Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame

Induction Ceremony

October 10, 2021
Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan
T onight's Program

Welcome and Introductions
Dr. Tim Vos
Director, School of Journalism, Michigan State University

Wade H. McCree Jr. Award for Advancement of Justice
Presented by Dr. Tim Vos, President, Michigan State University

Awards
Presented by Chris Maxcy, Executive Director, Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame

Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Dinner

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Sponsored by the Michigan Press Association Foundation

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Considered the dean of the city’s street reporters, Al Allen covered news in Detroit for almost five decades. A local legend, he innovated news coverage on WJLB radio in the 1970s and later became an iconic presence on Fox 2, covering the city’s political climate, snowy road conditions and putting a human-interest spin on the mundane.

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, as Andrew Long, he says, “Journalism was my childhood sweetheart.” Allen moved to Detroit with his family and started reporting at Mumford High School for the student in-house broadcast, “Spotlight on Mumford.”

He returned to Little Rock in 1969 as news director at KOKY radio. Two years later, he moved back to Detroit, becoming a reporter and news director at WCXI-AM and WGPR-FM, then as news and public affairs director at WJLB-FM.

In 1984, Allen joined WJBK-TV2, then a CBS affiliate, and remained there through the 1994 affiliate switch, covering the unique as well as daily breaking news. He retired from FOX 2 in 2012.

Allen has won many local and national awards for his work. United Press International and the Associated Press both awarded him for his reporting on the slaying of Jimmy Hoffa loyalist Otto Wendell. UPI and AP, along with the National Association of Black Journalists, bestowed awards on “Merry-Go-Round of Denial: The Black Alcoholic.” His trailblazing work on “Crime by Color, Black on Black,” a documentary that examined the issues surrounding community crime in Detroit, earned the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award. His report, “Motown: Where Did Our Love Go?” earned an Associated Press award and was nominated for an Emmy.

In 2019, Wayne State University’s journalism faculty recognized Allen with the prestigious Working in the Spirit of Diversity Award.

Joanne C. Gerstner has covered the world’s biggest sporting events: the Olympics, soccer World Cups, the Super Bowl, Grand Slam tennis, the Ryder Cup and numerous Stanley Cup, NBA, and NCAA championships.

She is a leading expert and journalist in the area of sports concussions. Gerstner has won fellowships from the Knight-Wallace program at the University of Michigan and from the Jacobs Foundation to study sports neurology. Her book, “Back in the Game: Why Concussion Doesn’t Have to End Your Athletic Career,” came from that research. The Association for Women in Communications awarded it the 2017 Clarion Award for best non-fiction book.

A Grosse Pointe Woods native who loved sports and who had journalism running in her family, Gerstner declared in third grade she would become a sports journalist. She has been a staff writer for The Detroit News, Flint Journal, Lansing State Journal, Cincinnati Enquirer, USA Today, espnW and PGA Magazine. Her work appears in The New York Times, on the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee website (teamusa.org) and with other outlets. She has contributed on sports and media issues for global outlets such as CNN, BBC and NPR.

Gerstner is the sports journalist in residence at the Michigan State University School of Journalism. She received the MSU College of Communication Arts and Science’s 2017 Faculty Impact Award.

She earned a master of science degree in journalism from the Medill School at Northwestern University. In June 2019, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer appointed Gerstner to Michigan’s Task Force on Women in Sports. Gerstner is past president and chair of the board for the Association for Women in Sports Media. She is the organization’s 2014 Ann Miller Award recipient for her organizational contributions and for advancing women in sports media.
2021 Hall of Fame Inductee

Jean Lienert Jennings was born in Detroit and grew up on a dirt road outside tiny New Baltimore, Michigan, learning to love cars from her father, editor of Automotive News. Jennings entered the University of Michigan at 16 but soon dropped out in search of adventure.

She first became owner/operator of a Yellow Cab in Ann Arbor and learned to repair the cab herself. Next, she worked as a test driver, welder and mechanic at the Chrysler Proving Grounds, where she edited the UAW newsletter, won awards for it, and then talked her way into a job at Car and Driver magazine. As her career accelerated, she built an enviable fan base, fueled by her sparkling — and funny — writing about adventures with cars. After five years, in 1985, Car and Driver's editor-in-chief left to start Automobile magazine and brought Jennings with him as its first executive editor. She rose to editor-in-chief in 2000, the first woman to lead a major monthly car magazine. She added the title of president in 2006.

During 29 years at Automobile, Jennings was known for nurturing the car world’s best writers, editors and designers. Those she mentored have gone on to Esquire, Men’s Journal, Popular Mechanics and The New York Times. Jennings has been profiled in The New Yorker, appeared on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, was Good Morning America’s automotive correspondent, was New Woman’s auto columnist, and has been a regular contributor on network news programs.

In 2013, she founded Caden’s Car Show for patients at Mott Children’s Hospital, gathering massive support to honor a young car enthusiast friend who died awaiting a heart transplant.

Jennings has won dozens of awards for feature writing, car reviews, and her column, “Vile Gossip.” Those include the most prestigious award in her field, the Ken Purdy Award for Excellence in Automotive Journalism.

2021 Hall of Fame Inductee

Tom Henderson's career spans a remarkable array of beats, roles and media platforms. He has become an expert in a variety of areas including sports, local news, business, science, venture capital and running. He also writes books on true crime. His work has earned more than 50 local and national journalism awards.


Henderson said his journalism career began one Friday when he called in sick to his job at the Uniroyal plant and walked the streets of downtown Detroit looking for a white-collar job. At the Free Press, “the receptionist in the city room laughed when I told her I had never worked for a newspaper and didn’t go to journalism school. She pointed out a man at the far end of the room who hired copyboys who, I found out, sharpened pencils, filled glue pots, pulled copy off the wire-service machines and ran errands for the reporters and editors.” The man told Henderson there were no openings, but someone quit right after Henderson's visit and he had his start.

Henderson turns personal passions such as his dog Maddie, running, kayaking, and even recovering his stolen van into stories that win awards. His curiosity and integrity helped Henderson expose new industries, companies and jobs in Southeast Michigan by providing insightful information about those companies and the people behind them. His business journalism specialties include nanotechnology, microtechnology, venture capital, tech transfer, entrepreneurship and community banking.
Edward Lapham

Automotive Journalist

Edward Lapham was a hard-nosed reporter and a strategic editor who always looked for ways to make Automotive News better. He earned the respect of executives, industry leaders and his colleagues. Lapham was a leader, not just a manager.

When Lapham graduated from Wayne State University with a bachelor’s degree in 1971, he just knew there was a great job waiting for him somewhere out there. He found it. Twice.

The first time was in November 1972 when he was hired as a reporter at Ward’s Automotive Reports. Lapham was the son of an automotive engineer and grew up in Detroit, so he knew about the auto industry. At Ward’s, he learned a lot more. He worked with two strong editors who taught, coached and mentored him, and improved his copy.

The second time was in January 1977 when Lapham was hired as the first financial editor at Automotive News, where he worked until he retired in June 2013.

As financial editor he reported, exhaustively, on John DeLorean and his sports car venture, which ended in bankruptcy. Lapham’s dogged reporting allowed Automotive News to own the DeLorean story.

Lapham also covered marketing and media for three years and was promoted to managing editor, executive editor and editor.

Along the way Lapham also freelanced. Among other things, he was a financial correspondent for Reuters, wrote business features for The Times of London and did weekly auto reports on WJR-AM 760 in Detroit.

He served two years as president of the Detroit Press Club. He also was a director and president of the charitable Detroit Press Club Foundation, a founding board member of the Automotive Press Association and one of the original jurors in the North American Car, Utility and Truck of the Year award program.

As a child, Marjorie Sorge was a great fan of Lois Lane and Clark Kent and decided she wanted to be the same kind of journalist: determined, courageous, truthful, and connecting the dots to get to the core of the story.

She set a high bar for herself and worked hard to meet it. Sorge earned a journalism degree from Michigan State University 1972, working in the International Library to help pay for her education. That job gave her insight into the world outside Michigan and the United States, which helped her understand and cover international auto stories.

She developed a reputation for intuitive, fair reporting, and a deep understanding of the auto industry and labor relations at all levels.

She was a premier labor and auto writer at several publications including Automotive News and The Detroit News. As editor-in-chief of Automotive Industries and managing editor and executive editor of Ward’s Auto World, she developed and maintained strong editorial staffs and wrote in-depth stories.

When she was named editor-in-chief of Automotive Industries in 1995, Sorge was among the first women, if not the first woman, to hold that title at a major automotive trade publication. While at Automotive Industries, she also did broadcasts on the auto industry for WJR.

Later, she developed and launched the Detroit Regional News Hub, which became the go-to place for journalists writing about Detroit and southeast Michigan to find the information for balanced stories about the area. At that time, the region was fighting to transform itself and change its reputation as an area in decline.

A former General Motors executive said, “I cannot think of another automotive journalist that I interfaced with who had this depth of relevant experience and exposure to our industry.”
S
usan Whitall is a pioneer in music journalism and became one of the first women to be named editor-in-chief of a national music magazine when she rose to the rank of editor of Michigan-based Creem in the late 1970s. Interviewing and interacting with the emerging and established royalty of rock from Iggy Pop to Led Zeppelin was exciting, but after the death of Creem founder and publisher Barry Kramer, Whitall rose to the serious challenge of keeping the magazine alive and growing.

After nearly eight years at Creem, Whitall joined The Detroit News, where she proved to be a versatile writer with a special gift for pop culture, Michigan history and always, music.

Her stories ran the gamut from humorous features to serious takes on such subjects as the Purple Gang and honor killings. In more than 33 years with the News, Whitall co-wrote a gossip column, reviewed music, profiled musicians and authors and covered national events. Her fans in the music industry include Berry Gordy, who recognized her as the town’s premier Motown expert, and Aretha Franklin, who once called her name out from the stage at DTE Energy Theater: Even Frank Sinatra, who rarely had a good word to say about any journalist, wrote her a note in 1988 thanking her for her review of his Fox Theatre show.

Whitall has won awards for stories on Motown and she led The Detroit News’ award-winning coverage of Aretha Franklin’s death in 2018.

She was an associate producer on the 2020 documentary “Creem: America’s Only Rock ‘n’ Roll Magazine.”


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Tom Gage held a front-row seat for the most significant changes that Major League Baseball, the national pastime, has ever seen. Along the way, he stayed true to his beat and his values, becoming a pillar of modern baseball journalism and a treasured voice of the sport.

Born in Detroit, Gage documented his love of the game as a boy with typewritten stories based on baseball board games of the time. After college, he landed at the New Orleans Times-Picayune in 1970.

Gage returned home in 1976 and by 1979 was the Tigers beat writer at The Detroit News. Featuring a breezy style, Gage recorded it all, culminating in the Tigers’ 1984 World Series title.

Gage remained on the Tigers beat for 36 seasons, witnessing more than 5,000 games from spring training to the World Series to the Tigers losing games at a historical clip. Upon retirement in 2015, he became a successful book author.

Gage is one of the most honored sports journalists in Michigan history: a 2015 winner of the J.G. Taylor Spink Award, the highest honor of the Baseball Writers’ Association of America; 2016 induction into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame; the 2016 Dick Schaap Memorial Award for Excellence in Media from the Michigan Jewish Sports Foundation and the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society of Professional Journalists Detroit.

Married to Lisa, they have one son and two grandchildren.
Pulitzer Prize-winner Angelo B. Henderson was one of the most celebrated journalists in the country. Following his death in 2014 at age 51, Henderson left a legacy of work that is still used as a measure of excellence. His journey began when he attended the National High School Journalism Institute — the Cherubs Program — at Northwestern University. His 30-year career was punctuated by awards and achievements, including Columbia University naming him one of America’s best reporters on race and ethnicity.

When nominating his story “Crime Scene” for journalism’s highest honor in 1999, Wall Street Journal Managing Editor Paul Steiger wrote: “Mr. Henderson, using grit, persuasion and unshakable determination, decided to explore in full what was no more than a brief in a Detroit newspaper early in 1997. The result, published January 20, 1998, on page one, is 3,500 words of sharp prose and startling scenes.”

Henderson was a native of Louisville, Kentucky, and graduated with a journalism degree from the University of Kentucky in 1985. He was a business reporter at the St. Petersburg Times, The Courier-Journal and The Detroit News. In 1995, Henderson joined The Wall Street Journal, covering the automotive industry. Roles included deputy Detroit bureau chief and senior special writer. In 2001, he returned to The Detroit News as special projects writer.

Henderson was president of the Detroit chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists and was twice elected parliamentarian of the national organization. He transitioned to broadcasting for “Your Voice with Angelo Henderson,” a popular news talk show on WCHB-AM from 2005-2014.

Arthur M. Horwitz is the executive editor and publisher of the Detroit Jewish News (JN). He is a respected publisher, journalist and civic leader. Horwitz has been a journalist in Detroit for more than 30 years. After graduating from the University of Connecticut, Horwitz worked at the New Haven Register as a suburban reporter, bureau chief, columnist and city hall reporter. He then earned a master’s degree from Yale and subsequently honed his skills as manager of planning, research and marketing for the Baltimore Sun. He arrived at the Detroit Jewish News in 1986.

Horwitz’s integrity, courage and leadership, and his ideas and innovations have made the JN a strong community voice. Robert Sklar, former JN editor observed: “Arthur sees the world from cruising altitude ...” Horwitz has also fully dedicated himself to bettering Detroit and Michigan. His not-so-common abilities have made him an asset to many organizations, civic and charitable, Jewish and non-Jewish, including the Michigan Civil Rights Commission and Detroit Public Television.

Horwitz has devoted himself toward establishing relationships among minority groups in metro Detroit. He is a founder of the New Michigan Media, a unique consortium of ethnic/minority media, co-founded the Black-Jewish Forum and encouraged the creation of the Chaldean News.

Horwitz established the Detroit Jewish News Foundation, which created The William Davidson Digital Archive of Jewish Detroit History. It holds historic pages of the JN and the Detroit Jewish Chronicle (1916-1951) in an open source, word-searchable, downloadable online archive.
Mike Lloyd
GRAND RAPIDS PRESS EDITOR

Mike Lloyd’s years in leadership at the Grand Rapids Press were remarkable for Grand Rapids and West Michigan and for journalism throughout the state. As editor of The Press for 31 years, he led in telling the story of his city and region and in developing The Press into a vigilant participant in the lives of hundreds of thousands of readers.

Lloyd came to The Press in 1967 after graduation from the University of Missouri. He quickly moved through a succession of reporting and newsroom management positions. In 1977, he was appointed editor at age 33, becoming one of the youngest newspaper editors in the nation.

He went about casting the paper more strongly toward local news and involving himself directly in the daily news product. He elevated the photojournalism department, gave religion a full section and changed the lifestyle section from a domestic arts/society orientation to one speaking to who we are and how we live. Each Sunday, Lloyd offered an op-ed column that told the how and the why of some aspect of the prior week’s news coverage.

In no area did Lloyd leave a stronger mark than in his challenges to the closed-door practices of government. More than a dozen times, Lloyd and The Press went to court in successful lawsuits and petitions, mostly hinged on Michigan’s Open Meetings and Freedom of Information acts. The resulting precedents and reforms comprise a lasting legacy of Lloyd’s statewide newspaper leadership.

Bill Proctor
REPORTER, PRODUCER, ANCHOR

Bill Proctor is an award-winning journalist with a career spanning four decades in electronic media. His passion for the truth led Proctor to found Proving Innocence, whose mission is to free the innocent in prison convicted of crimes they did not commit. Since November of 2016, he has produced insight into the issue of wrongful conviction in America on the information portal seekingjusticebp.com.

A Vietnam-era veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Proctor spent more than four years as a police officer and assistant to the chief, Region 1, of the Federal Protective Service in Washington, D.C. A graduate of the University of Maryland, Proctor earned a degree in sociology and corrections with a minor in journalism in 1974.

A reporter, producer and news anchor, Proctor has worked in five markets, including 33 years at WXYZ-7 in Detroit. For more than 19 years, Proctor has also provided media training to business executives and other professionals across the country.

His newest endeavor is as president and CEO of Bill Proctor & Associates, a firm providing investigative and legal support services. Since retiring from WXYZ-7 in May 2013, Proctor has received several honors and awards, including a 2010 Michigan Emmy for breaking news and a Michigan Bar Association Wade H. McCree Jr. Award for Excellence in Legal Journalism. The Michigan Chronicle named Proctor one of its 2013 Men of Excellence. A resident of Oakland County, Proctor and his wife, Miranda, have been married more than 30 years and have three children and four grandchildren.
A native of Bloomington, Indiana, Mark Stryker graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of arts in history from the University of Illinois at Urbana, followed by a master’s degree in journalism from Indiana University. His career began at the South Bend Tribune in 1989. He worked at the Dayton Daily News for two years before 20 years at the Free Press, Stryker earned a reputation as a top-flight critic – particularly in the worlds of jazz and classical music – who married literary flair and deep knowledge of his subject areas with the tenacity of a journalist, becoming the key voice of his subject areas with the tenacity of a journalist, particularly in the worlds of jazz and classical music – who married literary flair and deep knowledge of his subject areas with the tenacity of a dogged reporter. Initially assigned primarily to the music beat, Stryker added coverage of the visual arts – including the Detroit Institute of Arts – and became the key voice covering the city’s arts. He covered the philanthropic rescue of the Detroit Jazz Festival, the tumultuous Detroit Symphony Orchestra strike of 2010-11, the Detroit Institute of Arts’ entanglement in the City of Detroit’s historic bankruptcy and the arts’ ongoing role in the city’s revitalization. His work was regularly recognized with national awards and in 2012, he was named a literary arts fellow by Kresge Arts in Detroit. Since leaving the Free Press, he’s completed two books: “Destiny: 100 Years of Music, Magic, and Community at Orchestra Hall in Detroit” and “Jazz from Detroit.” The latter profiles iconic figures from the city’s jazz scene and was named Book of The Year by Jazz Times magazine.

Mark Stryker
Detroit Free Press
Arts Reporter / Critic

Susan Ager, columnist, Detroit Free Press (2013)
Ali Ben, Broadcast Journalist (2020)
Frank Angelo, managing editor, Detroit Free Press (2011)
Patricia Anstett, medical journalist, Detroit Free Press (2017)
Albert A. Applegate, chairman, School of Journalism, Michigan State University (1986)
Roberta Applegate, ground-breaking AAJ reporter in the 1940s; educator (2008)
Peter A. Arnold, editor and publisher, Freep.com, newspaper designer (1987)
David Ashenfelter, reporter and editor, Detroit Free Press (2002)
Ray Stannard Baker, magazine journalist and editor (1986)
Don Ball, reporter, Detroit Free Press (1993)
Bill Black, (George Martin), reporter, WXYZ-TV (1993)
Bill Bonds, art and reporter, WXYZ-TV (2010)
Bill Burton, general director, programs journalism, Oakland University and Michigan State University (2003)
Julie Cardwell, columnist, magazine journalist (1999)
Sue Carter, broadcast journalist, discount store chain, Michigan State University (1995)
Richard Chevalier, news director, WOOD AM-FM – JRM-TV, Grand Rapids (1990)
Cheryl Chudin, writer, producer, WXYZ-TV (2010)
Mary Conwy, automotive and business reporter (2019)
Keith Evans Crane, publisher, editor, columnist, Crane Communications (2006)
Ding Darling, Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist (1988)
Edward Desh, association executive, newspaper writing center (2014)
Lavonne Devine, theater critic, Detroit Free Press (1999)
Jim Doherty, editor, Petoskey News (1985)
Anne Doyle, storying news for TV stations broadcast for WXYZ-TV (2000)
Robert Eisendrath, president, Detroit Free Press (2014)
Mark E. Eisendrath, writer, The Detroit News (2013)
Bill Kalsey Sr., broadcast journalist, Booth Newspapers (1988)
Edward Lampman, investigative journalist (2012)
John Lafferty, publisher, News (1986)
John Landers, journalist and publisher (1984)
James Lewis, Marion News, broadcast journalist, WXYZ-TV (2017)
Glenn MacDonald, editor, Bay City Times (2015)
Michigan Newspaper Hall of Fame: 1932-1968


Michigan Newspaper Hall of Fame: 1969-1985

Michigan Press Association and the MSU School of Journalism established the original Michigan Newspaper Hall of Fame in 1962. The MSU School of Journalism has been the home of the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame since 1985, reprising the Michigan Newspaper Hall of Fame, which had been dormant since 1968.


Michigan Newspaper Hall of Fame: 1985-present

The Michigan Press Association and the MSU School of Journalism established the original Michigan Newspaper Hall of Fame in 1962. The MSU School of Journalism has been the home of the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame since 1985, reprising the Michigan Newspaper Hall of Fame, which had been dormant since 1968.

Congratulations to 2021 Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame inductees Jean Jennings, 40-year automotive writer and editor; Edward Lapham, news-breaking auto editor, leader and mentor to many; Marjorie Sorge, premier auto and labor writer; editor of two auto publications.

Congratulations to Jean, Edward, Marjorie and this year’s inductees.

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Induction criteria

The Hall of Fame recognizes journalists and educators who have established their professional reputations predominately in the state of Michigan.

The Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame welcomes nominations. This checklist is intended to assist you in submitting a nomination to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame Committee. The Committee will base its decision primarily on the material supplied by the nominators.

Nomination material must include:

>> A typed statement that clearly demonstrates how the nominee satisfies the criteria and is therefore qualified for membership in the Hall of Fame. This statement should emphasize the nominee’s professional journalism career, and document how the nominee directly made a difference with journalism in Michigan. It is not expected that all criteria will apply or apply equally.

>> A completed nomination form signed by the nominator. The Hall of Fame Committee will consider any nomination received before the January deadline.

>> Clips, photos, video, audio or online samples documenting a nominee’s work as a journalist and demonstrating his or her impact. These materials become part of the historical record of the Hall of Fame, justifying the nominee’s selection.

Criteria are:

>> Integrity, Courage, Innovation, Achievement, Leadership

>> Contribution to the industry.

>> Influence on individuals in the profession.

>> At least five but no more than 10 letters of testimony that address any or all of the selection criteria. These letters should document and support assertions that appear in the nomination statement.

>> The nominee’s resumé or curriculum vita.

>> Anecdotes and examples that address specific selection criteria. This material may be presented in the nomination statement or in testimonial letters.

>> Other relevant documents that support the nomination such as clips, tapes, etc.

>> Include a 400-word summary of the nominee’s accomplishments that can be placed in the ceremony program.

>> Nominators should submit electronic copies of all materials except for books, etc.

More information can be found at: https://mijournalismhalloffame.org/