

Featured Alumni Speakers

Adrienne Roark—Honorary Chair



As chief content officer for TEGNA, Adrienne Roark leads development of the company's comprehensive content vision and strategy, engaging and impactful local content and news across TEGNA's digital, streaming, mobile and linear TV platforms that reach more than 100 million people on an average monthly basis. A seasoned news leader with more than 30 years of experience, Roark joins TEGNA from CBS News and Stations, where she oversaw daily editorial content, managed CBS-owned stations in New York and Boston, launched weather across the network and launched the group's data journalism team. Earlier, she oversaw the network's owned and operated stations in the East and Central U.S.

Roark has held numerous leadership roles across the country, including general manager roles at KPTV/DPDX and KOIN-TV in Portland and vice president and news director at KTVT-TV and KTXA-TV in Dallas-Fort Worth. Roark's experience also includes news leadership positions at WFOR-TV in Miami, WESH-TV in Orlando, WDSU-TV in New Orleans, WTVJ-TV in Miami, TEGNA's WKYC-TV in Cleveland, WCMH-TV and TEGNA's WBNS-TV in Columbus.

Roark serves on the National Advisory Board of Poynter, the Broadcasters Foundation of America's Board of Directors, and the Carole Kneeland Project Board of Directors.

She is a graduate of The Ohio State University with a bachelor's degree in communications.

(Adrienne will be a featured speaker during the Friday luncheon at the Blackwell.)

Akayla Gardner-Deputy Honorary Chair



Akayla Gardner (BA, Public Affairs Journ, 2021), is currently a White House reporter for MSNBC (renamed MS NOW). Previously she was a correspondent for Bloomberg News in Washington, DC, traveling with the White House press corps on foreign and domestic trips.

As the Special Projects Director for Lantern TV in 2020-21 she won a college production award from a regional Emmy Awards chapter for reporting and producing an investigative documentary on the firing of a championship-winning Ohio State women's rowing coach. Before that she was Lantern TV's News Director and a Senior Reporter for *The Lantern*. She was also co-founder and president of the OSU chapter of the National Association of Black journalists.

(Akayla will be a featured panelist during the Friday afternoon Lantern breakout session.)

Nancy Kramer



Recognized by Advertising Age as one of the “100 Most Influential Women in Advertising History,” Nancy Kramer has spent a lifetime as an entrepreneur in marketing and technology.

Believing computers would change the world, Kramer launched Resource in 1981 with seed funding from her first client, Apple Computer, growing the company into a multi-office, 375-associate digital marketing pioneer. Her team’s iconic work includes many industry firsts, from creating Apple’s first interactive retail experience, to launching one of the internet’s first live streaming events for Victoria’s Secret that crashed the internet, memorialized in a time capsule at MIT to creating and producing two iconic Superbowl commercials. IBM acquired her business in 2016, the only female-owned business to have achieved the milestone. Today, as a Lead Partner, Kramer focuses on C-Suite client relationships as well as IBM’s cultural transformation.

Kramer serves on the Board of Directors of public-traded Root Insurance, and M/I Homes. She is former Chairperson of The Columbus Foundation, Vice Chair of The Columbus Partnership, and a Trustee at The Wexner Center for the Arts.

(Nancy will be a featured speaker during the Friday morning Lantern Dedication ceremony.)

Phil Mattingly



Phil Mattingly is CNN’s Chief Domestic Correspondent and Anchor, appearing across CNN platforms and dayparts delivering enterprise reporting and anchoring on a fill in basis across CNN, as well as participating in political special coverage.

Mattingly previously co-anchored weekdays on CNN This Morning. He also was CNN’s Chief White House Correspondent covering the Biden Administration. In that position he received the 2023 White House Correspondents’ Association Award for Excellence in Presidential Coverage Under Deadline Pressure in Broadcast for being ahead of the competition and the official White House announcement in breaking news of the details of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky’s planned trip to the White House in December 2022. Before joining CNN, Mattingly worked at Bloomberg News in Washington, where he served as a national political correspondent, the network’s White House correspondent and as a reporter covering economics and finance. He started his career at Congressional Quarterly, where he covered economics, the 2008 financial crisis and Washington’s response in its aftermath.

He graduated from The Ohio State University in 2006, where he was a scholar varsity athlete. He received his Master’s Degree in journalism from Boston University in 2008.

(Phil will serve as the Master of Ceremonies during the Friday morning Lantern Dedication ceremony.)



Bruce Vilanch



bruce vilanch, class of 1970, the one where walter cronkite got a kill fee when the administration cancelled graduation because of campus protests regarding the vietnam war and the need for a black studies course. he was working on the lantern then, but in the features area, until he left that summer to work on the chicago tribune, in the same. this led to a relationship with bette midler, professional that is, that has lasted half a century, but don't mention that in hollywood, where he has resided for as long, winning multiple emmys, two of them for co-writing two of 25 oscar telecasts. the other 23 -- nothin. he starred on broadway as a baltimore housewife in HAIRSPRAY, for six years was a hollywood square, to the left of whoopi, if that's possible, and has many other adventures to relate.

(Bruce will be a featured speaker during the Friday luncheon at the Blackwell.)