

ShopTalk



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The Post 'Family Reunion' Celebrating The 25th Annual Eugene Meyer Awards

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of Eugene Meyer's purchase of The Washington Post, his daughter **Katharine Graham**, during the first Eugene Meyer Award ceremony, held on June 5, 1983, on the grounds of the new Springfield Plant, called the event a "family reunion."

During the same event, Mrs. Graham recognized award winners **Frank Manzon, Murrey Marder, Neal Shelby** and **Pat Taylor** for personifying the values

her father cared about most, among them being "competitive, modest, devoted to an ideal and in search of truth." Twenty-five years later, those important values haven't changed.

On Monday night, nearly 300 Post employees from all departments came together to honor the 2007 Eugene Meyer Award recipients: News auto-



(Left to right) Eugene Meyer Awards recipients: News automobile columnist **Warren Brown**, Accounting credit and collections manager **Grace Carter** and Circulation director for retail and corporate sales **Mike Towle**.

Post chairman, **Don Graham**," for a few words.

Graham said that the "two-part ceremony" would honor the awardees but also reporters and photographers who have covered the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Graham, a Vietnam draftee, said, "In some ways, circum-

Katharine Meyer, 5, with her father Eugene Meyer in a portrait photo made by photographer Alfred Eisenstadt (c. 1922). Miss Meyer, who would later marry **Philip Graham** and become Mrs. Katharine Graham, called the first Eugene Meyer Awards ceremony in 1983 a "family reunion."



PHOTO - ALFRED EISENSTADT

mobile columnist **Warren Brown**, Accounting credit and collections manager **Grace Carter** and Circulation director for retail and corporate sales **Mike Towle**.

Publisher **Bo Jones** welcomed the

awardees, their families and their extended Post family and said, "These winners have shown excellence in completely different fields, but they have much in common." Apart from being "great representatives of The Post in the way they conduct themselves," Jones said that they are all "wildly popular outside and inside The Post, at every level" and that "they care intensely about what they do and about their colleagues." Jones then turned it over to "the grandson of Eugene Meyer and



Foreign Assistant Managing Editor **David Hoffman** and Vice President at Large **Ben Bradlee** greet each other prior to the EMA ceremony, where Hoffman honored Post reporters and photographers who have worked in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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stances have made Afghanistan and Iraq tougher than Vietnam.”

Jones then introduced each honoree and apart from mentioning why they were deserving of the award also shared candid anecdotes about their backgrounds and tenure at The Post. Jones talked about Brown’s tough-love, paternal upbringing. Brown’s father once told his son: “The priest



*Financial columnist **Martha Hamilton** and honoree **Warren Brown** are essentially blood relatives. In 2001, Hamilton donated one of her kidneys to Brown. Their friendship and their life-altering experience is captured in their 2002 book, “Black and White and Red All Over: The Story of a Friendship.”*

[who gave you bad grades] may be a racist, but you’re stupid,” suggesting that the young Brown would need to overcome even racist adversity to become someone. Jones then said that over two decades, Post print and online readers “have delighted in [Brown’s] insightful, distinctive, user-friendly and fun commentary about cars and trucks [referring to Brown’s popular columns, “On Wheels” and “Car Culture”].

Jones called Carter “Amazing Grace” and mentioned how she landed her Post job through the Virginia highway “slug line.” He also called her “the cheerful person who

solves the most difficult problems with advertisers over bills and credit, diffusing animosity with warmth, empathy and fair solutions.” Jones said, “Grace says she never intended to be a manager, but it was inevitable.... She has been the model for ideal customer service.”

He then introduced Towle as a “Post lifer” who despite being at The Post for 30 years is only 50. “He’s still young, but old enough to be a grandfather—as of last week. Congratulations, Mike,” Jones said. Having worked in Production, Advertising and Circulation, Jones noted, “Nothing has changed about the character of this caring, tough-minded

leader. He has bridged departments to make large contributions to The Post.”

After each introduction, the three awardees said a few words, projecting their endearing, but very different personalities. Brown, outspoken to be sure, started his speech with a

“political statement,” before looking over to Jones and jokingly saying, “As a columnist, I have the right.” Brown thanked his family, which includes fellow Post financial columnist

Martha Hamilton, who donated one of her kidneys to Brown. Their story is captured in their 2002 book, “Black and White and Red All Over: The Story of a



*Honoree **Mike Towle**, who said that *The Post* went from being “a nice place to make a living” to “a home—a place where I belong and makes sense to me,” brought many in the audience, including Chairman **Don Graham**, to tears.*

Friendship.”

Carter, quite the comedian, had the room in laughter with her wit and self-deprecating humor. She also brought her Accounting cheering section to a frenzy when she jokingly jabbed Advertising and blurted out, “It ain’t revenue, until it’s paid!” She then made a “confession” about her case of mistaken identity shortly after she joined The Post. Carter asked her colleague **Ed Johnston** to stand up and demonstrate his resemblance to Don Graham and then recounted the day when she jokingly cursed out Johnston, who would playfully heckle



*(Left to right) Vice President **Katharine Weymouth**, Advertising; **Wayne Connell**, director of Human Resources, and expecting mother **Whitney Patton**, Advertising, before the ceremony.*

her from time to time, only to find out it was Graham who was on the receiving end of her diatribe. Carter turned to Graham and said, “I know it’s

a few years late, but I’m sorry about that.”

Towle, quietly reflective, brought many in the room, including Graham, to tears. Despite a childhood speech impediment and being nervous about talking in front of a large crowd, Towle said he felt compelled to thank everyone who’s helped him along the way and to explain why he’s remained at The Post. After individually thanking many people, including his family, Graham, Jones, his colleagues and mentors, he said, “At some point, The Post went from being a nice place to make a living to a home—a place where I belong and makes sense to me. It’s seeing the people here and the work that they do. It’s good for me to see that. It’s good for us to see that passion and compassion.”

Jones then called on **David Hoffman**, Foreign assistant managing editor, to pay tribute to Post journalists who have covered the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He shared the numerous close calls—like **Jackie Spinner** almost getting kidnapped but pleading outside of Abu Ghraib in her Arabic that she was a journalist (she later realized she was actually pleading: “I’m a vegetarian! I’m a vegetarian!”)

Hoffman also recalled **Scott Wilson** being ambushed while riding with U.S. troops and **Nancy Trejos** descriptively reporting the horrific images of a young mother and her dead baby.

Hoffman then recognized Iraqi reporter **Salih Saif Aldin**, who was killed while on assignment on Oct. 14, whose prized possession was a Washington Post T-shirt, as **Megan Greenwell** said during Aldin's memorial service at The Post.

After the awards ceremony, the Post family migrated to the blue-lit, starry-decorated Multipurpose Room to eat, drink, dance and mingle. Event organizer **Carrie Morse**, Public Relations, said, "Seeing people from all departments out on the dance floor together reminds me why I love this place so much." ■



Executive Editor **Len Downie** congratulates honoree **Grace Carter** and told her that he would have hired her a long time ago, if he had known she could write so well—referring to her hilarious speech. Publisher **Bo Jones** later joked with Carter that the Jay Leno show was ready to hire her.



(Left to right) **Christy Reniere**, **Naureen Kamdar** and **Kathryn Johansen**, Marketing, mingle before the main event.



Under event organizer **Carrie Morse's** supervision, the Multipurpose Room was transformed into a plush dance club with bumping music, ambient blue lights and a fiberoptically-lit backdrop behind the DJ's turntables. Post employees of all departmental flavors got their dance on.

THE EUGENE MEYER Awards Past Recipients of the Eugene Meyer Award

1983	Frank Manzon Circulation	Murray Marder News	Neal Shelby Advertising	Pat Taylor Production
1984	Joe Arcaro Advertising		Herblock Editorial	Jerre Lowe Production
1985	Elsie Carper News		Sue Oremland Advertising	Penny Pendergast Production
1986	John Anderson Editorial		Al Olshine Advertising	Earnie Smith Production
1987	Helen Dewar News		Lou Limber Advertising	L.C. Turner Production
1988	Ed Alexander Springfield Pressroom		Bill Raspberry News	Jake Terrell Circulation
1989	Tim Land Circulation		Matthew Lewis News	Scottie Manns Advertising
1990	David Broder News		Bob Moe Advertising	Paul Poff Circulation
1991	Bob Asher Editorial		Allan Kohan Production	Joyce Richardson Advertising
1992	Joseph DeBrew Production		Michael Getler News	Terry Wiseman Administration
1993	Luba Forbes Advertising		Peter Milius Editorial	Ben Whittemore Circulation
1994	Olga Chavez Classified	Jim Hoagland News	Curtis Kennedy Make-Up	Jack Watson Make-Up
1995	Diane Dubois Advertising	Lou Fabian Circulation	Doug Feaver News	Carolyn Monroe Advertising
1996	Chuck Miller Systems & Engineering		Mike Randolph Composing	Bob Woodward News
1997	Leon Dash News		Ron Stone Production	George Wathen Operating Services
1998	Scott Custin Systems & Engineering		Tom Shales News	Virginia Rodriguez Public Relations
1999	Joe Rinaldi Production		George Solomon News	Mary C. Williams Classified
2000	Vic Capece Circulation	Mary Hadar News	Steve Reed Circulation	Phil Richardson Make-Up
2001	Martin Kady Advertising		Mary McGrory News	Stan Utterback Accounting
2002	Royston De Souza Advertising		Diane Patterson Production	Martin Weil News
2003	Tien Dinh Hoang Production		Howard Humphries Advertising	Marcia Kramer News
2004	Daniel Balz News	Walter Fletcher Building Services	Philip Hottle Circulation	Lee McAdory Circulation
2005	Elizabeth Ann Griffin Springfield Health Center	Jay Mathews News	Rick Tippett Advertising	Phyllis Waslo Northwest Health Center
2006	Tom Boswell News		Ellen Gerhard Advertising	Tony Kornheiser News
		Roddy MacPherson Production		Michael Wilbon News

Cookies And Cook Books For Good Cause



Boys will be boys. Vice President at Large **Ben Bradlee** checks out a shiny new lunchbox, while Publisher **Bo Jones** enjoys a cookie during the annual Cookie and Cook Book Sale in the Multipurpose Room. Every year some of the products that are sent to the newsroom for reviewing or as gifts are sold or auctioned off at the end of the year. Cookies and baked goods donated by Post employees are also sold. All profits of the sale go to N Street Village. According to sale organizer **Jill Grisco**, News, the total collection and donation to N Street this year was \$15,439.35.

Shoe Drive

Oakridge Elementary is collecting new or used children's shoes to send to Honduras. Please lace or wrap together any shoes you would like to contribute and leave them in a box marked "Shoe Drive" in **Anton Ramkisson's** office (4th floor) before Dec. 20. Thank you for your generosity. Contact him at x4-6306 or at ramkissoona@washpost.com with any questions.

Meet New Credit Union Branch Manager

Join CommonWealth One Federal Credit Union in welcoming the new branch manager Yassah Moore-Korkoya on Monday, Dec. 17. Stop by the branch between 8:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to meet Moore-

Korkoya and to partake in giveaways and enjoy light refreshments. If you open a new checking account you will be entered to win a special Commonwealth One prize package.

2008 Post Calendars Available Now

The 2008 Post calendars are now available for only \$3. Pick them up at the Print Shop (second level, near cafeteria).

2007 Expense Deadlines

Please note the following 2007 deadlines from Accounting:

Delinquent expense reports:
Dec. 17

Final current expense reports (dated after Dec. 1):
Dec. 19

Accounts payable vouchers:
Dec. 19

Accrual worksheets:
Jan. 3 (by noon)

Please submit expense reports immediately after travel; they're delinquent if submitted more than one week after the expenditure was incurred. Although considered delinquent, expenses from September through November must be submitted by Dec. 17 in order to be reimbursed. Submissions after Dec. 17 will be returned unpaid. December expenses must be received by Jan. 10, 2008 or they will be returned unpaid.

For December expenses to appear in 2007 budget, they must be received by Dec. 19. Consistent with past years, December expense reports will not be accrued. Decem-

ber expenses received between Dec. 19 and Jan. 11, 2008 will appear in 2008 budget. If you have any ques-

tions, contact **Nadeem Awan**, Financial Accounting Supervisor, at x4-7812.

'Heart And Soul' Of Springfield Retires

(Left to right) Springfield Plant Manager **Jenny Rymarczuk**, retiring Springfield Health Center manager **Ann Griffin**, Springfield Assistant Plant Managers **Roddy MacPherson** and **Bill Hyland**. Griffin, a Eugene Meyer Award recipient, who worked at *The Post* for 27 years, was honored during a retirement ceremony on Nov. 27 and was called "the heart and soul of this place" by Rymarczuk.



PHOTO - ELIZABETH ALEXANDER

Marketplace

FOR RENT: Room available in Accokeek, Md. Only five min. from commuter shuttle to Southern Avenue Metro. Convenient to Route 5 and 210. Nice size bedroom with own bathroom. Share Kitchen. Nice deck and basement storage space. Very quiet and in desirable neighborhood. Also seven min. from Waldorf and St. Charles Town Mall. Non-smokers. \$650 per months (mildly negotiable). No minimum stay required. Contact Nicole at 202-391-1220.

FOR SALE: Looking for the perfect gift for that special lady? Then buy her a brand new stylish leather Playboy watch for \$200 or an elegant silver Pamela Anderson watch with charms that comes with original box and papers for \$245. Pictures available. Contact Nicole at x4-4937.

FOR SALE: 2007 White House Historical Association Xmas ornaments. Selling as part of a fundraiser for my son's daycare. They are \$18 each. To see this year's ornament featuring President Grover Cleveland's White House wedding: whitehousehistory.org. Free Northwest Building delivery. Contact Liz Whyte at x4-6545 or whytel@washpost.com.

FOR SALE: Sennheiser PCX 250, noise-canceling, folding headphones. Paid: \$130, will sell for \$30.00. Also Rio "ear buds" that came with MP3 player for \$10. Finally, also selling a new HP color ink cartridge (78) for \$10 (listed for \$36 at Best Buy). Contact Pat at x6-2240 or at home 703-323-0794.

FOR SALE: Give the book "I Have Risen" as a holiday gift this season. All proceeds of the book, featuring essays by young African Americans, will benefit the Ron Brown Scholar Program, a nonprofit organization, which provides full collegiate scholarships to graduating minority high school students. The essays, written by Ron Brown Scholars, offer insight into the struggles they have faced and overcome. Contact Kimberly x4-7727 to purchase a copy.

ISO: Board games or table games that you're not using anymore. They will be given to an orphanage in Vladimir, Russia where I will be working for 10 days in January. The children love games like Jenga, checkers, Twister, Mancala, Uno, etc. Also need tennis balls (14) and beanbags (4). Just label them to me: Steve Allis, Springfield Pressroom and send them through inner-office mail. Thank you. Contact me at x6-1900 or at home at 703-528-7174.

NEW MARKETPLACE DEADLINE: Close of business on Fridays. Please include your name, extension and phone number. Ads are for Post employees only. Send ads to ShopTalk, seventh floor, or call x4-6803. To send ads via fax dial x4-4963 or to email send to shoptalk@washpost.com or onam@washpost.com. Ads run for two issues unless otherwise requested. ShopTalk reserves the right to publish and edit all ads.