



**NOVEMBER 3, 2022**

**PANEL DISCUSSION WITH OUTSIDE COLLABORATORS**  
**FEATURING: BOB LITTLE (NPR), MAGGIE MULVIHILL (BOSTON UNIVERSITY), CHERYL PHILLIPS (STANFORD UNIVERSITY) AND JUSTIN PRITCHARD (AP GLOBAL)**

This informative Zoom panel discussion, led by Kathy Best, featured a range of outside professional collaborators, spanning from award-winning newsroom editors and reporters to professors of journalism who teach at other prestigious universities. These renowned professionals explained why they chose, and continue to choose, to work with the Howard Center and what they gain by the collaborative effort. Below, *in their own words*, we have provided a sample of what each collaborator shared when asked why, from a professional point of view, they choose to partner with the Howard Center program and its students.<sup>1</sup>

***WHY DO AWARD WINNING PROFESSIONALS IN THE INDUSTRY SUCH AS YOURSELVES CHOOSE TO PARTNER WITH THE HOWARD CENTER AT UMD?***

**ROBERT LITTLE - SENIOR SUPERVISING INVESTIGATIONS EDITOR, NPR**



*“The trust element and having worked with the people who are now at the Howard Center for almost my whole career in journalism makes a huge difference. I oversee a team of 21 people, just the investigations team, and we have five to six projects going on at one time. We collaborate a lot. If I trust the collaborator, then it expands the reach and the amount of work we can get done. At NPR, I didn’t start with a staff that had a lot of experience in coding, data acquisition and analysis. It’s not a skill that I have the authority to train my existing staff on, so we take on partners who have these skill sets that are really essential to a lot of investigative projects. Like the Howard Center which is a fantastic partner.”*

Robert Little leads NPR's investigations team. He works with reporters, producers, and editors to develop investigative stories for all of NPR's broadcast and digital platforms. Since joining NPR in 2013, Little has directed and edited many of the network's signature investigative projects.

Under his leadership, stories from the investigations team have won some of the top honors in investigative journalism, including multiple Peabody Awards, Alfred I. duPont - Columbia University Awards, Edward R. Murrow Awards, Investigative Reporters and Editors Awards, and the Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting.

**MAGGIE MULVIHILL – ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF THE PRACTICE OF COMPUTATIONAL JOURNALISM, BOSTON UNIVERSITY**



*“I have been doing collaborations since 2009 when I co-founded the New England Center for Investigative Reporting at BU. I did a presentation on why Boston University students should be involved with Howard Center collaborations and presented it at IRE. I would be happy to share those slides because they outline why out of all the collaborations that I have done [since 2009] with different news outlets, both national and local, this really is the gold standard.”*

Maggie Mulvihill is an Associate Professor of the Practice of Computational Journalism at Boston University. Her data journalism students have been honored with 10 regional or national journalism awards since 2011 as well as being named finalists for the prestigious Livingston Award for Young Journalists. Maggie's students also worked on a national government ethics series, led by the Center for Public Integrity, which was a finalist for the Goldsmith Investigative Reporting Prize in 2013.

An attorney, Maggie is also a Faculty Fellow at the Rafik B. Hariri Institute for Computing and Computational Science & Engineering and co-founder of the New England Center for Investigative Reporting. She serves on the Steering Committee of the Reporter's Committee for Freedom of the Press, the board of the New England First Amendment Coalition, was a 2004–2005 fellow at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University and in 2014 was named to the Federal Freedom of Information Act Advisory Committee.

### **CHERYL PHILLIPS – LORRY I. LOKEY VISITING PROFESSOR IN PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM, STANFORD UNIVERSITY**



*“The reputation of the Howard Center and having worked with Kathy in the past, means when we launch an investigation project with [Kathy] that we’re going to be able to scale, and it’s going to have an impact. [She] brings a lot of resources to bear, and if we combine our resources, we’re going to have more impact. When we partner, we share data, we share recording resources, we share investigative expertise that we hope helps guide what we know will be the next generation of journalism because of the skills [the students] gain going through this process. I think this aligns us on many levels.”*

Cheryl Phillips has been teaching journalism at Stanford since 2014. Most recently, she founded Big Local News. She also is co-founder of the Stanford Open Policing Project, a cross-departmental effort to collect police interaction data and evaluate racial disparities. And she is a founding member of the California Civic Data Coalition, an effort to make California campaign finance data accessible.

Previously, Phillips worked at The Seattle Times for 12 years in a variety of reporting and editing roles with the investigations team and across the newsroom. Twice, she has been involved in coverage which received a Pulitzer Prize for breaking news.

## JUSTIN PRITCHARD – REPORTER AND EDITOR, AP GLOBAL INVESTIGATIONS TEAM



*“It makes sense for AP. These investigative projects are like trying to wrestle an octopus to shore with your own hands. All these tentacles, it’s in its own element, and you’re trying to bring it into your element. Like the project we’re currently working on, it is kind of like a giant squid in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and we are still trying to bring it to shore... the collaboration has allowed us to look at areas we wouldn’t otherwise have had the opportunity to look at. Even with about a dozen reporters at AP bureaus nationally, and even with all of our veteran ability and bandwidth, there are areas we would not have been able to explore and shine a light on (without the work of the Howard Center).” For example, with the current project, “it has expanded beyond what we had hoped to dream.” Not only that, but for “me personally, I love working with students, especially, the training, teaching and mentoring aspect.”*

Justin Pritchard is an award-winning investigative reporter and editor for The Associated Press Global Investigations team. Pritchard leads the Los Angeles based Corporate and Government Accountability and FOIA Team in a player-coach capacity. His past investigative work has prompted changes in areas including consumer product law, funding levels for airport security and the disposal of pharmaceuticals. Before AP, Pritchard reported from Congress, overseas and the Philadelphia suburbs.

Pritchard is currently working with UMD and ASU’s Howard Centers on a project he can’t discuss, but that he believes “will have significant impact.”

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<sup>i</sup> All biographies and photos are taken from participating panelists’ professional online profiles.