

MARCH 2, 2026 SPEAKER

Upcoming University Guild Programs

March 2 A Sportswriter Looks Back

Melissa Isaacson, Award-Winning Sportswriter, Author and Public Speaker

Assistant Professor, Northwestern University, The Medill School of Journalism

Melissa Isaacson, Award-Winning Sportswriter, Author and Public Speaker. A graduate of Niles West High School and on the faculty of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism.

Now a professor at Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, Melissa Isaacson reflects on her 34 years as a reporter and how Title IX changed her life and what she tells her students today. In February, Missy travels for a reporting trip to Phoenix with her graduate students. Great timing during our Chicago winter!



Melissa Isaacson is an award-winning journalist and author whose career has spanned the sports world and whose work has consistently endeared her to her readers.

A frequent public speaker, Isaacson is currently on the faculty of Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism teaching undergraduate and graduate communications programs.

Isaacson was the Chicago Tribune's principal beat writer for the Michael Jordan-led Chicago Bulls during their championship years of the early 90s and later the Chicago Bears

for seven seasons. Isaacson was also one of the paper's most respected feature writers and columnists over her 19 years at the Tribune.

Isaacson has covered virtually every major sporting event, including the Summer and Winter Olympic Games, more than a dozen Super Bowls, the Final Four, college bowl games, Wimbledon and U.S. Open tennis and the British Open. She was part of Tribune's coverage for the White Sox World Series run in 2005, as well as the Cubs' playoffs in 2003, '07 and '08, and for ESPN, the Blackhawks Stanley Cup runs in 2010 and 2013.

Isaacson was born in Chicago and was a member of the 1979 girls state championship basketball team for Skokie's Niles West High School. She graduated from the University of Iowa in 1983 with a BA in Journalism. Isaacson lives in the Chicago area, with her husband Rick. They have two children, Amanda and Alec.

<http://www.melissaisaacson.com/>

<https://www.medill.northwestern.edu/directory/faculty/melissa-isaacson.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/author/melissa-isaacson/>

A sportswriter for more than 30 years, Isaacson was named among the 20 "Most Influential Women in Chicago sports media" by the Chicago Tribune in 2022. She worked most recently for ESPN in its international division, covering a variety of beats from the Olympic Games to professional tennis. In 19 years at the Tribune, she was the principal beat writer covering the Michael-Jordan-led Chicago Bulls in the 90s and later the Chicago Bears for seven seasons, the first woman in both of those roles.

Melissa Isaacson is a full-time lecturer at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern. An award-winning sportswriter for more than 30 years, Isaacson worked most recently for ESPN in its international division. During her 19 years at the Chicago Tribune, she was the principal beat writer covering the Michael-Jordan-led Chicago Bulls in the 1990s.

UNIVERSITY GUILD INFORMATION

NU Alumnae & University Circle – Guests at our March program

Many of you have heard of our two NU “sister” organizations. The Guild is honored to have Circle members and NU Alumnae Board members as Guild members. A long-standing Guild tradition is to invite members of our sister organizations to attend a program as guests. Both the NU Alumnae Board and the University Circle have chosen to attend our March 2nd program.

A Sportswriter Looks Back, with Melissa Isaacson, Award-Winning Sportswriter, Author and Public Speaker

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"Isaacson is the author of three books, her most recent,

"State: A Team, A Triumph, A Transformation"

which recounts her experience on her state championship-winning high school basketball team and the transformational journey that occurred shortly after the passage of Title IX. It was named one of the top sports books of 2019 by The New York Times, Los Angeles Times and Forbes, and featured on the TODAY Show. The book is in high school classrooms throughout the Chicago area."

The **University Circle** offers programs and contributes to the Northwestern Settlement House and a scholarship program at NU. Information is available at: <https://www.northwestern.edu/university-circle/>

The University Circle established its Tuition Scholarship in Fall 2004 to assist University employees enrolled in the School of Professional Studies to further their career opportunities.

The **NU Alumnae** offers continuous learning programs in person on campus, live online, and by recordings 6 days after the program. Web site: <https://nualumnaecourses.org/> Since its inception, the board has given over \$10.5 million to the university in the form of grants, scholarships, fellowships, and programming.

Guild Supporting NU Students – Scholarship \$

It is that time of year again where Board Member Jean Corvine works with the Northwestern University Office of Undergraduate Financial Aid to request applications for Guild Scholarships. A team reviews high-quality responses from academically talented individuals, each holding a grade point average of 3.75 or

higher. Applicants are enthusiastic about their student work, their work and interests outside the classroom, and their future. Consistently over the years, the Guild members' response to applicants' information----so many doing so much...and wishing we could give money to all.

Thank you for your generous support! There is time to donate to this year's scholarships. Donations are accepted at our programs, and forms are available. Checks are made out to **The University Guild** with the Scholarship Fund written as a note.

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April 6 Costuming the Show Eileen Clancy, Costume Shop Supervisor, Northwestern University, Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts

Join Eileen from the Wirtz Center to take a journey through the A to Zs on theatrical world building employing clothing. Costuming taps into the preconceived prejudice, stereotyping, and bias that we, the audience, employs. Theatre is, after all, a mirrored reflection of the real world, with clothing giving us insight into who a person is. NU's Wirtz Center: <https://wirtz.northwestern.edu/>

May 4 Kay Burlingham, University Guild Board, Collection Director and Madeline Crispell, University Guild Curator

Reminders: First Guild Art Catalog, Dues, New Membership, & Donations

- The First Guild Art Catalog is available at each program for \$20. Cash or check please.
- YOUTUBE Video links and more are available on the Guild's FACEBOOK Page. This is a great resource to view our specific pieces from our art collection. The best FACEBOOK link: <https://www.facebook.com/UniversityGuild/>
- Guild Forms and more are available on our web page <https://www.theuniversityguild.org/membership>

Please help us build our Guild Membership by forwarding this message to friends and family. Thank you for your support of the Guild.

The University Guild's Annual Membership is \$65. Guests are welcome: \$10 per person/per program. Membership is open to all in the community. The purpose of the University Guild is to bring to the membership of the Guild the intellectual resources of the University, to promote the interests of the University, to work for the collection and exhibition of the objects of art, and to advance the development and appreciation of the fine arts in the University and in Evanston. The University Guild also gives scholarships to students at Northwestern University. Always be careful and safe, especially during our winter months. Please remember to check any snow parking restrictions for Evanston.

The closest parking lot is the self-park located at 525 Church Street and the Clark Street (north) entrance is closest to our location.

There is also the parking lot next to the NU Visitor's Center on campus for a flat fee of \$9.

Board Members

Kathy Tiffin, President

Judy Herbert, Hospitality

Kay Hamel, Programs

Laurie Howick, Recording Secretary

Jean Corvine, Archives/Student Relations

Pam Ave Maria, Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary

Kay Burlingham, Collection Director

Committees:

Gail Anderson Elsass (Publicity), Kay Hamel (Bylaws), Ginny Hindman (Receptions), Marcia Conaghan (Receptions), Sue Simler (Door Admissions & Membership)