



# Sally Jenkins: Making the Ordinary Extraordinary



Photo credit: *The Washington Post*

Acclaimed *Washington Post* writer and sports columnist [Sally Jenkins](#) was born into the business. Her father was Hall of Fame *Sports Illustrated* writer Dan Jenkins and, as she puts it, “I got into sports the way Austrians get into skiing.” Early on, her father implanted in her a question: “What motivates the athletic heart – what makes ordinary people do extraordinary things?” In her Nov. 21 visit to Neil Swidey’s Long-form Journalism course, Jenkins said that question has fueled her career.

In his introduction of Jenkins, a 1982 graduate of Stanford University and 2020 Pulitzer finalist, Swidey said he thought her recent 10,000-word feature on the complicated bonds between Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova was the finest work of her decades-long career. Jenkins said she agreed. Headlined “[Bitter Rivals. Beloved Friends. Survivors,](#)” the piece takes readers on a surprising, moving ride through a tight focus on the entwined careers of two of tennis’s all-time greats.

At the end of reporting an in-depth story, Jenkins said, “You end up feeling like a cat in yarn, thinking, ‘God, I can’t get out of this.’” She advised students to organize their material by taking inventory of the gems they uncovered and getting clear on their chronology. She tells “Bitter Rivals” not entirely in chronological order, though. She emphasized the role of both practical and emotional sequencing: “[It’s] like a bunch of people crowding the door . . . You have to choose who gets to go first.” Proper sequencing of information allows for emotional payoff.

While she once asked subjects overly polite questions, she learned that straightforward questions work better. In her words, “sincere curiosity is disarming.” However, she stressed that journalists should give their subjects agency in deciding how much detail they want to go into when discussing very private matters. At its essence, she said, “journalism is about explanation.”

Jenkins concluded her visit with this piece of advice: “If you find something you love to do, that you find yourself thinking about even when you don’t have to, choose that. If you love a craft, it will love you back.”

- ZOE ZACHARY

## Nicole Dungca: The Power of Investigative Audio



Photo credit *The Washington Post*

*Washington Post* investigative reporter Nicole Dungca has always enjoyed diving into meaty projects that shine a light on under-covered issues. During her Nov. 30 visit to Neil Swidey’s Long-form Journalism course, she discussed what she learned while producing an investigative project that did all of that, but in podcast, rather than written, form.

She and her colleague Jenn Abelson co-reported and co-hosted the podcast [\*Broken Doors\*](#), about no-knock warrants. The six-episode podcast was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in audio storytelling.

Dungca explained that the ability to listen to the subject of a piece in their own voice is imperative to effective audio. “Voice is a very specific thing,” she said. “It’s obviously personal, but it also helps convey emotion in a way that is not possible in a traditional written story.” Finding a specific audio clip can be a time-consuming ordeal, she said, but it’s worth it.

Previously a reporter for *The Boston Globe* and *The Oregonian*, Dungca is president of the [Asian American Journalists Association](#). She said she's been in love with journalism ever since she was 15 and talked her way into an internship with [Filipinas Magazine](#). She also discussed her recent investigation into the shadowy history of how the [Smithsonian built its brain collection](#). She stressed the importance in all good journalism of weaving in historical context while still keeping the heart of the story front and center.

– MALIA PERRY

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## Israel-Gaza Reading List

The Journalism team continues to add new links to its [sampling of journalism](#) on the Israel-Hamas war and some of the major underlying issues in the region. We appreciate the suggestions that others, including students, have suggested we add to this nonrequired reading list. If you have additional suggestions, send them to Jillian Brosofsky at [jbrosofsky@brandeis.edu](mailto:jbrosofsky@brandeis.edu).

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## Internships & Job Opportunities

### **Upcoming Opportunities:**

- Diverse Voices in Science | [Summer Intern](#)
  - Full-Time, Hybrid DC, Paid, Deadline 1/5
- WPTZ | [News Intern](#)
  - Part-Time, Burlington, VT, Rolling (Accepting for Spring and Summer)
- Boston.com | [Spring Real Estate Intern](#)
  - Paid, Boston, Rolling

### **Job Boards:**

- [SPJ Job Board](#)
- [Chegg Internships](#)
- [JournalismJobs.com](#)
- [MediaBistro](#)

- [LinkedIn](#)
- [Indeed](#)
- [Handshake](#)

### **Resources:**

- A very kind (and organized) fellow journalist created this incredible [FREE Google Calendar](#) that will auto-populate with upcoming deadlines for internships/fellowships. Don't forget, Washington Post, the Boston Globe, WSJ, LA Times, and many other publications have early summer internship deadlines this month and next!
- Our UDRs and student leadership team kindly created this amazing spreadsheet, documenting where they did their internships/jobs — and how they got them. [You can access the spreadsheet here](#), (and if you've had an awesome internship/job to add, please do!)
- The following resource contains a list of local independent news organizations in Massachusetts. [You can check it out here!](#)

### **Campus Media Opportunities:**

- HOOT: *The Brandeis Hoot* is seeking writers, editors and photographers. If you're interested in writing TV show reviews, covering on-campus events, etc., contact [coopergottfried@brandeis.edu](mailto:coopergottfried@brandeis.edu).
- JUSTICE: If you're interested in contributing to *The Justice*, email [editor@thejustice.org](mailto:editor@thejustice.org)
- WBRS: Check out the WBRS [music blog here](#) or contact [programming@wbrs.org](mailto:programming@wbrs.org) with any questions.

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## **Resources**

Media Access: As a Brandeis student, you have free access through our library to many newspapers and magazines, including *The New York Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*. Take advantage of this! Here's a [handy guide with links](#).

Brandeis sponsors *Wall Street Journal* Memberships for all students, faculty, and staff. [Activate your digital access](#).

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Follow the Brandeis Journalism Program online with our new accounts: Instagram (@BrandeisJournalism), Twitter (@BrandeisJOUR) and Facebook (@BrandeisUniversityJournalism). We post updates on new courses, upcoming events, and exciting student and alumni news.

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## Contact Us

We, in the Journalism Program, would love to hear from you!



Reach out to us at:

Neil Swidey, program director: [neilswidey@brandeis.edu](mailto:neilswidey@brandeis.edu)

Jillian Brososky, academic administrator: [jbrososky@brandeis.edu](mailto:jbrososky@brandeis.edu)

Rachel Raczka, assistant director for internships & outreach:  
[rachelraczka@brandeis.edu](mailto:rachelraczka@brandeis.edu)

Journalism Program UDRs:

Aiden Guthro, [aguthro@brandeis.edu](mailto:aguthro@brandeis.edu); Scarlett Tong Ren,  
[scarlettren@brandeis.edu](mailto:scarlettren@brandeis.edu)

Social Media Coordinators:

Aiko Njugana, [aiksmn@brandeis.edu](mailto:aiksmn@brandeis.edu); Lea Zahroni, [leazahroni@brandeis.edu](mailto:leazahroni@brandeis.edu)

Aimee Slater, journalism librarian: [aslater@brandeis.edu](mailto:aslater@brandeis.edu)

Brandeis Journalism Faculty

page: <https://www.brandeis.edu/journalism/faculty.html>



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415 South St. Waltham, MA 02453

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