students feel like they can reveal parts of themselves — where they can reveal that emotional landscape without judgment. Even the most traumatic events in our lives can be changed — be transformed — in the language of a poem.”

As poet laureate, Trethewey was tasked with bringing more poetry to the masses. She traveled

the country and gave more readings than she can remember. She also wanted to make poetry more accessible and to show how people are already making use of poetry in their daily lives, which is why she taped *Where Poetry Lives*, a PBS NewsHour series with senior correspondent Jeffrey Brown.

“I think there’s a poem out there for everyone,” she says. “It starts with enthusiasm, and I try to find poems that will be meaningful to people, that will get them interested, get them hooked.”

National Book Award finalist Jericho Brown, who was in graduate school when Trethewey won the Pulitzer, has seen this teaching in action as a student of poetry. The two first met when she taught a class at the Callaloo Creative Writing Workshop at Texas A&M. He knew years ago that Trethewey’s talent was something special.

“She’s a brilliant teacher — not just about poetry, but about life. She’s proof that when you are true to who you are and what you do, you have a kind of confidence about yourself that you can get beyond yourself,” says Brown, who is now director of the creative writing program at Emory University.

“We try to write the poems that we need to write for ourselves,” Brown explains, “and it turns out that other people need those poems too.”

...

T

he state of Mississippi is soon to honor Natasha Trethewey with her own monument on the Mississippi Writers Trail, a series of cultural markers similar to Boston’s well-known Freedom Trail. For Mississippi this has resulted in a series of markers commemorating the lives of writers such as

William Faulkner, Eudora Welty and Margaret Walker ’35, ’74 H.

Trethewey’s plaque will lead visitors down a path of historical discovery as they read her catalog. And that’s exactly the point, says Kevin Young, director of New York City’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture and a primary reader for Trethewey’s first book of poetry, *Domestic Work*.

“Natasha has always had grace and power in her writing,” says Young. “She’s always had a vision for what she wanted out of a poem. She writes out of a passionate place. She writes about memory, loss and land. You will be moved when you encounter her monument.”

But Trethewey has not yet settled on a location. Should it be next to the newly erected monument to the Native Guards? Should it be in Gulfport on family land that sits fallow and has for years?

The poet ponders the question. “I could have it on my mother’s grave,” she says. “I can have it on my grandmother’s property. It needs to be somewhere where the act of remembrance leads people to more remembrances — not just of me but of the larger web of history that we’re all a part of.”

Adrienne Samuels Gibbs ’99 is a graduate of the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications.

See video of Natasha Trethewey reading her poem “Waterborne” at numag.nu/Trethewey.

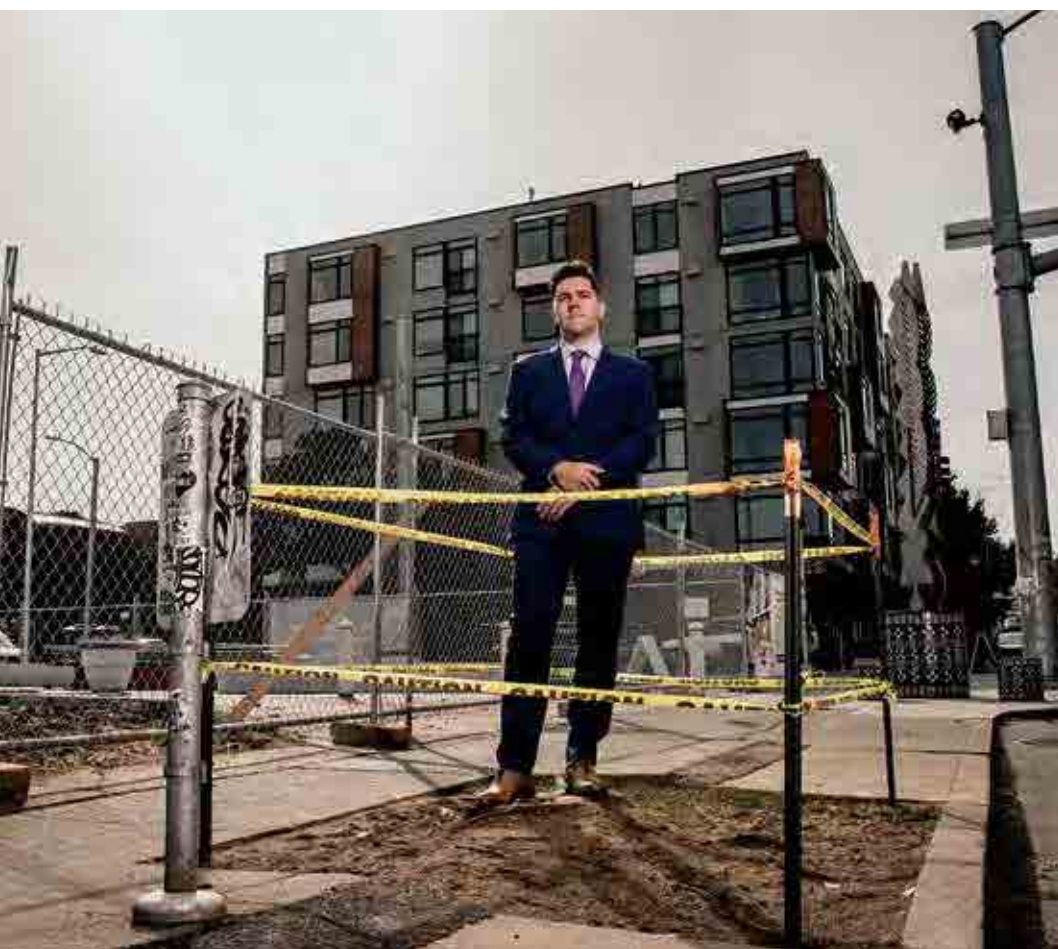
Alumni



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Entree Nous women’s tennis club, circa 1896

Creation



URBAN AFFAIRS

Five Questions with Jeffrey Shulman '01, '04 MS, '06 PhD

In his documentary *On the Brink*, the University of Washington business professor evokes the human impact of gentrification in Seattle's Central District.

1

What did you learn about the Central District from producing and directing *On the Brink*?

I was struck by the intense feelings of trauma, tragedy, and loss that residents in the Central District are feeling while the city is experiencing an economic boom. I lived in Seattle for 10 years before my work with Seattle Growth Podcast opened my eyes to a rich history that's in danger of becoming history forever. Nationally renowned talents such as Ray Charles,

Jimi Hendrix, Quincy Jones and Sir Mix-A-Lot called this once-thriving African American community home.

This rich history also includes racial covenants that formed the community and disinvestment in the neighborhood through redlining. Knowing how these communities were formed and starved of resources gives context to why displacement happening now is not just about simple economics. I've been struck by the reaction from audiences in cities from LA to New York who relate to what's portrayed in the film. Seattle's Central District story is truly an American story.

2

What do people need to understand about gentrification?

What many people see as progress means loss to community members who made big contributions to their neighborhood. A takeaway is that there's a real human impact of "progress." My hope is that by bringing attention to people who are struggling in an economic boom, we can find solutions that can include them in building a positive shared future.

3

How did your award-winning Seattle Growth Podcast develop?

Seattle is a dynamic city. I lived in the South Lake Union neighborhood, which has changed dramatically. Three years after moving away from the neighborhood, I

didn't recognize it. I set out to understand how people in Seattle are reacting to the changes around them. Seasons of the podcast have focused on homelessness, the music scene and finding community.

4

How do Seattle's changing demographics fit with your role at UW's Foster School of Business?

I teach, research and engage in service. My research primarily focuses on using game theory to look at pricing, product returns and marketing implications of cloud computing. Seattle Growth Podcast and *On the Brink* were acts of service, looking at what role business can play in serving the needs of the community in a way that leaves fewer people behind. It's coming from an interest in how we as a public business school can be a positive force in a transforming the city.

5

How has your career been guided by your time at Northwestern?

Being exposed to different people and ideas at Northwestern sparked a curiosity that has guided me through all these different projects. I also learned the importance of community and looking out for one another at the University.

Interview conducted by Jacob Munoz, a junior from Ingleside, Ill., who is studying journalism and psychology.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



RAP REPORTER

Omar Jimenez '15, a Chicago-based national correspondent for CNN, moonlights as the rapper OJ Trop. On Oct. 18 he released *The A-Block*, a six-song EP. "I make a living telling other people's stories every day," Jimenez says. "This is a chance for me to tell a little bit of my own story." Growing up in the Atlanta suburbs, Jimenez followed such hip-hop stars as OutKast and Ludacris. But he credits the offbeat work of Donald Glover, aka Childish Gambino, for inspiring him in high school to pave his own musical path. "He wasn't the gangster type of rapper that I grew up listening to and watching," says Jimenez. "That helped me with my creativity and gave me confidence in thinking that I don't have to fit this certain type of mold."



VISUAL ARTS

An Artful Harvest

Nashville-based visual artist Beth Reitmeyer '98 MFA likes to make people happy with her colorful and often playful installations.

In August her giant plush tomatoes were featured at East Nashville's 16th annual Tomato Art Fest.

Her exhibit, *Bushel of Tomato Fun*, was featured on local Nashville television news. "I'm sure all the Northwestern alumni would be proud to know that one of their own is making giant stuffed tomatoes," Reitmeyer joked in her interview.

Her art has been featured at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, the Frist Art Museum in Nashville, the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts in New York City and the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London.

Reitmeyer, who grew up Louisville, is trained in applied behavior therapy for autistic children. She lived in Chicago for 15 years, then returned to the South to be close to her sister who is raising three children, including two sons who are on the autism spectrum.

Reitmeyer is an art instructor at Nashville State Community College and an artist mentor at Nashville's Frist Art Museum and for the Metro Nashville Public Schools.



Hank Adams

GARDENING

Sports Broadcast Innovator Focuses on Food Technology

The chipmunks were giving Hank Adams '99 MBA a headache, tearing up the garden in his Evanston backyard. So he started looking for an indoor alternative but was not impressed by the options.

Adams had just sold Sportvision, a tech firm known for sports television innovations like the first-down yellow line on football broadcasts. “I spent my career in technology,” Adams says, “but I really wanted to do something that would have an impact. I wanted to make it simple for people interested in eating better to be able to grow things like salad greens, kale and tomatoes indoors.”

With this inspiration, Adams in 2017 launched Rise Gardens, a hydroponics company in Skokie, Ill., that makes innovative and attractive indoor garden kits. With help from Northwestern alumni Diego Blondet '19 MS, '19 MBA and Brandon Bay '18 and Segal Design Institute adjunct professor Craig Sampson, Adams and his team developed a modular, multilevel system that can grow lettuce, kale, arugula, microgreens

and herbs as well as tomatoes and climbing crops like peas and cucumbers. Adams is now exploring adaptations that make it possible to grow root vegetables.

Users can purchase small seed pods and their nutrients separately or subscribe to a monthly plan. The Wi-Fi-connected system also includes ultrasonic sensors that tell gardeners via an app when to water and add nutrients. Adams says his gardens can provide as much as 3 pounds of fresh lettuce a month per level.

The Rise Gardens kits aren't only for use in the family home. Schools and universities, including Cornell, have shown interest in using the gardens for educational purposes. And retirement communities, high-rise apartments and the co-working spaces 1871 and WeWork have embraced the indoor gardens.

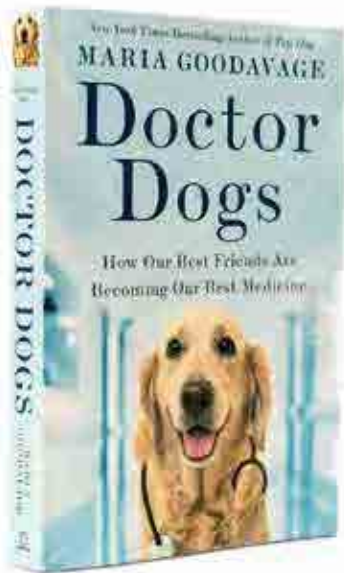
“I want people to have a platform for growing that they can hack and play around with,” Adams says. “There’s something like 20,000 varieties of edible food in the natural world, and yet 20 species now provide 90% of our food.”

CANINE COMPANIONS

Doctor Dogs by Maria Goodavage

New York Times best-selling author and veteran journalist Maria Goodavage '84 looks at the remarkable disease-detecting abilities of dogs in her new book, *Doctor Dogs: How Our Best Friends Are Becoming Our Best Medicine*. Goodavage, who lives in San Francisco with her family and their yellow Lab, Gus, explores the cutting-edge science of how dogs are able to detect and alert humans to health crises like diabetic lows, impending seizures, cardiac issues, migraines and serious sleep disorders. She also delves into the world of dogs working with scientists to uncover the scents of myriad diseases, including several types of cancer and Parkinson's, in addition to deadly pathogens like antibiotic-resistant bacteria. “Dogs are so beautifully attuned with people,” Goodavage says. “It’s like we’re extensions of each other.” This is her fourth book about working dogs.

Read more about Maria Goodavage and her book at numag.nu/Goodavage.



ENTREPRENEURS

The Ultimate Condiment Combo

A former Wildcat quarterback and his startup team launched a new mustard-ketchup concoction.

Todd Somers '73 helped direct Northwestern football's offense as a quarterback for parts of three seasons in the early 1970s. Now, as a longtime Wildcats season ticket holder cheering from the stands, he's created a new game-day condiment combo: MustKetch.

Standing in a long line for mustard and ketchup at a sporting event, Somers had a thought: “Why hasn’t anyone combined these two tasty condiments before?”

So Somers, former president of the N Club, and his wife, Ann Cooney Somers '74, went into the

kitchen, experimenting with proportions to create MustKetch, a proprietary recipe that mixes the two staple condiments with spices, seeds and other ingredients for added flavor.

Todd, who lives in Trout Valley, Ill., and his brother Scott Somers '75 MBA, a Los Angeles-based entrepreneur, formed the company Somers Family Specialties to develop the brand. With help from his friend and fraternity brother Michael Sapienza '74, '76 MBA, Todd secured a connection with Chicago chef Charlie Baggs, who serves as the company's chief innovation officer.

The non-GMO and preservative- and gluten-free condiments are manufactured in Melrose Park, Ill. MustKetch comes in three flavors — Original, Zesty and Smoke — and is available in grocery stores throughout the Chicago area and nationally on Amazon.

“It’s been both invigorating and fun,” Somers says of the MustKetch launch. “There’s nothing better than hearing people who have tried the product say that they really like it.”

NEW VENTURE

SOMEWEAR LABS

James Kubik lost a childhood friend in a tragic accident on Lake Michigan, when the girl and her father and sister became separated from their sailboat. Kubik '14, '14 CERT often wondered how their lives could have been saved. He worked to design a compact satellite emergency beacon in Northwestern's Manufacturing & Design Engineering program with the help of Segal Design Institute director Greg Holderfield. Kubik co-founded Somewear Labs alongside Alan Besquin '14 in 2017 in an effort to make this college project a reality. Today, Somewear's global hotspot turns any smartphone into a satellite communicator — able to support messaging, location sharing and emergency signaling off grid. Its customers include the U.S. Air Force and the Department of Homeland Security.

LITERATURE

Last Words of Bette Howland

A chance encounter at a used-book store sent Brigid Hughes '94 on a mission to rescue the forgotten work of a once-celebrated Chicago author. Bette Howland was “one of the significant writers of her generation” in the words of Saul Bellow '37, '62 H, but her work had nearly been lost to history when Hughes came across her 1974 memoir, *W-3*. “How did a writer of such talent disappear? The story of her career is so resonant with current questions about anonymity and public attention in art,” Hughes says, describing how the memoir inspired a recent issue of *A Public Space*, the magazine she founded in 2006 after succeeding George Plimpton as editor at the *Paris Review*. “I wanted to recognize a generation of overlooked women writers and explore how vital work gets erased.” This year Hughes launched A Public Space Books with Howland's selected stories, *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*. The title story was originally published in Northwestern's *TriQuarterly*, and the collection has been acclaimed for restoring Howland, who died in 2017, to the literary canon. A new edition of *W-3* is planned for next year.



Brigid Hughes

Storytelling at Its Best

Veteran newspaperman and author Mike Stanton brings colorful characters to life.

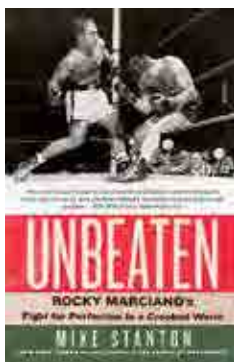
In the mid-1990s **Mike Stanton** '82 MS shared a Pulitzer Prize as a member of the *Providence Journal* investigative team, a role that put him in constant contact with one of America's most notorious mayors, Buddy Cianci. The charismatic but felonious architect of the Providence renaissance became the subject of Stanton's debut book, *New York Times* best-seller *The Prince of Providence* (2003). In the fall, Trinity Repertory Company adapted Stanton's book to the stage with a script written by playwright George Brant '91. It had an extended, sold-out run in September and October. Stanton's second book, *Unbeaten: Rocky Marciano's Fight for Perfection in a Crooked World* (2018), earned best of 2018 nods from the *Boston Globe* and the *Library Journal*. Stanton, who teaches journalism at the University of Connecticut and is working on an investigative project as a *Boston Globe* Spotlight Fellow, has reached an agreement in principle with a Hollywood producer of a recent Oscar-winning film to develop a movie based on *Unbeaten*. He says the stage and screen success of his works shows the power of storytelling.

I knew I wanted to write since I was a little kid. We used to go strawberry picking in the fields of northern Connecticut, where I grew up,

and I would sit by the side of the field and write stories in my notebook.

Being at Northwestern for a year was a transformative experience. I have rewarding memories of being the editor of the first magazine that [journalism professor] Abe Peck had his magazine students produce in what has become such a renowned program. I also studied urban politics and worked out of Medill's downtown Chicago newsroom with Donna Rosene Leff '70, '71 MS and David Nelson '67, '68 MS. And I spent a lot of time at Wrigley Field, including with one professor who would take his students there and grade papers in the bleachers. Chicago was certainly a wonderful laboratory for studying urban journalism, political corruption and baseball.

I wrote my first book about Buddy Cianci, this larger-than-life, colorful, roguish mayor who transformed the city. But he also presided



↑ Author and former investigative reporter Mike Stanton

over a breathtaking array of corruption, in not one but two administrations. He had to resign after beating up his ex-wife's lover and holding him hostage in his house on Power Street. Buddy became the longest-serving mayor in America. Then the FBI came in, and he was convicted of racketeering conspiracy.

Boxing was a very colorful world, and even if you're not a boxing fan, Rocky Marciano's story is a great window into what America was like in the middle of the 20th century. Here's a guy who was born in the 1920s, when there was a lot of anti-Italian immigrant fervor, like you see with immigration today. He came of age during the Great Depression. He fought in World War II. And then he became the boxing champion.

I uncovered this really fascinating episode where Rocky became friends with Muhammad Ali. They met in a secret studio in Miami to film a fake bout between

the two of them — a radio promoter's really hokey idea — and they sparred several rounds. This was 1969, and he and Ali really bonded. They talked about the race riots in America, and they had an idea: "What if you and me, a white man and a black man, two champions, got on a bus and went to Detroit and went to Watts and we talked about how blacks and whites can get along?" They were sitting by the side of the ring eating grapefruit, talking about this idea. A few weeks later Rocky got on a plane in Chicago to fly to Iowa to the opening of a mob pal's nephew's steakhouse, and he died in a plane crash.

The fact that both of my books have been successful, and also drawn movie and stage interest, speaks to the power of storytelling — and journalism as the foundation for stories that people want to hear.

Interview by senior editor Sean Hargadon.

NORTHWESTERN CONNECTS

January 23, 2020

Northwestern Connects networking events will be held on the same night in approximately 100 cities across the globe. Meet fellow alumni, expand your personal and professional network, and show your Purple Pride. Learn more at alumni.northwestern.edu/NUConnects2020.

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All-American Awards for Wildcat women athletes, including lacrosse star and four-time honoree Kristen Kjellman Marshall '07. Read about Marshall, one of 58 women in the Northwestern Athletic Hall of Fame, in our coverage of 150 Years of Women at Northwestern. See page 31.

