

Dear Alum:

I write to you this year with a sense of urgency because what we have built at North Gate is in danger of being compromised by budget cuts. I am asking you and all of our alumni - 100 percent of some 2350 graduates -- to make every effort to give a tax-deductible gift to the school this year.

The J-School recently lost 4 percent of its state funding, nearly a quarter of the money we use to hire lecturers.

These lecturers-- working journalists who teach at the school-- fortify an excellent permanent faculty and allow us to be a bridge from academia to newsrooms around the world. Without help from alumni and friends, these positions will be slashed next year.

Our lecturers include three J-School alumni: Tim Reiterman, a LA Times investigative project editor; John Battelle, a founding editor of Wired and The Industry Standard; and Linda Streaan, a veteran San Francisco Chronicle reporter.

Also bringing the newsroom into the classroom this year are Lowell Bergman, current New York Times and PBS-Frontline correspondent and former "60 Minutes" producer; Doug Foster, former editor of Mother Jones Magazine; George Lewinski, current producer of Pacific Time on KQED and former producer of Marketplace; Jane Stevens, a multimedia journalist; Christopher Hitchens, a Vanity Fair columnist; and documentary filmmaker Deborah Hoffman, whose Long Nights Journey into Day was nominated for an Academy Award.

The state budget crisis also jeopardizes our efforts to offer scholarships to excellent students nationwide, regardless of their ability to pay for higher education; and to hold special workshops, such as our recent "Math for Journalists" seminar for J-200 students.

Finally, budget cuts may hinder our ability to hold public forums with the likes of Terry Gross, Bill Clinton, Barbara Ehrenreich, Arthur Sulzberger and Howell Raines, Ira Glass, Susan Meiselas, Walter Cronkite, Studs Terkel and others to ask tough questions about how the media works in our society.

In short, this year we need your help and hope you can make a donation. Unlike other outstanding journalism programs, we do not have an endowment to help sustain the school's day-to-day expenses.

This is a critical time for the school and journalism in this country. We have built a wonderful array of programs at North Gate and want to see them not only survive, but grow and flourish. Your support will be critical in this effort.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank our alumni for the time you give to the school. More than 80 of you joined our Alumni Committee, with a dozen on a new alumni board; hundreds of you have interviewed prospective students, spoken on panels

and attended job fairs on behalf of the school. I know that it's often difficult to find the time for volunteer work, especially with the pace of our profession, but it is invaluable to us at North Gate.

Finally, I am sad to report to you that Edwin Bayley, founding dean of the Graduate School of Journalism, died in late October. It was Dean Bayley who spent 17 years establishing Berkeley as a school committed to hands-on journalism education. He was a terrific reporter, teacher and leader in journalism education and will be missed. Condolences can be sent to his family at 6864 County Trunk A, Egg Harbor, WI 54209.

Sincerely,

Orville Schell
Dean

P.S. We have just set up an online database that will help us stay in touch with our alumni. You can access the database at www.journalism.berkeley.edu/db to update your personal information or search for your classmates. Please send your annual gift in the enclosed envelope or make it online at <https://colt.berkeley.edu:444/urelgift/journalism.html>. Many thanks.