Their work has earned them four Writers Guild of America Awards and three Emmys.

we’re actually breaking the story, particularly on a TV series, we are physically in the same room with each other and a bunch of other writers, and we come up with story outlines together and then we get sent off to write. And at that point, we sort of go into our separate corners.

As head writers and executive producers on Mad Men, do you still have your work rewritten or cut altogether?

ANDRÉ JACQUEMETTON
Absolutely. You know, when you become the showrunner of a series, it’s your voice and it’s your show. Mad Men is very much Matt’s show, so it’s his prerogative to change stories, change dialogue, change whatever he wants of your script. You have to remember that you’re there to support him and that’s part of the job. Essentially, you’re there to pitch stories, to write scripts, but ultimately, every decision lies with the showrunner, so he can change whatever he wants.

What advice do you have for aspiring writers trying to get into the business?

Maria Jacquemetton
Write. We are asked for advice all the time by students and people who say they want to be writers. They come to us with one spec or one screenplay. Don’t come to us with one script—come to us when you’ve got five scripts and they’re the best you can do on every one, because the competition is superfierce. The more material you have and the more you write, the better you’re going to get and the more chances you have of actually landing your foot in the door.

I think that is one thing that we see all too often: writers get their first job on the show and they’re so happy to have that job that they just work there, and on their hiatus go traveling, backpacking around Mexico. Then they come back to the show the next season and they’ve written nothing.

Well, there’s someone who’s sitting at home writing three specs in that time period, someone whose work is going to have personally come along farther and will have three original samples they can send out and possibly sell, someone able to cast a wider net. With the economy the way it is, you’ve got to be able to cast a wide net. With the economy the way it is, you’ve got to be able to cast a wide net if you want to land work.

ANDRÉ JACQUEMETTON
I would add to that, build a thick skin. This is a business that’s ruled by a lot of naysayers, so you’ve got to be able to deal with rejection. Get back on your feet right away and keep writing and keep pushing, keep calling people and keep thinking of ideas.

And even though the odds are against you and people keep rejecting you, you’ve just got to keep going and persevere.

Amy Laskowski

In the wake of sexual assault allegations against two BU hockey players last winter, President Robert A. Brown has convened a special Task Force on Men’s Ice Hockey to assess the culture and climate of the hockey team and to recommend ways to ensure that they are wholly consistent with the values and mission of the University. The 16-member task force, cochaired by Jonathan Cole, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the BU Board of Trustees, and Jean Morrison, University provost and chief academic officer, will draw on the knowledge of recognized experts in a broad spectrum of fields.

“We have assembled a task force with deep expertise in issues that the group will address in its deliberations,” says Brown.

In a memorandum sent in March, Brown urged the task force members to reach out to faculty, staff, and students, including hockey players and other student-athletes, and to consult alumni and outside experts. The president said the assessment should compare the academic performance of hockey players to that of other students and student-athletes, examine the hockey players’ engagement in student life as it compares to others, and scrutinize the disciplinary history of the team compared to disciplinary practices in the larger student community. He asked that the task force report be submitted this summer so that necessary changes can be made early in the fall semester.

“We will take whatever steps are necessary to restore the community’s confidence in our men’s ice hockey program,” says Brown. “We will ensure that the standards we set for our student-athletes are consistent with our mission, core purposes, and aspirations, and that those standards are consistently applied.”

Morrison says that the task force assessment is unrelated to the University’s judicial efforts or the state criminal process to determine the guilt or innocence of the hockey players who have been charged.

“This is an institutional effort to look broadly at potential issues with regard to the culture and climate of the ice hockey team,” she says. ART JAHNKE