George Solomon
Solomon was Assistant Managing Editor for Sports at The Washington Post from 1975 to 2003 managing some of the brightest minds in sports journalism. He has taught sports reporting and sports culture at the Merrill College since 2003. He became director of the Shirley Povich Center at its inception in November of 2011.

Kevin Blackistone
Blackistone is a longtime national sports columnist, a panelist on ESPN's Around the Horn, a contributor to National Public Radio and co-author of A Gift for Ron. He teaches sports reporting and sports media as a visiting professor at the Philip Merrill College.

Beth Mechum
Mechum is the coordinator of the Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism. She comes to the Center from the Atlantic Coast Conference office. Prior to that position she worked at the United State Olympic Committee in public relations and digital media, the ACC Sports Journal and the Mount Airy (N.C.) News. She graduated from the University of North Carolina School of Journalism in 2009.

Chartese Burnett
Burnett is the founder and CEO of Chartese Enterprises, a communications consulting firm. She has previously worked with the Washington Nationals and the Georgetown University athletic department. She teaches Sports Media Today.

Mark Gray
After many years in sports print journalism, Gray is now a versatile multimedia producer. Gray is a host at 106.7 The Fan in Washington, D.C. and hosts a weekly internet talk show TSL Sports Talk on Shadow League Radio powered by HSRN as well as coordinates and produces multimedia content for HBCU Sports Nation for the Heritage Sports Radio Network.

David Owens
Owens has served as Sports Anchor/Reporter at WUSA-TV since 2009. He anchors sportscasts and serves as a Multi-Media Journalist where he has covered a wide range of events from Redskins football to Washington Nationals baseball to the BCS Championship. He teaches topics in Broadcast and Electronic Media.
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EVENTS/COURSES

The annual Shirley Povich Symposium invites leading journalists, athletes and other sports figures to address current issues in sports. Past symposiums have dealt with topics including athletes making front page news, the state of sports journalism, race and the media and the changing landscape of sports.

The Shirley Povich Center reacts to sports topics throughout the year by inviting the journalists who cover them to speak to the students and community. This, along with other programs throughout the year, provides students real-life examples of their class subjects.

The Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism also hosts a yearly workshop for high school and college students interested in careers in sports media, featuring journalists from local and national news outlets that both advise and network with interested students.

The Merrill College Graduate School offers a master’s degree with a focus in sports journalism. To apply, visit http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/

Sports Journalism Courses Available
Sports Reporting and Writing
Broadcast Sports Reporting
Broadcasting the Games: Covering Sports in Action
Independent Study: Advanced Sports Reporting and Writing
Sports Media Today
Sports Journalism and Social Change
Sports, Society, Culture and the Media
ABOUT THE SHIRLEY POVICH CENTER

The Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism serves Merrill students and professional journalists, as well as the university and greater community through its academic offerings, research and analysis. Shirley Povich was an eyewitness to the most significant sporting events of the 20th century and his fearless reporting took on questions of race, religion and gender. The Povich Center leads a new generation of sports journalists to view and chronicle events in sports.

The Washington-Baltimore area is one of the nation’s liveliest sports markets, offering rich and diverse first-hand opportunities for students interested in sports journalism. The Povich Center prepares sports journalism students for these opportunities through a range of courses in sports reporting and broadcasting and in the intersection of sports and cultures.

“Nobody ever covered sports longer, or better, for a great newspaper than Shirley Povich did for The Washington Post. For 75 years Shirley Povich wrote elegantly for The Washington Post, and for generations of Washingtonians, Shirley was The Washington Post. He was there in the morning, like the sun, lighting your way.

“I have been blessed in my career to have typed alongside Shirley Povich and Red Smith, the greatest newspaper sportswriters of them all. I worked with Red at The New York Times, and with Shirley at The Post. They were sophisticated thinkers and graceful writers. They were gentlemen and scholars, witty and urbane, impeccably dressed and unfailingly polite. When they took you apart in print they did it so skilfully, you never felt the blade, you just watched your blood run down the page.” —Tony Kornheiser “All Those Mornings... At the Post” (PublicAffairs, 2005)

Additional information, including ways to become involved and support the Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism, may be obtained by contacting Beth Mechum at bmechum@umd.edu

COVER PHOTOS (clockwise from top left): The John S. and James L. Knight Hall, Maryland alum and ESPN sportscaster Scott Van Pelt, Thom Boswell and Tim Kurkjian, Christy Winters-Scott and Liz Clarke
ABOUT THE POVICHES

The Shirley Povich Center for Sports Journalism, launched on November 2, 2011 at the University of Maryland’s Philip Merrill College of Journalism, is an off-shoot of the Povich Chair that was established in 2007.

Both the chair and now the Center were the creation of the late Shirley Povich’s children Maury, Lynn, and David to honor the memory of their father, who was a sports columnist, editor and reporter at The Washington Post for 75 years until his death in 1998.

The Center was made possible by $1 million challenge gift by the Poviches that came five years after the family created the chair with a $1 million gift.

Maury Povich, who has hosted the television show “Maury” since 1998, has been in the television business since 1962, with stints as a news anchor in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Philadelphia. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, he is married to former TV news anchor and Maryland alum Connie Chung.

Lynn Povich, a lifelong journalist, is the author of the recently published book “The Good Girls Revolt” about a 1970 lawsuit that charged gender discrimination against her employer, Newsweek Magazine. She became Newsweek’s first woman senior editor (1975-1991) before becoming Editor-in-Chief of “Working Woman” (1991-1996) and managing editor of MSNBC.com. She serves on the board of directors of the Women’s Media Foundation and is a member of the Human Rights Watch Advisory Committee on Women’s Rights. She is a graduate of Vassar College.

David Povich has been with the Washington law firm, Williams & Connolly, since 1962 and over the years has been considered one of the nation’s top lawyers in the fields of federal criminal investigations, government contracts, corporate disputes and litigation counseling. Washingtonian Magazine named Povich as one of the Washington area’s top lawyers in 2004. He is a graduate of Yale and Columbia law school.