



NATIONAL AGENDA ~ MIDTERM MATTERS

MARY JORDAN AND KEVIN SULLIVAN

FACTS MATTER

HOSTED BY

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Department of Communication, University of
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Mary Jordan, a national political correspondent, and Kevin Sullivan, a senior correspondent for national and international affairs, for the *Washington Post* are Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists. Jordan spent 14 years abroad as a foreign correspondent and *Washington Post* co-bureau chief in Tokyo, Mexico City, and London. She has written from more than 40 countries. Sullivan was a foreign correspondent for 14 years then served as co-bureau chief, the chief foreign correspondent, deputy foreign editor, and Sunday features editor. He has reported from more than 75 countries on six continents. Jordan and Sullivan won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for their investigation of the Mexican justice system. Married to each other, Jordan and Sullivan have co-authored two books.

Transcript of Event

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RECORDING: I vote because my voice matters. I vote because my voice matters. I vote; I vote; I vote; I vote because America matters; because my opinion matters; because freedom matters. I vote because I matter. I vote because my future matters. I vote because my generation matters. I vote; I vote because we elect the Congress matters. I vote because the midterm matters. I vote because the midterm matters. I vote because the midterm matters.

DR. HOFFMAN: Good evening, everyone. Thank you so much for being here at our final event of the 2018 National Agenda, National Agenda Speaker Series. We're in our eighth year. We're brought to you by the University of Delaware Center for Political Communication. We have major support from the Office of the Provost and the College of Arts and Sciences and we're so appreciative to them. Tonight's program is also cosponsored by the Journalism Program in the College of Arts and Sciences. So, hi. I am Dr. Lindsay Hoffman. Ah, this is my fourth year of managing National Agenda and I'm so pleased to be here. I'm also the Associate Director of the CPC. This year's theme has been Midterm Matters, as you just saw. And, we've been talking about all things related to the midterm elections as well as issues that matter to the nation this year. Well, here we are just over a week, barely over a week from, out from the 2018 midterms with some races still too close to call. And tonight, we're doing a post mortem. The CPC, I'll remind you, is a nonpartisan organization. We've been proud to host speakers across the political spectrum including a bipartisan talk with Joe Biden and John Kasich. Our first speaker this year, the very outspoken feminist columnist Lauren Duca; cybersecurity expert and UD alum Dave DeWalt; and teen journalist Gabe Fleisher who gave us a perspective from a 16-year-old who

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is following politics. Our most recent speaker was Amberia Allen, a writer for The Daily Show with Trevor Noah and an up and coming comedian. You can find all of these podcasts, transcripts and YouTube videos on our site @cpc.udel.edu. I'd like to remind our audience the strength of our program that I'm very proud of is that we engage in civil dialogue, even when we disagree. We scour the current American dialogue to find folks from a variety of backgrounds, perspectives and experiences, so even if we don't always agree with our speakers and each other, let's agree to be candid and courteous. If you appreciate these events, and I think you do, please sign up for the CPC email list out in the lobby before you leave and consider supporting us, so we can continue to bring us, bring in such great programming. Just go to cpu.udel.edu/support. As usual, we'll have an open Q and A at the end of this talk using the Catchbox. If you're not familiar with this, it's a microphone that we literally toss back and forth. Two of my students will be helping moderate that conversation. Thank you, guys. And you can also tweet questions and comments to #udelagenda and one of my students, ah, will be looking at those tweets as well and sending them to me on stage. So, without further ado -- that's a lot of introduction, I get it -- but tonight we have two incredible speakers, Pulitzer Prize winning journalists from the Washington Post who have been there for nearly 30 years and more than 30 years. They've seen it all. Mary Jordan writes about national politics, political issues for the Washington Post. She spent 14 years abroad as a foreign correspondent and Washington Post co-bureau chief in Tokyo, Mexico City, and London with her husband and colleague Kevin Sullivan. She's written for more than 40 countries. She and Sullivan won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for International

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Reporting for the investigation of the Mexican justice system. And in 2016 the Washington Post honored her with the Eugene Meyer Award for distinguished service based on the principles of the paper's legendary former owner, tell the truth for the public good and always be fair. Her husband Kevin Sullivan is also a Pulitzer Prize winning senior correspondent and associate editor for the Washington Post covering national and international affairs. He was a foreign correspondent for 14 years then served as chief foreign correspondent for the Post, and Sunday's features editor for the Post. He's reported from more than 75 countries on six continents. Both of them, with four Post photographers, were finalists for the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for stories about difficulties facing women around the world. They also won the George Polk Award in 1998 for coverage of the Asian financial crisis. It's bittersweet for me to end a National Agenda season in this beautiful space here in Mitchell Hall it has been our home for eight years and it gives us the opportunity to enter a conversation curious, open-minded, and compassionate and to hear perspectives and views we might not hear in our daily echo chambers. Let's face it, we all live in pretty narrow echo chambers. So, I hope you will join me in giving a big Blue Hen welcome to our fantastic speakers tonight, Mary Jordan and Kevin Sullivan.

AUDIENCE: [Applause.]

MARY JORDAN: [Indiscernible].

DR. HOFFMAN: Mary? Over here.

MARY JORDAN: Yeah.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

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KEVIN SULLIVAN: We're already messing it up.

MARY JORDAN: Thank you. [Feedback]. Whoa.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.] No worries. So --

MARY JORDAN: Thanks for coming out tonight.

DR. HOFFMAN: Yeah. This is a great crowd. Thank you for being here.

MARY JORDAN: Yeah.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um, so I have so many questions for you guys and we've had such a great day. Ah, the speakers get to meet with our students in the National Agenda course as well as others at dinner. And it's been such a fantastic day. But I know you've prepared some opening remarks so let's get this conversation started. Who would like to begin?

MARY JORDAN: Well, I, I --

DR. HOFFMAN: Who's the boss?

MARY JORDAN: I guess --

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- there's -- [laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: We, we were talking about when we were posted together as husband and wife in Japan. Um, we were posted as co-bureau chiefs but everywhere we went in Japan, um, people would say well who is number one? Who is number one?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: And, ah, that, that was a concept that didn't quite work over

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there. But I'm going to just start because –

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Because you're number one.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: Because –

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- we, we just celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary.

AUDIENCE: [Applause.]

MARY JORDAN: And, we've written a couple of books together, um, as well.

And people think that that's the most miraculous thing ever.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: It was just Mary's birthday too.

MARY JORDAN: No, come -- would you --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- stop.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: Anyway. Um, so, since we're, the topic was the midterms, um, I think I'll start on that. But there's a big bonus coming because Kevin just came back from three weeks in Saudi Arabia as one of the only journalists from an American newspaper that got a visa in there after his friend and our colleague Jamal Khashoggi was killed. Kevin was there to cover the story and just back and has a lot of interesting things to say. So, this is kind of a bonus for the

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midterms because it does play into certainly about the Trump administration and how they're going to deal with it. But, just, just because there's so many interesting people and friends in the audience who have questions, I was just going to say that having spent from 2015, um, until these midterms running around the country listening, ah, and that was our job primarily was, um, it was a big divide. There are bubbles. There's the red states, the blue states, just go and listen to people, um, see what, and we spent a lot of in-depth time and I, I was very happy that this election cycle specifically I said I really want to talk to women because I think women will decide the midterms. Uh, why? Because when you looked at all the most competitive congressional districts all around the country it was women powering them. They were overwhelmingly the people that were knocking on doors, that were signing people up outside of supermarkets to vote. Um, they were voting in bigger numbers. And that is true. I mean, already a little bit more than 50 percent of the population is female but well, well over that when you look at all voters, women vote more. Um, and then we had thousands, literally 3,900 women, many of them for the first time, running for state office. That was just astounding. I was looking at the state houses so people that were just fed up with, um, you know, let's say Louisiana turning back Medicaid money, or Georgia. They said well I'm going to go run. Why can't I run? You, you know? And so, people who were librarians and teachers and nurses and, and whatever job they were they didn't, you know, go up the regular route. They just started running for office. And so, um, spent a lot of time talking to women. And I'll just bring up two and then we can start talking about something else. But, I, I went back three times, um, to the suburbs of Georgia

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because we knew Georgia was an important state. It's been a red state for 25 years and we of course, we had a big -- Stacey Abrams was trying to become the, the first, ah, black woman to run in any state let alone that state. Um, but also because the movie industry has been moving in, you know. Now, it's more likely that a TV show or a movie is filmed outside of Atlanta than in Hollywood. Um, and there's been a lot of newcomers. Um, there's a whole, a lot of other reasons; for healthcare reasons, for the airports and everything. That state is becoming a more bit bluer. So, there's a lot of interest in Georgia. So, we spent a time with our chief, um, and veteran foreign correspondent Dan Balz who a lot of people know. He's on TV a lot. Dan and I went down, and we spent time talking to women and one woman said something that I really felt kind of summed up everything I was seeing. She said, I never -- she was 57 years old, she was a marketing executive, she had two grown kids, she had a nice house -- and she said that she was so upset, um, that Donald Trump was president because she felt disrespected by him, the way he spoke, what he did with, um, he felt, she felt embarrassed about the standing in the world, she said, and about women's rights. That she said, I never was even interested in going to the PTA let alone getting involved in politics, but she signed up for something called Resist Trump Tuesdays. And she became this organizer and she got hundreds of people to come out. And then they had this thing called Bloody Mary; Postcards and Bloody Mary's on Sunday.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: And all these women -- nobody had ever gotten involved in

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politics before -- met for brunch and they signed all these postcards to friends saying this candidate I know; you've got to vote for him; make sure you vote; here's your polling place. And, they would have stacks and stacks and stacks. I had never seen, um, this kind of involvement especially from people who hadn't been ever involved in politics before. So, that was what was driving the record turnout. Now, a few miles from that woman, um, who was newly energized, was this very, very, um, lovely former AP Government teacher. She was retired. Her husband served, um, in Vietnam. He was a helicopter pilot. She gardened. She was, um, the chair of this local republican women's group. And she said, you know, I don't like everything that Donald Trump does. I don't like that he tweets. I wish he would put his thumbs down. That's what she said about that. Um, but I feel a whole lot safer under him than I did under, um, President Obama. And, um, and I feel that he's better for the economic-wise; that my kids who have been struggling in their 30's with jobs now there's more money in their bank. So, I'm going to vote, um, for, ah, the republican ticket and in 2020 I'm going to vote for Trump again. So, we spent a lot of time with those two women really kind of crystallized, um, the division of the country and it was also really interesting about where they get their information. The, the republican woman, um, she said she started turning off Fox because she was getting bored with it, but she said, you know, there's all these interesting emails that come in. Ben Shapiro and some of these other conservatives somehow had mined the voting, um, rolls and, and any, anybody who had contributed money to any kind of republican, ah, fundraiser, and they were, she was getting direct messages about everything. So, something happens about Iran and she gets the, the take from a

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conservative pundit. Um, and so, it, it was very important to see where the information is, but these are where these bubbles are forming. And of course, the other woman would never ever turn on Fox TV, um, and she had her own favorite shows that were on MSNBC. And I think the challenge going forward, um, well, A, the good news is record turnout. It had; it's been since the 1960's that we had this many people turnout in the midterm. Interesting that those were very divisive times too that led people to go to the polls in greater numbers. Um, and, um, I think 2020 it's only heightening especially because women who have been underrepresented in, um, in elected office won big and it was because of women candidates, many of them first time women candidates who ran right into Congress. You know, the old thing was you had to run for school board, and party politics. They said forget that. We raise kids, we can't do that. And they ran -- Mikie Sherrill who a lot of people know from Philadelphia. She was a, a -- and many other really interesting women, um, they came out. There was a nuclear engineer, a nurse, you know, a, a, military veterans, the widest variety but again it was women that powered the, for the Democrats to take over of the House. And I think you're going to see more and more women because now they're even more energized because the, for 2020.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, and we'll talk more about, ah, women in the midterms both as voters and candidates. But let's toss it to Kevin. What are your, introductory thoughts from you?

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Well, as, as Mary said, I had a really weird vantage point for the midterms this year. I watched it from Riyadh. Um, Jamal Khashoggi was somebody I knew. He was a friend of mine. I'd been going to Saudi Arabia, I

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think the first time I went was 1989. And he was the kind of guy who foreign correspondents would always go to. He was sort of the oracle. You'd always make a pilgrimage to go see him because he, he was connected. He knew the royal family. He, he, he, you know, he swam in those waters. He, he, he could explain to you what was going on in a way that was very relatable, and it was very helpful. And he, I learned a lot from him so --

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, and I don't want to interrupt but for those folks who don't know who he was could you describe him?

KEVIN SULLIVAN: I'm sorry. He's; Jamal Khashoggi was a, he's a journalist who was an opinion writer for the Washington Post who, um, was, was killed recently in the, by the, in the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul. It's a little complicated. But he was a dissident. He was in exile. He was a Saudi journalist who was kind of in self-exile in the United States. He went to Istanbul because he was going to marry a Turkish woman and he needs some, he needed some documents from the, at the consulate there, the Saudi Consulate and he went in and he never came out. Um, and, what we've since learned is that he was murdered in there by a hit team of security agents sent, sent from Saudi Arabia and very likely his body was chopped up and dissolved in acid. Um, not a good way to go. So, after this happened my bosses asked me to go to, go there and kind of be on the ground and find out what was happening. So, I did. And, the main question was the, the, the crown prince in Saudi Arabia is really the de facto ruler. He's a man named Mohammed bin Salman. And he's the king's son. But he's really in charge. And, the great suspicion is that he probably ordered the death of this journalist who was critical of him. Um, he has a bad habit of jailing anyone who

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criticizes him. He's pretty, it's, you know, it's a tough, he's pretty tough on anybody who does this and there is no proof that he ordered this killing but there's a lot of suspicion that he did. So, one of the questions was will the leadership in Saudi Arabia change? Will anything happen over there because of this? So, my job was to go around and try to talk to people about this. And, one day I went, I talked to a lot of people in the city, but I thought it would be interesting to get out in the countryside and hear from people who we don't often hear from. And I went to this little town about 75 miles south of Riyadh and it was way out in the desert. You know, it's a, it's a kind of a farming village and, and just lovely people. And I was there on a Friday and it was right after people were coming out of Friday prayers and all of the men came into this market and I sat in the market and, and chatted with a lot of them. And it was just remarkable. There's this, this feeling kind of in Paris and in Rome and in Germany and in, in, in Washington that Mohammed bin Salman, the crown prince, is really in trouble. Something is going to happen. Something has to change. I don't think so. Um, you know, the people I talked to out there would say things like I will support him for as long as he lives. And I said really? Even, even if he did something terrible? And he said, yes, absolutely. Like, okay. Um, I said, why? And he said, well the royal family, everything I have comes from the royal family; everything, everything that this country has comes from them and nobody is perfect. Maybe he did something wrong here but, but you know I'll, I'll support forever. And, I asked somebody else, well, what about this guy who was killed in the consulate and he was killed, you know, a lot of people think he was killed on orders from Mohammed bin Salman. And he said, lies, its all lies, lies, lies, lies.

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The, the media has made this up. I think maybe he had a stroke.

AUDIENCE: [Murmuring.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: It's like [chuckle] okay. So, the level of, um, you know, um, loyalty to the royal family that I found there was really remarkable and, now obviously, people aren't going to say out loud to a foreign journalist that they think the guys a schmuck and he needs to go. Um --

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: You know, it's very unlikely. But, the, the enthusiasm and the, the, the real kind of true believer-ism that I saw from these people was really remarkable and he has so much support at home that it's, it's, he's not going anywhere. I mean, he's going to be the guy that we're dealing with for, for decades and decades.

DR. HOFFMAN: Because he's what, 30?

KEVIN SULLIVAN: He's 33 years old.

AUDIENCE: [Murmuring.]

DR. HOFFMAN: So, um, I do want to talk about, ah, Khashoggi and about women. Um, what interesting lives these two people lead. Um, but I wanted to start with something – a little bit more lighthearted. You guys did a really interesting story about, ah, the Carter's, um, recently, um, and, Jimmy Carter and his, his wife. You spent a lot of time with them in that small town in Georgia and this, as we learned earlier today, this article went viral around the world. I don't know if any of you guys have read this article about Jimmy and Rosalind Carter. But can you tell us a little bit about -- Caitlyn (phonetic spelling) had a question --

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can you tell us a little bit about the process of writing this piece, how much time you spent with them, and sort of what was your big takeaway from -- this is a picture of them holding hands.

MARY JORDAN: Well the sad fact is, is that you can spend months on a piece and, you know, it was hard to write, it was hard to report, and, you know, it goes on the front page and then no one reads it. I mean, it, it, there is just no fairness in, in life or --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- or in journalism. You know?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: This one, um, I think it was a good idea to do it. I think that was the key thing. We thought, you know no one's really talking to Jimmy Carter and it would be really fun to hear what he has to say about truth and lies and, and money, you, you know, because he so famously has said that he wouldn't join corporate boards. He wouldn't get these big money speeches. And in an era when the President only likes gold sinks and, and belt buckles on his plane and, you know, he's just such a contrast. So, I think the key there was, it was just a good idea to ask him and then it took months and, and the hard part was getting around his staff that didn't want him to talk which is often the hardest part. Ah, he's 93 and, um, I think they were just protective of him even though he's off hammering at Habit for Humanity and building houses. So, I don't know what they were so afraid of.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: But, um, then we, we had dinner with him in this place, ha,

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ha, how do you describe the, the --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: It's, you know, it's the town that he was, the town where he was born. And he goes every Saturday night and has dinner at a friend's house in this little room full of Jimmy Carter tchotchkes, you know there's a peanut --

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: You know a big, a big green peanut and --

MARY JORDAN: Billy, Billy Beer.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Yeah, cans of unopened Billy Beer.

MARY JORDAN: [Indiscernible]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: If you want one of those we can, we can set you up with one.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Um, and, you know, old campaign posters and it's just, it's this throwback to 1976.

MARY JORDAN: And, and there's so many things on the wall it's like your great grandmother's house. I mean, it's, its like there's so much stuff going on he eats off a paper plate and he walks from his house to this house and he says hello to everyone along the way and there are several secret service people following him.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: And as they hold hands.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: And he's got the, you know, they got the box wine and they're drinking their water out of red Solo cups and --

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

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KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- it's, it's, which is fine -- he was the President, you know?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Um, and it's, that was, that was the most charming thing and the, the thing that we really, the thing that we took away was the humility of the way he lives. He lives so simply and so unpretentiously that it's, and we said to him you could make so much money if you wanted to giving speeches or being on boards and he said that's not why I wanted to be President. And I don't want to; I feel like that would be abusing the trust that was, was, was given me.

MARY JORDAN: It was really lovely, um, to, to capture how they react with each other. You know, they've been together just about forever, um, and they finish each other's sentences and they kid each other, and they hold hands and it's very clear, ah, and they, they helped build the house they're in in the 60's. And one interesting little trivia fact is the fence that's outside that is some special fence that secret service had made, so maybe it's electric, I don't know, they don't tell me, but it's a special fence had been outside Richard Nixon's house in California [chuckle] --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Chuckle.]

MARY JORDAN: -- and I guess it's such a special fence that they moved it to Plains, Georgia.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Yeah, and, and Nixon didn't need it anymore --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- so they --

MARY JORDAN: You know, and, and, and I just thought that was interesting. And they, um, anyway, we walked down they're in, they're really into to exercise

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even at this age. They exercise a lot. And they walk a mile a day. He swims. She exercises. And they were walking the street and they have several acres around this house that they built. Very, very modest house. Little kitchen and a cooler, like a cooler that you and I would bring to a picnic, right, with a little Presidential seal on it next to the refrigerator because he doesn't want to waste any leftovers so he puts these leftovers, like if they have too much food, in this cooler in this small kitchen that my kitchen's nicer than their kitchen.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: And Rosalind, we're there, and Rosalind, there's a, there's a pile of junk, um, you know, on the coach and it's like old, like old fashioned school book bags and, and they're old and crummy and she said, you want one of these? I just took them down from the attic and I don't know what to do with them. I guess I'm going to donate them but if you want one you can have one.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: I was like well no thank you, Mrs. Carter.

MARY JORDAN: We felt like we couldn't take it. We're dying to get one --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- but we just thought oh we shouldn't do that.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: So, we wrote this story and it went absolutely nuts online.

DR. HOFFMAN: And why do you think that was?

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Well, I, I mean, people told us why. People said thank you, I needed to, I needed to have my faith in humanity restored a little bit. I don't like the way the world is going right now, and you've reminded me, you've shown us someone who's, you know, so humble and such a good decent person that it's, you know, it's inspiring and you know you can --

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MARY JORDAN: I think it was --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- you can --

MARY JORDAN: -- also a nice love story and a, and you know, the message was truth matters and you can be humble. You don't have to be a braggard.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: We, the, the BBC was fascinated by this and they had, they had us on to talk about this and they said why do you think the story was so popular? And I said it was like, it was like we put the whole country to bed and gave them a cup of warm milk.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: You know.

DR. HOFFMAN: I think we do need more stories like that, right? We need more positive stories like that. Well, speaking of positive stories, I'm going to go back to the Khashoggi --

MARY JORDAN: [Chuckle.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Chuckle.]

DR. HOFFMAN: -- a --

MARY JORDAN: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: -- not a positive story. We've; this; my students this semester have been, as many of you I imagine, exhausted by the news cycle and, um, upset by so many of the negative things that are happening. But, um, this is one kind of odd title, and I'll, I'll, if you can see it, it says the WWE Wrestlers Rumble --

MARY JORDAN: [Laughter.]

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DR. HOFFMAN: -- in Saudi Stadium --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: -- Defying Calls for Boycott Over Khashoggi Killing. I was hoping you could explain this a little bit just --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: It's absolutely inexplicable.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: You were in Riyadh for three weeks?

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Um-hum.

DR. HOFFMAN: And just came back a, less than a week ago. So --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Right.

DR. HOFFMAN: -- we're very pleased that you were able to be here but, um -

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KEVIN SULLIVAN: Me too.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.] Give us some idea of what this was like to be over there and what you learned while you were there.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: About the WWE or?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, that too.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Well that, you know, this, there was a lot, after the, after the killing there was a lot of talk about boycotting, you know, events in Saudi Arabia.

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There was a big investment conference that happened the week after he was killed, and a lot of people didn't go in protest. Um, the WWE decided they were going, um, and, yeah, I think they took their cue from President Trump who basically said, yeah, this is a terrible thing and we have to do something about it but, you know, they're a great close ally of ours, they buy a lot of weapons, we're not going to scuttle our whole relationship over this one thing, this --

MARY JORDAN: And, and by the way, the World Wrestling, the WWE is owned and run by a Trump friend, ah, the McMahon family and Linda McMahon, um, is the head of the small business association and maybe even getting a bigger job in the Trump Administration and they have made hundreds of millions of dollars on the WWE. So, they were going.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Yeah.

MARY JORDAN: Okay, so --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: And this is --

MARY JORDAN: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- and this is a big bucks thing because this, this same crown prince who we're talking about has done a lot of good things and, you know, he's opened, he's, he allowed women to drive which has never happened there before, he allowed cinemas, you know, movie theaters --

DR. HOFFMAN: Movie theaters.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- for the first time. Ah, well, the first time since 1978 or something like that. Um, and he's opened up a lot of space for entertainment so WWE, it, you, you all know what it is, right? It's that, you know, the camp wrestling that you see on TV that, um --

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MARY JORDAN: Which is inexplicably popular.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Yeah. [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: Right? I mean --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: And, and --

MARY JORDAN: -- they fake wrestle, they wear no clothes. They make up these characters. They throw each other at each other.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: You know --

MARY JORDAN: Wrestle to the ground and people pay a lot of money to watch that.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: You don't think the Undertaker is a real name?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Is his real name?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: This is a character, this Undertaker.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Huh.

MARY JORDAN: Anyway, okay.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: So, I, so they, so they go and it's in this huge stadium in, in Riyadh and it's 25,000 people and I see this group of kids about 18 years old and they can't stay in their seats. They're jumping up and down and they're screaming and they're, they're just having the best time. And I went over, and I said, what, what, you got to help me here.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

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KEVIN SULLIVAN: You know, why, why do you care about this? You don't understand, in America you could see this any, any weekend you want. Here we can do a thing like this like once a year, maybe twice a year at most. This is so exciting for us I can't stand it. You know, and he would just like, and it was like calm down, calm down, calm down.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Um, so, it was just, it's an opportunity and it was so popular there because, ah, this is new. Its brand, you know, this kind of thing is, is sort of new for them.

DR. HOFFMAN: How do you reconcile that? Like, this, this leader who is providing these new opportunities for people but who also seems to be involved in an assigation attempt of someone who is speaking out against his --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Well, this is the, this is the question that the whole world is wrestling with right now. I mean, he is two-sides of that coin. I mean, he is, he's done, he has absolutely done a lot of very, very good things in that country and he is absolutely done a lot of really horrendous things too. Um, what do you do? How do you, what's the right punishment? How do you, how do you decide to, you know, do you completely stop doing business with him because of, because of these things? Um --

DR. HOFFMAN: What do you predict will happen?

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Absolutely nothing. Um, I mean, you know, I think, I think there'll be, having seen the way the Saudi's have, you know, circled the wagons and how they are absolutely 100 percent behind him and he knows that he has that kind of domestic support, um, I think though they will probably do a few

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cosmetic things. Maybe they'll change the foreign minister or maybe they'll do something else that kind of shows adult supervision, um, over the crown prince a little bit. But I think in the long run they think he's the future of monarchy and they're not going to let this get in the way of that.

DR. HOFFMAN: Okay, then. Um, so, I think, um, one of the things I'd like to address with both of you is, this is just sort of a, a random graphic but --

MARY JORDAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: -- the criticism of news media like the Washington Post being called fake news. Um, do you think -- this comes from one of my students, Christine (phonetic spelling) -- do you think the phenomenon of fake news has united journalists or caused a rift between -- particularly she talks about conservative and liberal media outlets. What has this kind of somewhat recent accusation of legitimate factual news being called fake news, what has that, what impact has that had on journalists?

MARY JORDAN: Well, first of all it's energized the field. Um, people find it more important than ever to have, you know, really comprehensive factual journalism. People need to have a common basis of information to make decisions. So, there's a lot of smart people going into journalism right now because I think they feel it's a need, it's a calling, it's something that's good for the country. It's also very dangerous when you have the President of the United States call you the enemy of the people. And even do it by telling people, as he did Leslie Stahl, that he was only doing that because if you keep it up and you make the press the punching bag then when they have a story that you don't like

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you can discredit and minimize it. He even said that. And yet, it's still works because, um, first of all the media is a lot of things and there's a lot of different kinds of media and there's a lot of jerks in the media and errors in the media and, and so its kind of, it's kind of an easy thing to pick on. Um, but the heart and the, the heart of it is, you know, the fourth pillar of democracy. It's a check on power and he doesn't like it when we write about his taxes and the fact that we don't, you know, the New York Times spent a year and a half trying to get more about has he ever paid a dollar in tax. He doesn't want us to know that. I mean, it's important to have somebody pushing for information and, and that's why a lot of people go into journalism. It's certainly why I did that, you know, I thought I would run for office and then I thought well maybe I'm better suited here. I mean, you just want to feel like something you do matters.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Yeah, no, I, the, the enemy of the people thing is, um, is really dangerous. It's not, you know, they throw it around like a, like a slogan to rally the troops and, um, it's going to get somebody killed and it's, it's, it's very dangerous and I wish they would stop doing it.

MARY JORDAN: It's; you know, I've gone to these Trump rallies and its quite something when the President of the United States tells 10,000 people in this, you know, room where he's playing this music and, you know, talking about that he's going to have the wall up and lock her up and he really, he's really, really good at amping up a crowd and then he'll say and turn around a yell at every, look at these, these media, they make it up, they only -- you know, and literally 10,000 people will start screaming at the, at the media. And, he doesn't want people with press credentials talking to people. He wants them in this pen and

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it's not a good feeling and, you know, I mean, I think that, that it is dangerous and it's probably more dangerous for journalists who, who live abroad. We, we spent a lot of time living abroad and we know how hard it is for other countries like now in the Philippines and other, you know, people who don't, we just saw in Saudi Arabia that they're like well the President of the United States says you're the enemy of the people. You're the enemy of the people. And then they knock them off and kill them and right now we have more dead journalists around the world than we have had in a very, very long time.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: I spent, I spent some time in Europe recently with Steve Bannon. I was writing about what he is trying to do over there and I had this conversation with one of his close aides, you know, about the enemy of the people thing and he said, he said you know you don't get it; you've been, you've been putting a target on my head for years so if we put a target on your head I don't care. And it's like, and you know, there's just this misunderstanding between, you know, legitimate news coverage of somebody that he might not like and actually inciting violence against people who are just trying to do their jobs.

DR. HOFFMAN: Is this moment different from any moment you've experienced in your careers?

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Absolutely. I mean, this moment is different; I think everyone in this room would say that this moment in the life of the United States is like nothing --

DR. HOFFMAN: As a --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- we've ever seen.

DR. HOFFMAN: As a journalist what makes it so different? Do you feel

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scared? Do you feel threatened?

KEVIN SULLIVAN: No. Um, I, I don't. Um, I mean, I, I think, you know they call us names and yeah, it's, it's a rough moment. Um, a, often I think people mistake what we do for trying to get the President or trying to attack him. Um, this is not what we do. You know, we, if Hillary Clinton had been elected, if she were the President right now, I guarantee you her people would be whining about us too. I mean, like, people, people in power don't like the press because we tend to hold them accountable for, for, for mistakes, for their policies, we look at them, we look at their records very closely. Hillary wouldn't have liked us either so, you know, as I say this all the time. But our, our boss was once asked -- Marty Baron who's a fantastic editor, I think he's sort of the voice of journalism for this generation; he's really become kind of a great spokesman for our, for our business -- um, he was asked, someone said to him, Trump says he's at war with the press. Are you at war with the President? And Marty said, we are not at war, we are at work. This is what we do. So --

MARY JORDAN: I think why it's so different is often in, in a ten-minute speech the President will say 15 things that are not true and so it became really hard to write because he would say things that were just not true. And so, first we didn't want to use the word lie because lie means intent. So, then there was this whole thing about and that wasn't factually true. And, you know, and people were warned well you don't know what's in his head. Maybe he thinks the crowd size is really bigger or maybe he really thinks, um, you know, but it's, it's just, it's so bizarrely and um, uniquely different than anything we've ever seen because, you know, he, he, he just says these things and they're just not true.

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KEVIN SULLIVAN: And we get a lot of grief from people who say leave him alone; we know he misspeaks sometimes. I mean, you know, it's just like this is just who he is. And, you know, why are you, why are you picking on him. And, so, so then we're left with the question well what do we do when the President says things that aren't true? Are we supposed to just cover those on Tuesdays and Thursdays and let him get away with it the rest of the time? You know, it's, it is our job when the President of the United States says something that is, that is incorrect especially when it's clearly, when it's a lie, you know, when, when he, when there clearly is intent and there have been cases when that's pretty obvious, that's our, it's our job to point that out and it's not picking on the President. And it's not, it's not, ah, you know, having an agenda. It's just doing what we're supposed to do.

MARY JORDAN: I mean, one of the things that's constant is like there's no President that's ever done more for the average American than anybody except for me. Like he'll start something like that and we'll be like well, well. And then, then we all start kind of well wait a minute, you know, the tax cut hasn't really helped average Americans. You know, any, anyway, it, it has become very antagonistic and at some, at some point we are just trying to figure out how to get the best information to the most people.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, and we have a, a wonderful mixed audience here of community members, and faculty members, and staff, but what's your message to students? They're, I think my experience with my students is they, they don't know where to turn. They don't know what is news. They don't know what is factual. They don't know what is opinion. What's your advice to them for how to

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understand what's happening in the world today?

MARY JORDAN: A wide variety of sources, stay away from cable TV is my personal thing.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: I think that it's important to get out of your own bubble. Um, I, we have spent a particular amount of time trying to -- I mean, I have listened to Rush Limbaugh more than anyone I think I know because every time I land in a place, I listen to the number one, or number two or number three radio stations which I think is an underestimated power in America. Sometimes, like in Iowa the, the, the noontime radio show in Iowa is more influential than just about anything, um, because they talk about the weather for the farmers, they talk about the soy prices, and then they give commentary on politics. So, it's very important that, you know, when I land there, I listen to what's the take on everything and, and really have learned a lot by -- conservative radio is a powerful, powerful force in, in America and there's no counterbalance to it because, you know, in some of these places it is just Gospel. So, anything happens they are the filter through it. And so, I see how these bubbles have developed. You know, liberals are only listening to Rachel Madow and down here they're only listening to Sean Hannity and I, my advice and my hope is that these bubbles, as soon as the bubbles breakdown. There's a lot of, like, I have listened to more people that love Donald Trump and they're nice people and they are really smart. They have good points, and everybody's just got to start listening to each other.

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KEVIN SULLIVAN: And the young generation, you know, this generation rising is the best educated generation we've ever had. And I think they can really change -- you guys can really change things and I think you should, don't let the world happen to you. Get out there and happen to the world. You know, I mean, change the things that you see that you want to change. You know, we were talking today about someone who was trying to get in and wondering whether she should get into TV news because it's such a mess and the answer is yes, get into TV news and fix it. You know, we have left; we have created this mess and you guys need to fix it for us please.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.] All right. Well let's finally get to the midterms. Ah, just, it feels like ages ago, but this was just last week. Um, this slide comes from, ah, the Wall Street Journal, also from, ah, the Center for Women in American Progress, I, I'm sorry, Women in American Politics out of Rutgers University. So, I'll, I'll explain it to you a little bit, but the yellow spots on this map show that vote totals in the midterms reached Presidential race levels. That to me is unprecedented. Like you were saying, this is, is a new thing. Um, Trump visited four times to Montana. He helped push voters to the polls. Turnout patterns suggest that many of those voters were Democrats; 15 counties in Montana surpassed 2016 voting rates; same thing in Texas; eight counties in Texas produced more votes in 2016 largely in metro areas that favor Democrats, and eight counties in Georgia. A different story, most of those were in favor of the GOP candidate for governor. What were the dynamics here that led to this change in, in voting patterns in a midterm that just --

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KEVIN SULLIVAN: That, that --

DR. HOFFMAN: -- defied all expectations?

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Donald Trump.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: I mean, he is the great motivator, right? People love him, and they want to get out and vote, and people hate him, and they want to get out and vote, don't you think? I mean, I think that's the, that's the primary driving force here. He's made so many people so insane that they feel like they have to get out and run for something. And he has so motivated other people that they want to get out and make sure that all those crazy Democrats don't, don't ruin it.

MARY JORDAN: There's been a lot of talk about why the Democrats don't feel like there was such a big win, um, because they actually did take the House. Um, the stunning visual of the incoming, the, the three dozen new members of the House. There are so, so many are women, so many are people of color, one wears a hijab, there's the first Native Americans, the first Muslim. You know, it's just this amazing kind of copy of America and then on the republican side, um, overwhelmingly, overwhelmingly --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: 30 white guys and a white woman.

MARY JORDAN: Right. Um, so the visual there is very interesting. So why aren't Democrats happy about this? They took the House. They have all these new faces; younger. There were two people who were 29 years old elected to Congress.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um-hum.

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MARY JORDAN: Couple in their young 30's. I mean, you know, again why not? Well, it's because there is no clear person for 2020. And, so they're coming out of this with no springboard and, and, and also a lot of the people coming in are, don't agree with each other. There's very left, left; there's very centrist Democrats so I think that's one of the things that everybody's talking about right now. It's okay, we just did the midterms, like, what's, what's next.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: It isn't even who, who is going to be the person; it's going to be what kind of a person, right? I mean, which, which wing of the party are they going to represent?

MARY JORDAN: Yeah.

DR. HOFFMAN: Fun times for the next couple of years. [Laughter.] Um, well, I misspoke earlier. Um, I did have a, a graphic from the Center for Women in American Politics out of Rutgers. It's this one actually. And this question is for Mary. It was a, a historic year for female candidates and you talked about diversity but, um, according to 538, 256 women were candidates for the U.S. House and as of November 13th 114 have won and the 116th Congress will see the largest class of female lawmakers ever. What do you think will be the legacy of the 116th Congress now that it has this momentous large number of women?

MARY JORDAN: So, there's two ways to look at this, right? Three out of four people in the new Congress, so, are men. Three out of four still. So, we, we haven't even cracked, the women haven't even cracked 25 percent yet. On the other hand, it's historic highs, um, and, ah, before last Tuesday there were the record number of women out of, out of 435 members was 84. Now it's jumped to 107. I think there's, there's still, amazingly, I think there's still a race out or two

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[chuckle] that are not decided. So, that's a big jump. So, yes, it's good news but yes Mexico has more people in their congress than we do, um, and I think 75 other countries. So, it is kind of interesting that for an advanced country, a rich country, with, with half of women are going to college and where, where are the women leaders? And, um, so I think that's the super interesting question going forward. But what I'm seeing in the pipeline, what's going on at the state level, nine women now are governors. That is huge. Critically, um, they're, they're in interesting states. The woman who Michigan, eyes on her. People are starting to look at that because for presidential candidates often that you springboard from governorships. You know, people that can win in the Midwest are always, especially in a divided time, you know, a lot of people looking there. Um, so kind of a moderate woman in a Midwest state, you know, it will be very interesting because I, I think right now there is a feeling that the Democratic ticket needs a woman at least on part of that ticket.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: I agree.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: All right. Well, um, I have a few more questions and then we're going to get to the audience. Um, but I think what's most fascinating that you guys maybe have not been able to express to this audience as much as you did earlier today is that you've traveled to so many nations to cover stories around the world and Kimberly (phonetic spelling) asks this question. After experiencing journalism and the media in so many areas what would you say is

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the main difference between our nation's media and news media in other countries? Um, are they similar? What's different about them?

KEVIN SULLIVAN: I think the, you know, we take for granted here, um, a press that tries to be neutral, objective, fair, whatever word you want to use. Um, you know, there are a lot of us who, like at the Washington Post, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, you know, who try to do, um, you know, the kind of classic traditional journalism that doesn't take sides. That's rare around the world. In most other countries the, the, the press is, okay, that's that party's paper or that's that party's paper. And, you know, saying, just saying earlier today, we, when we, we lived in London and we would get I think nine newspapers delivered every morning and you could lay them out on the kitchen table and in, in the spectrum, um, you know, that's the far left paper, that's the kind of moderate left paper, that's the centrist paper. And it's, you know, what we do here is, is, um, it's, it's not unique but its not, it's certainly not the rule. So, I think that's, that's the main thing for me is that, you know, we do, we, we bring a lot of journalists in from around the world and try to train them in the way that we do things here which isn't perfect by any means but it's tough. It's tough to do because there's a lot of pressure on, on journalists all over the world.

MARY JORDAN: We spent five years in Mexico, um, and we wrote a lot about, um, the justice system, drug cartels, injustice, prisons. You know, prisons by the way -- at least when we were there, it's changed a little bit, um -- found a prison in Tijuana where drug leaders had a sauna in one of the cells because they were able to pay, you can pay for anything in prison. And, um, so if you're poor and you stole something, so you're thrown in jail you end up working for the big bad

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guys who assassinated people and, you know, the guards, like who wants that job. So, the drug leaders give a hundred dollars to the guard to go get them, um, a lobster, bring it --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: I mean, it was like you, I, you couldn't make this up what was going on about this, the, the tiered system. And, and so for us, I always felt like we were in dangerous places. Like I once went into a town and the, the equivalent of the attorney general of the country had given me six, ah, guys with machine guns because he was using me because he felt like he could get the word out there's an American journalist on this truck, they won't shoot, and we need to know what's going on in Sinaloa which was kind of this bad-ass part of cradle of cocaine in the hemisphere. And, it was a Valentine's Day massacre where one gang came in and killed every male in town. Um, it was a small town but, I mean, it was from a boy who was this old to thing. So, I wanted to go in and I wouldn't do it again, um, but, um, especially when I saw that you had to kind of come in, it was like out of a Gunsmoke, an old wild west movie, you know, you kind of come around the corner and anybody could be shooting at you. Um, but I always felt like when we were doing some of this stuff that, um, was probably some of our best work, because we were American journalists, we, we had the FBI, we had the weight of the U.S. Government, if they chopped us up or killed us that it would become a thing. But --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: It would be a hassle for them. They'd have the FBI --

MARY JORDAN: So, so they, they --

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AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: You know, it, it was, we were down there saying, you know, making it known we were American. Again, that was a different era because it wasn't during this, this time. But, but I, what I wanted to say is that how are we different from others, I really have enormous admiration for the Mexican journalists that were doing that. And they were getting killed left and right trying to report. And I think one of the heroes of my life was the lawyer who was the prosecutor for organized crime in Mexico. And he, he traveled with, um, like ten bodyguards minimum. And, you know, they needed somebody. Nobody wanted to prosecute these guys in court. Right? And, and, and he did it and he, and ultimately, and he, he lived kind of in a cave because he knew they wanted to get him. And ultimately, he got on a plane that blew up. They blew up the plane he was in. Um, so, but both journalists who are also just trying to find the truth and stop the killing and try to get their country back, you know, they, they have it harder.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: And government control too. When we were, just before, we were the correspondents in Tokyo and just before we got there, ah, our correspondent there one night got a call from someone at one of the big newspapers who said the crown princess is going to get married. We know this, but we can't report it. But if the Washington Post reports it we can report that the Washington Post reported it.

MARY JORDAN: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

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KEVIN SULLIVAN: So, our guy said, well, you know, he kind of checked around and figured out and figured that, that it was actually legitimate, so we reported it and ten seconds later the Japanese media was just filled with crown princess to get married.

MARY JORDAN: According to the Washington Post [laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Accord, according to the Washington Post. We have no idea how they found out.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Um, but because they would have gotten crucified by the, by their, by the government if they had released that information before the government wanted to do the stage-managed release of that information. So.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, I mean, so much of what you guys have described as, and, and you all haven't heard some of the scariest stories' you guys have described as being journalists in frightening places. But you also have described a sort of renewed energy in this, ah, revitalization. What advice can you give, I know a lot of my students are thinking about becoming journalists, what do you want them to do? What do you see for them?

MARY JORDAN: Just write clearly because clear, clear, you know, good writing is clear thinking. And, no matter what you do, right, if you're a lawyer, you're a teacher, you're, I mean any job. I just think that's a skill that is sometimes underestimated and if you write -- I mean writing forces you to think and so just write, write, write and --

DR. HOFFMAN: And as a professor I agree.

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MARY JORDAN: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: So, no matter you do, and, and --

DR. HOFFMAN: Um-hum.

MARY JORDAN: -- and then and go to school. We have two kids; we have one who's 21 and 23 and so they're sick of me saying this but I think, you know, it's a wonderful time. It's a, you know, 20's are a hard time for anybody. It was hard for, you know, when I was in my 20's, so many choices. There's more choices now. It's not so easy. Um, but I think you can't go wrong if you keep learning. Just do something that you keep learning in and then you'll be fine.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: And don't let people tell you it's a terrible time to go into journalism. It's not. I mean, it's a glorious time. There's more opportunities to, there's more ways to express yourself. The, you know, the, the median age in the Washington Post newsroom ten years was, I don't know, 40. I mean, it was, you know, and now we have all of these young people running around the newsroom and --

DR. HOFFMAN: Whippersnappers.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: The whippersnappers.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: And it's, and it, but it's different, I mean, because it's, you know, we, it used to be that the older people of the Washington Post would impart wisdom on the young people.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

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KEVIN SULLIVAN: And now this is a very much a two-way street, you know. We're learning from the skills that young people are bringing in. So, there's more opportunity for young people in, in, in media than there's ever been. It's just not the traditional routes that, that, that, that we followed. It's, you know, it can be a different, it can be a different way of, of getting there. But it's an exciting time and no, you know, we, people need information and clear writing and clear thinking more than they've ever needed it. And so, do it.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, I'm going to ask Parker (phonetic spelling) and Hannah (phonetic spelling) to go back to the booth to get -- oh, shoot, Hannah's way ahead of the game. Thank you, dear. Um, but before we take it to the audience, um, there is so much news to consume and of course the Washington Post is, is a, a great source. Um, but who are your favorite current reporters, current authors --

MARY JORDAN: Oh, you can't ask that.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: You know what I --

DR. HOFFMAN: [Indiscernible] each other.

MARY JORDAN: -- would say, I would say make sure you don't overload on social media. And, you know, take a walk in the woods and --

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- enjoy the leaves. I do think --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Yeah, yeah.

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MARY JORDAN: -- I've said, I certainly see it, the, it's just addicting. It never ends. You, this link goes to that link goes to this link and then all of a sudden --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Those links. Those links.

MARY JORDAN: -- you, you started on this and you, you know, you're down this rabbit hole. And so, I, you know, I think the best thing is to center yourself about what you're trying to learn and then go take a walk [indiscernible] --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: And, and, and don't mistake looking at Twitter for reading.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: No, there's good stuff on it.

DR. HOFFMAN: That's fine.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Yeah. You know, I, I mean, it's like, it's like, it's like eating chips.

MARY JORDAN: It is.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: You know, I mean, eat a, if I eat a, eat a whole meal somewhere, I mean, you know --

MARY JORDAN: Right.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- the, someplace like the Atlantic. Ah, The Economist --

DR. HOFFMAN: But who's like one, who --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- you know?

DR. HOFFMAN: -- who are one or two people that you would [indiscernible] --

MARY JORDAN: But see there's no such thing --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Well I --

MARY JORDAN: -- as one or two people.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- I have one.

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MARY JORDAN: Go ahead.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: So, but, it's one of our guys. But, um, there's a, if you're interested in world news, there's a newsletter at the Washington Post called Today's Worldview, that's a, it's a paid, no it's a subscription newsletter. You have to pay for your subscription to the Washington Post but then it's free. But, you know, it's just a, it's a, it's a trip around the globe every morning, um, and it's thoughtful and its in depth and it's, ah, it's fantastic. It's done by this guy Ishaan Tharoor who is a, who's a young reporter at the Post who is just brilliant. And, um, I'm a huge fan.

MARY JORDAN: I mean, The Economist is great. So many great, greats at, at the New York Times and at the Post, and at the Atlantic and, but there's also all kinds of, you know, other people that I, you know, it's one of those things if you -- I, I'm one of seven in my family, it's like naming somebody --

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- some of my brother's and sisters and not the others, so.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Chuckle.]

DR. HOFFMAN: No, I understand. I think we're just, you know, we're all just kind of swimming in this area of trust trying find, trying to find an anchor or life raft or whatever.

MARY JORDAN: Right.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um, I will say that, that both of you had mentioned diverse, what I say, I describe it as diverse find your portfolio; reading things that you don't necessarily agree with that you might, um, find at first very aggressive or repulsive, um, but understanding other people's points of view is really important.

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So --

MARY JORDAN: Critical.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Critical.

MARY JORDAN: Yeah.

DR. HOFFMAN: Yeah. All right. So, um, I think, ah, Hannah has the Catchbox, so we toss this thing around. If you raise your hand, if you just speak into the top of the box it becomes a magical microphone.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Chuckle.]

DR. HOFFMAN: So, we'll start over on this side of the, the auditorium and then Parker will be in charge of this side. So, who over here has a question for our esteemed speakers?

MARY JORDAN: You can ask anything.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Well --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: [Chuckle.]

Q: Ah, oh. It works.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: It works.

DR. HOFFMAN: It works.

Q: Um, so, ah, I know you were talking earlier about the whole idea of thought bubbles and how people kind of get stuck in their own intellectual circles. And, a lot of my friends who are LGBT and people of color feel like Republicans and Trump voters in particular don't respect their human rights and act, in fact, actively vote against their civil rights. So, do marginalized groups still have an obligation to listen to people that they believe disregard their humanity?

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KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Chuckle.] Well, that's a --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: That's a great question.

AUDIENCE: [Applause.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Um, you know, the answer is, yeah. I mean, I think that, I think that, I'm also --

MARY JORDAN: Well, it did --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: You know --

MARY JORDAN: It depends. Listen, I mean --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: It depends, it depends on who it is. I mean, if someone's out there screaming, you know, horrendous things about, about, about your, whatever group is that you're in. I mean, no, you don't have to pay attention to that. But I think just generally speaking there are, there are other people who are on that side of the political aisle who are more thoughtful, um, and who may have, you know, who may have disagree on more policy questions less, you know, and less on identity question. Um, you know, but if you, if you, if you're only listening to the people who you agree with, um, all day long you're never going to understand. We're in this terrible situation in this country --

MARY JORDAN: And --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- where, where --

MARY JORDAN: -- and likewise for those people once they see --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Well, yeah.

MARY JORDAN: -- you're, you're a lesbian, you're gay, and like once they come in contact -- well, I didn't mean you, you know? Like, when people are

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together somehow all the demons and all the hate, I mean, it's, it's --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Right.

MARY JORDAN: -- its just like an anonymous -- we get notes from somebody who, who, we write something, and they say unbelievably mean, horrible, nasty, gross things and then I write back, and I say, wow, that wasn't very nice. Or something -- you know, and then they're like, oh, I'm so sorry, I -- it's like you're not a person, right? And then, so, I often try to engage the worst because I want them to know that --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: And they back down --

MARY JORDAN: -- we are people.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- and they generally back off.

MARY JORDAN: And it's just amazing how --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Like I'll --

MARY JORDAN: And so, in that sense --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: You'll get an email saying oh, I'm so, so, so sorry, I didn't mean to offend you. And it's like you didn't mean to offend me?

MARY JORDAN: It's like --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: Right. I mean, literally, like I hope you choke.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: You, yeah, you hope --

MARY JORDAN: It's just crazy.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: No, we have people saying we hope your children die. You know?

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MARY JORDAN: Yeah, no, people are, I don't know what that is but --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: But, but --

MARY JORDAN: -- I think the closer you get and like, what are you talking, you know, the, that, that it is better for the --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- but back to, you know, but, no, you don't have to listen to people who are insulting you and demeaning you. But I do think that generally speaking we have to, we have to try to bridge the divide we have in this country or we're in big trouble.

MARY JORDAN: This is a huge issue right now, so, if, if you're in Washington it's overwhelmingly a democratic place, right? The, the District. But right now, the Trump administration is physically located there, and you know, a lot of the young people in the administration are talking about nobody will date them --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Chuckle.]

MARY JORDAN: And, you know, there's this one area of town, The Wharf, where, you know, certain restaurants are more, less hostile than others when they see that they have the staffer tags. And, um, then Sarah Sanders went into a, a restaurant and people, you know, booed her out. And, so people feel like they can't even go into restaurants and, and, you know, is that really what you want to do? Is that the; there's a big, big debate and some people say I can't stand it we have to stand up. Even Hillary Clinton which was interesting the other day said basically --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Yeah.

MARY JORDAN: -- playing nice hasn't worked, maybe we have to up the

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game. So, something, you know, she didn't play it exactly like that but, but this, this is a real debate about how to protest, um --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: And what's, and what's fair game. I mean, if someone, it's like, well, he's disgusting, he says, he stands for horrible things. So, if he's, if I see him out eating breakfast with his kids I'm going to go over and spit on, spit at him. Like, no.

MARY JORDAN: I mean, it's really --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: I mean, I --

MARY JORDAN: -- pretty intense right now. Um, if you're in a public place, ah, it's become a, you know, it was interesting there's a famous restaurant in California, the Chez Panisse --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Indiscernible.]

MARY JORDAN: -- that Alice Water's had. And she said in the Vietnam time at Berkley where it was, you know, somebody, it was Bob McNamara walked in and she didn't want him there. And her, the other people didn't want him there. And she was like, I don't know what to do. You know, it was very similar now to what's going on because I don't want John Bolton to come in, into a, you know, somebody would say. Um, but they did not, you know, you know, use phones to summon a bunch of crowds shouting at them like now. I mean, so, the, the whole social media thing where you can summon instant protestors has changed. But, um, Alice Waters was saying that she kind of, she was asked by someone because he was a dignitary to go over to the table and greet him and, and she said she just couldn't. But that's very different than, you know, summoning a crowd. Like, there was, there's this, there's a, you know, what she

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called a, you know, more silent dignified way to make yourself, your objections known.

DR. HOFFMAN: If, if I can answer, if I can answer that, um, I don't usually inject myself into this, but as a professor of communication, um, I'll put my little professor cap on with the little tassel, it looks, it looks like the eight-pointed hat thing, um, I'll put that hat on. And, I think, what I've been telling my students about and hopefully they can maybe talk about this is, is a couple of books. One, um, is a book by Jonathan Haidt on what makes good people divided by politics and religion, and it's a lot about understanding empathy and looking at people through an understanding that we're kind of all in the, it sounds cheesy, but you have to come from a place where we're all looking for truth. And what my students have, haven't read yet -- I'm looking at some of my students in the front row here -- is from Carl Sagan's *The Demon-Haunted World*. I don't know if you read this. It's a posthumous publication from this amazing astrophysicist who talked about -- again look at me, I'm total, getting totally academic -- but he talked about how you can't convince someone who believes in horoscopes or alien abductions that they're just wrong because science doesn't prove that. You have to look, understand that they're approaching the world from a place where they're try, also trying to seek truth. We're all trying to figure out what the hell it is we're doing here. [Chuckle.] And, I think when we can kind of shed those, those identities sometimes it's a very, um, positive thing for us to be able to open ourselves up to other people. So, I think it's a great question. Thank you for asking it.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Yeah.

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DR. HOFFMAN: And I do hope that, um, that the conversations we have here at National Agenda and that we, we encourage through living room conversations and other engage, ah, things that we do as part of the Center for Political Communication, encourage you to have more open discussions and ask good questions like that.

MARY JORDAN: I did think one --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: I think --

MARY JORDAN: -- thing was quite interesting in this campaign, is you'd go to the congressional races, ah, women quite often the candidates and many of them won, were all talking about how they have more respect for each side and not to be shouting all the time. You know, people often talk about is there a difference in, in how people campaign, um, and, and, you know, this, this notion of healing is going to be a key, key, key issue for 2020, um, and whoever can frame it better. You know, so, so, so far we; you know, people want, don't want a civil war and they don't want, you know -- I, I; we were talking to an astronaut the other day because we were doing something about NASA and I just happened to say to her, when you're up there -- she spent 161 days circling the globe -- I said does it really look red and blue when you look down.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: You know? And it led to a very interesting discussion but, um, I do think men and women about how the country can find common ground for healthcare, and, you know, figure out the immigration mess because it's just

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like we're not getting anywhere the way it is.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: On the other hand, you don't have to hug a Nazi.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: So.

DR. HOFFMAN: All right. Parker, is there anyone over on this side of the auditorium who has a question?

Q: Thank you. Do I speak from --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

Q: Hello.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: That works.

Q: Yes. Yes. Well, first of all thank you for your time for this evening and give us knowledge and your experience, especially internationally. And I'm Iranian-American and, um, I'm very concerned my view about the mid-election and especially this time a little bit of rough time to my country where I was born and raised, and I was thinking about who is going to be elected so they can save my country.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

Q: And, so I voted for Democrats. I'm Democrat. So, however, my question is you went, first of all, to you thank you for coming back. You were in Saudi. And, do, do you know the conflict between Saudi and Israel and Iran? And, they want to demolish the government over there. And I'm not talking about the government, however, my question is, um, what do you think is going to happen -- of course the [indiscernible] a little bit [indiscernible] came down from

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Iran. They are not on the news as much. But eventually the conflict is still going on. Sanction is suffering people in Iran. My family. And, if in case war breaks out between the U.S., Israel, and Saudi and Iran, is Russia and China going to come and get involved with the whole situation?

DR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: That, that's a question nobody wants to think about. Um, you know, it's a mess, right? You know, the, the, Iran's influence in that part of the world is, is um, is terrible. Um, you know, that government is doing terrible things and the, you know, and people are trying to figure out the best way to counter that. Obviously, the Obama Administration took a, a, a, you know, took on tact, I mean, trying to kind of coax them into this nuclear deal and bring them along in baby steps. And the Trump Administration is just going to hit them with a big stick. Um, you know, we don't, there's no way of telling where that's going to go but the people -- I think you're right, the people who are going to suffer the most are people like your family. Um, you know, the sanctions, sanctions sound like a good idea but they, they seldom work out the way they're supposed to. Um, yeah, I don't know. It's, it's an impossible, it's an impossible situation. As you know that part of the world is, um, you know, it's, there's, there's, there's no good, there's, you know, we're fumbling for, for answers for Iran and we haven't found anything that works yet.

DR. HOFFMAN: Thank you. It looks like; how about we have a question way back here in the center, Parker? Toss it. [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

Q: Hi. So, um, recently President Trump revoked Jim Acosta's

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White House press, ah, pass when he was questioning President Trump and then later in the day Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted out a video which like looked apparently to be doctored of the incident happening. So, I just wanted to hear what your, ah, opinions and take is on that whole exchange.

MARY JORDAN: Well, it was doctored. I mean, that is just, you know, this is the problem where, I mean, it's, everyone has looked at that. It was sped up and changed. Um, and, I mean it's just bizarre to have the White House doing that, you know?

KEVIN SULLIVAN: And the White House is putting out false propaganda.

MARY JORDAN: I mean, but people that were sitting next to them all said what they saw, you know? This, I mean, Jim Acosta is abrasive. You know, he's, yeah, it's interesting that he picked him because there's a lot of press core people, but it's the principle there. Um, you know, you don't pick who you want to ask questions of. And then, the, Abby Phillip, who is a friend of mine, who is an African-American woman, she asked a question, she asked a fine question and he goes, that's a stupid question. You always ask stupid questions. The President of the United States said that to the, to, you know? I mean, it was, but you know, he does it for a reason. He's a very intelligent, very smart, very shrewd, um, man. I mean, it's not, you know, when you, you meet him one on one he's, he's not like he is, um, on stage. You know, he goes into this mode. Um, one on one he's much more charming, he's, he's clearly knows what he's doing. He creates these spectacles and unfortunately then people remember the Jim Acosta thing, and remember that he has this fight with Abby Phillip, and they forget that the Democrats just lost the House. I mean he specifically fired Jeff

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Sessions the day after. Why? Of course, he didn't want, he was in such a bad mood. I mean, Josh Dawsey is one of the best reporters at work, he's 27 or 28 years old, he's one of our White House reporters. Wrote this phenomenal story. He knows everybody. The guy just is a nonstop reporting machine. And his amazing story was that when Trump was on Air Force One flying to Paris for the World War II hundredth anniversary where he was with Macron, um, he was fuming. He was so mad. He was in a bad mood because he had done all the rallies and he had lost a lot of key places and he doesn't like losing. I don't like losing, and he was grouching and everyone around him -- and this was all from this report Josh Dawsey who's written this, it was in today's paper -- and Theresa May, um, called. I think its interesting that she can call, and he answers on Air Force One, like, I can't use my cell phone. But anyway, so --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- gets, um --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- the call comes in and she called to, according to both the British side and the American side that were briefed on the call or were either listening said that she called to congratulate him for winning, for, for the election because they had won the Senate. But he was in a foul mood and so he started yelling at her. And, um, the, the British aides were so shocked at the tone -- he's like you don't know what you're doing with Brexit, I hate your trade deals, you know, and he just, because when he gets mad he gets, you know, and then he started firing people and then he, you know. I mean, it was just, we called, he called it five days of fury, that he really does get into these; and then he, he got

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really upset because he, he's very good at managing the news which says bad things for, for we who don't want to be managed, but, one thing he did manage well was, it's still unclear to me exactly, I don't think he slept on the flight going over, he was upset about the midterms. Um, he has this thing about not sleeping in his own bed. He hates not sleeping in his own bed so on the campaign trail it was always very interesting that he didn't want to go out west because he wanted to use his plane, go there, do the rally -- he doesn't need that much sleep -- and fly back and sleep in his own bed. Its kind of like a thing, um, which is hard when you're the president because --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: Anyway, so, he, he --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- he goes to Paris. I don't think he was sleeping and even for a guy who has enormous energy, I mean, one o'clock in the morning he's still talking. Um, so, um, he was tired and then it started raining and the news report, and, and so, there was apparently one of the secret service people said there's fog and it's raining, I don't like the idea of this helicopter ride to where they were going. And, I think, maybe a combination of bad mood, no sleep, they were telling him it could be dangerous. A friend of his died in a helicopter crash. He decided not to go. And that was after Macron gave the speech where it looked like Macron was making fun of him. And so, should he show up, should he not show up. And then there were people that said he was worried about his hair because he's like hates, you know like --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

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KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- often he'll be, um, out there and he's like consumed by his hair. You know, he's got --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- like you know, it flips up in the back if there's wind and he's got a lot going on there.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: So, so, um, and he's really vain about it. I mean --

DR. HOFFMAN: I had no idea.

MARY JORDAN: Yeah, anyway. So --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- but the rain, this was just a few days ago so the, um, so he doesn't go. And then all, um, the news reports in Europe was all these other leaders had gathered; it said, you know, the President of the United States didn't go because it was raining, you know? And then, John Kerry said, you know, oh, what about all the soldiers who died, the World War I. You know, I mean, everybody started piling on and then he, then he got even madder about it. And, anyway it was, I don't know how I started all of this, but anyway.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: I think, its --

MARY JORDAN: Talking and --

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DR. HOFFMAN: -- it all started with the Jim Acosta --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: And he also --

DR. HOFFMAN: [Indiscernible.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- and the, and the, the ridiculous part is he loves reporters.

MARY JORDAN: Um-hum.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: I mean, he's, he doesn't think Abby Philip is stupid. He doesn't, I mean, he is just, he during the campaign when he banned the Washington Post from going to his rallies, at the same time he did that he was sitting for 40 hours of one-on-one interviews for a, for a Washington Post staffer and a biography that we were doing. So, he would sit for an hour with one of our, with a Washington Post reporter going through everything in his, in his, his life and his career and then he would go out and stand in front of the microphones and say the Washington Post is banned from my rallies. He's, he, you know, he knows what he's doing. He's very clever and he knows that his base likes to see him beating up on reporters. And it works --

MARY JORDAN: Oh, yeah, that's --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- it works really well for him.

MARY JORDAN: That's what I was saying. He just creates --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Yeah.

MARY JORDAN: -- these little things like with Acosta or with --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: But we crossed a weird line when the White House was putting out a doctored video? I mean, come on. What, what earth, you know, where are we? We're the United States. We don't, we're not supposed to do that.

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MARY JORDAN: It's not, you know, I wonder if she even knew about it. Like, the, its not, this White House is run a little differently than anything we've seen.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Chuckle.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: And they've had such high turnover and a lot of openings, um, so I don't know what happened. We know it was doctored but we don't know, like --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: By whom.

DR. HOFFMAN: By whom.

MARY JORDAN: Yeah.

DR. HOFFMAN: All right. I think we have time for one more question before we wrap things up and thank our speakers for being here. Go over to this side again. Oh, great, someone in the front row.

Q: Hi. Um, again, thank you for your time and coming to speak with us. Um, I'm first generation here, ah, going to college. A lot of my family members had not even graduated fifth grade. Um, for me, um, how is, is there any route that you can get into journalism, into reporting without college, without being -- because a lot of, like, people in my household they want to pursue these kinds of things but there's simply no money for it.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Um --

MARY JORDAN: If, if you can write --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Yeah.

MARY JORDAN: -- and you're curious and you're a good listener you don't, I mean, it's not like my sister is a medical doctor and she, you actually do need a

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medical degree to --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- to work at a hospital.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Right.

MARY JORDAN: But it is, um, there is, the, Peter Baker who is a fantastic journalist at the New York Times --

DR. HOFFMAN: Um-hum.

MARY JORDAN: -- doesn't have a, I don't think he finished college.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: No?

DR. HOFFMAN: Hum.

MARY JORDAN: I, I mean, it, it's not like you, you just have to have the talent.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: My mentor in college, the guy who got me interested in journalism, was this great old guy, um, who won a Pulitzer Prize, he never even went to college. But it's a different generation. Today you're not going to get hired at any like serious news organization without a college degree but there are so many other, so many other routes to getting your stuff out there now. You can start your own thing. Um, you know, or you can work for an organization that has just a different, you know, a different way of looking at that. But, so.

DR. HOFFMAN: You know --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: The, the answer is your chances of doing that today are a million times better than they were ten years ago.

MARY JORDAN: Also, if you have a specialty, you know. I tell any young person just get a specialty, you know. If you, you know, please, please, you

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know, we want lawyers on TV talking about law, we want doctors who are journalists. You know, we have, we have lawyers and doctors; we have lawyers covering the Supreme Court; we have doctors covering medicine. You know, you get; just learn, know what you're talking about and then --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Right. If, like, if you know, if you know --

MARY JORDAN: -- and then write and go on TV.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- if you know chess better than anybody else, you know --

MARY JORDAN: Right, or gardening.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- start a, start a, yeah.

MARY JORDAN: Our gardening guy knows gardens.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: You know --

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- if you, if you have an expertise it's --

DR. HOFFMAN: Find a beat.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Find --

MARY JORDAN: Yeah.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: -- find a, find a, find a platform.

MARY JORDAN: Or a, or a [indiscernible] or you know some culture, or art, um, a language, you know, if, you know, a country. You just, you just know it cold.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: It's a great marketplace out there now for people with ideas and skill and ambition and drive.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, and, I don't want to sound cliché but like podcasting

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now is so huge. Like, there are so many new avenues for journalism and for investigative reporting and different kinds of reporting, narrative reporting that we haven't seen before, ah, coming through podcasts. So, um, I'd encourage you as a professor to, um, for yourself at least, to look into student media at the University of Delaware. We have, ah, a newspaper, radio station, television station. Just find any opportunity you can to just do it. I think that's, that's the bottom line. Just practice it, do it and, ah, and you'll succeed. So, um, I do want to, before we thank our, um, speakers for being here tonight, I do want to, um, thank everyone for attending all of these events this semester. I know not all of you have been at every event and I appreciate the, the nice turnout this evening. Um, I hope to see you next Fall for our ninth season, ah, which is amazing. We'll be doing a whole new National Agenda. This will be in an off-election year, so we'll be covering a topic that is, ah, relevant to the University of Delaware campus, to the nation, to be determined. Um, I'd also like to send a special thank you to, and I think he is here, to our former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, George Watson. Is he here? Thank you, George. I really just wanted to say thank you for being so supportive of our programming from the get-go. Um, it's, I, it's been, it wouldn't have happened without the College's support and I think that what we have here is something really special. So, I wanted to send a special thank you to you. Um, I also wanted to send a special thank you to J.C. Boggs (phonetic spelling) who I don't think is here, but I think his sister is here. Is that right, Erin? So, thank you for being here. Um, he, ah, and the Boggs family generously donate, ah, funding for a scholarship for our political communication minors, um, which you can find out more about that minor by

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talking to me or looking at the cpc.udel.edu. Um, and ah, I want to make sure to ask you guys to please follow us at, on Twitter at @udcpc for updates on other events and also to find out, um, you, if you've been here before you've heard me talking over and over again about voter turnout among UD students. We don't have the final tally for that yet, but we have created a campaign called the Make It Count Campaign where at the beginning of the semester a student led initiative wanted to sign up 2000 students to, ah, register to vote through Turbo Vote on campus before the end of the academic year. So, the end of 2019. As of today, my student, ah, who is the leader of this initiative told me that it's nearly 1500 people who have signed up for Turbo Vote.

AUDIENCE: [Applause.]

DR. HOFFMAN: So, that's here at the University of Delaware's campus. Ah, when I came here labeled one of those politically apathetic campuses in the nation, I think in 2018 we're seeing something different. So, I'm really pleased to have you all here. I hope to see you here again next year. Thank you to our terrific speakers. And I want to finally announce, ah, for the final time, our Voices of, I'm sorry, Voices Matter, ah, audio essay contest. This is for students who would like to submit -- this is our second annual competition -- who would like to submit an audio essay about issues that matter to them. Ah, we have an awards ceremony early in, ah, the Spring semester of 2019 and it's a really great opportunity to express your voice. For those of you who are asking questions about how do I express my perspective, how do I express who I am, this is the place to do it. So, I really encourage you to please submit your entries to this and cash awards, so.

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MARY JORDAN: Ah, can I just say, that's how I got my, my start in journalism. I was 16 in Cleveland, Ohio. My parents were immigrants from Ireland. We were trying, we each had to pay, pay our own way through college so money mattered. And on a bulletin board was something just like this --

DR. HOFFMAN: No.

MARY JORDAN: -- and it said, um, Fourth of July topic, \$500 for the winning essay, Why I Love America in X number of words. I thought oh I can do that. You know? So, \$500 bucks, you know? I mean, I worked at the drugstore. That was a lot of time making eggs at that counter in the drugstore. So, I wrote this essay and then I read the fine print. It said you had to go tape it. Like you had to write it and then like record it, you know. So, I called up a radio station and I said can I come in and record this thing. And I did and, and then I sent it in and I got a note back in the mail that said you, you did a nice essay, but it was the topic from the year before.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: So, the, the bulletin board note, you know, was just out of date.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: But I got hired by the radio station --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- and I --

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KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- was 16. I got, I mean, I left the drugstore got to work at the radio station --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: Why did you love America? What did you say?

MARY JORDAN: Oh, I --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- was 16 years old. I mean --

DR. HOFFMAN: Kevin --

MARY JORDAN: -- it was probably about immigration since I was the daughter of an immigrant. But, um, I loved, loved that job and I got to, um, it was NBN radio, Nationality Broadcasting Network, 16 nationalities 24 hours a day.

Anyway, so --

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- um, the, then they would have --

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

MARY JORDAN: -- Cleveland has a lot of Little Slovenia, Hungary, you know, all these immigrants were there, and political -- the mayor would come in because it was a targeted audience for so many immigrant communities and I got to ask some questions. So, anyway so you should apply to this.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.] Please.

KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: That's, that's how you can get your start, okay?

AUDIENCE: [Applause.]

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KEVIN SULLIVAN: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Thank you so much everybody for being here. I'll see you next year.

AUDIENCE: [Applause.]

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